

Victorian Bridge Association Ltd Tournament Regulations

Version: 01 October 2008

VBA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Date: 01 October 2008

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. COMMITTEES.....	3
3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY	4
4. SUBSTITUTION, AUGMENTATION, ELIGIBILITY & LATE ENTRIES	5
5. SYSTEMS.....	10
6. BIDDING AND PLAY PROCEDURES.....	12
7. ALERTS	14
8. PUNCTUALITY AND SLOW PLAY	14
9. FOULED BOARDS.....	15
10. SPECTATORS, CAPTAINS, AND CLOSED ROOMS	16
11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.....	17
12. DRESS, SMOKING, MOBILE PHONES AND BEHAVIOUR	17
13. TIE-BREAKS, REPLACEMENT OF UNAVAILABLE PAIRS OR TEAMS.....	18
14. SCORING PROCEDURES	19
15. APPEALS COMMITTEE AND PROCEDURES PENDING APPEALS	21
16. VBA APPEALS RULES	22

General Tournament Regulations

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Regulations (the "Regulations") shall apply to all tournaments conducted by the Victorian Bridge Association (VBA) either alone or in co-operation with affiliated clubs or other bodies.
- 1.2. VBA tournaments shall be played under The Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 2007 (the "Code") as supplemented by these Regulations.
- 1.3. Each VBA tournament shall have Supplementary Regulations which shall be deemed to be part of these Regulations. In the case of conflict the Supplementary Regulations shall apply. In any session at a club affiliated with the VBA or at any Congress conducted by such club under the auspices of the VBA, the Tournament Regulations of that club shall apply. Where no such Tournament Regulations exist, these Regulations shall apply.
- 1.4. No claim shall lie against the VBA by reason of the conduct of any tournament pursuant to the Regulations.
- 1.5. Competitive integrity requires that every competitor in a VBA tournament try to do as well as possible in each round, match or section of each competition and every competitor is hereby required to do so. This Regulation is directed to intention. A breach of this Regulation will result in disciplinary action by the VBA and the offence will be treated as a serious one. Intention will, for the purpose of assessing whether a breach has occurred, be inferred by the VBA from the result actually obtained having due regard to all factors reasonably explicable of such results. The criterion used will be "balance of probabilities" and not "beyond reasonable doubt".

2. COMMITTEES

- 2.1. The Council of the VBA annually appoints a Chairman of the Match & Tournament Committee (MTC) and a Chairman of the Rules and Ethics Committee.
- 2.2. The Match & Tournament Committee (MTC)

The function of the MTC is (consistent with the Code and the Regulations) to oversee the efficient conduct of the VBA tournaments and it shall discharge in that regard such duties as are not by the Code or the Regulations expressly the responsibility of the Director or the Appeals Committee including in an emergency or unforeseen circumstances the duty to promulgate (after the fact if necessary) any further Regulation that may be required for the proper conduct of any tournament. Any question as to the jurisdiction of the MTC either generally or vis a vis the Appeals Committee shall be determined by the Council of the

VBA whose decision shall be final. The MTC is not necessarily an appellate body and may take action of its own motion or initiative.

2.3. The Rules and Ethics Committee

The Rules and Ethics Committee is empowered by the Council of the VBA and its Articles of Association to exercise certain disciplinary powers of VBA, but nothing herein shall negate the powers of the Director under Law 91 of the Code.

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

3.1. Subject to the rights of its members under its Articles of Association:

- a) The VBA reserves the right in its discretion to reject the entry of any player, pair or team to a VBA tournament or to any session or stage thereof;
- b) As a consequence of incidents which may occur in a VBA tournament or in any international, interstate, interclub or other event at which the VBA is represented, the VBA reserves the right in its discretion to reject the entry of any player, pair or team for any future tournament conducted by the VBA or otherwise under its auspices whether for a limited or unlimited time and without assigning any reason for such rejection.

3.2. In addition to or substitution for firstly the exercise of any power under the Code as modified by the Regulations and secondly any other power referred to in this Regulation, the VBA reserves the right to request a Club affiliated with the VBA to take disciplinary action against any member of that club as a consequence of events which may occur in a VBA tournament or in any international, interstate, interclub or other event where official representatives of the VBA are playing.

3.3. It shall be a condition of entry to VBA selection events that:

- a) unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations of such event only members of the VBA and its affiliated clubs will be eligible to represent Victoria;
- b) selection as a Victorian representative depends upon subsequent ratification by the VBA Council notwithstanding the results of such a tournament and that such ratification may be refused by the VBA Council without any reason being assigned therefore provided always that at any meeting of the Council of the VBA where a motion to refuse ratification is put it shall not be dealt with by that meeting or by any subsequent meeting until the player or players the subject of any motion to have ratification refused is or are given an opportunity to be heard by the VBA Council either in person or by written statement.

