

## **INTERSTATE TEAMS SELECTION** **SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS – 2012**

These supplementary regulations are to be read in conjunction with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations.

### The Events and Tournament Structure

The Open Interstate Teams Selection (OITS) is conducted in four stages, Qualifying (Stage I), Quarter-Final (Stage II), Semi-Final (Stage III) and Final (Stage IV). In addition, there will be a Last Train Event (OLTE) that will qualify two pairs to the Semi-Final.

The Women's Interstate Teams Selection (WITS) is conducted in three stages. The first two stages are the same events as the Open (Stages I & II), then a final (held at the same time as and using the same format as Stage IV of the Open). In addition, there will be a Last Train Event (WLTE, held in conjunction with the OLTE) which will qualify one pair to the Final.

The Senior's Interstate Teams Selection (SITS) is conducted as a single stage teams event with no pre-qualification.

The Youth Interstate Teams Selection (YITS) is conducted as a single stage event with no pre-qualification.

### Eligibility and Entry

Only players who are permanent residents of NSW and are bona fide members of a club affiliated with the NSWBA are eligible for entry to Stage III of the OITS and the Finals of the OITS and WITS. Any question regarding a player's eligibility will be decided by the NSWBA Tournament Committee. Such decision will be appealable to the NSWBA Council whose decision will be final.

Players who have previously participated in the selection events for other state's teams at the 2012 ANC are ineligible to participate in the NSW ITS events in contending units.

All players currently listed as ABF registered players are eligible to play in the OITS Stages I & II.

Only female players may progress to the WITS Final.

All registered players who were born before the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1954 may play in the SITS.

All registered players who were born after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1985 may play in the YITS.

The Director may, at his discretion allow a pair (or team), which is ineligible for any reason, to play in one or more sessions to complete a movement.

Advance entry is required. Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of the Director.

All players playing in Stage III of the OITS or the Final of the OITS or WITS must be eligible and available to play in the ANC Teams Championship should they so qualify.

Non-contending teams or pairs may enter the SITS or YITS, but only if they satisfy the relevant age requirements and inform the Director of their non-contending status at the time of entry.

Subject to ratification by the Council the winning Seniors team as augmented and the pairs who finish in the first three places in the OITS, WITS and YITS will constitute the NSW Teams for the current year's ANC Teams Championship.

### Entry Fees

Entry fees for the various stages of each event will be set by a sub-committee comprising the Treasurer of the NSWBA and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee. Such fees are subject to approval by Council.

### Responsibilities of ANC Team Members

Players making the teams are obliged to comply with all the ABF regulations concerning the submission of their system that will be played at the ANC.

Members of each team will be expected to make themselves available to be a captain at the Teams of Three Congress and to take part in promotional activities as member of the NSW representative teams.

### Scoring

In the OITS, WITS and YITS scoring will be by "IMPs-against-mode". For each board, the most common score (mode) is computed. Each pair's score is computed by comparing its score with this mode according to the IMP scale. If there is more than one mode then the mode which is closest to the median (middle score) will be used. Where two modes are equidistant from the median one will be selected by the scoring software using any method deemed appropriate by the programmer.

At the end of each session/match the average score in each direction will be calculated. This average will then be subtracted from the raw scores of the pairs in that direction to give each pair's average adjusted score (AAS) for the session/match.

Each pair's AAS will be converted to VPs as follows:

OITS/WITS Stage I/II

AAS less than 50:  $VP = AAS$

AAS greater than 50:  $VP = 50 + (AAS - 50)/10$

OITS/WITS Stage III/IV

AAS less than 25:  $VP = AAS$

AAS greater than 25:  $VP = 25 + (AAS - 25)/10$

The director will determine the "cap" for the OLTE/WLTE/YITS once the length of matches is known.

## **OPEN AND WOMEN'S INTERSTATE TEAMS SELECTION**

### OITS/WITS Stage I

Stage I will consist of three sessions as specified in the NSWBA Calendar.

The entrants will be seeded into two fields by the NSWBA Tournament Committee, which will be the North-South and East-West fields, sitting in these directions throughout Stage I. Seeding will be made to ensure that, as far as possible, an equal number of Women's and non-contending pairs are in each field, and that the overall strength of the two fields is equivalent.

A single continuous Web Mitchell movement will be used, arranged so that each pair plays as many of the pairs in the other field as practicable.

