

**BRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (2008) Last modified May 2012**

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## Introduction

The regulations of BAWA, are those of the WBF, as published in the Code, with the substitution of “BAWA” for “WBF” wherever these occur in the text, and with the addition of the Supplementary Regulations defined in this document.

## 1. Definitions

The following definitions are used in this document:

- **BAWA** - Bridge Association of Western Australia (Inc.)
- **TD** – Tournament Director
- **WBF** - World Bridge Federation
- **ABF** – Australian Bridge Federation
- **Code** - International Code, Laws of Duplicate Bridge
- **Event** - includes tournament, championship, congress, or trial for selection to State or National team conducted by BAWA or by any member club under the auspices of BAWA
- **STST** – State Teams Selection Trials

## 2. Disciplinary Powers

For any BAWA event, the entry of any player, pair, or team may be rejected. If this occurs the affected party or parties will receive, in writing, the reasons for the rejection. The offenders will be given reasonable opportunity to answer the allegation in person or in writing.

The Council of BAWA, or any representatives appointed by the Council, may exercise these disciplinary powers. Typical causes of disciplinary action are:

- **Any breach of the Laws or proprieties of bridge as set out in the Code or in these regulations**
- **Offensive behaviour**
- **Withdrawal or non-attendance from an event without good reason.**

## 3. Directors

**All** BAWA sponsored events must be directed by a BAWA accredited director. For information concerning Director’s duties see section 18.5

## 4. Entries

All participants in State Events and Congresses must be a member of a BAWA affiliated club and supply their ABF number at the beginning of the tournament. However, BAWA will generally receive sympathetically applications from visiting overseas or interstate players wishing to play in a BAWA event during their time in Western Australia. All participants in BAWA/ABF events must be an active (financial) member of an ABF affiliated club and supply their ABF number at the beginning of the tournament.

A player who is inactive at the start of an event is automatically disqualified. Teams / partners may replace the disqualified player but a score penalty will be imposed.

### 4.1 Congress / State Event Entries

Entering a congress or state event entails an obligation to play - failure to turn up at an event that you have entered, without exceptional and extenuating circumstances, will result in the forfeiture of entry rights to ALL BAWA Sponsored Open Red point events until all outstanding entries fees are paid.

### 4.2 Late Entries

Entries received, for any event, after the published closing dates are accepted at the discretion of the TD and, if accepted, will be charged double the entry fee. BAWA reserves the right to use the additional entry fee to pay the entry fee of a pair invited to participate to make a full table, or a team to make up a specific number of teams.

## **5. Substitution**

### **5.1 Player Obligations**

It is a condition of entry to all BAWA events that each entrant is expected to be available to play in all sessions. If a player in an event is unable to play because of illness, urgent business or other sufficient reason, they or another member of their unit must arrange for a substitute. Note: teams of 4 and 5 persons may add players (augment) to a maximum of 6 players provided that no more than 60% of the boards in that stage of the event have been played.

### **5.2 Notification of Substitution or Augmentation**

The Director, or a member of the BAWA TC if the Director is not available, should be notified of the substitution/augmentation preferably one week, but at least 24 hours before the relevant session. Approval as either a suitable or unsuitable substitute (may be appealed) is required prior to play. In an emergency, the Director must be notified as soon as possible. The Director shall consider a procedural penalty where he believes there is insufficient reason for a late notification.

**5.2.1** Where the BAWA Tournament committee (TC) believes that a Substitution is so unsuitable that no form of indemnity is available to the remainder of the field, they may recommend that the offending unit be disqualified, that no play occur and that a forfeit be given to their opposition. This could occur in the case of a grossly underweight substitute.

### **5.3 Emergency Substitutes**

**5.3.1** In an emergency, the Director may make substitution(s) necessary to maintain the orderly progress of the movement

**5.3.2** If a player substitutes for a small number of boards, the Director may rule that a substitution has not taken place.

### **5.4 Players eligible to substitute**

Any player ineligible to enter the event; previously entered in the event and eliminated or currently playing in the event may not act as a substitute. Note: in a teams event, any player entered but who has not yet played in the event may be released by their team captain and become eligible to substitute or augment.

### **5.5 Suitability of substitute**

**5.5.1** The entrant shall make every effort to find a substitute of equivalent standard. Equivalent standard means that the ability of the pair containing the substitute is neither significantly higher or lower than that of the original pair. In determining the degree of equivalence, masterpoint rank need not be the determining factor and the relative experience of the partnerships and players may be taken into account. The most important consideration is that equity of the other contestants is not jeopardised.

**5.5.2** The Director will use his experience as a guide to suitability, having regard to changes in partnership quality and if time permits notify the BAWA TC of the substitution for guidance/comment. In an emergency the Director shall seek opinion on suitability from members of the TC playing in that session or if necessary a group of suitably qualified players and notify the requesting unit of the decision regarding suitability and any score adjustments which may be required.

**5.5.3** If the BAWA TC determines that any substitute who is about to, or has, played in the event is not suitable then a score adjustment will generally be made for equity; but see 5.3.2.

**5.5.4** the unit requesting the substitute may appeal a ruling of unsuitability of the substitute provided that this is done before the substitute starts play. If the appeal is unsuccessful and the procedures in 5.5.2 have been followed, then penalties for an appeal without merit should be applied.

**5.5.5** An appeal will be allowed until the end of the normal appeals period, objecting to the substitution. If the appeal is unsuccessful and the procedures in 5.5.2 have been followed, then penalties for an appeal without merit should be applied. If the appeal is successful score adjustments may be made for equity.

## 5.6 Limits of substitution

**5.6.1** If an approved substitute plays more boards in the event than the original entrant, the substitute acquires the rights of the original player.

**5.6.2** In an individual competition, the original player must play more than 60% of the boards in the event to avoid disqualification.

**5.6.3** In a pairs or Butler competition, the original pair must play more than 60% of the boards in the event as a unit to avoid disqualification.

