

VICTORIAN ANC TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Index

1. Principles
2. General Regulations
3. General Eligibility Criteria
4. Substitution, augmentation, change of personnel and replacement
5. Open team Qualification Process
6. Women's Team Qualification Process
7. Senior's Team Qualification Process
8. Youth team Qualification Process

1. Principles

In preparing these regulations for the selection of teams to represent Victoria at the Australian National Championships, the following principles were used:

- 1.1 The teams selected should have a reasonable chance of winning their respective events at the ANC;
- 1.2 The selection methods used should offer pathways for players from all parts of Victoria and from all clubs;
- 1.3 The selection methods used will allow up-and-coming or less well recognised pairs/players a chance to succeed;
- 1.4 The selection methods used should reward players who play in qualifying events with the partner they intend to compete with if they win selection; and
- 1.5 The selection methods should use differing methods for selecting the open team compared with the “category” teams (seniors, women and youth), including pathways for self-selected teams and teams of pairs.

2. General Regulations

- 2.1. The conduct of the Victorian ANC representative team selections will be governed by the 2008 VBA Tournament Regulations and any supplementary regulations contained in this document.
- 2.2. All players entering the last stage of the Open, Women’s or Seniors representative team selection playoffs have by their entry declared their availability to represent Victoria in the Interstate Teams Championship at the next ANC and their capacity to meet the specified residential and membership regulations.
- 2.3. All players entering a Youth team playoff (should one be required) have by their entry declared their availability to represent Victoria in the Interstate Youth Teams Championship at the ANC.
- 2.4. Players are advised to check the VBA calendar for specific dates and times of the differing Streams, Heats and Finals.

3. General Eligibility Criteria

All players contesting any VBA State Event must be a financial member of the VBA or a club affiliated with the VBA prior to the commencement of the qualifying stages of the event.

If contesting for selection into the Victorian Youth team, a player must be a financial member of the VBA or a club affiliated with the VBA or alternatively be a member of the ABF Youth Player’s Club.

- 3.1. Contending players in the Open, Women's and Seniors' divisions must:
- a) have been residing in Victoria for a period of not less than 6 of the 12 months immediately preceding the final stage of the Selection Trials; or
 - b) be a non-Victorian resident whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the VBA for at least six months immediately prior to the final stage of the Selection Trials; or
 - c) be a new Victorian resident who satisfies the VBA Match and Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the VBA for at least 6 months after the Selection Trials.
- 3.2. Contending players in the Women's division must be female (or qualify as such under the ABF Cross-gender policy).
- 3.3. Contending players in the Seniors' division must have attained the age of 59 years as at 1st January in the year of desired representation – see ABF guidelines for regular updates.
- 3.4. Contending players in the Youth division must be under the age of 25 years as at 31st December in the year prior to representation.

4. Substitution, augmentation, change of personnel, and replacement

4.1 Substitution

Substitution is not a right but a privilege.

Substitution regulations as outlined in the VBA Tournament Regulations are all directly applicable to state qualifying events.

- a) If the substitute fails to satisfy a stratification category (e.g. age qualification for a youth or seniors event) then the pair/team will henceforth be deemed ineligible.
- b) Substitution into the final stage of each selection category shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience. The Director shall report to the Match and Tournament Committee any instance where he/she is of the opinion that the substitution was for insubstantial cause.

4.2 Augmentation to teams prior to a State Team Playoff

- a) To teams qualifying for the State Team Playoff through a designated teams event (e.g. Pennant Team winners): augmentation of a pair or player is to be drawn from players who participated in the final stage of the team event that led to qualification (e.g. the Pennant semi-finals and finals). Augmented players must have met the minimum set or board requirements in the final stage of the relevant team event as outlined in the VBA Tournament Regulations.

- b) Nominated Teams: VQP team nominations will close one week before the commencement of the Butler final. No augmentation will be permitted following that time.

4.3 Change of personnel

- a) Prior to the State Team Playoff: After participants for the State Team Playoffs have been determined but before play has commenced, a team may apply to change its personnel by application to and subject to the approval of the MTC.
- b) After the State Team Playoff: If a four-membered team is successful in the State Team Playoffs, it must augment to a team-of-six ahead of VBA council ratification. The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of three or more eligible pairs and submit this to the MTC for selection. The normal expectation is that nominated pairs will come from the final of the State Team selection event. The MTC will then make a recommendation to the VBA Council for endorsement.

4.4 Replacement Players and Replacement Pairs after the State Team Playoff

Replacement applies when a player or pair withdraws from a State Team after its selection due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal problems, refusal of ratification, or any other reason.