In addition, for VBA selection events leading to selection of a Victorian *team*:

- c) unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations of such event, continuation beyond the first qualifying stage of an event leading to selection of a Victorian team by players eligible to represent Victoria constitutes a declaration of availability to represent the VBA in the target event.
- 3.4. Unauthorised withdrawal from a tournament is a withdrawal for a period of any one deal or longer not approved in advance by the Director or the MTC or ratified thereafter by either of them in the case of accident or emergency. For all purposes under this clause a pair may be deemed to have withdrawn from a tournament if both members of the partnership are not in attendance and ready to play every deal for which they are scheduled to play at the time set down. Players that make an unauthorised withdrawal must pay all entry and table fees for the tournament that would otherwise have been due. In addition, they may be excluded from the corresponding event the following year.
- 3.5. Breaching availability is, having made an explicit or implicit declaration of availability (such as per 3.3), failing to progress to the next stage of competition having qualified to so progress or failing to represent Victoria having been selected. Players who breach availability must refund all subsidies paid. In addition, they may be excluded from any or all selection events the following year.

4. SUBSTITUTION, AUGMENTATION, ELIGIBILITY & LATE ENTRIES

- 4.1. The number of substitutions allowed in any tournament shall be as provided in the Substitution Rules of the VBA as set out hereunder. Emergency substitutions not covered by the Regulations may be allowed for substantial cause by a special ruling of the Director subject in such cases to such terms as the Director may impose. In the last resort, the Director may take whatever action necessary to keep the tournament in motion. See also clause 13.4.
- 4.2. The Director shall report to the MTC any instance where he is of the opinion that the substitution was outside of the Regulations. The MTC may treat a substitution outside the Regulations without reasonable cause as an unauthorised withdrawal.
- 4.3. Where an event or sections of an event are restricted to a particular category (e.g. to Men's Pairs, Mixed Teams and so on) or where prizes are available to the best performances by players in a restricted category the pair or team in question must play throughout the event so that at all times the members of the pair or team (including substitutes) actually competing fall within the restricted category in question.

4.4. Substitution Rules

4.4.1. Terminology

Unit means the original team, pair or individual, but includes augmented players (in the case of teams events), and players who become permanent (see clause 4.5.5). For a teams event, a unit shall consist of four, five or six members. For a pairs event, a unit shall consist of two members.

Substitute means a non-unit player who represents that unit for one session or a part thereof.

Substitution means the replacement of a unit member by a substitute for one session or a part thereof.

Stage of competition means those successive sessions where the size of the field which is eligible to win the competition is not reduced (excluding reduction due to disqualification or withdrawal). In partial knock-out events, all successive knock-out sessions shall constitute the one stage.

Equivalent standard means that degree of equivalence where the ability of the substitute is neither significantly higher nor lower than that of the player whom the substitute is replacing. Masterpoint rank need not be a determining factor and the relative experience of the two partnerships may be taken into account.

Overweight Substitute means a substitute of significantly greater ability than the player whom the substitute is replacing. Similarly, an *Underweight Substitute* is one of significantly lesser ability than the substituted player.

Ineligible substitutes include those that have entered in the same stage of the competition, those who would not have been eligible to enter the competition, and those still competing in the competition.

Altered score is either the actual score obtained in a session, or the average of all the other scores which the unit obtained in that stage of the competition, or the complement of the opponent's score for that stage of the event, whichever is least.

4.4.2. It is a condition of entry to all VBA events that each entrant is obliged to play in all sessions, or arrange a substitute if unable to play. The Director should be notified of this substitution at least 24 hours before the relevant session. The entrant shall make every effort to find a substitute of equivalent standard, as defined in these Rules.

VBA Tournament Regulations

- 4.4.3. Each disqualified unit shall be obliged to play in the remaining sessions of that stage of the event, unless the Director, in conjunction with the MTC, expels the unit from the event.
- 4.4.4. The unit is responsible for the payment of all table money, notwithstanding the use of a substitute.
- 4.4.5. The Director must be notified in writing of all substitutions at least 15 minutes before the start of the session on a form supplied for that purpose. The form requires details of the substitute, the absent player, the partner of the substitute, the event, the session, the pair/team number. The form should note the maximum Overweight Substitution Penalties. It is advisable to notify the Director as early as possible in case penalties or disqualification may result.
- 4.4.6. One member of MTC should sign the substitution form if the substitute is not regarded as overweight. Two should sign, with a notation of the penalty to be applied, if the substitute is regarded as overweight or ineligible.
- 4.5. Substitution
- 4.5.1. Limits on substitution are calculated in terms of *Sets*. A Set is a significant and distinct unit of play:
- a) A match of at least 8 boards is a set;
 - b) Segments of at least 8 boards comprising a longer match are each sets;
 - c) Otherwise a distinct session of play of at least 16 boards is a set (matchpoint pairs is the typical example)
- 4.5.2. Any given player may substitute for no more than half of the sets.
- 4.5.3. Each member of the unit must play the *Minimum Sets*. The Minimum Sets is defined as $[N-1]/2$ rounded down where N is the total number of sets to be played. For example, if N is 7 or 8, Minimum Sets is 3. A player is deemed to have played every set it might have played that was not actually played (eg due to a concession in a long teams match).
- 4.5.4. In a pairs event, the unit must play the Minimum Sets together.
- 4.5.5. Any unit which does not comply with the preceding clauses in respect of a competition will be disqualified except as provided under clause 4.6.4.
- 4.5.6. A unit with more players than is required for a given set (such as a team of 5 or 6) is not further constrained in its use of substitutes.