**5.6.4** In a team competition, the original team must play more than 60% of the matches in the event to avoid disqualification. Each player must play more than 40% of the boards in a stage to receive overall masterpoints for that stage and to progress to the next stage of the event. As an alternative to substitutions, a team may add players with the approval of the director provided that less than 60% of the boards have been played in that stage. These players become permanent members of the team. A team can consist of a maximum of 6 players. The TC may at their discretion vary these conditions on the request of players representing BAWA outside of WA during the event.

**5.6.4.1** The TC may consider that a player added to a team, who only plays a small percentage of the matches, is a substitute and the regulations regarding altered scores or disqualification for unsuitable substitutes may be applied.

### 5.6.4.2

The number of substitutions allowed in any BAWA Event, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations, shall be according to the scale below: A stanza is defined as any number of boards after which there is a break in play as provided for in the Supplementary Regulations.

Number of stanzas	Number of stanzas for which substitute(s) allowed
1	0
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	3
7	3
>7	0.5n (rounded down to the nearest whole number)

The Director may authorise substitution for part of a stanza. In such a circumstance, the substitution shall be regarded for the purposes of determining "the number of substitutions allowed" as equivalent to substitution for one stanza, unless the Director rules that the number of boards played by the substitute is insignificant, in which case no substitution shall be recorded.

## 5.7 Unsuitable substitutes - Altered scores / Disqualification

**5.7.1** If, in the TC's opinion a substitution violates the above conditions the director may disqualify the offending unit, or award them an altered score. In all other instances their score is unaffected by the use of a substitute. The altered score if awarded shall be the average of their match/session scores for that stage of the event without those containing the unsuitable substitute.

**5.7.2** In a Teams match, where an unsuitable substitution occurs for 1 or more matches, the director, in conjunction with the TC, may at his discretion, modify the scores of all the opponents of the unit in those matches containing the unsuitable substitute, where the TC considers that the results of the matches could have been affected by the substitution. The modified scores will be equal to the mean of the average results of the units scores for that stage of the event (excluding the matches involving the unsuitable substitution) and the complement of the score or altered score awarded as described in para 5.7.1.

**5.7.3** In a pairs event containing an unsuitable substitute, where the director deems that the scores in a session have probably been affected by an unsuitable substitution he may leave or adjust the offending pairs as described in para 5.7.1.

#### **5.7.4 Where a unit is disqualified**

**5.7.4.1** It is responsible for all costs for the event,

**5.7.4.2** It may if required by the director, continue to play for the remainder of the stage,

**5.7.4.3** It will receive any sessional masterpoint awards but not any overall awards,

**5.7.4.4** It will be ineligible to progress to the next stage of the event.

### **6. Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited at all times in the playing areas of Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses and of supplementary and side events conducted by the BAWA, and in all other parts of the venue specified by the Tournament Organiser. In addition, contestants shall observe regulations regarding smoking, that have been promulgated by the controlling body of the venue and by State and Federal law.

6.1 Failure to observe the provisions of Section 6 shall be regarded as an offence subject to the Disciplinary Powers of the BAWA (Section 2 of these Regulations)

6.2 The Director should, in the report made after the Tournament (Section 18 of these Regulations), document any breach of this regulation by any player.

## 7. Bidding Systems

### 7.1. System Classifications

**Highly artificial** (H.A.) systems are defined as those which exhibit one or more of the following features, as a matter of partnership agreement:

- A pass in the opening position which does not imply absence of the qualifications for a natural opening bid of one, but which shows or may show a hand of 12 or more high card points or a hand that would be judged at least worthy of initial action at the one level in a natural system.
- An opening bid or bids at the level of one which in principle is or may be weaker than an opening pass in the system, or which is or maybe a hand not meeting normal standards for an opening bid of one. (according to the Rule of 18 \*).
- An opening bid or bids at the level of one, which has two or more distinct potential meanings (except for an opening bid of one club showing either a strong club opener or other naturally inclined or balanced one club system).

\* Rule of 18: states that the number of High Card Points plus the number of cards in the two longest suits shall total no less than 18.

**Artificial systems** are defined as those systems that, while not falling under the definition of Highly Artificial, display a significant degree of artificiality, for example:

- Frequent use of relays.
- An opening bid of one club that covers both a strong club opener and other naturally inclined or balanced one club openers.
- Opening bids at the two or three level that have two or more distinct potential meanings.
- Variation of basic methods according to position and/or vulnerability.
- First-round responses to opening bids containing more than one distinct meaning not related to the suit bid (except for a one diamond response to a strong one club opener showing a negative or an "impossible negative").
- Other conventions or treatments requiring defensive preparation.

### 7.2. System Eligibility

Highly artificial systems may only be played in events comprising of matches of 8 or more boards duration (Teams, Butler and Swiss events). If a H.A. system is used, players must make available to the Tournament Director a fully documented system summary not less than 24 hours before the start of the event in which such a system is to be played. Furthermore, a comprehensive system card should be forwarded to the BAWA web master for posting on the systems web page.

For Highly Artificial Systems played in events held at various venues (e.g. League Teams) the opposing captain must be supplied with a copy of the system at least 1 week prior to the match). Publication of the system on the BAWA web site would satisfy the notification requirement. The opposing captain should be informed.

Any pair in doubt as to the legality and/or classification of their system should submit a full system summary to the Tournament Committee for evaluation.

BAWA reserves the right to classify any such system and may do so by an interpretation of the spirit as well as the letter of the above regulations.

## 8. System Cards

In all BAWA Red & Gold point events **each player** must have a comprehensive, legible ABF or WBF system card. The card should be available at all times during play. Clubs should ensure a supply of blank cards is available to players, especially at Congresses where non-regular partnerships may be playing. Pairs playing Highly Artificial or Artificial Systems in BAWA Red & Gold point events are encouraged to:

- use a WBF system card (now approved for all BAWA and BAWA/ABF events) and
- lodge the card with the BAWA webmaster for display. Word format is encouraged.

