

BRIDGE FEDERATION OF THE ACT

BFACT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

2008 Edition

These regulations were ratified by the BFACT Council on 19 July 2008
and come into effect on 1 August 2008

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1. BFACT Approach to Tournament Regulations

General Approach

These regulations are not meant to be comprehensive but intended to be used in conjunction with the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) regulations detailed below. These regulations address those issues which are specific to the Bridge Federation of the Australian Capital Territory (BFACT), are not covered in the references or where BFACT requires different regulations.

Applicability

BFACT Tournament Regulations apply to all BFACT events.

BFACT affiliated may choose to adopt these regulations in relation to events which they are conducting for the purpose of qualifying pairs or teams to represent BFACT or to participate in a further qualifying event conducted by BFACT.

Supplementary Regulations

These regulations may be supplemented by regulations (referred to as Supplementary Regulations) which have been developed specifically for an event.

The Tournament Secretary may promulgate (after the fact if necessary) any additional supplementary regulations that may be required to cater for unforeseen circumstances.

Attachment 1 provides guidelines on the issues to be included in Supplementary Regulations.

References

BFACT tournaments will be played under The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge.

Unless specified otherwise in these regulations, BFACT tournaments will be conducted under Tournament Regulations promulgated by the ABF. The BFACT Tournament Regulations and the following references are available on the BFACT website:

- a. ABF Tournament Regulations
- b. ABF System Regulations
- c. ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes
- d. ABF Alerting Regulations
- e. ABF Regulations for Play with Screens
- f. Conduct of Members of BFACT Affiliated Clubs

2. Tournament Committee

The BFACT Council will appoint a Tournament Committee consisting of at least three people (not necessarily, Council members) and chaired by the BFACT Tournament Secretary unless an alternative chair is appointed by BFACT Council.

The primary purpose of the Tournament Committee is to provide technical advice to the Tournament Secretary on the conduct of BFACT events. BFACT Council may also seek advice from the Tournament Committee on specific issues.

Members of the Tournament Committee will carry out the functions of the Tournament Secretary at events where the Tournament Secretary is not present and cannot be readily contacted. Such functions include providing advice to the Tournament Director on the application of tournament regulations or formulating additional supplementary regulations to cater for unforeseen circumstances.

The Tournament Committee will review the classification of bidding systems at the request of players or the Tournament Secretary. Any decision taken by the Tournament Committee on the classification of systems will be final.

3. Systems

Classification

The classification of bidding systems used by the ABF in its System Regulations (Reference B above), as amended from time to time by the ABF shall apply to all BFACT events. Participating pairs are to classify the systems accurately in accordance with the ABF Systems Regulations.

The Tournament Secretary may regulate the use of systems in events through the Supplementary Regulations.

Review of System Classification

If the Tournament Committee has not reviewed the classification of a system to be used in an event, the Tournament Secretary (or representative) may before or during the event review the classification made by players and, if necessary, reclassify any system to accord with existing regulations. The decision taken by the Tournament Secretary is final for the event in question. A pair may seek a review of any such decision by the Tournament Committee prior to the commencement of the next event.

Yellow Systems

If not specifically addressed in Supplementary Regulations, Yellow Systems will not be permitted except in IMP-scored selection events where Yellow Systems are permitted in the event for which the BFACT event is a selection trial.

4. Substitution and Augmentation Rules

Arrangements for Substitutions

Each entrant to a BFACT event should intend to play in all sessions, or arrange an eligible substitute if unable to play and notify the Director at least 24 hours before the relevant session except in the case of emergencies. In addition to informing the Director, a pair, team or individual will arrange to fill out a Substitution Form at least 5 minutes before the session commences.

The entrant should make reasonable efforts to find an eligible substitute:

- a. who is of equivalent standard, that is, a player whose ability is neither significantly higher nor lower than that of the player which the substitute is replacing. (Masterpoint rank need not be the determining factor.);
- b. who has not entered that stage of the competition (Stage of competition means those successive sessions where the size of the field which is eligible to win the competition is not reduced (excluding reduction due to disqualification or withdrawal). In partial knock-out events, all successive knockout sessions shall constitute the one stage.);
- c. who meets the entry requirements applying to the event in question.

