

TASMANIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION Inc.

TBA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

[Promulgated by the TBA Committee and administered by the TBA Tournament Committee: as amended to 1st January, 2005]

All events organised by or under the auspices of the Tasmanian Bridge Association Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the TBA) shall be conducted according to the current edition of ***The International Code: Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge*** [the Laws] and to these Regulations of the TBA [the Regulations]. The provisions of the Regulations shall also apply to any events (including Club duplicate sessions) conducted by the TBA and Affiliated Clubs unless the TBA Committee or the Committee of an Affiliated Club determines, in part or in whole, that this shall not be the case.

In accordance with the provisions of Law 80: Sponsoring Organisation, these Regulations shall be "supplementary to, but not in conflict with" the Laws.

A. OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS:

All players who enter any TBA-sponsored event are deemed to have full knowledge of these Regulations and to have agreed to be bound by them as a condition of the TBA's acceptance of their entry.

B. SPECIFICATION OF TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS:

No later than the starting time for an event (but, whenever possible, prior to the closing date for entries), the TBA Tournament Committee shall be responsible for advising entrants of any special conditions under which a particular event shall be run, such conditions to be supplementary to these Regulations and/or specific modifications of them to apply for the duration of the event in question.

C. ENTRY CONDITIONS:

1. Entrants to State Championship events organised by the TBA shall be financial members of the TBA or of any Club affiliated with either the TBA or any other Australian Association. When an entry for any other event is accepted from a player who is not a financial member of an Australian bridge club and hence not a financial member of the ABF's National Master Point Scheme, such player will not be eligible for the award of any Master Points.

For State Championship events, however, the title of State Champions will be conferred on the highest-ranked team, pair or player (only for Individual events) currently resident in Tasmania.

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For TBA Club Championship events, the title of Club Champions will be conferred on the highest-ranked team, pair or player (only for Individual events) who are financial members of the TBA.

2. Unless specified otherwise, the deadline for the lodging of entries for TBA-sponsored events shall be 8.00 pm on the Monday prior to the first session of the event. To be accepted, entries - normally, in writing and signed by one of the players - shall be delivered to the Tournament Director or to a member of the Tournament Committee (or written in the Entries Book, as appropriate) before the deadline. Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director or of the TBA Tournament Committee.
3. Once entries have closed for a TBA-sponsored event, all players whose entry has been accepted by the Tournament Committee are assumed to have given an undertaking that they will be available to play in all sessions of that event from the first session (of the qualifying sessions, if appropriate) to the last. The onus is therefore on the players to make all necessary arrangements for substitutes, or for formal withdrawal between qualifying and final rounds.
4. Entries in Teams Events:
 - 4.1 In teams events, each team is entitled to have up to a maximum of six (6) players, plus a non-playing captain.
 - 4.2 If fewer than six members are nominated at the time of entry, extra members to bring the total up to a maximum of six may be added with the approval of the Tournament Director or the TBA Tournament Committee, provided (except in exceptional circumstances) that the additional players have not played as members of another team in that event.
 - 4.3 With the approval of the Tournament Director, nominated members of a team may, for adequate reason, be replaced by other players who shall become members of the team.
5. The TBA Tournament Committee shall have the power to reduce the duration of, or cancel, any TBA-sponsored event if this is deemed to be warranted by the number of entries received for that event or for other sufficient reason.
6. The TBA reserves the right in its discretion to reject the entry of any player, pair or team for any TBA-sponsored event without necessarily assigning any reason for such rejection.
7. The TBA Tournament Committee reserves the right in its discretion to modify the published playing conditions for any event, provided that circumstances clearly warrant such modification and also that such modification(s) are subsequently ratified by the TBA Committee.]
8. Entrants who fail to attend any session of a TBA-sponsored event requiring prior entry without making the necessary arrangements for substitutes shall normally be prevented from entering that event in the following year. Other

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sanctions may be applied by the TBA Tournament Committee if considered appropriate.

9. Entries for Regional and/or Club Qualifying Heats:

9.1 When Regional or Club heats are held as qualifying rounds for a State event, no player shall be permitted to play in more than one such heat, unless the regulations for an event specifically permit this.

9.2 Clubs conducting Regional or Club qualifying heats for State events should ensure that there is a minimum entry of three tables for such events and that the heats are conducted by a competent Tournament Director. All results from such heats shall be reported in full to the TBA Tournament Committee within seven (7) days of their completion.

- 10.** When a State or other TBA-sponsored event includes provision for both Open and Women's, Seniors and/or Youth competition, a Women's, Seniors and/or Youth pair may advise the TBA at the time of entry of the pair's intention to compete as an Open pair but, in so doing, the pair automatically forfeits all rights for consideration as a Women's, Seniors and/or Youth pair for that event, and any other consequential Women's, Seniors and/or Youth rights. Unless advised to the contrary by the closing date for entries, the TBA will automatically assume that Women's, Seniors and/or Youth pairs have entered the Women's, Seniors and/or Youth competition and, as a consequence, have foregone any rights for consideration as an Open pair.

D. SUBSTITUTES:

1. If a player duly entered in an event cannot play because of illness, urgent business or other sufficient reasons, he or his partner may apply to the Tournament Director for permission to use a substitute. The Director may approve the substitute, subject to the limitations in the following sections, if he considers that the reason is valid and that the rights of other contestants will not be jeopardised.
2. Application for the use of a substitute should normally be made no later than 24 hours prior to the session in question, although in cases of emergency the Director may approve a substitute on shorter notice. If the Director is unavailable, application for a substitute may be made to any member of the TBA Tournament Committee.
3. Any substitute may be approved by the Director provided that he is satisfied that the substitute is, as far as is practicable, of approximately the same standard as the player for whom the substitute is sought, and that basically the same system will be played by both pairings, OR IF, in the Director's opinion, the exigencies of the Tournament require the substitution. The Director may allow a substitution to preserve the movement while disqualifying the entrant(s) involved. Substitution of a complete pair for a full session will normally not be approved.