VBA Tournament Regulations

- 4.5.7. In principle the unit shall receive the actual score for the session(s) in which the substitute(s) played. An *Overweight Substitution Penalty* may be applied, which acts to modify the actual score. In exceptional circumstances, the Director and/or MTC may award an adjusted score.
- 4.5.8. The maximum Overweight Substitution penalty in an IMP scored session is one IMP per board. The maximum penalty in a matchpoint scored session is the matchpoint equivalent of two tops.
- 4.5.9. Any Overweight Substitution penalty must be agreed by at least two members of MTC. The size of the penalty should reflect both the need to restore equity and a measure of penalty for introducing an overweight substitute.
- 4.5.10. Opponents of units playing with an Overweight Substitution penalty receive a pro rata benefit based on the boards contested. In a teams match, this simply means the net result is adjusted by the penalty. In a matchpoint pairs event, the opposing pairs receive a fraction of the matchpoint penalty corresponding to the fraction of the set's boards contested head-to-head.
- 4.5.11. Excessively overweight substitutes may be deemed ineligible and thereby disqualify the unit.
- 4.5.12. Upon application by the unit to the MTC, a substitute may become a permanent member of a unit by replacing a player of equivalent standard. Such application must be made before the commencement of the next stage of the event. In such circumstances the replaced player will be deemed to have been a substitute. The reconstituted unit must comply with clauses 4.5.2 through 4.5.4.
- 4.5.13. If a player substitutes for a small number of boards, the Director may rule that a substitution has not taken place.
- 4.6. Procedures and Miscellaneous
- 4.6.1. Masterpoints. Substitutes earn sessional masterpoints which are calculated before any alteration to scores. Outright awards are shared between unit members after any alteration of scores, provided the unit has not been disqualified.
- 4.6.2. Substitution Forms. The Director shall ensure that the form is retained for one month after the completion of the event and shall produce it to the MTC or Appeals Committee if required.
- 4.6.3. A unit may appeal to the MTC against a ruling that a substitute is overweight or ineligible.

VBA Tournament Regulations

- 4.6.4. The MTC may approve additional substitutions under Section 4 in special circumstances. In particular, absence while representing Australia or Victoria may be considered a special circumstance, provided approval is obtained in advance.
- 4.6.5. Where an illegal substitution occurs for one or more sessions of an event, the Director, in conjunction with the MTC, may at his discretion modify the scores of all the opponents of the unit containing the illegal substitution, where the MTC considers that the results of a session could have been materially affected by the illegal substitution. If the Director proceeds in this fashion, such modified scores will be equal to the average of the unit's average score for that stage of the event (excluding the match involving the illegal substitution) and the complement of the altered score awarded as per clause 4.5.4.
- 4.7. Augmentation
- 4.7.1. *Augmentation* is the addition of players to a team. The resultant team may have up to six players. The augmented players become permanent members of the team.
- 4.7.2. Teams that fall below three members (including approved additions, such as provided for in 4.5.12) are considered to have disbanded and are not eligible to augment.
- 4.7.3. Permission to augment must be obtained from the Director and the MTC.
- 4.7.4. No augmentation will be permitted after the start of play of the penultimate session of stage 1 of any event.
- 4.7.5. Augmented players must play the same number of Minimum Sets (see 4.5.3) as that required for all original team members.
- 4.7.6. Augmented players must:
- a) not have entered the event;
 - b) be eligible to enter the event.
- 4.8. Ineligible Entry
- 4.8.1. If permitted by the Supplementary Regulations, a non-eligible unit may enter an event which has restricted entry provided it pays all the entry fees and table monies as though it were eligible.

4.8.2. Ineligible units which enter an event under the provisions of clause 4.8.1:

- a) are not entitled to any prizes or titles associated with the event;
- b) may not qualify to any subsequent stage of the event;
- c) are not entitled to any outright masterpoints, but are entitled to sessional masterpoints.

4.9. Late Entry

4.9.1. Units may be accepted into a field, after the completion of the first session, provided they obtain the Director's permission and pay the full entry fee for the event.

4.9.2. Units which enter an event under the provisions of clause 4.9.1 will be awarded a score of 40% (or the 40th percentile score) for any session they have missed. In a knock-out event with repechage section, such units will be accepted into the repechage section only.