If no eligible substitute is available to play in a session of an event, the Director will take any action necessary to provide for the effective continuation of the event.

Number of allowed Substitutions

Substitution shall be permitted in accordance with ABF Tournament Regulations.

If the number of substitutions exceeds the allowed number, the Tournament Secretary (or Tournament Director if the Tournament Secretary is unavailable) will either:

- a. Remove the subject pair or team from the event and remove previous results from the subject pair or team, or
- b. Allow the subject pair or team to continue in the event with additional substitutions but the subject pair or team shall be deemed to have an ineligible substitute.

Score Adjustments for Substitutions

If a substitute is of a standard that is significantly higher than the player being substituted, an adjustment may be made in selection events, state championships or other important events where the Tournament Secretary addresses the issues in the Supplementary Regulations.

The Tournament Secretary shall convene a committee of at least three experienced players to determine the quantum of the adjustment. The adjustment shall be made considering:

- a. the relative performance of the substituted player and the substituting player in similar events;
- b. the effect of change of partnership understanding; and
- c. any other relevant issue.

The adjustment shall be determined:

- a. as a number of IMPS in teams and Butler events. (The adjustment shall be made as an adjustment to the IMP difference between the pair against the datum or IMP difference for a team. It shall be applied at the time of completion of each match and shall be taken into account during Swiss draws.);
- b. as a percentage deduction in Matchpoint pairs events applying as a negative adjustment to the score of the substituted pair at the completion of each session.

The Tournament Secretary will record on the substitute form whether or not he has awarded an altered score and the reasons for his decision.

Augmentation

Augmentation of teams shall be permitted unless otherwise prescribed in Supplementary Regulations.

5. Procedures Pending Appeals

Draws for Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams events will be made immediately following the scoring of all matches in any session. No alterations will be made to the draw following an appeal that results in a change of score.

In Butler events where all scores are taken into account in determining the datum score (including cases where some number of extreme scores are eliminated), provisional datums and results will be determined when appeals are pending. Subsequent draws will be made on the basis of these results up until the result of the appeal is known. Should any appeal result in a change of score, the datums and results for that session will be altered accordingly.

6. Appeals Rules

WBF Code of Practice

Except as otherwise specified below, BFACT shall use the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Code of Practice, as amended from time to time by the WBF.

For these Regulations “representative” shall mean the Tournament Secretary, or, in his absence, any Deputy appointed by the BFACT Council, or if there is no such Deputy, any member of the BFACT Council who is present.

Appealable Matters

All questions of law and/or of fact, involved in Directors' rulings or otherwise arising pursuant to these Regulations shall be appealable to an Appeals Committee.

Submission of the Appeal

Players are required to notify the Tournament Director of their intention to appeal within 30 minutes of the official score being made available for inspection. The Tournament Director shall direct the appellants to complete an appropriate form detailing the grounds for appeal.

Formation of the Appeals Committee

The Tournament Director shall advise the Tournament Secretary or his representative when a player indicates an intention to appeal.

The Tournament Secretary (or his representative) shall forthwith constitute a committee of not less than three members from among available experienced players, appoint a Chairman and designate a time for hearing the appeal. If possible, no person having an interest in the outcome of the appeal shall sit on the Committee. As far as possible the appeal shall be heard prior to the

next session of the Tournament in question, but in any event after the time limited for further submissions.

Conduct of the Appeal

The Director shall submit all appeals to the Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) as soon as possible after being informed of the appeal.

All submissions from the Director shall be in writing setting out:

- a. the facts including all relevant hand records;
- b. the players identified by name and pair or team number;
- c. the grounds of the appeal and any other submissions of the players concerned;
- d. the law or laws which the Director considers applicable;
- e. the Director's decision.