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4. In teams events, if all members of a team have played and an additional member is required for a valid reason, the Tournament Director or the TBA Tournament Committee may approve a substitute to complete the team.
5. In normal circumstances, a player may be approved as a substitute only as a member of one pair or one team in any one event.
6. A substitute will not normally be approved for a session of multi-session events held over a weekend or other intensive period of time.
7. When the Director has permitted a substitution, this decision is appellable at the instance of any player, pair or team in the event, and an adjusted score(s) may be awarded by an Appeals Committee. Accordingly, the Director shall be responsible, as far as possible, for advising other competitors, preferably before the session in question, whenever a substitute is playing in an event.
8. Unauthorised substitutes are normally disqualified, as are their partner and the original player (in pairs events) or the team (in teams events).
9. Any approved substitute for one player who plays more than 50% of the boards in an event or stage of an event acquires the rights of the original player and becomes the "legal" player.
10. The scores obtained by a substitute(s) shall stand for the initial calculation of sessional results and the consequential award of Master Points. To calculate the competition aggregate, whichever is the lower of the session score of a substitute(s) or the average score gained by the nominated contestant(s) shall be used. Should the substitute(s) assume the status of a "legal" player, any sessional results of the original player must not exceed the average results gained by the new "legal" player.
11. In Butler-scored events, if the Tournament Director, an Appeals Committee or the Tournament Committee rules that any substitute player is of a better standard or substantially worse standard than the original entrant, then - prior to the start of any match involving such a substitute - opponents shall be offered a choice of:
 - (a) Playing the new pairing. If this option is selected, all scores obtained in the match will stand without any right of appeal; OR,
 - (b) Not playing at all and accepting their overall competition average for that match (i.e. the substitute pairing versus this opponent will also gain their competition average score for the match); OR,
 - (c) Not playing and accepting their overall competition average plus half the difference between their opponents' and their own competition average where their competition average is higher than their opponents (in which case the substitute pairing will receive the complement of their opponents' competition average OR their own competition average, whichever is the lower).

E. PLAYING CONDITIONS:**1. Written Bidding:**

1.1 Bidding in all TBA events will normally be written (i.e. silent bidding), although the Tournament Director may, if he believes that circumstances require it, institute alternative bidding procedures without any further authorisation, whether for one or more tables only or for all competitors. In particular, the Tournament Director may authorise the use of spoken bidding, including a spoken statement of dealer and vulnerability.

1.2 In accordance with the requirements of Law 7A, the board in play shall remain on the table until all four hands have been returned to the board when play is completed.

1.3 The bidding pad shall be left unmarked as to dealer and vulnerability.

1.4 A bid is made by writing on the pad an Arabic numeral between 1 and 7 inclusive, followed by:

- "C" designating clubs
- "D" designating diamonds
- "H" designating hearts
- "S" designating spades
- "NT" designating no trumps.

Other calls are made by writing:

- "X" designating "double"
- "XX" designating "redouble"
- "/" (a diagonal line) designating a pass
- "//" (two parallel diagonal lines) designating a pass that concludes the auction.

1.5 Full stops after calls are not allowed. Players should write their bids in a consistent manner, i.e. they should not vary the way in which they make their bids.

1.6 The laws as to inflections, changes of bid, and so on, apply **mutatis mutandi** to written bidding.

For example:

1.61 Where a player writes a number but does not complete a legal bid by specifying a denomination, the Director shall allow him to make any legal call without penalty, but Law 16: Unauthorised Information may apply.

1.62 Where a player makes an incomplete call out of turn, the Director shall cancel the marks on the bidding sheet without penalty, but Law 16: Unauthorised Information may apply.

1.7 Since Law 20 gives each player (other than dummy) the right to demand a review of the bidding until he plays to the first trick, the bidding sheet shall remain

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in view until the third player (the opening leader's partner) has played to the first trick. Dummy should turn over or remove the bidding sheet but, if he omits to do so, all players have the right to rectify his omission.

- 1.8 When a player makes an alertable call, his partner shall immediately alert it by circling the call on the bidding sheet, in addition to saying clearly, "Alert".

2. **Alerting:**

The Alerting Regulations of the TBA shall be those of the ABF, as currently adopted by the ABF. In those Regulations, 'ABF' shall be read as 'TBA' and 'national' as 'State' and any other logical modifications *mutatis mutandi*. A copy of the relevant ABF Regulations is attached to these Regulations as Appendix 2.

3. **Slow Play:**

- 3.1 The Tournament Director or the TBA Tournament Committee shall have the power to decide on a reasonable rate of play per board/round/match/session/event.
- 3.2 A warning shall be issued when patently slow play is or has been occurring. A subsequent occurrence in the same session shall incur a penalty judged to be appropriate by the Tournament Director. Any penalties imposed can be the subject of appeal to an Appeals Committee, either by the players penalised or by other competitors.
- 3.3 In teams and teams-scored pairs events, a time limit for a match/round will normally be specified. Provided that the last board of a match is in play at the expiry of that time limit, a "Grace Period" of 5 minutes will apply during which that board may be completed without penalty. If one board (or more) is not completed in the time limit plus "Grace", both pairs at the table shall automatically incur the following penalties:

1ST OCCASION:LOSS OF GRACE PERIOD
[i.e. all boards in all matches thereafter must be completed within the time limit, or the following penalties will automatically apply]:
2ND & 3RD OCCASION:1 VP EACH
4TH & SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS: 2 VP EACH

In extreme cases of slow play (judged to be disruptive to other competitors), the Director shall have the power to impose a more severe penalty. The Director is not obliged to advise pairs formally of slow play penalties that they incur by failing to complete play within the time limit (plus "Grace"), but a list of such penalties will normally be posted on a notice board.

- 3.4 Both pairs or teams at a slow table shall automatically be warned or penalised unless the Tournament Director has been called to the table during the round/session and has ruled one pair or team to be innocent of slow play, or

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unless the Director has observed the table sufficiently to rule that one pair or team should be exempted from the penalty.

- 3.5** The TBA Tournament Committee's policy with regard to "Playing to Time and Persistently Slow Play" is attached as Appendix 4 to these Regulations and the principles stated there should be taken into account by players, Directors and Appeals Committees, as appropriate.

4. Appointment and Role/Powers of Monitors:

The Tournament Director may in his absolute discretion (and whether or not he has been requested to by any player or players) appoint a monitor or monitors to observe play at any table and to report to the Director on such matters as the time taken to play by each pair or their conduct or any other relevant matter and the Director may act on the report of a monitor as if he himself had observed the play or situation in question.

5. Late/Non-Arrival of Competitors:

Any player, pair or team arriving more than five minutes late for the session starting time of an event may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, be refused permission to play in that session and/or event, as is appropriate. Alternatively, the Director and/or the TBA Tournament Committee shall have the power to penalise a player, pair or team if players are not seated at the time scheduled for the commencement of play. Any penalties imposed can be the subject of appeal to an Appeals Committee either by the players penalised or by other competitors.

6. Forfeiture of Teams or Teams-Scored Pairs Matches:

In teams or teams-scored pairs matches, any team/pair which forfeits a match shall be awarded a maximum loss and their opponents shall receive 18 VPs (when a maximum win is 25 VPs; or 60% of a maximum win in other circumstances), or their average score, or the complement of their opponents' average, whichever is the greatest.