4.4.1 Replacement of a pair:

- a) Where the State team has been selected using a pairs format, the Replacement Pair will be the pair in the next finishing position in the Selection Event (Playoff)
- b) Where the State team has been selected using a teams format, the Replacement Pair will be selected from an ordered short list compiled by the two remaining pairs. The normal expectation is that nominated pairs will come from the final of the State Team selection event. The MTC will make a recommendation to the VBA Council from the names submitted.
- c) The selection of a Replacement Pair remains subject to ratification by the VBA Council.

4.4.2 Replacement of a single member of a State team:

When a player needs to be replaced under the provisions of Paragraph 4.4, the remaining members of the team may nominate up to two Replacement Players (and may, if they wish, specify a preference). The Replacement Player shall be chosen, if necessary, and endorsed by the MTC in consultation with the other members of the team. The Replacement Player shall be subject to ratification by the VBA Council. In the event that the MTC refuses endorsement or the VBA Council refuses ratification, the pair shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the team.

4.4.3 Replacement after ratification:

Changes of team membership after ratification by the VBA Council are the responsibility of the MTC and VBA Council. In general, the guidelines regarding changes to team personnel prior to ratification will apply, but are at the discretion of the MTC and VBA Council.

4.5 Replacement of a single member of a pair or a team entered in the final stage of a State Team Selection but prior to its commencement

- a) The Replacement Player must be any player who meets the criteria (e.g. VQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event.
- b) The Replacement Pair must be any pair that meets the criteria (e.g. VQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event.
- c) In the last resort, the MTC may select a Replacement Pair for ratification.

5. Open Team Qualification Process

There are 4 avenues open for players to qualify for Open Team Selection. Two of these are pairs based and 2 are team based.

They are:

- The VBA Pennant Team
- The VBA Open Butler Team
- The VQP Team
- The Victorian Representative Qualifying Pairs Team

The Victorian open team will be selected via a two-day knockout IMP teams competition. There will be semi-finals on the first day and finals on the second. Screens will be used throughout. A random draw to determine the opposing semi-final teams will be held at the VBA clubrooms on the Wednesday evening before the playoff. The teams will be notified of the outcome of the draw via email and will be informed of the conditions of contest at the same time (e.g. starting and session times, number of boards).

Team qualification events/processes will precede pairs qualification events. The Pennant and VQP teams entering the Open Team Selection Final must comprise four or six players. The Butler and Qualifying Pairs teams will comprise 3 pairs.

Four teams will contest the two day knockout IMP teams competition with one team being selected from each of the streams detailed below.

Once players have qualified through one stream, they cannot contest another qualification event/process as a contending pair or team.

- a) **Stream 1: Pennant – State team Championship.** The winning team from the Pennant final gains a spot in the Victorian Open Team Playoff. The team shall comprise 4 or 6 players (Augmentation rules in Section 4.2 apply).

If the Pennant team which qualified for the Open Team Selection Final changes its team membership by augmenting or dropping a player(s), it must advise the MTC of the team's new composition by the start of Stage 1 of the Butler Pairs Championship.

If the winning team drops below 3 players, it is no longer eligible and the losing finalist will be offered the Pennant teams place. If this team is also ineligible, a playoff between the losing

semi-finalists will determine the Pennant spot (date and conditions to be decided as necessary).

If a winning Pennant team splits into two groups of 3 players and each group wishes to take up the Pennant teams place, the two groups can augment to 4 or 6 players (as specified in Section 4.2). An IMP-scored teams match will be held by 31st December prior to the ANC representative year to decide the Pennant teams place (match conditions and format to be determined by the MTC).

- b) **Stream 2: VQP.** The self-nominated team of 4 or 6 members with the highest total number of Victorian Qualifying Points (VQPs) won in Victorian Congress events in the calendar year between January 2nd and the following January 2nd will form the VQP team for the Victorian Open Team Playoff.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. one week prior to the start of the final stage of the Victorian Butler Championship of the ANC representative year. After finalisation of the VQP team composition, augmentation is not permitted.

- c) **Stream 3: Butler.** To be eligible for the Butler team, players must not have qualified for the Open Team Playoff via another pathway. Prior to the final stage of the Victorian Butler Pairs Championship, pairs must declare their availability for membership of the Butler teams place. The three highest-placed, available pairs will form the Butler open playoff team.

It is expected that eligible pairs who qualify will take up their Butler team places (if a pair subsequently withdraws they will not be permitted to contest any other selection event in the same representative year).

