

# **S.P.B.C. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES**

## **(TRAPS)**

### **1. FRAMEWORK**

#### **2. Bridge laws and Regulations**

2.1 All play shall be in accord with The 1997 Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge as promulgated by The World Bridge Federation [LAW] or subsequent similar editions that are endorsed by the Australian Bridge Federation [ABF], supplemented by both the Tournament Regulations of Queensland Bridge Association [QBATR] and these Tournament Regulations and Procedures [TRAPS] of Surfers Paradise Bridge Club [CLUB].

2.2 TRAPS are adapted under a CLUB By-Law and may be amended only following due process for By-Laws as laid defined in the CLUB Constitution.

2.3 If there is at any time conflict between LAW and TRAPS, then LAW shall prevail in that conflict.

2.4 If there is in respect of a particular competition, conflict between TRAPS and the requirements of a sponsoring organisation for that competition other than CLUB (such as ABF or QBA) then TRAPS shall NOT prevail in that conflict.

2.5 If in respect of a particular QBA approved Congress or State Championship that is hosted by the CLUB, there is conflict between TRAPS and QBATR, then QBATR shall prevail in that conflict.

2.6 If there is any conflict between TRAPS and the CLUB Constitution then the Constitution shall prevail.

2.7 In any conflict between TRAPS and a CLUB By-Law adopted prior to September 30, 2005 then TRAPS shall prevail, but in any conflict between TRAPS and a CLUB By-Law adopted after that date then the By-Law shall prevail.

2.8 In any conflict between TRAPS and the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, then TRAPS shall NOT prevail.

2.9 In any conflict in any situations other than those defined above, then TRAPS shall prevail.

2.10 All dollar [\$(paragraph number)] amounts defined in TRAPS shall at any time be those that have been then confirmed by most recent resolution of the Management Committee [MC], unless CLUB members in general meeting have subsequently decided otherwise.

2.11 A copy of the LAW may be perused by enquiry at the CLUB office [Office]. A current copy of TRAPS shall be made available by the Tournament Sub Committee on the CLUB noticeboard. A current copy of QBATR shall be made available on the CLUB noticeboard. A current copy of QBATR and/or TRAPS, may be purchased by any CLUB member at the Office and/or viewed at the respective web sites.

2.12 The Congress Sub Committee, the Panel of Directors, the Tournament Sub Committee and the Recorder, shall continually monitor the application of TRAPS, and when any of them believe it appropriate to do so shall recommend changes to the MC so that suitable amendment to TRAPS may be initiated.

2.13 Any CLUB member who believes an amendment to TRAPS would be advisable shall so advise the MC in writing.

2.14 In its application, the interpretation of TRAPS shall always be the responsibility of the then Tournament Director[TD], and thereafter by a Chief Director and/or an Appeals Committee. Any CLUB member who believes that such interpretation has been incorrect should advise the Tournament Sub Committee and/or the Recorder of their concerns.

2.15 The fact that an apparent infraction of TRAPS has occurred in the past, but has apparently been tolerated, or has resulted in only minimal or no disciplinary action, does not in any way imply that a similar transgression in the future shall be treated in the same fashion.

2.16 Additional regulations that compliment TRAPS, but only address entry conditions and/or the organizing of the pattern of play and/or the pattern of prizes in an individual competition or in a particular style of event, may be determined from time to time by the Tournament Sub Committee, in which case they shall be collectively known as Event Regulations[EVEREG].

2.17 Relevant EVEREG shall be published in the Club Diary and/or posted on the CLUB noticeboard at least 2 weeks before the event(s) to which they relate.

2.18 If at any time there is conflict between EVEREG and TRAPS then TRAPS shall prevail.

2.19 A claim by a player that he/she was ignorant of some aspect of LAW, QBATR, TRAPS and/or EVEREG shall be no defence when a transgression has occurred, though for a less experienced player it may be relevant as a mitigating circumstance in determination of an appropriate penalty.

2.20 Where there is in TRAPS any reference to the CLUB noticeboard, this will include all noticeboards in the CLUB house, including use of a whiteboard or similar vertical face used for temporary display of notices. Publication on the CLUB website will not in itself constitute display on the CLUB noticeboard though it will often supplement that display.

2.21 TRAPS is presented in separate sections, each with a different numerical prefix, and within each section there are separate paragraphs (e.g. this paragraph 2.21 is the last in section 2).

### **3. Masterpoint Scheme**

3.1 The ABF organizes an Australia wide Masterpoint Scheme [Scheme] which monitors and upgrades the masterpoint status of all affiliated bridge players throughout Australia, and the CLUB ensures that all players, both CLUB members and visitors, participate in this Scheme when they play in any competition or walk in session other than Supervised Play.

3.2 Operationally within the CLUB the administration of the Scheme in accord with ABF requirements shall be the responsibility of the CLUB masterpoint Secretary and his/her assistants.

3.3 The Masterpoint Secretary, plus each of his/her assistants shall be determined by the MC, for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB Annual General Meeting (AGM). If the MC has not made such determination within that time period, then the Club Secretary shall act as Masterpoint Secretary.

3.4 Submission to the QBA Masterpoint Secretary of the required details for updating the masterpoint records of all persons that have played in the CLUB is the responsibility of the CLUB Masterpoint Secretary. This excludes all Zone events and Congresses played at CLUB.

3.5 Periodically, session masterpoint results as aggregated by the ABF inclusive of masterpoints earned elsewhere in Australia, and updates of CLUB members' masterpoint status posted on the CLUB noticeboard.

3.6 Participation in some walk-in sections, and in some competitions may be restricted to specific masterpoint levels.

3.7 Prizes in some competitions may be restricted to specific masterpoint levels.

#### 4. CLUB, ZONE and QBA Events

4.1 Determination of the CLUB bridge playing program shall be the responsibility of the tournament Sub Committee subject only to ratification by the MC.

4.2 The further organization of individual events (other than those defined in the next paragraph) beyond those aspects for which the TD is responsible shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Sub Committee.

