

**2018 COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

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General

- 1.1 The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship (CNBC) is conducted by the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) in accordance with these Conditions-of-Contest.
- 1.2 The venue is Gold Coast Convention Centre, Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach, Queensland.
- 1.3 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.
- 1.4 Smoking is not permitted in the playing areas or in any other area designated by the TO as a non-smoking area. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3).
- 1.5 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. In addition, any player leaving the table during a qualifying session must leave any such device at the table. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 6.3).
- 1.6 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment may not be used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.3) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 1.7 Players in the finals series must lodge any mobile phone or other electronic communication device in their possession with the TO during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.3) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 1.8 Alcohol is prohibited from all playing areas associated with these Championships. Subject to the players' responsibilities relating to conduct (Law 74), the consumption of alcohol purchased at the venue is otherwise permitted within the confines of the Gold Coast Convention Centre.
- 1.9 Any behaviour which brings the game of Bridge into disrepute, whether verbal, written or physical, by any person directed towards any tournament officials, members of staff, voluntary workers or workers at the playing venue will not be tolerated. If any person behaves in such a way, the TO may take any disciplinary action available to him.
- 1.10 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017, and then to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the CTD shall be final and conclusive.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Charles Page.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.3 The Assistant Directors/Scorers are Peter Busch and Simon Edler

- 2.4 The Floor Manager is Julie Jeffries
- 2.5 The Reviewer is Matthew McManus.
- 2.6 The BBO Coordinator is Andy Hung.
- 2.7 The Daily Bulletin Editor is Stephen Lester

3 Eligibility, Augmentation, Substitutions and Replacement

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the Qualifying stage each team shall be categorised by the TO as either a 'Representative (Commonwealth Nations) Team' or a 'Non-Commonwealth (Non-Representative) Team'.
- 3.2 All teams are eligible to win the Commonwealth Nations Tournament but only Representative Teams may win a (Gold, Silver or Bronze) Medallion. The title of 'Commonwealth Nations Champion' will be awarded to the highest placed Representative Team.
- 3.3 With the consent of the CTD, a team may augment to a maximum of 6 players up until the end of the Augmentation Time. The Augmentation Time expires at the commencement of Match Six of the Qualifying stage. Any player so added to the team must not have played previously in another team in the same event.
- 3.4 To be eligible to play in the Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Final or for prize entitlements, each team member, including those augmented, must have played the following minimum number of boards:
 - Qualifying Swiss: 70 boards
 - Quarter-Finals: 16 boards
 - Semi-Finals: 14 boards
 - Final: 14 boards
- 3.5 Those teams qualifying for a berth in the Finals series do so only on the condition that they are willing and available to progress to the conclusion of their respective events.

The CTD may approve substitutions. The maximum number of substitutions permitted will be:
Qualifying: for a maximum of 5 matches;
Finals series: for a maximum of one stanza in each stage.

In addition, the CTD may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause and may impose any conditions in doing so and may take whatever other action is considered necessary to keep the tournament in motion.

- 3.6 In order to ensure the smooth running of the tournament, the TO may nominate a 'House Contestant' to compete in the Qualifying. The conditions under which the House Contestant competes will be at the discretion of the CTD.
- 3.7 In the event that a team withdraws after qualifying to the next stage of an event, its place will be taken by the next highest placed team.

4 Systems

- 4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED Systems are permitted without restriction.
- 4.2 YELLOW (HUM) Systems and BROWN STICKER Conventions are not permitted. [Note that, for the avoidance of doubt, the (European) Multi 2♦ is not a Brown Sticker Convention].
- 4.3 WBF System cards should be prepared electronically, properly identified with the names of each pair and showing the category of the system as defined by the WBF Systems Policy.
- 4.4 WBF System Card templates (in both Word and Excel format) are available for download from:
<http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/competitions/wbf-convention-card-editors/>
- 4.5 Before the commencement of play, each pair shall hand one copy of their WBF system card to each opponent. The system cards are to be returned to the pair at the end of that segment of play.

5 Format

- 5.1 The Qualifying stage consists of an 11 x 14-board single-field Swiss played over three days (Feb 14-16).

Qualifying Schedule:

Day 1: 3 Matches (11:00, 14:00, 16:00)

Day 2: 4 Matches (9:30, 11:30, 14:30, 16:30)

Day 3: 4 Matches (9:30, 11:30, 14:30, 16:30)

- 5.2 Standard Swiss principles will apply with the additional proviso that no two representative teams from the same commonwealth nation shall be paired against one another.
- 5.3 The Finals series will be played over two days (Feb 17-18)

Finals Schedule:

Quarter Finals (Feb 17)

2 x 16-board Stanzas

Semi-Finals (Feb 17-18)

3 x 14-board Stanzas

Final (Feb 18)

3 x 14-board Stanzas

- 5.4 The top eight ranked teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Swiss will progress to the Finals series, providing that at least four of those teams represent a commonwealth nation.
- 5.5 Should there be fewer than four representative teams in the top eight, then the finals series will comprise of the four highest placed commonwealth representative teams together with the four highest non-representative teams.
- 5.6 Should two or fewer representative teams progress to the semi-final stage, then those representative teams who lost at the quarter-final stage will participate in a further play-off to determine the recipients of the minor (silver and/or bronze) medals. If two representative teams lose at the semi-final stage they also will need to participate in a further medal-determining play-off.

- 5.7 The format of any additional minor (medal) playoff will be announced once the number of participants is known.