7. Seating in Head-to-Head Teams Matches:

In head-to-head teams matches, the home team shall take its position first at both tables before the start of play. For the second half of the match, the away team shall take its position first at both tables. In each case, the team sitting second may seat any pairing at either table, including other members of 5- or 6-player teams, but changes in pairings may be made only at the completion of the first half of a match or the end of a session.

7. Duplicated Boards:

Where a board is to be duplicated and/or recorded by the players, all players shall assist in the duplicating and/or recording procedures. All four players at the table are responsible for accurate replication of a board being duplicated.

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The Tournament Director shall penalise all four players at a table where a board is fouled during duplication.]

8. Seeding:

In the interests of equity, seeding of entrants for TBA-sponsored events shall be carried out when necessary by the Tournament Director and/or the TBA Tournament Committee. Seedings shall be applied as the basis for dividing the entry according to the following patterns, as may be appropriate:

2 fields	3 fields	4 fields	etc.
1 2	1 2 3	1 2 3 4	
4 3	6 5 4	8 7 6 5	
5 6	7 8 9	9 10 11 12	etc.

9. System Cards:

Each pair shall have two system cards (ABF Standard or Simple) available at the table for consultation by opposing pairs at all times during TBA-sponsored events. All system cards shall display a coloured sticker showing the classification of their system according to the current ABF Systems Regulations. Such system cards may be consulted during the course of a round of play only by the opponents.

If, for some reason, a system card is not available for consultation (by opponents or the Tournament Director, as appropriate) at a table where a problem occurs regarding systemic understandings or explanations, a dispute arising out of that pair's bidding, explanations of bidding, lead/play signals, etc., shall usually be resolved in favour of the non-offending pair.

10. Systems:

10.1 The Systems Regulations of the TBA shall be those of the ABF, as currently adopted by the ABF, with the various modifications specified below. In these Regulations, 'ABF' shall be read as 'TBA', 'national' as 'State', and any other logical modifications *mutatis mutandi*. A copy of the relevant ABF Regulations is attached as Appendix 3 to these Regulations.

10.2 YELLOW SYSTEMS -

10.21 The use of YELLOW (Highly Unusual Methods) Systems will not normally be permitted in any competition conducted under the auspices of the TBA other than Tasmanian State Championship events or Grand National Open Teams matches in which at least eight (8) boards are played against each pair, except that, in non-State Championship teams events, such systems may also be used but only with the prior concurrence of the opposing team's Captain.

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10.22 Any pair wishing to use a YELLOW System shall submit eleven (11) copies of a comprehensive system summary [see Appendix 3], together with a comprehensive, standard defensive bidding structure, to the TBA Tournament Committee for approval, at least eight (8) weeks prior to the event in which the pair proposes to use the system. Once the standard defence has been approved by the Committee, two (2) copies of both the system summary and the standard defence will be filed in the TBA Register of Systems and one (1) copy of each sent to all affiliated Clubs (to be available at least four weeks before the first event in which the system will be used). It will then be the responsibility of other competitors to acquaint themselves with the system summaries and standard defence prior to any event if they wish.

10.23 When a pair's system summary and standard defensive bidding structure have been approved for a YELLOW System, 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 YELLOW System used by a pair shall be deemed an illegal system by the Tournament Director, normally for the remainder of the event, and an average minus score or some other appropriate adjusted score awarded to the pair concerned (and average plus to the non-offending pair).

10.24 A YELLOW System lodged 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 and defence must then be submitted through the Tournament Committee for re-approval, reinclusion in the Register and redistribution to all Clubs.

10.25 As far as is possible, the TBA Tournament Committee will note in the Entry Form for each event any YELLOW systems likely to be played in that event.

10.3 BROWN STICKER (BS) CONVENTIONS -

10.31 The use of BROWN STICKER (BS) CONVENTIONS will, provided that a minimum of 8 board matches are being played, only be permitted in Teams, State Butler Pairs and Swiss Pairs (but only after the third round) events conducted under the auspices of the TBA, subject to the application of the "Protected Pair" principle [see Clause 2.9 in Appendix 3], although the TBA or any affiliated Club may further restrict the use of BS, 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 or in State Teams Selection events; 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 BS Convention(s) must have submitted a detailed summary [refer Appendix 3,

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Clause 7] 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 BS Convention(s) cannot be played.

10.33 Once approval has been given for the pair to play the submitted BS Convention, a copy will be held in the TBA Tournament Committee's BS Conventions Register for reference if required and will be posted on the TBA's website (www.tasbridge.com.au).

10.34 When approval has been given for the general use of a pair's BS 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 BS 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 BS 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 BS 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 BS Conventions Register.

10.4 Because pairs are required, under the terms of the ABF Systems Regulations applicable to TBA events, to classify their own system correctly, any member of the TBA or of an affiliated Club may seek a review by the Tournament Committee of the classification of a particular pair's system or of particular conventions being used by a pair.

11. Psychic Bidding:

11.1 A player who has psyched or an opponent who has identified an apparent psyche during an event conducted under the auspices of the TBA shall inform the Director by the end of the session. The following information concerning the psyche shall then be recorded on a TBA Psyche Register Form:

- The name of the event;
- The specific session date and time;
- Board details, including dealer and vulnerability;
- Names of all four players at the table;

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- All four hands in full, to show the shape and high card strength of each hand, including that of the psycher;
- The complete bidding;
- The final result on the board;
- Any comments by players relevant to the psyche or the result obtained on the board;
- The Director's comments, if applicable.

11.2 All Psyche Register Forms will be filed by the Tournament Committee in the TBA Psyche Register for future reference, if and when required.

11.3 The TBA Psyche Register will be freely available to players on request.

11.4 For the purposes of this regulation, a psyche is any bid which is a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length.

11.5 The Director shall rule on whether a bid is a psyche. This may be subject to appeal in the normal way. When an appeal is lodged against a Director's decision involving psychic bidding, the Appeals Committee shall take into account "Appeals Committee Guidelines: 1. Psychic Bidding" (see Appendix 1).

11.6 If a partnership has an agreement, or even any prior partnership discussion, about psychic bidding, such agreement or discussion will normally lead to the partnership's system being automatically classified as a YELLOW System, in which case all provisions of Regulation 10.2 will apply.

12. Players' Obligation to Count Cards Face Down:

Law 7B specifies that, when a board is to be played:

Each player takes a hand from the pocket corresponding to his compass position.