## 9. Calling

### 9.1. Bidding Boxes

Bidding boxes must be used when specified by the Director of the session.

When the use of bidding boxes is not obligatory, they may be used when agreed to by all four players at the table. In this case the bidding boxes are to be used by all four players.

All players make their first call by placing the appropriate bid on the table immediately in front of them, slightly to their left. Each player's bidding cards should be orientated so that the large print is upside-down from that player's perspective.

Each player's subsequent calls should be placed on top of the previous ones so that the bidding cards partly overlap and every call in the sequence is visible.

A bid is considered made if it is held face up, touching or nearly touching the table, or maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been made.

An inadvertent call (such as accidentally placing the wrong bidding card on the table) may be changed without penalty under Law 25A.

To alert, a player should say "alert" and display or draw attention to the Alert card.

At the end of the auction, the opening leader places his lead face down on the table. At this point, with the auction still on the table, the leader's partner and Declarer may request an explanation of the opponents' auction.

At the end of the auction, the opening leader places his/her lead face down on the table. At this point, with the auction still on the table, the leader's partner and Declarer may request an explanation of the opponents' auction.

After all explanations have been completed, the opening lead should be faced and all players should return their bidding cards to their respective boxes.

### 9.2. Written bidding

In the unlikely absence of bidding boxes, written bidding will be used. If the Director believes that the circumstances require it, he may institute alternative bidding procedures without any further authorisation, whether for one or more tables only or for all competitors.

Bidding sheets should not be marked prior to the commencement of bidding. Players should use the appropriate square on the bidding slip, and write their bids in a consistent manner.

The bidding slip shall remain in view until the third player has played to the first trick, whereupon dummy should remove the bidding slip from view.

## 10. Alerting

BAWA has adopted the 2008 ABF Alerting Regulations. (See Appendix I)

## 11. Tardiness

### 11.1. Lateness

Players, who arrive late for an event, without having informed the TD or taken reasonable steps to inform the TD at the earliest opportunity, may be liable to disciplinary penalties as follows:

Late more than	Pairs	Teams
5 Minutes	10% of a top	1VP
10 Minutes	15% of a top	2VPs
15 Minutes	25% of a top	5VPs

When the players are more than 30 minutes late:

- Pairs: Deemed non-attendance.
- Teams: Opponents may claim a forfeit or may, at their discretion and with the approval of the TD, play the match.

### 11.2. Slow Play

The TD shall warn players, who, in the opinion of the TD, have prolonged play sufficiently to inconvenience other contestants, of that fact. Players who consider they have been inconvenienced by prolonged play of their opponents should advise the TD as soon as possible. In such cases the TD may or may not warn the opponents. If the TD has cause to warn a player, or players, about slow play more than once, each warning after the first may be accompanied by a penalty of 10% of a top (Pairs) or a match possible (Teams), or the equivalent.

## 12. Appeals

Appeals shall be made in accordance with Chapter XI of the Code, except where hereinafter that procedure is specifically varied.

### 12.1. Panels

BAWA shall appoint persons to two separate panels: to serve on Appeals Committees and on the State Appeals Chairperson's Panel. No person having an interest in the result of an appeal shall serve on any appeal body dealing with that appeal.

### 12.2. Chairman

The BAWA Tournament Committee shall, for each event, select an Appeals Committee chairperson, who shall convene a committee and conduct the proceedings with all expediency. The chairman shall ensure that all parties to the appeal are afforded equal opportunity to appear before the body in person. If it is not convenient or expedient to appear in person, such evidence may be given in writing or over the telephone. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Chairman shall inform the TD, or the Secretary of the Tournament Committee, as appropriate, of the result.



### **12.3. Appeals Committee**

The appellants must inform the TD of their intent to appeal within 30 minutes of the conclusion of play in the event. The appeal must be in writing and signed by both players in a pair's event or the team captain in a team event. The Committee should be convened as soon as possible. If it is not possible to convene the Committee during, or immediately after, the session in question, the Committee must be convened within 5 days of the conclusion of the event. The appellants must deposit a fee of \$20 before the appeal will be heard. This deposit will not be refunded if the Committee deems the appeal to be frivolous.

Member clubs may form their own Appeals Committees to deal with appeals arising from events run by them. In so doing, they forfeit the right to use the BAWA Appeals Committee.

For Congress or Special events additional Appeal Committee requirements may exist. See the regulations pertaining to Congress Events.

In all situations appellants have the right to appeal against the ruling of an appeal committee. All further appeals must go to the BAWA Tournament Committee.

### **12.4. The BAWA Tournament Committee**

This body fulfils the function of the "National Authority" specified in paragraph 93(c) of the Code. Appellants, who intend to appeal the decision of the Appeals Committee to the BAWA Tournament Committee, must inform the TD of their intentions to appeal within 30 minutes of being informed of the decision of the Appeals Committee. The appellants must submit their appeal to the Secretary of the BAWA Tournament Committee within seven days, accompanied by a deposit of \$50. All relevant documentary evidence must be supplied with the appeal request. The \$50 deposit will not be refunded if the committee deems the appeal frivolous.

## **13. Ties**

Ties only need to be resolved when they affect qualification to the next stage or in events where resolution of first place is required. For masterpoint purposes tie breaks will not affect the ranking.

When two teams tie in a knockout match, a succession of further four board matches shall be played, until the tie is broken.

In team events or Swiss pairs, ties shall be broken by successively applying the following procedures until a winner is determined:

- Procedural or disciplinary penalties imposed by the Director shall be deleted.
- The pair or team with the greatest positive or least negative IMP difference shall be ranked highest.
- The pair or team with the greatest number of wins in VPs (a draw is equal to ½ win) shall be ranked highest.
- The total scores shall be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result, then second worst result, etc. of each of the tying pairs or teams.
- In the case of two-way ties, the winner of the match between the two equally scoring pairs or teams (if such a match occurred) shall be ranked higher.
- Lot shall determine ranking.