The Director shall supply one copy of his submission to each of the parties concerned in the appeal and shall specify a time within which they may make any further submissions in writing.

Conduct of the Appeal

The Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) shall be responsible for ensuring that each member of the Appeals Committee receives a copy of the appeal, notice of the time and place of the meeting and any other necessary facts.

In cases where there is a serious dispute as to the facts, the Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) may arrange for the immediate taking of oral evidence if this is likely to assist in clarifying the facts for the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals Committee may seek further evidence from any of the players involved, or any other party as it thinks fit.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be by majority and, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

One copy of the decision of the Appeals Committee shall also be filed in the Appeals file. This copy of the decision is for record purposes only.

These rules may be departed from by the Tournament Secretary (or representative) where circumstances dictate such a departure and in particular where justice requires a more speedy resolution of the appeal than these rules allow. In such cases the conduct of the appeal shall be in the hands of the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, but as far as possible the following shall apply:

- a. An oral hearing shall be held with the Director appearing before the Appeals Committee in the presence of a representative of each party to explain the facts and ruling given.
- b. Each party shall have the right through one of its members to address the Appeals Committee after the Director's report, to dispute any facts or to make any submissions.
- c. The Appeals Committee, once it has heard the Director's report and all submissions and any other evidence it deems necessary, shall retire to consider its decision.

- d. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be communicated to the parties through the Director and a written record thereof shall be filed in the Appeals file.

Appeals Committee Decisions

There shall be no appeal from any decision of the Appeals Committee where duly constituted in accordance with these Regulations except as provided under ABF Tournament Regulations. Any question raised in writing as to the due constitution of the Committee (no other form of question shall be permitted) shall be determined by the Council of BFACT whose decision shall be final. If a committee is found not to have been duly constituted its determinations shall be null and void and the appeal or reference shall be heard by a duly constituted Appeals Committee.

7. Eligibility to Represent BFACT

Automatic Qualification

All financial members of BFACT affiliated bridge clubs are eligible to compete for ACT State Team qualification.

Qualification with the Approval of the BFACT

Members of BFACT affiliated bridge clubs who are temporarily residing outside the ACT and southern NSW, intending to return to the ACT or region and who have not competed for selection in any other State during their absence may be approved by BFACT.

8. Disciplinary Powers

BFACT may reject the entry of any player, pair or team to a BFACT Event consistent with any action taken by BFACT of a disciplinary nature in accordance with its By Laws relating to the Conduct of Members of BFACT Affiliated Clubs..

Attachment 1 - Guidelines for Supplementary Regulations

The following issues need to be considered for inclusion in Supplementary Regulations:

- a. Name of the Event.
- b. Entry requirements (any cut off time for entries (if needed) and whether other players may play in the event).
- c. Location and Timings.
- d. Format of the Event.
 - i. Conduct of Qualification
 - ii. Conduct of Finals
 - iii. Carryovers (if any)
 - iv. Tie breaking procedures
- e. Entry fee.
- f. Substitution and team augmentation regulations (calculate based on ABF Regulations). BFACT Council has agreed that special arrangements are needed for particular events.
 - i. Substitution in ACT Open, Seniors, Women and Youth Selection Trials will be permitted for a maximum of 25 percent of sessions rounded down.
 - ii. Substitution in ACT Open Qualifying Event will be permitted for a maximum of 40 percent of sessions rounded down.
 - iii. Augmentation of teams will be allowed up to 50 percent of sessions rounded down.
- g. Allowed systems (see Section 4 of BFACT Regulations). BFACT Council may determine that Yellow systems will be permitted in some events. The State Open Teams is one such event.
- h. Slow play (including any penalties if needed).
- i. Appeal arrangements.
- j. Master point awards.
- k. The requirement in a qualifying event, if any, to be contending for selection in the relevant team or to participate in the event for which qualification applies.
- l. Person responsible to make arrangements to maintain integrity of the tournament when unexpected events occur.