4.3 The organization of, firstly all Congresses and State Championships hosted by the CLUB, and secondly all CLUB Gala Social events, shall be the responsibility of the MC assisted respectively by the Congress Convener and the Social Sub Committee.

4.4 The sponsoring organization as defined by LAW shall be the CLUB unless the MC has recognized another party as the sponsoring organization for a particular event.

4.5 The CLUB program shall include some events where the sponsoring organization may not be the CLUB, but is the Gold Coast Zone [ZONE], or QBA, or ABF, or another organization (EG Australia Bridge magazine).

4.6 An event may be sponsored by a CLUB member or third party, in the sense that their name is linked with the event as Sponsor, for which they exchange contribute moneys to the CLUB, but such a Sponsor shall not have any of the rights of a 'sponsoring organization' as defined by LAW.

#### 5. Bidding and Playing Systems

5.1 The CLUB shall recognize the different bidding systems, distinguished as Yellow, Red, Blue and Green by QBA together with Brown sticker conventions.

5.2 In all play, Yellow bidding systems shall NOT be permitted.

5.3 Green, Blue and Red systems shall be permitted in all open walk-in sessions and competitions, and, provided it is not a Social Gala event, in any all-day competition, and CLUB sponsored QBA listed Congresses plus all CLUB Championships. As provided by the QBA System Regulations, protection from Brown Sticker Conventions will be available for eligible pairs with approval of the Tournament Director.

5.4 Only Green and Blue systems shall be permitted in all restricted walk-in sections and also in all sessions other than those defined above as permissible for Red.

5.5 Brown sticker conventions are permitted in all events where Red systems are permitted. Where a partnership playing a Green System, and both players are below the rank of Life Master, or one player is below the rank of State Master requires protection against Brown sticker conventions it should apply to the director for an orange protection sticker to be fixed to the System Card. This prohibits the use of a Brown convention against them.

5.6 An ABF (current edition) systems card shall be made available by each pair to their opponents at each table.

5.7 Each year a blank systems card shall be provided without charge to each new CLUB member upon payment of their annual subscription.

5.8 A pair that has not observed these system card requirements shall thereby prejudiced their own position if the TD is called to the table because of a possible infraction by any player at the table.

## **6. Pre-dealt Boards**

6.1 Pre-dealt boards, computer generated at random, shall normally be utilized at all sessions.

6.2 When pre-dealt boards have been utilized, copies of hand records shall be subsequently made available for participants.

6.3 The Senior Pre-dealt Boards Custodian shall be appointed by the MC for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB AGM.

6.4 The Senior Pre-dealt boards Custodian and all other Custodians constitute a Sub Committee under CLUB Rules.

6.5 Preparation and security of pre-dealt boards and hand records shall be the responsibility of this Sub Committee.

6.6 Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, the fact that a person has been involved in the computer dealing of pre-dealt boards shall not in itself disqualify that person from participating in the competition utilizing those boards.

6.7 Any 2 of the CLUB President, the Tournament Sub Committee Chairman, a member of the Panel of Directors and the Senior Pre-Dealt Boards Custodian, may decide that there has been too great a risk that pre-dealt board security has been jeopardized in a particular event, in which case a replacement set shall be used, and that set may be manually dealt.

6.8 Provided it is not thereby in conflict with any action initiated under the preceding paragraph, the TD may choose whether to utilize the boards which have been specially pre-dealt for the event or some other boards.

## **7. The Recorder**

7.1 The Recorder shall be appointed by the MC for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB AGM, and he/she shall hold office as a separate Sub-Committee of one.

7.2 The Recorder is available to receive from CLUB members any verbal or written notice, complaint of allegation, concerning unethical or discourteous behaviour, or any other matter provided it is no longer within the province of the TD or an Appeals Committee.

7.3 The Recorder shall act in an advisory and mediating role, and as he/she believes appropriate, confidentially investigate such matters, mediate between relevant parties, and advise them as to what future action may be desirable.

7.4 The Recorder shall only raise a matter with any third party in the most confidential fashion and then usually without identifying the participants.

7.5 The Recorder may keep a confidential record of matters referred to him/her so that any unfavourable pattern of behaviour becomes more apparent.

7.6 The Recorder shall place his/her concerns before the Panel of Directors, and/or the Tournament Sub Committee, and/or the MC.

7.7 A Club Member who has any notice, complaint, or allegation concerning unethical or discourteous behaviour by another player during the course of play should advise the TD during the relevant session.

7.8 Club Members that do not take action in accord with the preceding paragraph, but still feel they have a legitimate complaint concerning the behaviour of another player, should advise the Recorder accordingly.

7.9 Club Members who feel they have a legitimate complaint concerning unethical or discourteous behaviour by a TD should so advise the Recorder and/or the MC.

## **8. Tournament Sub Committee**

8.1 There shall be a Tournament Sub Committee which shall be responsible for organizing the whole playing program in the CLUB, and where relevant doing such in consort with the Congress Sub Committee and the Social Sub Committee.

8.2 The members of the Tournament Sub Committee shall be appointed by the MC for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB AGM.

8.3 The Chairman, and possibly a Vice Chairman, of the Tournament Sub Committee shall be appointed by the MC, for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB AGM.

8.4 The Tournament Sub Committee has the power to co-opt additional members for any period that does not extend more than 1 month beyond the date of the next CLUB AGM.

## **9. PANEL OF DIRECTORS AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

### **10. Tournament Director [TD]**

10.1 There shall be a Panel of Directors which shall be responsible for providing the directing expertise by LAW for all bridge playing sessions in the CLUB playing program.

10.2 The Panel of Directors shall be construed to be a sub committee as defined in the CLUB Rules.

10.3 A CLUB member may be accredited by the QBA to handle as TD, events at state, or Congress or Club level. This does not in itself constitute approval by the CLUB.

10.4 A CLUB member may be approved by the MC to handle as TD sessions in the CLUB and thereby to automatically be a member of the Panel of Directors. This approval may be cancelled at any time by the MC.