In Matchpoint events, ties shall be broken by successively applying the following procedures until a winner is determined:

- Procedural or disciplinary penalties imposed by the Director shall be deleted.
- Where an incomplete movement was used, the total matchpoints of all the tying pairs' opponents shall be determined. The pair with the highest total shall be ranked highest.
- The scores of each of the tying pairs shall be compared on all boards that they played in the same direction. Each pair shall be awarded two matchpoints for each (tying) pair whose score they have beaten, and one matchpoint for each (tying) pair whose score they have equalled. On boards where the pairs played in opposite directions or only one pair played the board, they shall be awarded two matchpoints for a score above the average on the board, one matchpoint for an average score, and zero otherwise. The scores obtained shall be added, with the highest scoring pair ranked highest.

- In the case of two-way ties, the pair scoring higher in the round between the two pairs (should it have occurred) shall be ranked higher;
- The pair with the best score against the highest placed pair in the field shall be ranked highest, and then successively to the second highest placed pair, etc.

## **14. Seeding**

Seeding, if required, shall be done as follows:

- Prior to the first round, the Tournament Committee or persons appointed by that Committee for that purpose should do seeding.
- After the first and subsequent rounds, seeding shall be determined by the positions of the contestants after the previous qualifying round.

## **15. Forfeiture Of Teams Matches**

In a team event, any team, which forfeits a match, shall receive a maximum loss, and their opponents shall receive 75% of a maximum, or their average match score, whichever is the greater.

## **16. State Recorder**

The Tournament Committee shall nominate annually, a person of high standing in the bridge community to the position of State Recorder. The person so nominated, and accepting the position, shall perform the following functions.

1. The Recorder will receive verbal or written complaints.
2. The Recorder will decide if a complaint is serious or trivial (in which case the complainant is told immediately the reasons for not pursuing it).
3. If the complaint is serious, the Recorder will inform the complainant that he will approach the person(s) concerned and advise them of the complaint and the names of the complainant.
4. The complainant will be asked if there were any witnesses and the Recorder will note their names.
5. The Recorder will discretely approach the person concerned (and their playing partner) and advise them of the complaint, and ask the partner if it is true. If the partner says it is true, various actions are open to the Recorder.
  - Warning (if not too serious)
  - Advise the person(s) that the Tournament Committee will be contacted to recommend suspension for X games. If the Recorder is present during the competition where the alleged offence took place, he may put the player on a "good behaviour bond" for the rest of the competition, and if no further complaints are received, decide to drop the matter
  - Advise the Tournament Committee that the person is suspended for all or part of the event. In the most serious cases, advise the Tournament Committee that the person be banned for an extended period
  - Where there is no admission of guilt, bring all parties together and try and ascertain the truth.
6. All incidents, with full details, shall be kept in the RECORDER BOOK, which is cross-indexed by name. Only the Recorder and the President of BAWA shall be permitted to see the Recorder Book.

**NO ONE SHALL BE ENTERED IN THE RECORDER BOOK WITHOUT THE PERSON'S KNOWLEDGE. THEY SHALL BE KEPT INFORMED EACH STEP OF THE WAY.**

## **17. State Team Captains**

### **17.1. Selection:**

The Tournament Committee shall select annually, in accordance with the relevant regulation, one or more persons to act as captain(s) for the state team(s). Team members will not be invited to make formal submissions but are encouraged to seek out potential candidates and encourage them to nominate.

### **17.2. Power and Duties:**

A captain's main object is to obtain maximum performance from the team at the relevant ANC or other event. To achieve this object, the captain is responsible for the training, discipline and welfare of the team prior to, and during the championships, and for planning and executing optimum competitive stratagems. The captain is also responsible for ensuring the teams adherence to tournament regulations. For example the requirement to submit system cards.

### **17.3. Discipline:**

The team captains are the official BAWA representatives during the event and as such they are responsible for the conduct of anyone representing BAWA in an official capacity. If during the event, the captain should have cause to discipline the player or a pair, he may, as he deems necessary, prevent such player or pair from playing any number of matches, or withdraw the offender(s) from any event in which they represent BAWA.

### **17.4. Captain's Report:**

At the conclusion of the championships and within 8 weeks, the captain shall prepare a report of the team's performance and conduct together with recommendations for future events. The report will be sent to the Secretary of the TC, who will ensure that the report will be submitted to the first meeting of the Management Committee after receiving it, and will also ensure that the reports are permanently filed for future reference.

## **18. State Teams Selection Trials**

### **General**

The tournament committee is responsible for the format of the STST with the proviso that the trial events conform to these regulations.

### **18.1. Alternatives**

Replacement pairs or teams to any stage shall be drawn from the same section from the preceding stage as that of the pair whom they replaced, and shall be chosen in descending order starting from the highest placed pair.