Should 3 pairs not be obtained from the Butler Pairs final, the highest placed, available pairs from the Butler Pairs Plate will be offered any vacant places in descending order.

- d) **Stream 4: Qualifying Pairs.** The three highest placed pairs from the Victorian Representative Qualifying Pairs two-day competition will form the fourth Open Playoff team.

This event will take place after the first three selection events have been completed and is open to all players who have not qualified by another stream.

The format of the event will be determined once the size of the field is known.

6. Women's Team Qualification Process

- 6.1 The representatives of each of the three regions will automatically qualify for the women's playoff final.

Should more than one region fail to nominate a pair then the next-placed pair (s) from Heat 1 or 2 will be included. Which heat will depend on the number of entries in the heat and the number of pairs already qualified from that heat based upon the criteria listed below.

- 6.2 All pairs who have not qualified as one of the regional pairs may qualify for the women's playoff final via heats as specified below:
- a) **Heat One:** Conducted over 3 evening sessions held at the VBA. Where 12 or more contending pairs enter the heat, the top 6 contending pairs will qualify for the final. Where fewer than 12 contending pairs enter the heat, the top 50% of pairs, rounded down will qualify, e.g. if 9 pairs, only 4 will qualify.
 - b) **Heat Two:** A one-day pairs event. Where 6 or more contending pairs enter the heat, the top 3 pairs will qualify for the final.
 - c) **Heat Format:** Where possible the heats will be conducted as a round robin, however this is subject to the number of entries received and may be changed at the director's discretion; any changes will be relayed to the participants at the beginning of each Heat. Scores will be cross impeded.
- 1.3 **Women's Playoff Final:** The final of the Women's Playoff will be held on a single weekend at the VBA clubrooms.
- a) The format of the women's playoff will be a round robin where all pairs will play all other pairs entered. Screens will be used. Scoring will be cross-impeded.
 - b) The VBA reserves the right to reduce the final to a lesser table event if the required number of pairs is not achieved.
 - c) The final of the Women' and Seniors' ANC Teams selection will be played on the same weekend. If the fields are identical in size the event will be scored across both fields but ranked separately.
- 1.4 The top three pairs at the conclusion of the women's playoff final will be put forward by MTC to the VBA Council for ratification as the Victorian Women's Representative Team for that year.

7. Senior's Team Qualification Process

- 7.1 The representatives of each of the three regions will automatically qualify for the senior's playoff final.
- Should more than one region fail to nominate a pair then the next-placed pair (s) from Heat 1 or 2 will be included. Which heat will depend on the number of entries in the heat and the number of pairs already qualified from that heat based upon the criteria listed below.
- 7.2 All pairs who have not qualified as one of the regional pairs may qualify via heats as specified below:
- a) **Heat One:** Conducted over 3 evening sessions at the VBA. Where 12 or more contending pairs enter the heat, the top 6 contending pairs will qualify for the final. Where fewer than

12 contending pairs enter the heat, the top 50% of pairs, rounded down will qualify, eg. 9 pairs only 4 will qualify.

- b) **Heat Two:** A one-day pairs event. Where 6 or more contending pairs enter the heat, the top 3 pairs will qualify for the final.
- c) **Heat Format:** Where possible the heats will be conducted as a round robin, however this is subject to the number of entries received and may be changed at the director's discretion; any changes will be relayed to the participants at the beginning of each Heat. Scores will be cross impeded.

7.3 **Seniors Playoff Final:** The finals of the Seniors Playoff will be held on a single weekend at the VBA clubrooms.

- a) The format of the Seniors playoff will be a round robin where all pairs will play all other pairs entered. Screens will be used. Scoring will be cross-imp.
- b) The VBA reserves the right to reduce the final to a lesser table event if the required number of pairs is not achieved.
- c) The final of the Seniors and Women's will be played on the same weekend. If the fields are identical in size the event will be scored across both fields but ranked separately.

7.4 The top three pairs at the conclusion of the Seniors playoff final will be put forward by MTC to the VBA Council for ratification as the Victorian Seniors Representative Team for that year.

8. Youth Team Qualification Process

8.1 Players who are older may be allowed to play subject to authorisation by the ABF Youth Committee.

8.2 Should three or fewer pairs nominate, the VBA Council will consider, on recommendation of the MTC, ratifying the nominees as the Victorian Youth Team without any further selection process. Should more than six players nominate, the Match and Tournament Committee will decide on the method of selection to be used.

8.3 If required, a letter signed by the VBA president outlining the player's commitment to Bridge at a high level, may be provided to those who could have trouble getting time off school or have clashes with other commitments.