10.5 The panel of Directors may co-opt as an additional member a director who is no longer active but was previously accredited by QBA and approved by the CLUB, unless the MC determines such a person is no longer suitable.

10.6 The Chief Director shall be a member of the Panel of Directors appointed as such by the MC.

10.7 It shall be the Chief Director's responsibility to organize the recruitment and nurturing of directing expertise in the CLUB and act as mentor to all members of the Panel of Directors.

10.8 The TD for each session shall be decided by the Panel of Directors unless the MC determines otherwise.

10.9 The TD shall be responsible for directing play consistent with TRAPS and relevant EVEREG, and within this framework determining the manner of scoring, which set of boards shall be played, the seating pattern, the movement of players and what is an acceptable speed for play.

10.10 The TD shall decide for each section, the number of boards to be played per round, the movement of boards and the total number of boards that shall be in play over the whole session. Unless the MC, or Tournament Sub Committee, or the TD decides it is not practical to do so, the number of boards that shall be scheduled to be played in a session, shall be between 28 and 36 (inclusive).

10.11 In determining the matters addressed in the immediately previous paragraph, if there is a pair sit-out required in any section the direction of the sit-out shall be determined by the TD.

10.12 In determining these sit out matters, a movement requiring a pair sit-out shall have preferably no more than 3 boards per round, and definitely no more than 4.

10.13 The TD shall always exercise his/her responsibilities in a manner entirely consistent with LAW, TRAPS and EVEREG.

10.14 All walk-in sessions that have 31 tables or more, plus all sessions that include a competition in which Red masterpoints or cash prizes are awarded, shall have two non-playing Directors.

10.15 The TD for any CLUB Championship shall be accredited by QBA to Congress level, where available.

10.16 Unless the Panel of Directors or the MC decided it is not practical to do so, all other sessions shall have a non playing TD.

10.17 The TD shall have overall control of a playing session including where players shall be seated and air-conditioning or ventilation, but that control shall not include other extraneous matters such as the making of announcements and catering, which shall all remain the ultimate responsibilities of the MC.

10.18 The TD may seek the advice of other qualified or experienced persons including a Chief Director, but such action shall not diminish their responsibilities as TD as defined by LAW.

10.19 The TD's responsibilities shall include advising players in a competition, prior to the start of play in the first session, what are the scheduled movements for the whole of the event and the reasons why this movement pattern was chosen. The TD's responsibilities shall also include scoring, though this process may be delegated to a competent scorer approved by the Panel of Directors.

10.20 TDs shall be recompensed for their services by the CLUB in accord with a schedule that shall be determined by the MC, a current copy of which may be perused by CLUB members at the Office.

## **11. Kibitzing**

11.1 Kibitzing is allowable in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

## **12. Irregularities and Rulings**

12.1 It shall at all times be the responsibility of all players who believe an irregularity may have occurred during play, to immediately call the TD to the table, though dummy may not do this until another player has already drawn attention to the irregularity or the play of that board has been completed. There is usually nothing that a TD will be able to do about any incident that is only alleged subsequently.

12.2 Calling the TD shall always be done with courtesy to all others at the table. The fact that the TD has been called to a table shall not in itself be construed as censure of any player at the table, but rather as acknowledgment of the need for complete, accurate and equitable application of LAW, QBATR, TRAPS and EVEREG across the whole field.

12.3 LAW, QBATR, TRAPS and EVEREG, especially when taken together, are quite complex and the responsibility for their correct interpretation and equitable application shall rest with the TD and not any player who believes that they are adequately qualified or know what action is appropriate.

12.4 A player shall not in any way be obliged to accept as binding an attempt by any other player to make a ruling in the absence of the TD, even if the other player may be an accredited director.

12.5 Players, particularly in Pairs play, should appreciate that the relative scores of other players in the same event are also often unfairly affected by any irregularity that has not been redressed, even if it may be thought to be easily tolerated at the playing table.

12.6 It shall be the TD 's responsibility to ensure that the LAW, QBATR, TRAPS and EVEREG are correctly observed, including establishing equity across the whole field. The TD shall be obliged to make rulings according to LAW, QBATR, TRAPS and EVEREG, and also where appropriate to invoke specific rectifications including bidding, playing, procedural and disciplinary penalties.

12.7 Any ruling by the TD shall be accepted with good grace even if a player believes such ruling may be incorrect or inequitable. Any player who argues over the correctness of a ruling in a discourteous or noisy fashion, or comments on a ruling in a derogatory or disrespectful manner, shall thereby invite immediate disciplinary penalty and if protracted then further disciplinary action.

12.8 Notwithstanding the TD having discretionary power as to the severity of any penalties that may be prescribed for various transgressions, the TD shall not take a lenient attitude when transgressions are of a repeated nature. When under LAW the TD has had discretionary power in determining the severity of a penalty, there may be appeal against the degree of severity.

12.9 Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs, every player shall always have the right to appeal against any TD's decision, in the manner defined in a section below.

## **13. Scoring and Correcting Errors**

13.1 Both pairs shall agree on the number of tricks won before returning their cards to the board. Any pair that does not do so shall thereby prejudiced any claim they may have in disputing the number of tricks won on the board.

13.2 Both pairs shall be responsible for the accuracy of result details including contract, declarer, and score, being recorded on the score sheet or with the electronic scoring machine (Bridgemate).

13.3 A Scorer may be trained to assist TDs with the processing of results. When scoring, a Scorer shall always be responsible to the TD that he/she is assisting in a particular event.

13.4 Notwithstanding the paragraphs that follow, it is not the responsibility of the TD to verify that there are no errors in the entries made by players when scoring but if an apparent error is drawn to the attention of the TD, he/she shall then attempt to remedy the situation in accordance with paragraphs below.

13.5 If a scoring error has been made after the completion of play, and the TD is satisfied it was definitely in the manual compilation or computer entry of a score and/or in subsequent processing, then provided the results have not yet become final, the TD shall correct the error as soon as practical.

13.6 In all circumstances of an apparent or definite error being made in the original entering of a score, the TD shall as soon as practical make considerable effort to ascertain what details should have been correctly entered, and shall make corrections or award adjusted scores in accord with the sections that follow.