6 Seating and Selection of Opponents

- 6.1 In the Qualifying stage, seating rights for each match will be determined by the toss of a coin.
- 6.2 At the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage, the highest placed representative team may select their Quarter-final opponents from among any of the other seven qualified teams. The next highest available representative team then chooses their opponents from the remaining teams etc.
- 6.3 After the opponents of all the representative teams have been determined, any remaining unmatched teams will be paired off, with the highest placed non-representative being accorded choice.
- 6.4 When two teams representing the same commonwealth nation qualify for the Semi-Finals, they will be required to play each other.
- 6.5 Should 6.4 not be applicable, then the highest ranked representative team from the qualifying stage selects their semi-final opponents.
- 6.6 In the Quarter-finals, team captains toss for seating rights with the winner of the toss choosing to sit either first or last in the first stanza. Seating rights alternate for the other stanza.
- 6.7 In the Semi-finals and Final, team captains toss for seating rights with the loser of the toss choosing a single stanza to sit last in. The winner of the toss will have seating rights in the two remaining stanzas.
- 6.8 In the Finals series, the team sitting first must post their line-up on the designated line-up sheet at least 10 minutes before the scheduled commencement of play. Provided the team sitting first has satisfied the requirement of this provision, their opponents must post their line-up at least 5 minutes before the scheduled commencement of play.

7 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

- 7.1 In the Qualifying Swiss, penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 7.2 The general provisions concerning punctuality and slow play apply. A table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 7.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4) and mobile phones (1.5, 1.6, 1.7) is 3 VPs or 9 IMPs.

8 Session Timing, Correction Period and Time of Review

- 8.1 The time allowed per match or stanza will be announced by the CTD.
- 8.2 In the Swiss Qualifying, the draw for subsequent matches will be made at the time listed below or at some other time as determined by the CTD, based on the results available at that time:
14 board matches – 105 minutes after the start time of the match

- 8.3 The Correction Period (Law 79C) in all events expires for the session in which the error was made, at the times itemised below:

Qualifying Matches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 9: one hour after the conclusion of the next match;
Qualifying Matches 3, 7: at the commencement of the second match of the following day;
Qualifying Matches 10 and 11: 8:00pm Feb 16 for corrections affecting Final series qualification or ranking, and midnight Feb 16 for all other corrections.

Finals Series Matches: 20 minutes after the scores for the stanza are posted.

At the conclusion of these score correction periods, scores become final.

- 8.4 The right to request a Director's ruling or to ask for a Review of that ruling (Law 92B) for each match or stanza expires 30 minutes after the score is made available for inspection, unless the next match or stanza is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to 30 minutes after the next match or stanza.
- 8.5 Contestants who pursue a review that the Reviewer deems to be 'without significant merit' are subject to a procedural penalty according to the scale shown in the appendices.

9 Fouled Boards

- 9.1 In the Qualification Swiss the result of a single fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that round. In these cases the board is cancelled and a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.
- 9.2 In the Qualification Swiss where, due to the fouling of multiple boards, more than one direct comparison is not available, the match will be scored in accordance with ABF Tournament Regulation 39, treating both units as non-offenders.
- 9.3 In the finals series a fouled board in any stanza except for the final stanza of that stage will be replaced by the play of an additional board in the following stanza.

10 Tie-breaking and carry-overs

- 10.1 Ties for qualification to the finals series will be broken by (in order): sum of opponents' VPs, number of wins, net IMPs, lot.
- 10.2 Ties that occur in the finals series will be broken by the play of four additional boards. Should the tie still remain unresolved, then the team ranked highest in the Qualifying Swiss shall progress to the next stage.
- 10.3 For the determination of Qualification rankings, ties on VPs at the conclusion of the qualifying stage will be broken in accordance with 10.1.
- 10.4 There are no carry-forwards from the Qualifying Swiss to the Finals series.

Appendices

Penalties for Late Arrival, Slow Play, Failure to enter or check scores, Review without merit

The penalties for Late Arrival and Slow Play are:

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP or 3 IMPs for each subsequent offence		
5-10 mins	1 VP	<i>or</i>	3 IMPs
10-15 mins	2 VPs	<i>or</i>	6 IMPs
15-20 mins	3 VPs	<i>or</i>	9 IMPs
20-30 mins	5 VPs	<i>or</i>	15 IMPs

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

When boards are cancelled by the Director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

One board	1 VP
Subsequent boards	2 VPs

Should the players leave the table, when they have failed to enter one or more scores into the scoring unit or when an incorrect score has been entered and agreed, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

Events scored by Victory Points:

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	1 VP per occasion

The penalty that the Reviewer may impose upon a contestant who lodges a review 'without significant merit' is:

3 VPs	<i>or</i>	9 IMPs
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WBF 14-board VP Scale

IMPS	VPS	IMPS	VPS	IMPS	VPS	IMPS	VPS
0	10	15	14.19	30	17.04	44	18.87
1	10.33	16	14.42	31	17.19	45	18.98
2	10.66	17	14.64	32	17.34	46	19.08
3	10.97	18	14.85	33	17.49	47	19.18
4	11.28	19	15.06	34	17.63	48	19.28
5	11.58	20	15.26	35	17.77	49	19.38
6	11.87	21	15.46	36	17.91	50	19.47
7	12.16	22	15.66	37	18.04	51	19.56
8	12.44	23	15.85	38	18.17	52	19.65
9	12.71	24	16.03	39	18.29	53	19.74
10	12.97	25	16.21	40	18.41	54	19.83
11	13.23	26	16.38	41	18.53	55	19.91
12	13.48	27	16.55	42	18.65	56	19.99
13	13.72	28	16.72	43	18.76	57+	20
14	13.96	29	16.88				