## 19. Congresses, Gold & Red Point Events - Regulations & Directors Duties

### 19.1. General:

- 18.1.1 **Definition:** Red Point Event – an event which awards red master points; Open Red Point Event – a red point event open to ALL players with an ABF number; A Club Red Point Event – an event which awards red master points and is restricted to club members.
- 18.1.2 **Convener.** All Congresses and Open Red Point events must have an officially appointed convener. The convener is appointed by the Club and has the principal task of ensuring that these regulations are read, understood and applied by both the organising committee and the Director.
- 18.1.3 **Director.** ALL Red Point events require a Non-Playing Qualified Director. Provision has been made for Clubs, who can demonstrate genuine hardship, to apply to the Senior State Tournament Director for this rule to be waived. This rule does not apply to head-to-head teams matches held in people's homes.
- 18.1.4 **Boards.** All Gold & Red Point Congresses and BAWA Red Point Events are required to have pre-dealt boards and hand records. In events with two or more sections, the TD shall organise the boards in a manner such that identical boards are played in all sections. It is recommended that clubs follow a similar procedure for their Red Point Club Championships
- 18.1.5 **Red Points.** Red points for Congresses and Club Red Point events must be submitted to the State Master Point Secretary, BEFORE being sent to the ABF Master Points Centre. All points submitted without the correct documentation will be returned.
- 18.1.6 **Appeals Committee.** For Congresses an appeals committee group (6 players) must be established prior to the start of the event. This list must be published before play starts. BAWA will assist with guidelines for the running of an appeal. It is recommended that Clubs follow a similar procedure for their Red Point Club Championships.
- 18.1.7 **Tables.** 30 tables in a pairs movement is the maximum allowable under the control of a single Director. (A senior Director with a qualified assistant is acceptable for 30 – 50 tables) Teams and Swiss Pairs competitions with up to 40 may be run by a single director. The Tournament Committee may be approached to waive these requirements if special circumstances are argued.
- 18.1.8 **Seating.** In teams matches seating rights will be determined by the toss of a coin. The winner of the toss will have the right choose their opponents or their seating position. Should the match be divided into 2 or more sessions then seating rights will alternate.
- 18.1.9 **Numbers of Boards.** The minimum number of boards that may be played in a single session is 24; for a 2 session event 48 and for 3 session event 72. Convenors that, for a particular reason, may need to play less than this number must ensure that this is clearly stated on the conditions of entry (or congress brochure) as it will affect player's entitlements to master points.
- 18.1.10 **Bidding Boxes.** Bidding boxes are required for all BAWA sponsored Gold and Open Red Point events. (BAWA has bidding boxes available for loan).
- 18.1.11 **Bridgemate (Table electronic scorers).** When electronic scorers are in use, no display of comparative scores is permitted. This includes both the board comparative percentage and the list of results from other tables.

### 19.2. Movements and Timing

- 18.2.1 Multiple section movements must be seeded. For events run with two or more sections qualifying for a final, it is essential that the field be seeded evenly. Each pair or team must have the same degree of difficulty reaching the final.
- 18.2.2 For pair's events run over several sessions, the director must ensure that the movement used is as balanced as possible. Ideally, each pair should play an equal number of boards against all other pairs, and have their scores match pointed against the others equally often. In this case the fields must be seeded into sections.

- 18.2.3 For Swiss events, a sufficient number of rounds must be played. For x rounds, 2<sup>x</sup> contenders is the maximum that can be resolved. Thus 5-8 entries require 3 rounds, 9-16 entries require 4 rounds, 17-32 entries require 5 rounds and 33-64 entries require 6 rounds. Where scoring is by a Butler Mean then the extreme scores to be removed are: 10% of scores (rounded down) from each end of the score continuum. For example 36 scores should have the top 3 and the bottom 3 extreme scores removed.
- 18.2.4 For Swiss pairs events the director must produce personal score sheets for all pairs during the subsequent round. The only exception to this is personal score sheets for the penultimate round must be produced and given players 5 minutes before the draw for the final round is created. The director should urge players to check their results quickly and carefully.
- 18.2.5 Scoring in qualifying rounds must be across the field. Finals qualification is to be either the top 14 pairs in a multiple Howell movement or the top 7 NS and 7 EW in a multiple Mitchell.
- 18.2.6 Timing. There must be a minimum of 7 minutes per board.

### **19.3. Pre-dealt Boards**

- 18.3.1 The operator of the dealing machine OR the producer of the boards places them in a sealed box along with the printed hand record.
- 18.3.2 The congress convener or the Director collects the boards. The convener or Director then takes responsibility for the security of the boards and the hand records.
- 18.3.3 The convener and the Director open the box together no earlier than one hour prior to the session start.

### **19.4. Prize Money**

Congress prize structures must be made clear in the promotional literature for the event. It is not acceptable to advertise "Generous Prizes" without explanation. It is quite acceptable to make prizes - subject to entries. However, this should be stated clearly on the entry form, perhaps with a note stating, "60% (or whatever figure) of entry fees will be returned as prizes". The prize structure for the congress must be posted at the venue at the start of congress. It is recommended that Clubs keep a congress balance sheet that they should be prepared to make available to players.

### **19.5. Director's Duties And Fees**

- 18.5.1 Prepare the movement and ensure that it is fair and equitable, with the seeding of players of similar ability and proper distances between tables being maintained, particularly for team's matches.
- 18.5.2 For Red Point Congresses - List an Appeals Committee comprising preferably 6 senior players at the tournament, and post this list on the notice board at the start of the event. Appeals are heard under normal BAWA Appeals regulations.
- 18.5.3 Run the event, making note to abide by ALL BAWA regulations, including penalties for late arrival, slow play.
- 18.5.4 Score and check the results, provide a board by board printout recap sheet or player personal scores if there is computer scoring.
- 18.5.5 Register the RED POINTS within 14 DAYS.
- 18.5.6 Director's remuneration. A recommended scale of fees has been developed and is available on request.

## 20. Appendix I - ABF Alerting Regulations

Effective June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008

### 1. Introduction

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have secret agreements with partner, either in bidding or in card play. Your agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to your opponents. These Regulations set principles and guidelines for the approved alerting procedures. The ABF System Regulations require each player to have a legibly completed approved system card on the table, with the partnership cards being systemically identical. The purpose of an alert is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a special meaning, or a meaning the opponents may not expect. The fact that your system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by these regulations. (However see 2.4 below for self-alerting calls) You should follow the principle of full disclosure (as required by the Laws) in following these Regulations and in explanations of calls. Your principle should be to disclose, not as little as you must, but as much as you can, and as comprehensibly as you can. A careless failure to follow this policy may result in an adjusted score, and possibly procedural penalties, where opponents have been damaged. If you make a positive effort to meet your obligations under full disclosure, you will rarely if ever fall foul of these regulations. Your agreements include not only specific agreements appearing on your system card but also partnership understandings which have arisen through partnership discussion or experience. The opponents are entitled to know about these understandings. General bridge inferences, like those a new partner could make when there has been no prior discussion, are not alertable, but any inferences that can be drawn from partnership experience must be disclosed.