5. SYSTEMS

5.1. System Cards

Except for events where the Director determines that a system card is not required, each pair shall have on the table during the periods of play a legible system card properly identified with their names. The system card shall be one approved by the VBA; that is, one supplied by the VBA or the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF). The onus is on the pair to prepare an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. System cards should remain on the table during play.

At the commencement of each round, it is highly recommended that a pair should consult the system card of the opponents to determine their general system, strength of 1NT opening, length of opening suit bids and level of negative doubles. The purpose of this Regulation is to reduce the possibility of unauthorized information being conveyed by questions asked during the auction or play. This Regulation in no way reduces a pair's obligation to alert its opponents to any special partnership understandings under Law 40 of the Code, or under Regulation 7 hereunder.

5.2. System Classification

For the purposes of Regulation, the current classification of systems as adopted by the ABF (June, 2008) and as amended by the ABF from time to time shall be adopted also by the VBA. This classification corresponds closely to the WBF classification.

5.3. A pair, playing a Green system throughout an event, which has both of its players below National Master or one player below Local Master, may designate itself as a "protected pair". (A "protected pair" will be identified by means of an orange sticker attached to the front of its system card.) In events where the Regulations allow pairs to claim "protected pair" status, pairs playing Yellow systems are required to ascertain before the start of each round whether their opponents are a "protected pair". If so, the pair playing the Yellow system must revert to a non-Yellow system for that round. In such cases the pair must provide a second system card detailing its non-Yellow system.

5.4. System Restrictions

5.4.1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Supplementary Regulations of the event, all IMP scored events which have the status of State Championships shall not be restricted to any of the classifications described in 5.3.

5.4.2. Yellow systems will not be allowed in any matchpointed pairs event.

5.4.3. At other VBA club sessions receiving Red Masterpoints, all systems will be permitted, but pairs satisfying the conditions outlined in clause 5.3 may designate themselves as "protected".

5.4.4. At all other sessions, Yellow systems will not be permitted.

5.4.5. The MTC may further regulate the use of systems for any session as it deems appropriate.

5.4.6. The systems permitted in Victorian Congress events, shall be determined by the host Club and published in the Congress entry brochure.

5.5. Yellow systems

5.5.1. Any pair wishing to play a Yellow system must submit an appropriate system summary to the MTC at least seven days before the session in which it wishes to play the system. On submission, the system summary will be dated and the pair will be required to enter a copy in the Systems File kept for the purpose of advising potential opponents of Yellow systems. Copies of system summaries may not be removed from the Systems File except with the permission of the Chairman of the MTC or his representative.

5.5.2. Pairs playing a Yellow system must supply their opponents with two copies of a written defence. Such defence must include actions and subsequent continuations over any and all opening calls that make the system Yellow. It must be concise (so that the opponents can use it with no prior discussion), yet detailed enough to be an effective defence. The written defence must be approved by the Chairman of the MTC before approval to play the Yellow system will be granted. Upon approval of the written defence, two copies of it will be placed in the Systems File.

- 5.5.3. Written defences to Yellow systems will be allowed on the table.
- 5.6. Written defences to Red, Blue or Green systems shall not be allowed on the table.
- 5.7. Both members of a partnership must use the same bidding system and play conventions.
- 5.8. No more than two discrete systems may be played by a pair in a session. For the purposes of this regulation, a simple change in the high card points required for a specific opening depending on vulnerability or position will not constitute a change in system. Pairs playing two systems, one or both of which are Yellow, who are required to revert to a non-Yellow system by a “protected pair”, will be deemed to be playing a separate session against the “protected pair”.
- 5.9. It is implicit that a partnership should know its own system. The Director may require a pair to cease playing a particular system and revert to a more natural system if, in the Director's opinion, the bidding and/or explanations of the partnership demonstrate that it does not have an adequate knowledge of its system. The Director shall report such a ruling to the MTC. The MTC may prohibit the pair from playing such system until it is able to demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of the system.

6. BIDDING AND PLAY PROCEDURES

6.1. Written bidding

- 6.1.1. Written bidding will be used unless the tournament supplementary regulations or the Director explicitly specifies some other form of bidding. If the Director believes that the circumstances require it, he may institute alternative bidding procedures without any further authorisation, whether for one or more tables only or for all competitors. For example, the Director may authorise the use of bidding boxes at one table at the request and agreement of all four players at the table.
- 6.1.2. The bidding slip may be marked with a circle designating the dealer and a straight line designating a pair as vulnerable. This marking is not recommended – the designations on the board should be adequate.
- 6.1.3. The Director may apply a procedural penalty to a player who marks the written bidding sheet incorrectly. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of all players to know and to use the dealer and vulnerability marked on the board: players who take action based on a written bidding sheet that is marked incorrectly have no recourse.

6.1.4. The only legal notations are:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, C, D, H, S, NT,
X (double), XX (redouble), / or \ (pass), // or \\ (final pass).

Full stops after bids are not allowed. “N” for “no trumps” is not an approved notation. Players should use the appropriate square on the bidding slip, and write their bids in a consistent manner.