- 1. Each player shall count his cards face down to be sure he has exactly thirteen*

Players who fail to comply with the requirements of this Law and who, as a consequence, look at the face of one or more cards belonging rightfully to the hand of an opponent or who plays more than a third of any hand with fewer than thirteen cards, shall receive an automatic disciplinary penalty of 25% of a top in match pointed pairs, 4 IMPs, or an equivalent penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director. Such penalty shall apply notwithstanding the application of other relevant Laws, such as Laws 13 and 14.

13. Dress, Smoking, Consumption of Alcohol and Behaviour:

13.1 Players in any tournament, event or session organised under the auspices of the TBA shall adhere to the standards of dress required by the TBA Committee, as shall visitors to such tournaments, events or sessions.

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13.2 Smoking and consumption of alcohol is normally prohibited in the playing room for any event or session organised by the TBA until after play has ceased at all tables in the last session for that day.

13.3 Good manners and courteous behaviour are an essential part of bridge (Law 74: Conduct and Etiquette) and the Tournament Director is specifically empowered to insist that players adhere to a high standard of manners and decorum. The Tournament Director shall report in writing to the TBA Tournament Committee any serious departure from these standards by any player.

F. SCORING:

1. The results of State Championship and other Red Master Point events shall not become "the Official Score" specified in Law 75 until the scoring has been thoroughly check scored.
2. The score sheets for all TBA events shall normally be kept available for inspection at the TBA's tournament premises for at least two weeks after the official scores are posted.
3. When a pair or team fails to enter a score on a travelling score sheet, the Tournament Director will take reasonable steps to ascertain the score which should have been entered. When the score cannot be ascertained, that score will be declared void and the other scores on the board adjusted accordingly. Both offending pairs or teams will be penalised at the Tournament Director's discretion.
4. Tournament Directors shall be responsible for checking the entry of scores on travelling score sheets before final results are confirmed for any session or event. Directors shall make all reasonable efforts to check incorrect scores with both pairs involved or, at least, with the pair which stands to lose by any scoring amendment, and for the correction of all patently incorrect scores, in the interest of equity for all players.

G. TIES:

1. In a situation where a tie must be broken in a pairs or individual event, the following procedures shall be applied in turn:
 - 1.1 Every board which each contestant played is counted irrespective of whether the tied contestants played the same or different boards, or in the same or different sections. On boards played by two or more tied contestants, 2 points are awarded a tied contestant for each board on which his match point score is higher than another tied contestant.

On boards played by but one tied contestant, 2 points are awarded him for each one of his match point scores above average, 1 point for average, 0 point for below average. The tied contestant so awarded the greatest number of points takes prior rank.

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- 1.2 If there is still a tie after applying the above procedures, each pair or player will be compared in the same way with the next best contestant(s).
 - 1.3 In extremis, a tie/s will be broken by toss of coin.
2. In teams events where a tie(s) must be broken, the following steps will be applied in turn until the tie(s) are broken:
- 2.1 Number of matches won;
 - 2.2 Total Victory Points;
 - 2.3 IMPs difference in the head-to-head match(es) involved;
 - 2.4 Total IMPs, including cases where a tie involves teams which may not have met in head-to-head competition;
 - 2.5 Play of extra boards in 4-board sets between any teams still tied, provided time permits;
 - 2.6 If ultimately necessary, ties shall be broken by toss of coin.
3. In teams-scored pairs events where a tie(s) must be broken, the following steps will be applied in turn until the tie(s) are broken:
- 3.1 Total VPs; then,
 - 3.2 VPs difference in the head-to-head round(s) involved; then,
 - 3.3 IMPs difference in the head-to-head round(s) involved; then,
 - 3.4 Total VPs scored against the top three pairs not involved in the tiebreak; then,
 - 3.5 Total matches won; then,
 - 3.6 Total IMPs; then,
 - 3.7 Total points; and then,
 - 3.8 If ultimately necessary, toss of coin.

H. REPRESENTATIVE RIGHTS:

1. Selection of teams to represent Tasmania in the annual Interstate Teams Championships at the Australian National Championships will be based on the following principles:
 - (a) The first available pair in each field (Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth) in their respective selection event shall be automatically selected.
 - (b) The other two pairs will then be selected by a Teams Selection Committee, with selection to be based on performance in their field (60% weighting) and on consideration of some other criteria, including each pair's performance in State and other weekend events (particularly in teams and IMPs-scored pairs events) during the past twelve months, experience, compatibility with other team members, and so on (40% weighting).
2. Tasmanian representatives in Australian National Championship events other than the Interstate Teams and any other National events for which TBA nominations are appropriate, shall be allocated in ranking order from:
 - 2.1 The placegetters finishing in the top half of the relevant Final field of the current equivalent State event if there has been a Final after Qualifying Rounds, and in the top third of the field if there has been no Final;

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- 2.2 Members of the current State Teams (for ANC events);
 - 2.3 Other pairs from the current equivalent event, subject to discretionary ratification by the TBA Committee, on recommendation from the Tournament Committee;
 - 2.4 Volunteer pairs, subject to the same discretionary ratification;
 - 2.5 In all cases where TBA nomination of entrants to National events is in question, preference will normally be given first to players currently resident in Tasmania, regardless of results in the relevant selection qualification event.
3. The TBA Tournament Committee shall have the right to recommend to the TBA Committee variations to such tournament-based selections, provided that adequate reasons for such variations can be given.
 4. All State representative vacancies shall normally be filled, except in exceptional circumstances.
 5. Rights of Entrants:
All members of the TBA and affiliated Clubs shall be advised of potential ANC and other representative qualification rights and procedures at the time entries for the relevant State event are invited.

I. APPEALS/PROTESTS:

1. Appeals shall be made in accordance with Law 92 except where hereinafter that procedure is specifically varied. Law 92 states:

Right to Appeal:

- A. A contestant or his Captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the Director.
 - B. Any appeal for or of a Director's ruling must be made within the time period established in accordance with Law 79C¹.
 - C. All appeals shall be made through the Director.
 - D. An appeal shall not be heard unless both members of a pair (except in an individual contest), or the captain of a team, concur in appealing. An absent member shall be deemed to concur."
2. When he receives notice of an appeal, the Director shall form an Appeals Committee of three persons from the Appeals Committee Panel of persons nominated by the TBA Tournament Committee and endorsed by the Committee of the TBA: the Panel shall comprise those persons considered competent to judge appeals. The Director shall call upon any three members of the Panel who are present (and/or can be called together quickly) and who have as far as is possible no conflict of interest in the dispute to form the Appeals Committee to hear and rule upon any appeals expeditiously, normally immediately following the session in question.

¹Unless the sponsoring organisation specifies a later time, this correction period expires 30 minutes after the official score has been completed and made available for inspection.