#### **14. Electing to Rescore, and the Awarding of Adjusted Scores**

14.1 Distinction is made in this and subsequent sections, between results that still remain provisional as opposed to those that have become final.

14.2 After provisional results have become final for an event, no adjusted score nor procedural penalty nor disciplinary penalty may be awarded, nor rescore made. All the paragraphs that follow in this section presume that the scores are provisional and have not yet become final.

14.3 The TD shall as soon as possible, preferably during the playing session or failing that within a reasonable time of the end of the session, advise (if only by way of display on the results notice board) both pairs at the relevant table if for some reason he/she has decided to rescore, award an adjusted score, or invoke a procedural or disciplinary penalty.

14.4 Players who believe that they have not been equitably treated, because of inaction by the TD and/or delayed action under the preceding paragraph, have right of appeal in the same way as if an incident that merited appeal had arisen during play.

14.5 An Appeals Committee shall have power to further adjust scores over and beyond any adjustment that the TD may have already made particularly when such shall in their judgement better establish equity, but where relevant must act consistent with 12.8 above.

14.6 Not only during play but also while results remain provisional, any pair or team may still draw the attention of the TD to a possible scoring error, in which case the TD shall within 24 hours decide whether a rescore shall be necessary.

14.7 If the TD decides that a rescore shall not be necessary, a pair or team may still appeal that decision, provided such appeal is made without further unreasonable delay.

14.8 If an apparent scoring error is of a specific nature other than that already covered in the previous section or in this section, and provided the results are not yet final, then the TD shall take action consistent with one of the following two sections depending upon whether it is a Pairs or Teams Event.

#### **15. Teams Scoring**

15.1 The paragraphs in this section apply only for Teams play events and not for Pairs play.

15.2 Each pair within each team shall keep the score on each board played at their table, and confirm all such scores with the opposing team immediately upon completion of every round/match as well as



confirming the Bridgemate score after each board is completed. Teams that do not so confirm, shall have thereby prejudiced the relevance of their own scoring if subsequent disagreement emerges on the matter.

15.3 Opposing teams shall after completion of their match and when so instructed by the TD, agree on the match result by comparing for each board the scores at both tables, and if they cannot agree they shall advise the TD who shall as best he/she is able rule what shall be the result for that match.

15.4 Teams score sheets shall be kept by team captains until after the provisional results have become final, and any captain that does not do so shall thereby have prejudiced their team's position if the TD conducts a later review of the scoring.

15.5 Progressive results for each match in any Teams event that has involved a Swiss or round robin movement shall be posted on a CLUB notice board throughout the course of the event.

15.6 In Teams Events after play has finished and there are no outstanding appeals or rescores, the results become final with the following provisions:

Where a scoring error either by player or official is discovered within 24 hours of the results becoming final, and this is verified by all concerned parties, the TD shall have the discretion to amend the result to restore equity.

## **16 Pairs Scoring**

16.1 The paragraphs in this section shall apply only for Pairs play events and not for Teams play.

16.2 N-S shall be responsible for entering the correct results on the score sheet, and E-W shall be given opportunity to signify their concurrence.

16.3 A score sheet as referred to herein, may be either a traveling score sheet or a Swiss/barometer score sheet or a Bridgemate score. If the style of score sheet is distinguished in a paragraph below then that shall be relevant to the course of action defined as appropriate.

16.4 As an incorrect score often affects both favourably and adversely the comparative performances across the whole field, the TD shall make corrections, award adjusted scores and/or invoke penalties, but only as defined in the paragraphs below.

16.5 Any player who identifies any apparent discrepancy that cannot be corrected at the table shall call the attention of the TD to it.

16.6 If, when there has been an error, both pairs subsequently agree on what should be the correct score, then the TD shall amend the error accordingly.

16.7 In the absence of agreement by both pairs on what should be a corrected score, if it is practical to do so the TD shall initially ask the players to replay the board with the cards face up attempting thereby to establish what may be thereby agreed should be the corrected score. If that does not prove possible, but only in such circumstances, the TD shall act in accord with the paragraphs that follow in this section.

16.8 If the TD becomes aware of an error in any score that has apparently been the result only of vulnerability considerations, and provided there is no other reasonable explanation for the score originally entered, then the TD shall adjust that score to reflect the correct vulnerability.

16.9 Where the TD is satisfied that a score has been entered incorrectly and the error has merely been one of the wrong pair receiving the positive score, the TD shall amend the score accordingly.

16.10 Where a score has possibly been entered with the wrong pair receiving the positive score, and the TD believes that this may well account for the error but is not satisfied that it definitely does, if the situation cannot be clarified by the players, then the TD shall take no further action.

16.11 In manual scoring where a contract has been made but there is a discrepancy between the number of tricks won and the score entered, and that is the only discrepancy, the TD shall accept as correct the score as entered.

16.12 In manual scoring where a doubled contract has apparently not been made but there is a discrepancy between the number of tricks won and the score entered, and provided the whole of the discrepancy may not be reasonably explained by the doubling and/or by vulnerability considerations, the TD shall accept as correct the score as entered.

16.13 Where there is a discrepancy between various aspects of the results entered, other than that covered in any of the situations defined above, then the TD shall award each pair an adjusted score.

16.14 For all walk-in sessions, as soon as practical after play has finished, and preferably the same day but no more than 3 days later, provisional results shall be placed on the CLUB notice board and all relevant score sheets plus complimentary scoring summaries also made available to players.

16.15 In Pairs Events after play has finished and there are no outstanding appeals or rescues, the results become final with the following provision:

Where scoring error either by player or official is discovered within 24 hours of the results becoming final, and this is verified by all concerned parties, the TD shall have the discretion to amend the results to restore equity.

## **17. THE APPEALS PROCESS**

### **18. Appeal against Tournament Director's Rulings**

18.1 A Pair, or the Captain of any Team, has an inalienable right to appeal any ruling by the TD

18.2 Both players in a Pair, or the Captain of a Team, may appeal a decision of the TD made during the playing session, provided it is made no later than 15 minutes after the end of a play in that session and before the results become final.

