Victorian Qualifying Points – FAQ

What was the problem with the previous selection process?

The previous selection process for Victorian teams was both difficult for most Victorians to access, and overly long and constraining for those who did participate. The process was most awkward for players in Outer Melbourne because they didn't have a regional pathway to the various team playoffs, yet it was often difficult for them to get to the VBA for the main State championships.

Every player in Victoria now has access to multiple qualifying events held near them, and there is now much more flexibility in choosing which events to contest to qualify for the playoff.

Who will be eligible to play in the VQP Team at the Victorian Open Team playoff?

Anybody eligible to represent Victoria who has any VQPs, even 1. In 2017, more than 200 eligible players earned VQPs from Congress events.

When will the Open Team playoff be held?

Weekend of Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th April 2018. The Victorian Open Team will contest the Interstate Teams Championship at the Australian National Championships in July (see the ABF website for details).

How does a player form a VQP team?

The VBA publishes and regularly updates a list of players and their VQPs on the VBA website. Players can use that to decide who to ask to form a team. Nominated teams will be taken on the VBA website.

How do we know how many VQPs each event will attract?

We publish a detailed VQP allocation schedule on the VBA website (just like the ABF does for the PQP scheme).

How do players claim their VQPs?

Players don't have to do anything. The VBA tracks results from every VQP event, and publishes current standings on a regular basis.

What will happen to the Country Teams Championship?

It will continue exactly as before. Each region will qualify representative teams to the Country Teams Championship, and the winner earns a place in the Pennant finals series. In addition, the Country Teams Champion will be awarded VQPs (approximately the same as for a large Congress).

Do players with VQPs have to enter the playoff?

Absolutely not. Nominating a team for the playoff is entirely optional.

Can teams enter the playoff with only 4 members (and append later)?

Yes. However, the entered teams are ranked for playoff nomination by the team's total VQP. This is encouraging the early formation of 6 person teams. The final Victorian team has to have 6 players, so a successful team in the playoff with 4 or 5 players must augment to 6.

How do teams append/replace members post-playoff?

The process is specified in the tournament regulations.

Why aren't there VQPs for the VCC (or other national events)?

Two reasons:

1) We're trying to select Victorian teams, and we're interested in performances by Victorians in Victorian events.

2) We want to promote the Victorian Congress circuit in particular.

However, we are considering allocating some VQPs for Victorian representative teams that are successful in the Interstate Teams Championship.

Why is the playoff teams (rather than pairs)?

We're aligning the format of the selection event with the format of the target event. Our experience with the previous selection method is that the team (the Pennant winner) was successful far more often than the collection of pairs (the Butler team). We do intend to run the Women's and Senior's playoffs as IMP pairs events because we anticipate that the smaller player pools will make it harder to form teams directly.

Why not just use masterpoints instead of creating VQPs?

Not all masterpoints are created equal. For example, you get just as many masterpoints at a congress for winning a match at table 20 as you do at table 1. Like the ABF with the PQP scheme, we're trying to identify players who consistently figure in the top few places at stronger events.

Why do some matchpoint events attract VQPs?

The ABF allocates PQPs for strong national matchpoint pairs events – because they're strong events. Our reasoning is the same.