### OITS/WITS Stage II

Stage II will consist of three sessions as specified in the NSWBA Calendar.

The entrants will be seeded into two fields by the NSWBA Tournament Committee, which will be the North-South and East-West fields, sitting in these directions throughout Stage II. Seeding will be made to ensure that, as far as possible, an equal number of Women's and non-contending pairs are in each field, and that the overall strength of the two fields is equivalent. Carry-forwards from Stage I will be one factor considered in seeding the fields.

Mitchell movements will be used, arranged such that every pair in one direction plays every pair in the other direction.

### OLTE/WLTE

The last train events will be run during Stage II as specified in the NSWBA Calendar. They will be played over two or three sessions over one day. The movement will be arranged so that each pair plays all the boards used in a session. The exact format will be dependent on entries.

### Open Stage III

Stage III will be played as ten x ten board matches (five each day as specified in the NSWBA Calendar) in a barometer Mitchell movement. The NSWBA Tournament Committee will be responsible for seeding the field so that the overall strength of the North-South and East-West fields is equivalent. Carry-forwards will be one of the factors considered when seeding the fields.

For the purposes of applying the Substitution Rules and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, each match in Stage III will be considered a separate session.

### Open Stage IV/Women's Stage III (Finals)

The Finals will be played as specified in the NSWBA Calendar. Session times will be advertised in advance. The OITS and WITS Finals will run concurrently.

Finals will be round robins of nine x twelve board matches (four on Saturday and five on Sunday). The movement will be organised so as to achieve the best possible balance.

For the purposes of applying the Substitution Rules and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, each match in the finals will be considered a separate session.

### Systems

Yellow systems (HUMs) will only be permitted in the OITS Stage III and the Open and Women's Finals.

### Qualification to Subsequent Stages

#### OITS/WITS Stage II

- At the conclusion of Stage I each pair will be assigned a Pair Final Ranking (PFR) defined as the pair's finishing position divided by the total number of pairs in the field.
- The fifty-four pairs with the lowest PFRs that wish to play in stage II will form the Stage II field. Where two pairs with the same PFR are competing for the final qualifying spot, the pair with the higher VP total will be selected.
- If fewer than fifty-four pairs wish to play stage II then the size of stage II will be reduced to twenty-one tables.
- If fewer than forty-two pairs wish to play stage II then the size of the field will be set as the largest possible multiple of three tables.

#### OITS Stage III

- At the conclusion of Stage II each pair will be assigned a Pair Final Ranking (PFR) defined as the pair's finishing position divided by the total number of contending pairs in that field.
- The eighteen pairs with the lowest PFRs will qualify to Stage III. Where two pairs with the same PFR are competing for the final qualifying spot, the pair with the higher VP total will be selected.
- The two highest scoring contending pairs in the OLTE will qualify to Stage III.

#### OITS Stage IV

- The five highest scoring pairs in each direction of Stage III will qualify to Stage IV.

### WITS Stage III

- The contending pairs in Open Stage II will be assigned a PFR defined as the pair's finishing position divided by the total number of contending pairs in that field. The nine pairs with the lowest PFRs will qualify for Stage III. Where two pairs with the same PFR are competing for the last spot, the pair with the higher VP total will be selected.
- The highest scoring contending pair from the WLTE will qualify to Stage III.
- If there are fewer than nine contending pairs in Open Stage II then additional pairs will be taken from the WLTE.

### Declaration of Availability for Subsequent Sessions

Before the conclusion of OITS/WITS Stage II, all pairs planning on progressing to a subsequent stage will be required to complete a declaration of availability. Such declaration will clearly state the dates for all future sessions, including the ANC Teams Championship. Pairs who withdraw from the event after the commencement of Stage III of the OITS or WITS without good cause may be subject to disciplinary action by the Rules and Ethics Committee.

### Tie-breaks

Scores will usually be displayed rounded to a convenient number of decimal places. However only if two pair's scores are exactly equal will the tie-breaking methods outlined below be used.