18.3 Provided that the event results still remain provisional, both players in a Pair, or the Captain of a Team, may appeal a decision of the TD made subsequent to play and leading to either the awarding of an adjusted score, to procedural penalties, to disciplinary penalties, or the rescoring because of an alleged scoring error.

18.4 Provided that the event results have not yet become final, the TD may initiate an appeal if no player at the table where the incident allegedly occurred has initiated an appeal.

18.5 Initiating an appeal shall be by the appealing party completing a CLUB Appeals Form (available from the Office) and handing it either to the TD or left for him/her at the Office.

18.6 If an appeal has been initiated, the TD shall as soon as possible advise all players at the relevant table, ensure then that the Appeals Form is properly completed by all parties, and as soon as practical thereafter given to the Appeals Committee. The parties involved shall ensure all relevant facts have been included on the Appeals Form.

18.7 It shall be the responsibility of the TD to facilitate the appeal process.

18.8 Notwithstanding there may be provision under LAW and/or QBATR for possibly invoking a penalty when it is judged that an appeal is frivolous or without merit, no such penalty shall be invoked.

18.9 Although those initiating an appeal may subsequently withdraw their appeal by signifying so in writing, neither the TD nor any person has power to abrogate the appeals process.

18.10 Each appeal shall be heard by a CLUB Appeals Committee constituted in the manner defined in the sections below, for the purpose of hearing that single appeal.

18.11 An Appeals Committee has no jurisdiction to act beyond the appeal for which it was specifically constituted, though it may make attendant recommendations to the MC and/or Sub Committee.

18.12 The fact that a matter is subject to appeal and may subsequently lead to further score adjustments, shall not invalidate any Swiss movement if the TD decides that further matches shall proceed despite an outstanding appeal not having yet been heard.

18.13 It shall always be preferable for an appeal to be concluded as soon as practical, provided it is not at the expense of an equitable appeal result being achieved.

18.14 The results of an event remain provisional until after all appeals made within defined time constraints have been resolved.

18.15 The TD has the power to amend any earlier decision(s) that he/she has made, in which case the appealing party shall be advised and they may in turn withdraw their appeal, while the competing pair or team shall also be advised and they in turn may within a reasonable time and if they then in the new circumstances wish to do so, still initiate an appeal in respect of the same original incident.

## **19. CLUB Appeals Panel and Appeals Register**

19.1 The Appeals Committee shall comprise the best qualified of those members who are available.

19.2 An Appeals Register shall be maintained by the Panel of Directors.

19.3 In an Appeals Register shall be filed every appeal form completed with the names of the then sitting Appeals Committee members, and upon resolution of the appeal the result of the deliberations of that Appeals Committee.

19.4 Any CLUB member may review the Appeals Register at any time by enquiry at the Office, but may not remove it from the Office.

## **20. CLUB Appeals Committee**

20.1 The membership of an Appeals Committee shall be selected by the TD from all those Club Members who are present with the proviso that no more than one shall currently be an active director and no player shall be included who was at the table involved in the appeal it is otherwise compromised.

20.2 Each Appeals Committee shall comprise the 3 persons defined above, unless those 3 decide that the matter under appeal is of such extraordinary weight and/or complexity that it shall comprise 5 not 3 suitably qualified additional persons.

20.3 Each Appeals Committee shall choose, from their own number, their own Chairperson.

20.4 An Appeals Committee may appoint a Scribe from outside its own members. The Scribe shall record what occurs at the hearing, but shall not otherwise participate in any deliberations.

20.5 An Appeals Committee may seek advice from any other person.

20.6 An Appeals Committee may overrule the TD in assessing the facts of the matter or in applying bridge judgement, and as a consequence it shall have additional powers in the awarding of adjusted scores.

20.7 Provided that it does not involve overruling the TD on a point of LAW or QBATR, the Appeals Committee may overrule the TD on his/her interpretation of TRAPS and/or EVEREG

20.8 The TD shall fully brief the Appeals Committee on the matter under Appeal, and the authority that he/she relied upon for his/her ruling, but the TD shall not be a member of the Appeals Committee

20.9 Any person that has initiated the appeal and each player at the table where the incident under appeal occurred, has the right to speak at the hearing of the appeal, but that shall not extend to a right to be present throughout the hearing of the appeal. Except when invited to be present by the Appeals Committee no one else shall have the right to be present at the hearing of an appeal.

20.10 Every player at the table where the incident under appeal occurred has an obligation to make themselves available for the hearing of the appeal provided reasonable notice of it has been given by the TD and any such player that does not do so may by their absence prejudice their rights in the hearing of the appeal.

20.11 While the Appeals Committee deliberates its decision no one other than the members of the Appeals Committee themselves shall be present, except that a duly appointed Scribe may be present if invited to do so by the Appeals Committee.

20.12 The TD may at any time amend his/her earlier decision that has become the subject of an appeal, even if the Appeals Committee has commenced hearing the appeal, in which case he/she shall promptly advise all the relevant parties of his/her revised decision.

20.13 The Chairperson of an Appeals Committee shall advise as soon as practical the TD of the result of the appeal, and shall also ensure the completion of all relevant details in the Appeals Register. The TD shall verify that this has all been done and also advise the relevant parties the results of the appeal.

20.14 All players shall be obliged to accept graciously the decision of the Appeals Committee. Only in exceptional circumstances should resort be taken in accord with the following paragraph.

20.15 There is provision in QBATR for players involved in an appeal, to refer the case to the QBA Appeals Committee, but then only for an advisory opinion.

## **21. Notifiable and Disciplinary Matters**

21.1 Possible transgression against LAW, QBATR, or TRAPS, in respect of bidding and/or playing of a board during the course of a session, often as a practical necessity requires an immediate ruling by the TD. When there is a consequent imposition of a procedural or disciplinary penalty, the assigning of an artificial score, or the awarding of an adjusted score, the TD's decision shall be made no later than the end of the playing session unless perhaps the incident prompting that ruling relates to a scoring error. Facility is therefore provided in the sections above for the TD to amend his/her earlier ruling, and/or for players to appeal a TD's ruling.