6.1.5. The bidding slip shall remain in view until the first trick has been quitted, whereupon the bidding slip should be removed from view. Any player may remove the slip, although dummy is preferred.

6.2. Bidding Boxes

6.2.1. Bidding boxes must be used:

- a) when specified by the tournament Supplementary Regulations, or
- b) when specified by the Director of the session.

6.2.2. When used, bidding boxes must be used by all four players at the table.

6.2.3. All players make their first call by placing the appropriate bid on the table immediately in front of them, slightly to their left. Each player’s bidding cards should be orientated so that the large print is upside-down from that player’s perspective.

6.2.4. Each player’s subsequent calls should be placed on top of the previous ones so that the bidding cards partly overlap and every call in the sequence is visible.

6.2.5. A call is considered made when the appropriate bidding card has been removed from the player’s bidding box with intent.

6.2.6. An unintended call (such as accidentally placing the wrong bidding card on the table) may be changed without penalty under Law 25A, however in situations where a doubt exists in respect to the player’s original intent, the Director may elect to rule under Law 25B (Purposeful change of Call).

6.2.7. To alert, a player should say “alert” and place one of the “ALERT” cards next to partner’s alertable call.

6.2.8. At the end of the auction, the opening leader places his lead face down on the table. At this point, with the auction still on the table, the leader’s partner and Declarer may request an explanation of the opponents’ auction.

6.2.9. After all explanations have been completed, the opening lead should be faced and the players should return their bidding cards to their respective boxes.

- 6.3. In framing questions about the auction, special care must be exercised to avoid pointing to one particular bid which could induce a call or a lead based solely on the question. The Director should be called immediately any player feels that a "pointed" question has been asked.
- 6.4. The MTC may prescribe the use of screens for any stage of any event. If this occurs the MTC will set out procedures for the use of the screens in the Supplementary Regulations.

7. ALERTS

7.1. Introduction

These regulations adopt in full the ABF Alerting Regulations as adopted by the ABF on 1 June 2008 and as amended from time to time.

The introduction to the ABF Alerting Regulations states "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."

- 7.2. The ABF Alerting Regulations are available from the ABF web site.

8. PUNCTUALITY AND SLOW PLAY

- 8.1. Failure to complete a session on time is not the only index of slow play. The Director may penalise a partnership at any time if he considers its slow play disruptive of the movement.
- 8.2. Players should be seated 5 minutes before the start of play. Any unit not seated and ready to play within 5 minutes after the start of a session may, at the discretion of the Director, be penalised as follows:

Lateness	In a WBF VP scale match (30VP)	In a matchpoint pairs event
5 to 10 minutes	1 VP	25% of a top
11 to 15 minutes	2 VP	50% of a top
16 to 20 minutes	3 VP	75% of a top
21 to 30 minutes	5 VP	125% of a top

and in other cases on a basis which the MTC deems to be equivalent to such scale. For delays of over 30 minutes in matches, the Director may assess a more severe penalty, including default of the match and disqualification from the event. A substitute pair or player may be used by the Director to complete the movement. It is the responsibility of the players to know when sessions are due to commence.

VBA Tournament Regulations

8.3. Where a round, session or match is not completed in the time allotted, both pairs at the offending table may, at the discretion of the Director, (subject as hereinafter provided) be penalised as follows:

	In a WBF VP scale match (30VP)	In a matchpoint pairs event
First offence	Warning	warning
Second offence	1 VP	25% of a top
Third offence	2 VP	50% of a top
Further offences	3 VP	75% of a top

If the period of time between any two consecutive offences by the same pair exceeds six (6) calendar months, the later offence will be deemed to be a first offence.

8.4. Both pairs at the table shall be penalised unless the Director has been called to the table during the session and has ruled one pair to be innocent of slow play or unless the Director has sufficiently observed the table to rule that one pair be exempted from penalty. The Director may in his absolute discretion (and whether or not he has been requested to do so by any player or players) appoint a monitor or monitors to observe play at any table and to report to the Director on the time taken by each pair or its 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.

8.5. Where a pair is penalised for a late start, the starting time shall run from the official commencement time of the session. The Director may in his absolute discretion alter the length of a session (including changing the number of boards to be played) at one or more tables to facilitate or maintain the orderly progress of an event. The Director may make time calls or call attention to delays in completing individual matches, but competitors should not rely upon him to do so.

8.6. Except as provided in clause 8.8, warnings and fines will carry over from session to session, irrespective of a change of event.

8.7. In knockout teams or pairs events, a fine of 1 VP is deemed to be the equivalent of 3 IMPs. Where both sides are judged to be at fault, the winning team or pair will carry-over the fine into the next match.

