

THE MANAGEMENT OF RED SYSTEMS IN TASMANIA BY THE TBA

In all TBA sessions and events (including State Championships and Congresses/Sunday Pairs) where Red Systems are permitted, the following basic principles are part of the TBA Regulations and must be observed by all pairs wishing to play a Red System:

- Any pair planning to play a Red System is required to submit to the TBA Tournament Committee a detailed summary of the convention/s which make the system Red.
- At the same time, the pair is required to submit details of a standard defence to those bids which make the system Red.
- Both the system summary and the standard defence must be approved by the TBA Tournament Committee before the pair will be entitled to use the system in any TBA session or event.
- Whenever a pair plays a Red System, they are required by Regulation to have a copy of the system summary as submitted and of the approved standard defence available **ON** the table at all times; if this is not observed to the letter, “a RED Convention used by a pair shall be deemed an illegal convention by the Tournament Director and an average minus score awarded to the pair concerned (and average plus to the non-offending pair)”.
- All pairs playing an approved Red System must fully understand the “Protected Pair” principle (q.v.) and adhere to the letter and spirit of Systems Regulation 1.8 in all circumstances and respects. In particular, **Red System pairs are “required to ascertain before the start of each round whether their opponents are a ‘Protected Pair’” and must revert to a Blue or Green system if protection applies.** Any failure whatsoever in this regard should result in automatic score adjustments for both pairs concerned.

The complete TBA Regulations concerned (Clause 10.3 Red Systems and Systems Clause 1.8) are reproduced below, in full:

10.31 The use of RED (Highly Unusual Conventions) Systems will normally be permitted in most competitions conducted under the auspices of the TBA, subject to the application of the "Protected Pair" principle [see Clause 1.8 in Appendix 3], although the TBA or any affiliated Club may further restrict the use of RED systems, if they choose. In particular, however, Protected Pair status shall not apply to the Final of Red or Gold Master Point events with qualifying rounds leading to a Final and at least one Consolation; nor to the top 25% of tables in a Swiss Pairs and/or a Swiss Teams event from Round 3 onwards.

10.32 For any relevant session or event, pairs wishing to play a RED convention(s) must have submitted a detailed summary [refer Appendix 3] of the convention, including basic responses/rebids, and a standard defence for prior approval by the TBA Tournament Committee. Pairs must note that "prior approval" can take some time and, until such approval is given, the RED Convention cannot be played .

10.33 Once approval has been given for the pair to play the submitted RED convention, a copy will be held in the TBA Tournament Committee's RED Conventions Register for reference if required.

10.34 When approval has been given for the general use of a pair's RED Convention(s), that pair shall be responsible for ensuring that a copy of the summary as submitted and the approved standard defence is always available at the table for reference and, if they choose, use by opponents. Unless both are available on the table at the time, a RED Convention used by a pair shall be deemed an illegal convention by the Tournament Director and an average minus score awarded to the pair concerned (and average plus to the non-offending pair).

10.35 A RED convention and the standard defence approved as above may continue to be used by that pair in all relevant events without further notice until any significant changes are made to the system. Copies of a revised summary must then be submitted through the Tournament Committee for inclusion in the Register and distribution to all Clubs.

10.36 Any pair wishing to play a RED Convention which has been approved for another pair may do so under the conditions set out above, provided they have advised the Tournament Committee in writing, and in advance, of their plans to do so. This will ensure that the pair's application for use of that Convention and its standard defence is recorded in the RED Conventions Register.

And:

1.8 "PROTECTED PAIRS"

A "Protected Pair" is a pair where both players are below the status of National Master, or one player is below the status of Local Master, and which chooses to play a GREEN System throughout an event or stage of an event. To claim "Protected Pair" status, the pair must display on the front of their Systems Card a GREEN sticker (which designates they are playing a GREEN System), together with a BROWN sticker (which designates their claim for protection against RED Systems). Such pairs must confirm with the

Tournament Director prior to the start of the event or session that their system is GREEN, after which the Director will supply the relevant stickers.

In events or sessions where the Regulations allow pairs to claim "Protected Pair" status, pairs playing RED Systems will be required to ascertain before the start of each round whether their opponents are a "Protected Pair". If so, the pair playing the RED System must revert to a GREEN or BLUE system for that round.

NOTE:

To be classified as Green, Blue and/or Red (the basic systems played by almost all pairs in Tasmania), all systems are required to satisfy the letter of the following fundamental regulation which applies to all three systems classifications:

One level Bids must show no less than 18 Opening Points, two level Bids must show no less than 15 Opening Points and 5+ cards in the suit bid, and three level suit bids must show no less than 15 Opening Points, or no less than 12 Opening Points and a suit of at least seven cards in the suit bid.

“Opening Points” are defined as “the sum of the high card points (Ace = 4, King = 3, Queen = 2, Jack = 1) and the number of cards in the two longest suits in the hand.”

A pair which has an agreement that a weak two opening bid can be 5-9 HCP with a 6-card suit should note that they cannot satisfy this minimum requirement on some hands because 5 HCP + 6 cards + 3 cards (in the minimum 6-3-2-2/6-3-3-1 hand) sums to 14 Opening Points which, by agreement, will be 1 Opening Point short of the requirement. Similarly, a pair which agrees that a weak two opening can be made with 5-9 HCP and only a 5 card suit will, by agreement, fall 2 Opening Points short of the regulatory requirement. All pairs' agreements must be modified to ensure that they satisfy the letter of the regulation as specified above.

Please note that systems with agreements which cannot **guarantee** 15 Opening Points for the two opening bids must be classified as Yellow and the pairs concerned will need to meet all the restrictions which the regulations place on the use of Yellow systems.

Click on the various pairs' links on the “Red Systems” page if you would like to access the summaries of the conventions which make their system Red and the standard defence for each of those pairs who have satisfied the Red system requirements under the terms of these Regulations.