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3. The Appeals Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be responsible for making every possible effort for the Committee to meet with all the players and the Tournament Director concerned with the Director's decision that is in dispute, in order that the facts may be determined as fully and as accurately as possible. The Committee shall then meet in camera to make its decision and/or recommendations regarding the appeal, and shall be responsible for reporting its decision and/or recommendations to all parties concerned.
4. The Chairperson of the Appeals Committee shall accept responsibility for ensuring that full details of the appeal and the Committee's deliberations are reported in writing for inclusion in the Tournament Committee's Appeals File, which shall be available on request from any member of the TBA or an affiliated Club.
5. If it is not possible for the procedures in Paragraph I.3 to be implemented in full, the Appeals Committee - or, in extreme cases, the Chief Director alone - shall be responsible for ensuring that every possible effort is made to ascertain the facts of the situation leading to the appeal and to resolve the appeal as equitably as possible to all parties concerned. In such cases, the Chief Director can become the sole arbiter, in accordance with the provisions of Law 93A.
6. Any appeals against the Official Score must be made within seven (7) days after the posting of that score; or, in the case of multi-session events held over a weekend or other intensive period of time, within 24 hours after the Official Score has been completed and made available for inspection.
7. Rulings given under the terms of Paragraphs I.1-6 above may be appealed, in writing, to the Committee of the TBA. (By resolution of the Australian Bridge Federation, the TBA is the "national authority" specified in Law 93C for events conducted in Tasmania.) The Committee's decision shall be final.
8. As a matter of general principle, appeals to the Committee of the TBA should be made only in cases where there is clear-cut evidence that:
 - 8.1 Proper procedures for the hearing of appeals have not been followed;
 - 8.2 The facts presented to the Tournament Director and/or the Appeals Committee were incorrect in some significant detail(s); or,
 - 8.3 Gross injustice has been done.

In general, the Committee of the TBA shall uphold Appeals Committee decisions in cases where the issue in dispute is concerned wholly or in the main with questions of bridge playing or bidding judgement, with different people's different interpretation of the facts involved, or with matters relating basically to ethics or the proprieties.

16.

If any members of the TBA Committee have a conflict of interest (either as a player, Tournament Director or member of the original Appeals Committee) in the matter subject to appeal, such members shall disqualify themselves from the Committee for the duration of the Appeal; if considered necessary by the Committee, proxy members (selected from the Appeals Committee Panel) shall replace such members for the purpose of resolving the appeal.

For the resolution of appeals, the TBA Committee shall normally adopt parallel procedures to those laid down for Appeals Committees in Paragraphs 1.2-4 above, subject only to the earlier provisions of this paragraph.

- 9.** Protests about matters other than those provided for under Law 92 must be lodged in writing with the TBA Tournament Committee within 24 hours of the circumstance in question, although, in extreme circumstances, the Tournament Committee may agree to deal with protests lodged later than that deadline.

If any members of the Tournament Committee have a conflict of interest (either as a player or Tournament Director) in the matter subject to protest, such members shall disqualify themselves from the Tournament Committee for the duration of the protest; if necessary, proxy members (selected from the Appeals Committee Panel) shall replace such members for the purpose of resolving the protest. A Tournament Committee quorum in such cases shall always be at least three members.

For the resolution of protests, the Tournament Committee shall normally adopt parallel procedures to those laid down for Appeals Committees in Paragraphs 1.2-4 above.

10. Appeals Consultant:

For all TBA-sponsored events, the Tournament Committee shall appoint an Appeals Consultant who will be responsible for being available to provide advice to competitors who choose to seek such advice about whether or not they should consider appealing against a Director's ruling. Where a cash deposit is required before an appeal can be accepted, the Appeals Consultant has the power to advise potential appellants whether they would run any risk of losing their deposit through an Appeals Committee ruling that an appeal is frivolous.

11. ABF Recorder:

On recommendation from the Tournament Committee, the TBA Committee shall appoint at least one and preferably two suitable persons to fill the role of ABF Recorder in Tasmania. The Recorder shall be responsible for liaison with the Chair of the ABF Ethics Committee who is in turn responsible for maintaining the ABF's national record of Recorder reports from all States and tournaments, and coordinating an action arising out of that national record. The Recorder is responsible for handling in strict confidence players' problems and complaints over such matters as etiquette, proprieties and behaviour of any type which cannot be dealt with directly by a Tournament Director.

J. POWERS OF THE TBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

17.

- 1.** The TBA Tournament Committee shall appoint (or endorse an affiliated Club's appointment of) a Chief Director for all Tasmanian Championship and other Red Master Point events.
- 2.** Should any situation not covered by these Regulations occur in a TBA-sponsored event, the TBA Tournament Committee shall have full powers to make any decision to resolve the situation. Any such decision may only be reversed on written appeal to the Committee of the TBA, whose decision shall be final.

TBA TOURNAMENT] REGULATIONS - APPENDIX 1

Appeals Committee Guidelines: Psychic Bidding

Definition:

A psychic call is "a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour card strength or suit length" (*The Laws*, Chapter 1, "Definitions", p.18).

Restrictions On Psyching:

The Laws of Bridge grant every player the right to make any bid that he thinks will be successful. The Laws specifically refer to the right to psyche:

A player may make any call or play (including an intentionally misleading call such as a "psychic bid", or a call or play that departs from commonly accepted or previously announced conventional practice) without prior announcement, provided that it is not based on a partnership understanding (Law 40.A).

However, this general right can be limited by the power granted to sponsoring organisations to regulate the use of conventions. Such attempts to deceive the opponents cannot be protected by concealed partnership understandings.

Examples Of Psychic Bidding:

A player who opens with two hearts, holding **S.xx H.KQJxxx D.Kxx C.xx** when he is using strong two bids, has grossly misstated his strength; but if, as is likely, he simply thought he was using weak twos, he has not psyched because the deception is not deliberate. To open a strong no-trump with this hand would, however, be a psyche.

A player holding **S.Kxxxx H.Qxxx D.x C.Kxx** who responds two clubs to his partner's one spade opening bid, has deliberately misstated his distribution, but has not psyched because the difference between the four cards in clubs promised and the three cards held is not gross.

The following sorts of psychic bidding should be viewed as improper conduct:

Frivolous Psyches - psychic bids made not to gain a possible advantage but merely for the fun of it, to see what happens. For example, if a player opens two no trumps, vulnerable against not, holding a 4-3-3-3 Yarborough, he cannot really expect to show a profit; he knows as well as anyone else that his usual result will be a penalty in four figures.

Unsportsmanlike Psyches - psychic bids made to aid or damage particular opponents.

Excessive, Disruptive Psyches - psychic bids made so often and so indiscriminately as to spray tops and bottoms randomly across the field, making a mockery of the contest, and disrupting the game.