9. FOULED BOARDS

14.1. Where a board is fouled as defined under Law 87, in Butler or other events in which the scoring method involves the IMP conversion of the difference between the score obtained and some datum score, the Director shall:

- a) Providing that the hand has been played by sufficient pairs in the identical faulty form (by four tables or one third of the field (with fractions being rounded up), whichever is less but a minimum of three tables), treat it as a separate deal determining a separate datum for the changed board and

VBA Tournament Regulations

calculate scores for that part of the field from this datum. If the Director proceeds in this way, he shall, after calculating all scores, determine the average of all the scores (in IMPs) obtained by those pairs who played the true board and, separately, the corresponding average for those who played the fouled board; or

- b) Otherwise award an adjusted score of Average Plus to those pairs who played the fouled board as provided in Law 86.

14.2. Where a board is fouled as defined under Law 87, in an event where the scoring method is matchpoints:

- a) Providing that the hand has been played by at least three pairs in the identical faulty form, the Director determines as closely as possible which scores were made on the board in it's correct form and which in the changed form. He divides the scores on that basis into two groups and rates each group separately by awarding each player or pair the matchpoints allotted under Law 78A, plus 1 extra matchpoint for each score in the other group.

- b) Otherwise an adjusted score of Average Plus is awarded to those pairs who played the fouled board as provided in Law 12C1(d).

14.3. Whenever the Director finds it necessary to act in any of the above ways, he shall publish along with the results of the session a clear statement explaining his actions.

14.4. A board turned through 90 degrees shall not be regarded as a fouled board in individual, matchpointed pairs or IMP scored pairs events.

10. SPECTATORS, CAPTAINS, AND CLOSED ROOMS

10.1. Spectators will be allowed to watch play (at one table only) in the open room(s) but there shall be no spectators in the closed room(s). A spectator may not watch play at more than one table and should, if possible, be seated and should refrain from looking into more than one hand or moving round the table during the bidding or play. Spectators must remain silent unless spoken to by a player or official. Provided that a spectator observes these conditions and matters of general etiquette, a player has no right to object to his/her presence at the table.

10.2. Captains are entitled to watch only the table in the closed room at which their team is playing, but are not entitled to leave the closed room while that table is still in play (except as allowed by the Director).

10.3. No person other than players, captains, working officials or Directors are entitled to access to the closed room except with the express permission of the Director.

10.4. A player may not watch at any table at which his own team is playing, including times when he is not playing in that session. A player, having completed play in a session, may not watch at any table where boards are being played which he himself has previously played.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

11.1. At the conclusion of any session of any tournament conducted by the VBA, the Director may complete and provide to the MTC a report of all incidents occurring during that session and must do so if required by the MTC.

12. DRESS, SMOKING, MOBILE PHONES AND BEHAVIOUR

12.1. Contestants in VBA tournaments shall adhere to the standard of dress required by the Council of the VBA for members and visitors to its club rooms.

12.2. Good manners are considered an essential part of bridge and the Director is specifically empowered to require players to adhere to a high standard of manners and decorum. The Director shall in his report inform the MTC of any departure from these standards by any player. The MTC may at its discretion refer any such matter to the Rules and Ethics Committee for its consideration.

12.3. Smoking is prohibited at all times in the playing area of any tournament conducted by the VBA. Failure to observe such prohibition shall be a breach of good manners entitling the Director to exercise his disciplinary powers under the Laws and shall be reported to the MTC in the Director's report.

12.4. Mobile phones

12.4.1. Mobile phones must be turned off during session time. If a player's mobile phone rings during session time, that player's unit will be penalised as follows:

	In a WBF VP scale match (30VP)	In a matchpoint pairs event
First offence	1 VP	25% of a top
Second offence	2 VP	50% of a top
Third offence	3 VP	75% of a top

The above scales are applicable to all Weekend Finals and the latter stages of Victorian Selection Events. A first offence in any other State or Club competition shall only attract a warning, while the penalties for subsequent offences remain as per above.

12.4.2. Players, for professional reasons, may apply in writing to the Council of the VBA to be exempted from the penalties provided for in Regulation 12.4.1.

13. TIE-BREAKS, REPLACEMENT OF UNAVAILABLE PAIRS OR TEAMS

13.1. Differences of fractions of a matchpoint, percentage, IMP or Victory Point will be sufficient to determine placings. Fractions shall be calculated to one decimal place only, by rounding.

13.2. Ties shall be broken by successively applying the following procedures until a winner is determined:

13.2.1. For Swiss Teams, Swiss IMP Pairs and Butler Pairs

- a) the total score of all opponents shall be determined. The team or pair with the highest total shall be deemed to have had the most difficult draw and shall be ranked highest;
- b) the pair or team with the greatest number of wins in VPs (a draw is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ win) shall be ranked highest;
- c) the total scores shall be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result, then second worst result, *etc.* of each of the tying pairs or teams;
- d) the pair or team with the greatest positive or least negative IMP difference shall be ranked highest;
- e) in the case of two-way ties, the winner of the match between the two equally scoring pairs or teams (if such a match occurred) shall be ranked higher;
- f) ranking shall be determined by lot.