21.2 Frequent and/or frivolous action that is judged to undermine the enjoyment of the game for the CLUB Members shall warrant disciplinary action by the TD. The TD and/or another player who alleges such has occurred shall refer the matter in writing to the Recorder or the MC

21.3 Psyching in itself does not contravene LAW nor TRAPS, but the fielding of a psyche by the psyching player's partner is evidence of a contravention of LAW and QBATR

21.4 It shall be the responsibility of the psyching player to report their psyche to the TD as soon as possible after the play of the relevant board, and in the absence of such report it shall be the responsibility of the psyching player's partner to report the psyche no later than the day of play. Also, any other player at the same table may report to the TD an apparent psyche and the possible fielding of that psyche.

21.5 If a definite psyche has not been reported by the psyching player nor by his/her partner before the results become final, then a procedural penalty shall always be imposed by the TD.

21.6 Evidence of continued psyching by the same player shall be reported by the Panel of Directors and/or the Tournament Sub Committee, and/or the Recorder, to the MC

21.7 Zero tolerance of transgressions of those aspects of LAW, QBATR and TRAPS, that require ethical and courteous behaviour, shall be encouraged.

21.8 Anyone who does not properly undertake any of their responsibilities as defined in TRAPS in situations other than where the nature of any penalty is prescribed may, receive a procedural penalty and/or shall lose their entitlement to masterpoints earned in that session, unless the TD judges that there have been sufficiently mitigating circumstances.

21.9 Allegations of transgressions against those aspects of LAW, QBATR and TRAPS, that require ethical and courteous behaviour may be reported by any player to the TD, and/or the Recorder. If such allegation by a player is against a player who is still at the same table, it shall be made unobtrusively away from the table to the TD, after which the TD shall take no action without first discretely observing the allegedly offending player.

21.10 Disciplinary action by the TD appropriate for transgressions against the Club's zero tolerance policy as defined above, shall include the procedural penalties which have been determined from time to time by the Panel of Directors and/or the MC to be appropriate in such circumstances, such as a score reduction of 100% of a top in pairs play, ineligibility to receive session and/or competition prizes.

21.11 The TD shall, before the end of the session, advise all players at the relevant table if any unethical or discourteous behaviour has been alleged, or if any psyching has been notified or alleged.

21.12 The TD shall as soon as practical update when relevant the CLUB Psyching Register. The fact that a player's name has been so entered shall not in itself imply that the player or their partner has been guilty of any transgression, but rather to better permit judging of possible future alleged transgressions in a wider context. The TD shall as soon as practical so advise any player whose name has been entered in the CLUB Psyching Register.

21.13 It shall be the responsibility of the Panel of Directors to monitor all entries in the Psyching Register, and recommend appropriate action to the MC

21.14 Any CLUB member may peruse the Psyching Register by request to the Office, but may not remove it from the Office.

21.15 Provided it is within a calendar month of the relevant incident, any CLUB member should advise the Recorder in writing of any perceived inaccuracy in the Psyching Register, or of any omission of what allegedly should have constituted an entry.

21.16 Any CLUB member may submit to the Recorder and/or the MC their own written comment on an entry made pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

21.17 Allegations by CLUB members of transgressions against TRAPS shall not be considered by the TD, nor the MC nor any Sub Committee, unless the procedures defined above have been observed by those claiming such breach.

## **22. ENTRY PROCEDURE**

### **23. General**

23.1 A table available for play in the CLUB rooms shall be indicated by the placement on it of an up turned coloured section number.

23.2 A member who is disadvantaged physically may arrange priority seat reservation at the Office, and the TD shall do everything reasonably possible to accommodate such reservations.

23.3 Entry into walk-in sessions shall not require prior entry, and seating shall generally be unrestricted except where priority seat reservation has been arranged. Priority seating which remains vacant fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start of play shall not continue to be held for longer.

23.4 The first player to arrive at a table shall be responsible for obtaining from the trays provided all the stationery they require that is not already on their table.

23.5 Players in competitions may be seeded by the TD so that seating shall thereby be in positions determined by the TD.

23.6 Care shall be taken by players when choosing seats in that some sections may be restricted for specific masterpoint ranks or reserved by the TD for a competition or some other reason.

23.7 The TD shall have power with respect to walk in sections, to move pairs or teams to another table or section in order to provide for a more efficient and/or more equitable movement.

23.8 Participants shall be seated at their own table at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of play, and ensure table fee advices and score sheets at that table correctly contain all relevant information.

23.9 CLUB members shall indicate their CLUB number alongside their name on all designated documentation, and any member who does not do so correctly may not be credited with mastepoints earned. Those who do not have a CLUB number shall indicate their ABF number if they wish to be credited with any materpoints earned in the section.

23.10 At the end of each Pairs playing session, unless the TD determines otherwise, it shall be the responsibility of every NS pair to place in numerical sequence on their own table the last completed set of boards with where necessary score sheets removed and sorted into numerical sequence.

23.11 In all pairs playing sessions, it shall be the responsibility of each player to clean and tidy up their table and the side tables.

23.12 In all teams playing sessions, it shall be the responsibility of each team to clean and tidy up their home table and side tables, or if there are no home tables for the last playing session then for the table at which their NS pair last played.

## **24. Competitions**

24.1 A single all day event shall comprise a morning session plus an afternoon session, and a 2 day all day event shall comprise 4 sessions. Other events may be held on different days at regular session times and therefore comprise 3 or maybe 2 or maybe 4 sessions typically over successive weeks

24.2 Entry to play in an all day events shall normally be made by registering players' names on entry slips provided and handing the completed entry slip with entry fees in at the office.

24.3 Entry to play in all events other than all day events shall normally be made by registering players' names on the entry list placed on the CLUB notice board.

24.4 In all competitions CLUB members shall when signifying their entry in each competition indicate their CLUB number or ABF number alongside their name as directed.