In all stages when two or more pairs from the same field finish with the same VP total, their relative ranking will be determined by:

1. In stage I the first tie-break will be the total score of all opponents of the tied pairs. The pair with the highest total will be deemed to have had the most difficult draw and will be placed highest.
2. In all subsequent stages the pair with the lowest carry-forward to that stage will be placed highest.
3. In the final stage, in the event of a two-way tie, the winner of the match between the pairs will be placed higher.
4. The pair with the best performance against the highest ranked pair in the (other) field will be placed highest. The pair with the best performance against the second ranked pair, etc.
5. Counting the number of boards on which each of the equally ranked pairs has scored a positive number of imps (adjusting for average on each board). The pair with the greatest number of positive scores will be placed highest.
6. Counting the number of boards on which each of the equally ranked pairs has scored a negative number of imps (adjusting for average on each board). The pair with the least number of negative scores will be placed highest.
7. Lot

### Carry-forwards

In Stages II, III & IV of the OITS, the pair with the lowest VP score in the previous stage of the event will be assigned a carry-forward of zero. All other pairs will have a carry-forward of one-third of the difference between their score and the pair with the lowest VP score.

In Stage III of the WITS, the pair with the lowest VP score in Stage II of the OITS will have a carry-forward of zero. All other pairs which qualify from Stage II will have a carry-forward of one-quarter of the difference between their score and the pair with the lowest VP score.

The pair which qualifies second from the OLTE will have a carry-forward of zero. The pair which qualifies first in the OLTE will have a carry-forward of one-fifth of the difference between their score and the pair which qualifies second.

If only one pair qualifies from the WLTE then they will have a carry-forward of zero. If more than one pair qualifies from the WLTE then pairs will carry-forward one-fifth of the difference between their score and the score of the lowest qualifier.

#### Time Limits

For each match in OITS Stage III, a total of 70 minutes will be allowed. For each match in the OITS/WITS finals, a total of 84 minutes will be allowed. If the players have not remove their cards from the board after the allotted time has elapsed, that board and any other unplayed boards will not be played. Penalties for slow play will be applied as per the NSWBA Tournament Regulations.

Where more than one board is unplayed, an additional fine of 6 VPs will be imposed per board unplayed. Normally this fine would be split evenly between the two pairs (3 VPs each) however if the director feels that one pair is more at fault than the other he may decide to divide it unevenly at his discretion.

Where the Director determines a pair to be innocent of slow play, that pair will be awarded a score of +3 IMPs for any board not played.

### **YOUTH INTERSTATE TEAMS SELECTION**

The event will be played over two sessions as specified in the NSWBA Calendar.

All entries must be received by 10.00am on the day preceding the event. Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of the Director.

Session times will be advertised in advance. The following tournament regulations are subject to change before the start of the event once final numbers are known.

The event will be played as a round robin or double round robin.

The number of boards per match will be dependent on the number of entries.

The pairs finishing first, second and third will constitute the NSW Youth Team. Should any such pair(s) be unavailable for any reason, invitations will be offered in finishing order to lower placed pairs, with the proviso that the invited pair(s) finished in the top half of the field. If the team is still incomplete the Chairman of the Tournament Committee may select any eligible Youth players (not confined to those who played in the YITS) to complete the team. Any such selection must still be ratified by the NSWBA Council.

### **SENIORS INTERSTATE TEAMS SELECTION**

The event will be played over four sessions as specified in the NSWBA Calendar.

All entries must be received by 10.00am on the Thursday immediately prior to the event. Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of the Director.

Teams are to consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

Session times and the number of boards per match will be promulgated at the start of play.

The event will be run as a complete round robin movement if at all possible. In the unlikely event that this is not possible a swiss movement will be used.

The result in each match will be converted to victory points using the appropriate WBF match IMP to VP conversion scale.

All team members must play a minimum of one half (rounded down) of the total number of matches. Any team containing a player who fails to satisfy the minimum board rule will not be considered for ratification unless said player played zero (0) boards in the event, when the player may be dropped without penalty. Should the cause be illness or unforeseen circumstances, the NSWBA Council may consider ratification of the rest of the team, augmented as Council sees fit.

Any relevant ties will be broken by successive 4-board playoffs until a result is obtained. Playoffs are not subject to any minimum board rules.

A team of 4 or 5 that qualifies will discuss with the Chairman of the NSWBA Tournament Committee (as the Council's representative) about augmenting their team to 6 players. Any augmented pair should normally be expected to come from a team finishing in either second or third place or, if available, from the top third of the list of pairs ranked by datums. Pairs playing in non-contending teams will not be eligible for augmentation.

For the purposes of applying the Substitution Rules and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, each match is considered a separate session.