Psyching Against Weak Opponents - psychic bids made against weak opponents, particularly those who may not be aware of such practices. Such behaviour disrupts the game by unnecessarily annoying or embarrassing such players. [As a rough guideline, players who choose to psyche are expected to do so only against opponents of equal or better standard to themselves, or against opponents who they know have had sufficient experience and knowledge such that they should be mindful of the possibility of such calls.]

Note that these are not score adjustment matters. A player who gets a zero because of an opponent's frivolous psyche, or unsportsmanlike, last round psyche, or eighth psyche in a row, has no claim to redress. However, that opponent is subject to discipline.

Actions Taken After A Psychic Bid:

A player may "catch" partner's psyche and keep a good result so long as he can demonstrate that his decision was based on:

- (1) an obvious bridge inference from his own cards; or,
- (2) an inescapable bridge inference from the auction; or,
- (3) his opponents' behaviour.

Players, Tournament Directors and Appeals Committees should take careful note in particular of the principles enunciated in Regulation 11.6 regarding Psychic Bidding:

- 11.6** If a partnership has an agreement, or even any prior partnership discussion, about psychic bidding, such agreement or discussion will normally lead to the partnership's system being automatically classified as a YELLOW System, in which case all provisions of Regulation 10.2 will apply.

Partnerships also need to be consciously aware of the danger of developing implicit or subconscious "partnership understandings" in situations where a call is used as a psyche sufficiently often as to make partner aware of that possibility

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS - APPENDIX 2

ABF Alerts Regulations***[With effect from 1st January, 2004]*****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. (From the 1997 Laws: CHAPTER I - Definitions)

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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 1C or 1D which may contain less than 3 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 any one of these criteria:

- conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named (but does not come under 2.1.1 or 2.1.3); or
- 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 1D showing spades, then 1S and 2D are both cue bids. Similarly a 2NT overcall of 1NT is also a cue bid.

2.4 Self-alerting calls

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

- doubles
- redoubles
- cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit, and
- all calls at the four level or higher.

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. Pay particular attention to unusual self-alerting calls. Examples: transfer pre-empts, 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.* These should appear on your system card, but should also be verbally pre-alerted.

3.1.2 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 bid is natural, but you have an agreement by which your bid 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).

(b) The bid 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

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- stopper in the overcalled suit.
- A jump raise of opener's one level bid which may be weak or Preemptive.
 - A single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing e.g. 1D -2D forcing.
 - The rebid in a canapé sequence where the second suit may be longer than the first.
 - A 1H 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.

1.4. Some Common Conventions

4.1 Stayman 2C over partner's 1NT

This bid is alertable because it is conventional, even though it is almost universally used. 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. 2D 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) 1C or 1D if it may contain less than 3 cards in the suit named.
- (b) 1H or 1S if it may contain less than 4 cards in the suit named. Also if a 1H 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: 2H showing hearts and another suit (whether specified or not).
Alertable: 2C where, if there are only 5 clubs, also shows a four-card major. Strong artificial 2C, 2D openings are alertable.
Note that a 2H 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 (1D - 2D strong, 1D - 3D weak)
- (c) Forcing 1NT response
- (d) New suit rebids by opener which may be made on a suit of less than 3 cards in a minor or 4 cards in a major
- (e) Jacoby style 2NT over a major
- (f) Bergen raises
- (g) Fourth suit forcing
- (h) Splinter bids (below 4C)
- (i) Transfer bids (below 4C)
- (j) Forced bids in a 'pass or correct' sequence
- (k) Conventional responses including pass or correct bids after a multi-2 opening
- (l) Trial bids
- (m) Non-jump natural suit responses to 1NT (opening or overcall) which are invitational or forcing
- (n) A 1S response to 1H if it shows at least 5 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 1C 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.

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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" and, 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). Any call retracted in accordance with the provisions of this Law is authorised information to the partner of the player retracting the call (Law 16C2), 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 infor-*

mation 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 16A).

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 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 and cue bids of an opponent's suit. 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 1C or 1D bid that may hold less than 3 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. 2H 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

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if its meaning is affected by other agreements (e.g. a 1H 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, 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.

TBA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS - APPENDIX 3

ABF SYSTEMS REGULATIONSAs amended, with effect in Tasmania from January 1st, 2005**1. INTRODUCTION****1.1 General**

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening and overcalling structures, and will be identified by colour coding. In determining the classification of a system, the yellow, red, blue and green criteria are to be applied in that sequence until the appropriate classification is determined. All entrants in ABF events must display at all times on their partnership's system cards a coloured dot indicating the classification of the system being played. In addition to these primary colour classifications, certain individual conventional calls and treatments are defined as, and require an additional, Brown Sticker.

1.2 Definitions

Average Hand - A hand containing 10 HCP with no distributional values

Weak - High card strength below that of an average hand

Strong - High card strength a king or greater than that of an average hand (i.e. >13+ HCP)

Natural - A call or play that is not a convention

Length - Three cards or more

Shortage - Two cards or less

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.

Distributional Values - A hand that contains one or more shortages.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS**2.1 Yellow (HUM) Systems**

For the purpose of these Regulations, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that exhibits one or more of the following features, as a matter of partnership agreement:

32.

- a) A Pass in the opening position that shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.
- b) An opening bid at the one level that may be made on values a king or more below average strength (0-7 HCP).
- c) An opening bid of one of a major with alternative possible meanings that the hand may be long or short in a specified suit.
- d) An opening bid at the one level with alternative possibilities that show length in one specified suit or length in another specified suit. (**Exception:** one of a minor in a strong club or strong diamond system)

2.2 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments

Certain types of conventional calls or treatments are considered to place demands upon the opponents' defensive preparations. The conventions/ treatments in question are categorized as 'Brown Sticker' (BS).

Any one of the following characteristics qualifies a convention/ treatment as BS if it is a matter of partnership agreement:

- a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that: could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

- (i) Where all the weak meanings guarantee at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong options do not.
- (ii) A two level opening bid in a minor may show a weak hand with 5+ cards in either major only, or as an option among any number of strong hand types.

- a) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

- (i) A natural overcall in no trumps.
- (ii) Any cue bid that shows a strong hand.
- (iii) A cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

- a) Any weak two-suited bids at the two or three level, whether offensive or defensive, that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.

Note: None of the foregoing restrictions (a-c) pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions. Conventional defences to 1NT are also unrestricted.

Additional to the classification of system, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must individually list them on their system cards and/or supplementary sheets.