24.5 Entry in a graded event may sometimes be required directly in a particular grade defined by masterpoint rank, in which case each grade constitutes a completely separate competition. Masterpoint rank in such cases shall be that shown on the most recently published masterpoint status list posted on the CLUB notice board at the time that entries for that competition were first invited on the CLUB notice board.

24.6 In all other graded events other than those covered by the preceding paragraph, all entrants shall be considered a single pool and ranked therein by each participating pair or team's average masterpoint level, with subsequent separation into different grades according to that same average masterpoint criteria.

24.7 For all CLUB Championships, participants shall have been financial members of the CLUB for at least six months prior to the start of the Event. Exceptions to this rule can only be approved in exceptional circumstances by a meeting of the Directors.

24.8 For all events other than CLUB Championships, participants may be members or non-members of the CLUB and which they are shall make no difference in determining who shall be awarded prizes or masterpoints.

24.9 The MC may prohibit any person who is not a CLUB member, from playing in any CLUB event including walk in.

24.10 Having entered for a particular competition, and not having withdrawn before nominations closing time, players shall be obliged to participate, and if not able to do so they shall observe the requirements below regarding substitute players.

## **25. Closing Time for Entry and Participation**

25.1 Closing time for competition entries shall normally be at a time determined by the TD.

25.2 For Swiss Pairs and all Team competitions, plus all CLUB Championships, and any prepay events, an earlier closing time may be determined by the MC or where relevant by the Tournament Sub Committee, the Congress Sub Committee.

25.3 Notwithstanding the paragraphs above, the TD for an event always has discretion to reject the last pairs or teams entered in any event if thereby the resulting number of participants provides a more equitable and/or efficient movement.

25.4 The TD for an event always has discretion to accept as well as reject late entrants, if he/she decides that it will assist in organizing a more equitable and/or efficient movement.

25.5 To possibly organize a more equitable and/or efficient movement, and/or possibly accommodate late entrants, the TD shall as far as shall be practical persuade a suitable number of last minute additional participants, even if they may not be otherwise eligible.

25.6 The TD shall have power to seed and seat some or all contestants and also to determine the movement, provided it is consistent with relevant EVEREG.

25.7 For a competition which is scheduled as a series of single sessions on different days, the start time shall normally be the same as for the regular walk-in playing session on that day. For a competition which is scheduled as a full day's play, that day's start time shall normally be 9.30 am.

25.8 Entrants shall play in all sessions of the one competition, and if they are not seated at commencement of play the TD may award a procedural penalty and/or disqualify them from participating in that event, and/or replace them by another pair or team.

25.9 The TD may cancel a Pairs competition if fewer than 7 tables register, or a Teams competition if fewer than 7 teams register. But the TD may not cancel a walk in session unless less than 3 tables are present.

## 26. Substitute Players

26.1 No person shall knowingly enter a pairs competition for which they shall require a Substitute for more than a single session.

26.2 In any Pairs event, at any time replacement may be made of an originally entered player by an Authorized Substitute, provided certain conditions (as defined in this section) are met.

26.3 No Authorized Substitute shall play more than half the total number of boards in the whole event. The Authorized Substitute shall have not previously played as one of another pair in the same event.

26.4 As compared with the masterpoints of the substituted player, the masterpoints of an Authorized Substitute in an Open competition may be either equal to or less than, but if greater not more than 50% greater.

26.5 The master point rank of an Authorized Substitute in a Graded competition where the grades are distinguished by master point rank shall not be such as to have prevented the substitute having originally entered in that grade.

26.7 If after earlier registering for a competition, an emergency arises which prevents the arranging of all necessary substitutes, a pair shall as promptly as possible advise the TD (eg at their home or failing that via the Office) of their changed circumstances.

26.8 If it is not practical to arrange an Authorized Substitute, an Unauthorized Substitute may be made in a Pairs event, provided that the TD rules that acceptance of the Substitute assists in maintaining the integrity of the established movement.



26.9 To help safeguard the integrity of an established movement, the TD may at any time include any 2 players as a Non Competition Substitute Pair in a Pairs event.

26.10 Neither a Non Competition Substitute Pair, nor a pair that has included an Unauthorized Substitute in any session, shall be eligible for either OUTRIGHT masterpoints or Prizes though they shall be eligible for SESSION masterpoints.

26.11 In any pairs competition that is conducted with qualifying rounds followed (for scoring purposes) by a start again series of final matches, an Authorized Substitute is not permitted in the final.

26.12 In any pairs competition that is conducted with qualifying rounds followed (for scoring purposes) by a start again series of final matches, an Authorized Substitute who participates in more qualifying round sessions than the player for which they substituted, shall replace the latter in the final matches.

## 27. Teams Play

27.1 For all Team competitions one team member may when registering be nominated as Team Captain. If no Captain has been nominated, then the first mentioned member of that team shall be the Captain.

27.2 In any Teams competition, each team shall (unless defined otherwise by EVEREG) comprise between 4 and 6 players inclusive, and any 4 of those shall play each separate match, but the same 4 shall play the whole of that match. Unless separately defined elsewhere in TRAPS for specific situations, the fifth and/or sixth team members may be added after the event has commenced and between or during sessions provided it is not in the middle of a match.

27.3 A match normally comprises all those boards that are played between the same two teams. For all purposes other than scoring the results of a match, each part of a match that is played in different sessions shall be regarded as a half match, and a half match shall have all the same other requirements as are defined elsewhere in TRAPS for a complete match.

27.4 In any teams event the movement used shall be such that there shall be no sit out.

27.5 Unless separately defined elsewhere in TRAPS. Authorized Substitutes may be made at any time in any Team of 4, 5 or 6 persons, on the same terms as defined above for an Authorized Substitute in Pairs. An Unauthorized Substitute may be made at any time in any Team, on the same terms as defined above for an Unauthorized Substitute in Pairs.

27.6 The fifth and sixth members of a team participate in any OUTRIGHT as well as MATCH masterpoints earned by their team, but Substitutes only in MATCH masterpoints.