### 2. Definitions and General Principles

#### 2.1 Convention

A call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high-card strength or length (three cards or more) there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention.

**2.1.1** Note that 'other than' is construed to include 'additional to'. So, by definition, any bid that shows the denomination named and another denomination also, is conventional. All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional.

**2.1.2** It is construed that an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ which may contain fewer than three cards in the opened suit does not indicate 'willingness to play' and hence such bids are conventional.

**2.1.3** Certain calls may not convey any meaning e.g. the enforced 3♣ after a Lebensohl 2NT. Such calls are construed as conventional.

#### 2.2 Natural calls

**2.2.1** A **natural suit bid** is one that is not conventional. It follows from the definition of convention that a bid is natural if it meets the following criteria:

- Conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named (but does not come under 2.1.1 or 2.1.3)
- Shows high card strength or length (3+ cards) in the suit named.

**2.2.2** A **natural NT bid** is a bid that shows a preparedness to play in NT, and conveys no specific information about your suit holdings.

**2.2.3** A **natural pass** is a pass that does not convey any conventional message about strength or suit holdings. Natural calls as defined in these regulations are in general not alertable, but there are important exceptions. (See 3.2.2.)

#### 2.3 Cue bids

For the purposes of these Regulations, a **cue bid** of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid. Example: If an opponent opens 1♦ showing spades, then 1♠ and 2♦ are both cue bids. Similarly a 2NT overcall of 1NT is also a cue bid.

## 2.4 Self-alerting calls

There are five different types of self-alerting calls, viz.

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- All calls at the four level or higher, and
- Any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted. It may be risky to make assumptions as to the meaning of such a call. You are entitled (at your turn to call) to ask for your own protection, but bear in mind that unnecessary questions may be more helpful to the opponents than to your own side, and may convey unauthorised information thereby limiting partner's options.

## 2.5 Other definitions

**2.5.1** A **transfer bid** is an artificial bid, which promises length in a specified suit.

**2.5.2** A **puppet bid** is an artificial bid, which requires a particular response by partner, but does not promise a holding in the suit of the forced response.

**2.5.3** A **pass-or-correct bid** or a **correctable bid** is a bid, which, after partner has shown possession of an unspecified suit, conveys the meaning 'Pass if this is your unspecified suit, otherwise correct to your suit'.

## 3. Alert Stages

There are three stages of the alerting process. All are important.

- The pre-alert before bidding starts
- Alerts during the auction
- Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead.

### 3.1 Pre-alerts

**3.1.1** At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, length of their one level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. Subsequent questions about these, whilst legal, may be regarded as unauthorised information.

**3.1.2** This is the stage where you should draw the opponents' attention to any unusual agreements you have which might surprise them, or to which they may need to arrange a defence. Examples: transfer preempts, unusual two level openings, canapé style bidding, very unusual doubles, unusual methods over the opponents' 1NT or strong club openings, unusual cue bids of the opponents' suit, etc. Pay particular attention to unusual self-alerting calls. These should appear on your system card, but should also be verbally pre-alerted.

**3.1.3** Highly unusual carding (e.g. leading low from doubletons) should also be pre-alerted at this stage.

### 3.2 Alerts during the Auction

**3.2.1** You must alert a call if it is conventional (unless it is self-alerting).

**3.2.2** Two classes of natural calls must be alerted (unless they are self-alerting), viz.

(a) The call is natural, but you have an agreement by which your call is forcing or non-forcing in a way that your opponents are unlikely to expect. Examples:

- Responder's first round jump shift on weak hands.
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid (whether or not after intervention).
- A pass which forces partner to take action (e.g. SWINE).

(b) The call is natural, but its meaning is affected by other agreements, which your opponents are unlikely to expect. Examples:

- A natural NT overcall in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the overcalled suit.
- A jump raise of opener's one level bid which may be weak or pre-emptive.
- A single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing e.g. 1♦ - 2♦ forcing.
- The rebid in a canapé sequence where the second suit may be longer than the first.
- A 1♥ opening which denies holding 4+ spades.

### 3.3 Delayed alerts

**3.3.1** At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual non-alerted calls. Upon inquiry, you must disclose fully, not only the specific meanings of all calls, but also any inferences you have drawn from the auction based on partnership experience (as distinct from general bridge knowledge). These explanations may occasionally need to include negative inferences, such as hand types partner probably does not have for his bidding. Defenders must not, at this time, draw attention to their own calls, nor voluntarily offer explanations (they must of course fully disclose upon inquiry).

**3.3.2** Takeout/negative-type doubles and penalty doubles do not require a delayed alert. If interested, the opening leader should enquire before leading, or his partner may enquire after the opening lead has been made face down.

**3.3.3** If a possible misexplanation emerges during the delayed alert stage the Director should be called before the opening lead is faced. Defenders however must wait until the play of the hand is completed before calling the Director to report any misexplanation by their partner.

### 4. Some Common Conventions

#### 4.1 Stayman 2♣ over partner's 1NT

This bid is self-alerting because it is almost universally used. The conventional responses to Stayman are alertable, as are natural responses, which convey a message about strength or special distribution.

#### 4.2 Transfers over partner's NT

The transfer bid is alertable. Acceptance of the transfer, whether or not after interference, is alertable if it conveys any meaning relating to hand strength or length in partner's shown suit.