2.3 Red (Artificial) Systems

This category includes:

- a) All systems employing artificial one-level openings that do not fall under the definition of Yellow (HUM) systems [see above], other than Strong Club/Strong Diamond (Blue) systems.
- b) Any system in which the basic structure (other than the length of natural suit bids or the point range of openings) varies according to position and/or vulnerability.

2.4 Blue (Strong Club/Strong Diamond) Systems

This category includes systems where:

- a) One club/one diamond is artificial and always strong.
- b) One of a major and 1NT are natural
- c) The one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids

2.5 Green (Natural) Systems

All one-level opening bids are natural bids, not conventional. (**Exception:** a 4-4-3-2 shaped hand may be opened 1C).

2.6 Random Actions

It is forbidden to open or overcall hands which, by agreement, may contain fewer than 8 high card points and for which no further definition is provided (unless employing HUM methods).

2.7 Encrypted Signals

Additional to the restrictions on bidding methods and conventions above, players may not use signalling methods by which the message or messages conveyed by the signals are hidden from the declarer because of some key available only to the defenders (i.e. encrypted signals are not allowed).

2.8 Players' Obligations

The onus lies with all players to classify their own systems appropriately according to these Regulations. If players are in any doubt about the appropriate classification of their system, they may submit their system card and any supplementary sheets to the Tournament Convenor for formal classification by the Tournament Committee's representative (or, in his absence, the Chief Tournament Director). Any such sub-

mission should occur at least two weeks prior to the event or by the due date specified in the Entry Conditions.

2.9 "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 without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions 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 an orange sticker (which designates their claim for protection against Red/Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker conventions/treatments).

Such pairs must confirm with the Tournament Director prior to the start of the event or session that their system is Green and Non-BS, after which the Director will supply the relevant stickers.

In events or sessions where the Regulations allow pairs to claim "Protected Pair" status, such a pair will be required to inform their opponents before the start of each round of their "Protected" status. The opposing pair must then not employ their Red/Yellow methods nor any Brown Sticker convention or treatment during the round in question.

3. ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE, SYSTEM CARDS AND SUMMARIES

3.1 Adequate Disclosure

Players must disclose fully the meaning of their conventional agreements, particularly conventions and treatments that may require extensive or unusual defensive preparation by opposing pairs. In addition to the appropriate system card, pairs shall use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve this objective.

To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, the onus is on each pair to prepare for the information of opponents an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. Supplementary sheets as specified below, if appropriate, shall be available on request.

3.2 Prior Submission of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets

For each ABF Tournament, the Entry Conditions may specify the date and/or time by which the Tournament Convenor must receive copies of any system cards and supplementary sheets, as well as the form and/or number of copies required. Failure to meet the specified deadline date may result in prohibition of some or all of the relevant methods for part of or the entire event.

In general, advance notice of systems will be required from entrants wishing to use a Yellow system (when permitted).

The Tournament Convenor shall be responsible for ensuring that all players (if they choose) are given prior access to systems information submitted in advance, in order to satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure.

3.3 System Cards

System cards shall be prepared legibly in a form approved by the ABF, properly identified with the names of the pair and a coloured sticker showing the category of the system as defined by these Regulations. The Tournament Convenor shall be responsible for providing pairs with an appropriately coloured sticker to attach to their system card prior to the commencement of the first session of any event.

For all National (Gold Point) events, each pair shall have two systemically identical current ABF approved system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play. This practice is also recommended for major Red Master Point events.

Before the commencement of play, each pair shall hand one copy of the system card to each opponent. The system cards are to be returned to the pair at the end of that segment of play.

After withdrawing the cards from a board and until they are restored to the board at the conclusion of its play, a player's own system may not be consulted (except when specifically permitted under these Regulations, as in the use of "defence" notes).

3.4 Supplementary Sheets

The use of supplementary sheets is appropriate whenever methods that may require defensive preparation (i.e., HUM or Brown Sticker) are employed. Any opening or overcalling structure that causes a system to be so classified should be itemised; together with a summary of the possible options available to the responder and/or advancer.

Supplementary sheets shall be typed or written legibly in black ink on one side of an A4 sheet. For the current structure of ABF Tournaments, the maximum number of supplementary sheets allowed shall be determined by the Tournament Committee and published in the Entry Conditions and/or Supplementary Regulations.

3.5 Prior submission of detailed Yellow System Notes

Pairs intending to play Yellow Systems may be required to lodge in advance an electronic copy of their detailed system notes with the Tournament Convenor, together with copies of the mandatory ABF Standard System Card (or WBF System Card if specified) and supplementary sheets. These notes will be available for prior consultation by opposing pairs and for possible use at the table by opponents if they so choose. Yellow System pairs are also required to prepare and submit a suggested defence to the HUM aspects of their system.

3.6 More Comprehensive Descriptions of Systems

In the interests of full disclosure and for a pair's own benefit in case of disputes, any pair may submit one copy of a more comprehensive description of their system to the Tournament Convenor before the first session of any event. In decisions taken by Tournament Directors and by the Appeals Committee, pairs who have submitted their full system will be given the benefit of any support this provides for an explanation given at the table.

3.7 Playing the same System

Both members of a partnership must play the same system, including bidding and card play agreements. Where, as a matter of style, members frequently adopt different approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

4. SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS AND EVENTS AT ABF TOURNAMENTS

- 4.1** In accordance with the above classifications, the ABF Tournament Committee shall determine the systems that may be played in any ABF event in sufficient time for the relevant decisions to be published in the Entry Booklet or on Entry Forms for the event/s, and/or in Supplementary Regulations.
- 4.2** System restrictions may vary from one stage of an ABF event to another. They may also be different within a single stage as when determined by either round number or current field position (i.e. no Yellow systems in the early rounds of a Swiss, nor in the bottom part of a ranked field).
- 4.3** In its discretion, the Tournament Committee may also allow or prohibit certain Brown Sticker conventions to be used in particular ABF events, notwithstanding any of the above. These allowances do not affect the classifications of the systems themselves.
- 4.4** All such allowances will be construed strictly and shall be deemed not to extend to any variations of the convention so allowed unless otherwise determined by the Tournament Committee.

5. REVIEW OF SYSTEMS CLASSIFICATION DURING ABF EVENTS

- 5.1** The ABF Tournament Committee's representative may, during ABF events, review the classification made by players and, if necessary, reclassify any system.
- 5.2** When carrying out such review, the ABF Tournament Committee's representative may also take into account any other features of the opening bid and overcalling structures which, in his/her opinion, are such as to make it unreasonably difficult for opponents to devise and implement adequate defensive methods.
- 5.3** The ABF Tournament Committee may exercise these powers through its duly appointed representative and/or the Chief Tournament Director, and decisions made by the Chief Tournament Director are subject to appeal to the ABF Tournament Committee.