13.2.2. For Knock-out Teams or for qualification to the next stage of a teams event:

Four board playoffs to be played immediately the tie is agreed. (Scoring errors made in the original match, or qualifying matches, may be corrected up until the time limits set out in Regulation 14, hereunder. Where the original match is no longer tied after the correction of such scoring errors, the result of the tie-break will be immaterial.) If the four-board playoff is tied, two-board playoffs will be played until a conclusion is reached.

13.2.3. Round Robins

Apply the procedures per 13.2.1, excepting (1).

13.2.4. Matchpoints

- a) The total matchpoints of all the tying pairs' opponents shall be determined. The pair with the highest total shall be ranked highest;
- b) The scores of each of the tying pairs shall be compared on all boards which they played in the same direction. Each pair shall be awarded two matchpoints for each (tying) pair whose score they have beaten, and one matchpoint for each (tying) pair whose score they have equalled;
- c) On boards where the pairs played in opposite directions or only one pair played the board, they shall be awarded two matchpoints for a score above the average on the board, one matchpoint for an average score, and zero otherwise;
- d) The scores obtained by means of (a) and (b) shall be added, with the highest scoring pair ranked highest;
- e) In the case of two-way ties, the pair scoring higher in the encounter between the two pairs (should it have occurred) shall be ranked higher;
- f) The pair with the best score against the highest placed pair in the field shall be ranked highest, then successively to the second-highest placed pair, *etc.*

13.3. Should a pair or team be unavailable for the next stage of a competition, that pair or team shall be replaced by the next ranked pair or team who remain eligible to progress. In cases where there are multiple fields, the (N+1)th ranked unit that progresses will be the one closest to the Nth unit of the same field. Additional places that become available due to qualification of non-contenders will be selected considering each field alternatively. Note however that non-contenders remain within each field for the purpose of determining the initial rank N.

13.4. Should the Tournament Director permit a non-qualified unit to play in one or more sessions of an event (see clause 4.1), that unit shall be charged no table money or entry fees. The unit shall not be entitled to qualify for any final of the event and shall not be entitled to win any prizes or reward leading from the event.

14. SCORING PROCEDURES

- 14.1. The number of tricks won by the declaring side must be clearly recorded in the appropriate column of the travelling score sheet or pick-up slip.
- 14.2. In multi-session pairs events, errors in scoring made by the players may be corrected within 30 minutes of the posting of scores for the session, or up to 30 minutes before the start of the next session, whichever is later.

VBA Tournament Regulations

- 14.3. In teams or Butler Pairs events, errors in scoring made by the players may be corrected up to 30 minutes after the match scores have been agreed upon.
- 14.4. Errors made by the official scorer may be corrected up to the start of the next stage of the event.
- 14.5. At the conclusion of an event, the results will become official 30 minutes after the posting of scores, after which time no further corrections may be made.
- 14.6. After posting the official scores, the Director must contact all players who were shown as having qualified for any further stage of the event in any posting of provisional scores, but who have no longer so qualified.
- 14.7. Where there is a discrepancy on the official scoresheet between the score entered and the contract, declarer or number of tricks made, the director shall make every effort to contact the players involved in order to ascertain the correct details. Where this is not possible, the director may only change the score recorded when:
 - a) an impossible score is recorded, or
 - b) there is a definite error in scoring according to the vulnerability;
 - c) In cases where a score is apparently recorded on the wrong side, the director may not change the score, but will treat the board as fouled for one round and award average to both sides.
- 14.8. In Swiss pairs events with an odd number of pairs, where it is necessary for the director to employ half matches, the following procedures will be used to obtain Victory Point scores for those pairs who sit out for half matches.
 - a) where matches are of less than 12 boards, the director will double the total IMP difference obtained by the pair in the boards which they played and convert this score to Victory Points according to the scale being used in the event;
 - b) where matches are of 12 boards or more, the IMP difference obtained on the boards played will be converted to Victory Points on a scale for the match played over that reduced number of boards, or any such similar scale which the director deems to be appropriate.
- 14.9. In Butler pairs events with an odd number of pairs, where a number of pairs sit out for one round, and each pair's score on a board is calculated as an IMP difference from a datum score, the Director will calculate an average score for every board played. The calculated average will be awarded to each pair that failed to play that board.

15. APPEALS COMMITTEE AND PROCEDURES PENDING APPEALS

15.1. The Appeals Committee

The function of the Appeals Committee is to adjudicate all appeals from rulings of the Tournament Director(s) (the "Director") directing a VBA event.