**4.3 Multi 2 bids** e.g. 2♦ showing an unspecified 6-card major with or without other options.

**Alert opener's bid. Alert all conventional responses including correctable bids.**

### 5. Specific Examples

This section provides a number of examples by way of illustration and amplification. The list is not exhaustive. It is not necessary to commit them to memory as they follow the principles specified above. There is an overriding requirement that self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

#### 5.1 Opening bids

**Alert:**

- (a) 1♣ or 1♦ if it may contain fewer than three cards in the suit named.
- (b) 1♥ or 1♠ if it may contain fewer than four cards in the suit named. Also if a 1♥ bid systemically denies four spades, this is alertable (conveys a surprising message about another suit).
- (c) Opening two bids which do not promise a holding of 4+ cards in the suit named, or which promise a holding in the suit named and another suit. Examples:
  - Alertable: 2♥ showing hearts and another suit (whether specified or not).
  - Alertable: 2♣ where, if there are only 5 clubs, also shows a four-card major.
  - Strong artificial 2♣, 2♦ openings are alertable.
  - Note that a 2♥ bid, which promises only hearts, is not alertable, whether strong or weak.
- (d) Any opening bid which is not natural e.g. transfer pre-empts.

#### 5.2 Development of the auction

**Alert:**

- (a) Weak jump responses
- (b) Inverted minors (1♦ - 2♦ strong, 1♦ - 3♦ weak)
- (c) Forcing 1NT response
- (d) New suit rebids by opener which may be made on a suit of fewer than three cards in a minor or four cards in a major
- (e) Jacoby style 2NT over a major
- (f) Bergen raises
- (g) Fourth suit forcing
- (h) Splinter bids (below 4♣)



- (i) Transfer bids (below 4♣)
- (j) Forced bids in a 'pass-or-correct' sequence
- (k) Conventional responses including 'pass-or-correct' bids after a multi-two opening
- (l) Trial bids
- (m) Non-jump natural suit responses to 1NT (opening or overcall) which are invitational or forcing
- (n) A 1♠ response to 1♥ if it shows at least five spades
- (o) A pass which conveys a special meaning as to strength or distribution

### 5.3 Competitive auctions

#### 5.3.1 Overcalls

##### Alert:

- (a) All overcalls which show two suits, even if one of them is the suit named
- (b) Unusual NT bids that show 2-suited hands
- (c) Natural NT overcalls of RHO's opening suit bid which may not have a stopper in that suit
- (d) Transfer overcalls and multi-meaning overcalls

##### Do not alert:

- (a) Single suited overcalls showing only the suit named, whether weak, strong or intermediate
- (b) 1NT in the pass-out seat which may not contain a stopper in the opener's suit

#### 5.3.2 Over opponent's takeout double,

##### Alert:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Preemptive jumps
- (c) Fit showing jumps

#### 5.3.3 Over an opponent's suit overcall,

##### Alert:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Any natural NT bid which does not promise a stopper in the opponent's suit
- (c) Lebensohl type responses after interference over your 1NT

#### 5.3.4 After partner's takeout double,

##### Alert:

- (a) Any bid that conventionally shows weakness (Lebensohl, Herbert, etc.)
- (b) Any minimal natural response that shows some strength

## 6. Bidding Styles

Be aware that there are some different approaches in bidding style in natural systems after a minor suit opening, especially a 1♣ opening. Some players bid 'up the line', some prefer to show a major ahead of a 4 or even a 5-card minor. Further, some players may skip a 4-card major in making a NT rebid. These approaches are commonly used, and these regulations do not require them to be alerted during the auction. You are advised to be aware of these different approaches, and protect yourself by asking where necessary.

## 7. Alerting Procedure

### 7.1

Alerts are compulsory - you may not ask the opponents not to alert. The requirement to alert applies even though the convention or other agreement may be listed on the system card.

### 7.2

Self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

### 7.3

You alert partner's calls, not your own (except when screens are in use). Alerts should be made immediately after the alertable call has been completed.

### 7.4

Alerts are made by audibly saying, "Alert" or, if written bidding is in use, circling the call on the bidding pad. Circling a call provides prima-facie evidence that it has been alerted. (If bidding boxes are in use, an alert card should be placed across the relevant call).

## **7.5**

Delayed alerts should be indicated by a small plus sign (+) in one corner of the appropriate square of the bidding pad as evidence of the delayed alert. (If bidding boxes are in use, the declaring side should verbally indicate which unusual calls require a delayed alert.)

## **7.6**

Do not explain your alerted calls or delayed alerted calls unless a request has been made.

## **7.7**

If you know that partner's call is alertable but you have forgotten its meaning, you should nevertheless alert. If asked, explain that you have forgotten the meaning. The Director should be called immediately. His normal action would be to send you away from the table and have your partner explain the meaning of the call.

## **7.8**

When a player makes any call in tempo, and an opponent then alerts (late alert), the director may allow the player to retract the call and substitute a legal call without penalty, provided that his partner has not subsequently called, and it is probable that his action might be different after the alertable bid's meaning has been explained [Law 21B1(a)]. Any call retracted in accordance with the provisions of this Law is authorised information to the partner of the player retracting the call (Law 16D), but not to the opponents.

## **8. Enquiring about an Alerted Call**

### **8.1**

When opponents make an alerted or self-alerted call, you are entitled to ask specifically about that call, but only at your first turn to call after the alert. Otherwise any questions should be directed at the whole auction, not a specific call; an appropriate method of asking would be "Please explain the auction".

### **8.2**

Any questions about a call or calls must take into account the Laws covering unauthorised information: After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as by means of .... a question..., the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information [Law 16B1(a)]. Hence whilst the Laws grant you the right to ask questions, unnecessary inquiries, or questions directed at particular calls, may limit partner's options in the subsequent bidding or play. It is therefore advisable not to ask questions if your intention is to pass regardless of the answer.

### **8.3**

Questions may be asked only for your own benefit. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

## **9. Explanations**

### **9.1**

If an enquiry is made, a full explanation of the call must be given. This includes any conventional or partnership agreement, whether the agreement is explicit or based on partnership experience. Explanations may well include distributions and point ranges specifically excluded by a call, as well as those shown directly. When giving explanations, it is not necessary to repeat information given earlier in the hand, unless such information is requested. When explaining an alerted or self-alerting call, you should indicate if this same call may have a slightly different meaning (e.g. different point range) due to a variation of vulnerabilities and/or position around the table.

