

BFACT 2026 GALA PAIRS

Timing

The Gala pairs will be conducted at Canberra Bridge Club on Saturday, 5 September 2026 starting at 09:45.

Please be seated by 9:35 am.

Venue

Canberra Bridge Club, 6 Duff Place, Deakin, ACT.

Eligibility

All current financial members of a bridge club affiliated to BFACT, in accordance with ABF Regulations, will be eligible to play.

Entrants are not required to be intending to represent the ACT at the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) but if "non-contending" are asked to indicate that status to the director.

Entry

Entry is required on or before Thursday, 3 September 2026. After that time, entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary and only if the integrity of the event is not impacted.

Format

The event will be played as a set of matches, either a Swiss movement or a round robin movement depending on entry numbers. This one day event will be over 2 sessions.

Scoring

Calculation of datums

The event will be scored using the Butler method. In each match, IMP scores will be calculated by removing outlier scores and comparing a pair's score with the average of the remaining scores. The number of outlier scores removed depends on the number of pairs entered.

All posted scores will be provisional until data entry has been verified. Scores may be amended with the agreement of both pairs until half an hour after the session, subject to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

Breaking Ties

Critical Ties

Only critical ties will be broken by:

1. Removing the score against the pair who received the lowest score in the event and so on,
2. Then toss of the coin.

GNOT Event

The two leading contending open pairs will be eligible to form the ACT2 team to play in the GNOT National Qualifying event. More details about the GNOT can be found at: "<https://abfevents.com.au/events/gnot/2026/>". Please note 2 stage finals, first stage on Realbridge, then second stage in Brisbane. The pairs can augment the team with a third pair if they wish.

Conditions of Contest

Regulations

The event will be played under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, Australian Bridge Federation regulations, BFACT regulations and these regulations. Where any of these conflict, priority will be given in order of listing.

Entry Fee

The entry fee is \$45 per person. Please enter using the MyABF system. This event is in the calendar list at 5 September with State=ACT, see: "<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/>".

If having difficulty with MyABF, please contact Niek Van Vucht (niekvanvucht@gmail.com, or 0422471649).

Substitution

A pair may be able to have one substitution (replacing one player for a session) to remain eligible. A substitution should be for due cause and needs to be approved by the Tournament Director or BFACT Tournament Secretary.

As far as possible, a substitute should be of a similar standard to the player being substituted. Where a substitute is assessed to be of a higher standard than the substituted player, the score attained by the substitute will be capped to be no better than the best score the partnership achieves.

It is the responsibility of the player who is unavailable to find a substitute.

Systems

YELLOW systems are not permitted.

Any other system complying with ABF System and BFACT Tournament regulations may be played. Each pair is required to make available two identical completed Standard ABF System Cards.

Slow Play

The time allowed for the commencement of the last board will be advised by the Tournament Director based on the number of boards. A grace period of 5 minutes will be allowed for each pair once in the event. Thereafter, each offending pair shall be penalized for each board not completed. **This regulation is to be strictly enforced.**

Reviews

A player can seek a review of a Tournament Director's ruling which must be notified to the director within 30 minutes of the posting of results at the end of the session. The review will be conducted by the director providing details of the ruling to at least 2 accredited directors not involved in the ruling, also providing a copy of the details to the player. The player may add details to the reviewing directors, who will provide advice to the Tournament Director and Tournament Secretary who will decide if an adjustment is warranted.

Unexpected Events

The Tournament Director may take whatever action necessary to maintain the integrity of the tournament where events occur outside the scope of these regulations.

Master Points

Master points will be awarded as Gold points for a GNOT regional event.

Niek Van Vucht
BFACT Tournament Secretary
4 August 2026