27.7 If after earlier registering for a competition, an emergency arises which prevents the arranging of all necessary substitutes, a team shall as promptly as possible advise the TD (eg either at their home or failing that via the Office) of their changed circumstances.

27.8 To help safeguard the integrity of an established movement, the TD may at any time include a Non Competition Substitute Team in a Team event, even if it does include player(s) who have previously played in the same event, and that team may have any number of Authorized Substitutes. Though that team including any substitutes shall always be eligible for MATCH masterpoints, the TD shall decide whether it shall be eligible for OUTRIGHT masterpoints and prizes.

27.9 In any teams event the same 4 players that started a match shall complete that match. This paragraph shall not apply when an emergency leads to a Substitute being introduced in the middle of a match.

27.10 In any team's competition in which a final is preceded by qualifying round(s), and a team comprised 5 or 6 members, then no person shall be permitted to play in the final unless they earlier had played in at least one quarter of all the qualifying matches.

## **28. Playing Fees**

28.1 All playing fees quoted are normally for CLUB Members, and playing fees for Visitors shall include an additional Visitor's Premium.

28.2 All day events require that prepayment be made with the registration, but other playing fees shall normally be paid on the day of play immediately before the start of play.

28.3 Playing fees payable on the day of play shall be accompanied at each table by a session Table Fee Advice which shall be placed for collection on the side table.

28.4 Regular table fees for walk-in sessions shall be determined by the MC.

28.5 Prepaid session tickets shall be available for Members on a bulk discount basis from the Office as determined from time to time by the MC.

28.6 For GREEN masterpoint events that are not all day duration, there shall be no additional competition fee over and above the usual table fees.

28.7 For RED masterpoint events that are not all day duration, there shall be an additional red MP fee, payable prior to the start of play on the first day of the competition. Red Point Eclectics do not attract this additional fee.

28.8 Fees for an all-day competition shall usually be payable in advance at the Office, and this shall be inclusive of regular table fees plus a light sandwich lunch.

28.9 Fees for all other competitions including Congresses, Gala Social events and other prepaid events shall be payable at the Office, at rates variously determined by the MC and published as EVEREG.

## **29. PRIZES**

### **30. Competition Prizes**

30.1 For winners in some competitions, perpetual trophies shall be awarded and/or there shall be honour board recognition as determined appropriate from time to time by the MC.

30.2 For all events in which cash prizes are awarded, the prize allocation pattern shall not be inconsistent with the Cash Prizes Policy most recently determined by the MC nor with the paragraphs below in this section.

30.3 In any graded event where participants compete only with others in the same grade, and in which cash prizes are awarded, the monetary value of each prize shall be the same in each grade, unless the sponsor has requested otherwise.

30.4 The immediately preceding paragraph shall not apply to open events in which participants all compete in a single field, when a formula applies that favours the overall winners and place getters.

30.5 The TD and CLUB Treasurer together, are authorized for all competitions other than Congresses and Gala Social events to determine the amounts of individual cash prizes.

30.6 For each Congress and sponsored event, the prize allocation pattern shall be made by the Convenor and/or the MC.

30.7 For Congresses and all day events where the participants are for prizes purposes streamed into different divisions (eg championship, plate, and consolation), this shall NOT be done on field placing at some point during the competition, but rather on initial seedings.

30.8 If a competition still proceeds despite having a lesser number of players than 14 pairs for a Pairs event and 7 teams for a Teams event, then any previously announced prize money shall be halved.

### **31. Results Announcement**

31.1 The TD shall place the results of an event on the CLUB noticeboard as soon as practicable after the completion of play. This shall be on the same day unless and unavoidable incident, eg computer or bridgemate problem, prevents this.

31.2 If a subsequent appeal decision or a rescoring of the event leads to a different result from that previously provisionally determined, any already posted provisional results shall as soon as possible be amended and reposted.

31.3 In the event of a tie in a Pairs competition despite percentages being calculated to two decimal places, no further action shall be taken to break the tie, and the prize money for the tied place shall be added to that for the otherwise next place and that aggregate shall be shared equally by the tied pairs, For honour Board Recognition ties are broken by awarding 2 points to a tied pair for each board on which their match point score is higher than the other tied pair, the pair receiving the highest number of points winning. If these points are equal the tie is broken by lot.

31.4 Ties in Team Events shall not be broken in determining the distribution of Prize Money. Prize Money shall be divided equally between the tying Teams.

31.5 The breaking of ties for Honour Board Recognition in Teams shall be by

- i) Number of wins in VP (a result of 10/10 is equal to half a win)
- ii) By net IMPs
- iii) By Lot

31.6 The breaking of a tie in a particular event may be made in a different manner from that defined in the preceding 2 paragraphs if it has been so defined for that event by EVEREG. In awarding masterpoints any tie shall be assumed not broken notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs.

31.7 Presentation of a prize to any player in the appropriate pair or appropriate team, or their agent authorized in writing, shall be sufficient discharge of the CLUB's obligations in the matter. If no such player is present at presentation time the prize shall be available at the OFFICE for collection.

31.8 A Substitute has no right to receive from the CLUB any part of a prize.

31.9 Unless specially varied by EVEREG, though otherwise qualifying an entrant may NOT win more than one prize, and in such circumstances they will have the right to choose which prize shall be theirs.

### **32. Awarding of Prizes**

32.1 Within the framework of TRAPS and the prize pattern defined by EVEREG for that event, the TD decides entirely in the basis of the final results which participants qualify for prizes.

32.2 Provided the provisional results have become final, the awarding of prizes and/or trophies shall take place either on the final day of play, or if not then at the regular playing session seven days later.

32.3 Winners of certain competitions shall be honoured by their name engraved on a perpetual trophy (eg Kay Hughes Plate), but they have no right to remove that trophy from the CLUB rooms without the written permission of the CLUB President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, and also signing for the receipt thereof.

32.4 Winners of certain events such as the CLUB Pairs Championship and the CLUB Teams Championship shall be recognized by their names being inscribed on Honour Boards that hang in the CLUB Rooms.