### **9.2**

If there is no partnership agreement as to the meaning of a call, you must say so (by saying, "Undiscussed", for example), and not attempt to offer a possible explanation. When, however, as a result of partnership experience and style, you are able to form a cogent view of the likely meaning of an undiscussed call, that information shall be given to the opponents. Where a call is undiscussed, you should not offer statements such as "I take it to mean...." or "I'm treating it as....". Such a response is improper as it gives unauthorised information to partner.

### **9.3**

Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient – nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

#### **9.4**

An explanation given in response to an enquiry about the meaning of any call should avoid reference to the meaning of any response yet to be made to that call (unless requested by an opponent).

#### **9.5**

You need not divulge knowledge or conclusions you have reached based on your own card holdings, or as a consequence of your general bridge knowledge.

### **10. Irregularities in Procedure**

#### **10.1 Misinformation**

Pairs who frequently forget their system or conventions have a damaging effect on the tournament. The Director is empowered by these Regulations to require such a pair to play a simpler system or convention. In extreme cases he may apply a procedural penalty under Law 90A.

#### **10.2 Late Alert**

In the case of a late alert (i.e. a member of the non-offending side has taken action before the alert is made), the Director should be called immediately before any further action is taken. (See **7.8**) He may be able to take steps to prevent damage at this time. If the non-offending side fails to call the Director at this time, they may jeopardise their rights to later obtain redress for damage.

#### **10.3 Failure to Alert / Mistaken Explanation**

When there has been a failure to alert, or a mistaken alert, or misexplanation given, the following principles apply.

##### **10.3.1** If a member of the offending side becomes declarer/dummy:

Before the opening lead is faced, declarer and/or dummy are required by Law to call the Director and, in his presence, correct the failure to alert, the mistaken alert, and/or the misexplanation.

##### **10.3.2** If the offending side become defenders:

No correction may be given until the end of play, at which time the Director must be called.

**10.3.3** When there is reason to believe that a failure to alert has caused damage, the Director will consider awarding an adjusted score, providing there is a direct link between the irregularity and the result achieved at the table.

### **11. Tournament Director's Responsibility**

#### **11.1**

Tournament Directors will not allow players to manipulate these Regulations to their advantage. For example, opponents must be allowed enough time to alert; a speedy action out of tempo followed by a claim for a late alert will receive little sympathy. Likewise, experienced players claiming damage through a technical failure to alert will need to present a strong case.

#### **11.2**

Directors are urged, when giving a ruling at the table, to consider whether the players have adhered to the principle of full disclosure.

### **12. Alerting when Screens are in Use**

When screens are in use, the alerting procedures outlined above do not apply. Refer instead to the ABF Screen Regulations and the Supplementary Regulations of the event for details of alerting procedures.

### **13. Summary and Guidelines for Players**

This summary constitutes part of the regulations, but is intended only as a brief guide to players. Players should be familiar with the full regulations.

#### **13.1**

The Laws and these regulations require full disclosure of your agreements. You should make active efforts to ensure the opponents are aware of your agreements. You do so by pre-alerts (before the auction), alerts during the auction and delayed alerts at the end of the auction.

**13.1.1** The pre-alert is the stage where you warn opponents of any very unusual agreements. Pay special attention to self-alerting calls that may surprise the opponents, (e.g. unusual doubles, unusual cue bids of opponents' suit) and to any unusual agreements to which the opponents may need to devise a defence.

**13.1.2** Calls are alerted during the auction by audibly saying, "Alert" and by circling the alertable call on the bidding pad.

**13.1.3** At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual undisclosed features by placing a plus sign (+) in one corner of the relevant square(s) of the bidding pad.

**13.2**

Self-alerting calls include all doubles and redoubles, calls at the 4-level or higher, cue bids of an opponent's suit and any 2 $\heartsuit$  (Stayman-type) inquiry to a 1NT opening bid. These should not be alerted during the auction, but may need to be alerted in the pre-alert or the delayed alert stage. Be aware that such calls by opponents may not mean what you assume, and ask if necessary.

**13.3**

All conventional calls (other than self-alerting calls) must be alerted. Note that an opening 1 $\clubsuit$  or 1 $\diamondsuit$  bid that may contain fewer than three cards in the suit is conventional. Note also that any call showing two suits is conventional, even where one of the suits is named, e.g. 2 $\heartsuit$  showing hearts and a minor.

**13.4**

A natural call must be alerted if it is forcing or non-forcing in a way the opponents might not expect (e.g. inverted minor raises, preemptive raises, negative free bids) or if its meaning is affected by other agreements (e.g. a 1 $\heartsuit$  opening that denies 4+ spades).

**13.5**

Your policy should be to alert any call by partner (other than a self-alerting call) that the opponents could reasonably misunderstand.

**13.6**

In explanations, do not use the names of conventions; give specific explanations. For example, do not just say "Michaels", but explain the meaning of the bid by saying "At least 5-5 in hearts and a minor suit, any strength". Similarly, refrain from using the terms 'weak', 'strong', 'intermediate', 'natural' or 'standard' if there exist, from partnership experience, certain expectations of suit quality and/or point count. The opponents' views of these descriptive terms may differ from yours.

**13.7**

You may ask questions only at your turn to call or play. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

**13.8**

Irregularities

**13.8.1** Any misexplanation, alert or failure to alert by partner is unauthorised information to you, and you must avoid taking any subsequent action suggested by that unauthorised information.

**13.8.2** If you realise that you have given a wrong explanation during the auction or failed to alert, call the Director immediately.

**13.8.3** If you believe your partner has given a wrong explanation or there has been a material failure to alert, call the Director before the opening lead if you are the declaring side. If you are defending, you may not call until the end of the hand, whereupon you are required to do so.