- 15.1.1. On receiving a properly made appeal, the Director shall convene an Appeals Committee and appoint an Appeals Chairman from their number. The Director may consult with a member of MTC.
- 15.1.2. The Appeals Committee must follow the procedures set out in the VBA Appeals Rules (section 15.4).
- 15.1.3. No person interested in an appeal or reference shall be a member of the Committee that adjudicates it. "Interested" as used in this clause shall mean a person who in the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee should reasonably be thought to be likely to obtain some benefit from the adjudication. Should this clause disqualify the Chairman he shall appoint an Acting Chairman.
- 15.1.4. Tournament Supplementary Regulations may specify the appointment of an Appeals Chairman. The Supplementary Regulations may further specify a pool of people from whom to draw Appeals Committees for the duration of the tournament. This is only expected to occur for high-level tournaments such as state selection events. In this case, appeals are lodged with the Director but the Appeals Chairman is responsible for selecting and convening Appeals Committees.
- 15.1.5. MTC may from time to time determine a "deposit" which must accompany appeals. This deposit may be in the form of score or money. Tournament Supplementary Regulations may specify a different deposit. The deposit or any portion of it may be forfeited if, in the opinion of the Appeals Committee, the appeal is frivolous.
- 15.1.6. All questions of bridge judgement and/or of fact, involved in appeals from Directors' rulings or otherwise arising pursuant to these Regulations shall be appealable to the Committee. There shall be no appeal from any decision of the Appeals Committee where duly constituted in accordance with these Regulations except as provided under Law 93C of the Code. Any question raised in writing as to the due constitution of the Committee (no other form of question shall be permitted) shall be determined by the Council of the VBA whose decision shall be final. If a Committee is found not to have been duly constituted its determinations shall be null and void and the appeal or reference shall be heard by a duly constituted Appeals Committee.

- 15.2. Draws for Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams events will be made immediately following the scoring of all matches in any session. No alterations will be made to the draw following an appeal which results in a change of score.
- 15.3. In Butler events where all scores are taken into account in determining the datum score (including cases where some number of extreme scores are eliminated), provisional datums and results will be determined when appeals are pending. Subsequent draws will be made on the basis of these results up until the result of the appeal is known. Should any appeal result in a change of score, the datums and results for that session will be altered accordingly.
- 15.4. In Butler events where only a selected number of scores are used in calculating the datum, scores pending appeal will not be included in calculating the datum on a board. (The Director may in his absolute discretion include an equivalent number of scores to calculate a valid datum for a board). Should any appeal result in a change of score, the only alteration in result will be in that match which involved the appeal.

16. VBA APPEALS RULES

- 16.1 In these Regulations representative of the Appeals Committee Chairman shall mean the Convener of the event, or, in his absence, any Deputy appointed by the Convener, or if there is no such Deputy, any member of the Council who is present, or otherwise the Director.
- 16.2 All appeals must be submitted through the Director on the prescribed form within 30 minutes of the official score being made available for inspection. The grounds of the appeal must be clearly stated.
- 16.3 All appeals shall be submitted to the Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) by the Director as soon as possible after being informed of the appeal.
- 16.4 All submissions from the Director shall be in writing setting out:
 - a) the facts including all relevant hand records;
 - b) the players identified by name and pair or team number;
 - c) the grounds of the appeal and any other submissions of the players concerned;
 - d) the law or laws which the Director considers applicable;
 - e) the Director's decision.
- 16.5 The Director shall supply one copy of his submission to each of the parties concerned in the appeal and shall specify a time within which they may make any further submissions in writing.
- 16.6 The Appeals Committee Chairman (or the Convener of the event if notified of the appeal) shall forthwith constitute a committee of not less than three members from among available experienced players, appoint a Chairman

VBA Tournament Regulations

(usually himself) and designate a time for hearing the appeal. No person having an interest in the outcome of the appeal shall sit on the Committee. As far as possible the appeal shall be heard prior to the next session of the Tournament in question, but in any event after the time limited for further submissions.

- 16.7 The Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) shall be responsible for ensuring that each member of the Appeals Committee receives a copy of the appeal, notice of the time and place of the meeting and any other necessary facts.
- 16.8 In cases where there is a serious dispute as to the facts, the Appeals Committee Chairman (or his representative) may arrange for the immediate taking of oral evidence if this is likely to assist in clarifying the facts for the Appeals Committee.
- 16.9 The Appeals Committee may seek further evidence from any of the players involved, or any other party as it thinks fit.
- 16.10 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be by majority and, in the case of equality of votes; the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 16.11 One copy of the decision of the Appeals Committee shall also be filed in the Appeals file. This copy of the decision is for record purposes only.
- 16.12 These rules may be departed from by the Director or Appeals Committee Chairman (or representative) where circumstances dictate such a departure and in particular where justice requires a more speedy resolution of the appeal than these rules allow. In such cases the conduct of the appeal shall be in the hands of the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, but as far as possible the following shall apply:
 - a) An oral hearing shall be held with the Director appearing before the Appeals Committee in the presence of a representative of each party to explain the facts and ruling given.
 - b) Each party shall have the right through one of its members to address the Appeals Committee after the Director's report, to dispute any facts or to make any submissions.
 - c) The Appeals Committee, once it has heard the Director's report and all submissions and any other evidence it deems necessary, shall retire to consider its decision.
 - d) The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be communicated to the parties through the Director and a written record thereof shall be filed in the Appeals file.