6. REVIEW OF SYSTEMS CLASSIFICATION BETWEEN ABF EVENTS

- 6.1** Any player/pair/team may seek a review of the classification of any system, or of any decision made by the ABF Tournament Committee's representative to allow or prohibit use of a system (including their own) or specific convention(s).
- 6.2** The ABF Systems Committee will undertake such a review with all due haste but the determination of the Systems Committee will not retrospectively affect the results of any decision made by the ABF Tournament Committee's representative at the event in question.

7. DEFENCES AGAINST BROWN STICKER CONVENTIONS

- 7.1** Pairs may prepare written defences against those system elements that are categorised as Brown Sticker (not exceeding one A4 sheet), but no written defence against the defence will be permitted.
- 7.2** Such defences must be approved in writing by the Tournament Director and are to be given to the opponents (2 copies) at the table prior to the start of play.
- 7.3** Both pairs at the table may use them during the auction period and - for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.

8. DEFENCES AGAINST YELLOW SYSTEMS

- 8.1** Notes detailing a defence against a Yellow system (not exceeding one A4 sheet), and any defence against the defence (also not exceeding one A4 sheet), may be used at the table during the auction period; and – for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.
- 8.2** When opposing a team/pair that is playing a Yellow system, opponents wishing to use notes on their defence at the table must submit two (2) copies of that defence to the opponents at an appropriate time and place prior to the scheduled start of play, to be specified in the Supplementary Regulations. Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card. In preparing a defence against a Yellow system, a pair using a Green, Blue or Red system may change their system, including opening calls.
- 8.3** Yellow systems that are to be played only as a defence against other Yellow systems may only be used if submitted in accordance with section 3.5 above.
- 8.4** Any defence against a defence (two copies, hand written) must be submitted to opponents at the start of play. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using a Yellow system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

9. PSYCHIC MANOEUVRES

9.1 Agreements that psychic calls are to be expected, or the provision of systemic protection for them, are classified as Brown Sticker or (where applicable) as HUM.

9.2 Understandings whereby from time to time there may be gross violations of the normal meanings of calls, and where the nature or type of violation can be anticipated, must be disclosed on the convention cards. These understandings may be explicitly agreed or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents.

9.3 A partnership understanding exists when the frequency of occurrence is sufficient for the partner of the player who makes the call to take his awareness of psychic possibilities into account, whether he actually elects to do so or not.

10. CHANGE OF SYSTEMS

No pair may play two different Yellow Systems during the course of an event without the express permission of the Chief Tournament Director, unless specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations.

Similarly, a maximum of only four systems per team will be permitted during the course of any one event.

11. ONUS ON ENTRANTS

All entrants for ABF events will be expected to accept responsibility for making themselves aware of the ABF Systems Regulations and their application in each event, as specified in the Entry Conditions and Supplementary Regulations.

12. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SYSTEM REGULATIONS

12.1 When it is brought to the Director's attention that a pair have transgressed the system regulations, whether in the system played or convention(s) used, the Director should consider whether the opponents have been damaged; and, if so, award an adjusted score(s).

12.2 In addition the Director should consider the assessment of a disciplinary penalty, taking into account:

- a) The standard of the offending pair.
- b) The standard of the field, especially those pairs that may have been affected.

TBA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS - APPENDIX 4

PLAYING TO TIME & PERSISTENTLY SLOW PLAY

Persistently slow play can be one of the most difficult situations for Directors and Clubs to manage in duplicate sessions and events. Those who indulge in it need to be consciously aware that it is often excessively aggravating for other players.

Of course, there may be a valid reason why slow play occurs on a particular round: one or more of the players may have had a pressing reason for being absent from the table for several minutes, leaving not enough time to play all the boards comfortably; all boards in a particular set may be "difficult" to bid and/or play; a table has to wait while a Director establishes the facts and then gives a ruling that allows play to continue after a significant delay; and so on.

All players in duplicate events, however, need to be aware that taking more than the allotted time over a set of boards is - in many, many cases - **fundamentally unfair**. Indeed, consistently slow pairs and/or players are really being thoughtless and selfish to an extent that, in extreme cases, simply cannot be tolerated in a competitive bridge setting.

Slow play should not be a problem, however, if the consequences of slow play are understood and actively acknowledged by all Club and tournament bridge players.

Slow play is unfair:

1. To all the other players who have played to time on that round: if others had taken an extra 2 or 3 minutes per board, they too might have gained a superior score as a consequence of their taking an "extra" allocation of time to think about the bidding, play and/or defence on one or more boards.
2. To the players waiting to sit down for the next round at a table where slow play has occurred: they are being deprived of their right to have the normal allocation of time for the next set of boards at that table.
3. To the players at the table where players from the slow table are due to play on the next round: they too are being deprived of their right to have the normal allocation of time for the next set of boards at that table.

Persistently slow play reflects poorly on those who indulge in it: in light of the inevitable consequences affecting others playing in the field, it represents a form of self-centred behaviour that should have no place in a bridge club.

The TBA has a clear policy with regard to playing time:

40.

The Tournament Director or the TBA Tournament Committee [has] the power to decide on a reasonable rate of play per board/round/match/session/event. ... when patently slow play is or has been occurring ... a penalty judged to be appropriate by the Tournament Director [shall be imposed]. [*TBA Regulations, Clause 3.1*]

In other words, players who choose to play in a duplicate session are expected, as a direct consequence of their decision to come along to participate, to play to time according to an appropriate time allotment per board or round determined (in most cases, on the spot) by the Director. That time allotment is normally around seven to seven and a half minutes per board (except in supervised play sessions when more time per board is normally allowed).

A pair or pairs who finish late are usually given one or at most two rounds to catch up fully, WITH THE ONUS BEING ON THE SLOW PAIRS CONCERNED TO ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING UP THE LOST TIME ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

When a pair is running seriously behind time, the Director will direct that play cannot begin (or, in extreme cases, bidding cannot begin) on a specific board(s) at a particular table. In such cases, the Director has the further power to impose penalties for failing to play to time, including the award of 0 MPs in extreme cases.

In extremis, consistently slow pairs regarded as being disruptive on an ongoing basis may be asked not to come along and play in duplicate sessions until they are prepared to give a responsible guarantee with regard to playing to time.

NOTE: When any table is still playing the last board - or are still scoring up the last board - when the move is called for the next round, it is essential that the boards that have been finished are passed on to the next table so that that table may begin play immediately without being held up - unfairly - by a slow table. This is a responsibility which should automatically be assumed by dummy, or - if dummy is asleep - by any other player at the late finishing table.