

# SOUTH AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

January 2020

## Supplementary Regulations for Trials

These regulations are promulgated in terms of Laws 40, 78, 80 of the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the Code of Practice issued by the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and the South African Bridge Federation's (SABF) Conventions Control Regulations (CCR). They will be used as guidelines by Tournament Directors Appeals, Committees or the Reviewer. In the event of any conflict between these regulations and the Laws, the definitions of the 2017 Laws and/or the English Bridge Union Blue Book will prevail.

### **A - General Regulations**

#### **A1 PLAY TO TIME and TIMEOUS SEATING**

1. Players are required to be seated and ready for play 5 minutes before the indicated starting time.  
Arrival of a contestant after the specified time is liable to a procedural penalty.

#### **A2 SMOKING and DRINKING REGULATIONS**

1. Smoking in the playing area is prohibited at all times and is restricted to the designated smoking areas. Smoking regulations decreed by government legislation as well as any smoking restrictions pertaining to the venue must be strictly observed.
2. No alcohol is to be brought into and/or consumed in the playing area.

#### **A3 CELL PHONES AND SIMILAR MESSAGING DEVICES**

The use of cell phones or similar messaging devices for incoming or outgoing calls or messages in the playing areas during playing times is totally prohibited and will be automatically penalised in points appropriate to the event being played. Cell phones or similar messaging devices must be switched off whilst play is in progress and in addition may not be visible. Players who need to leave their cell phones or similar messaging devices switched on for possible urgent messages must leave them in the scoring room, or hand them to a Tournament Director.

#### **A4 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. Bad behaviour at the table during play witnessed by a Tournament Director or brought to the attention of a Tournament Director by any means, may be penalised under Laws 90 and 91 and/or Zero Tolerance rules. Further similar occurrences may result in that player being required to appear before a Disciplinary Committee of the SABF.
2. Any player who publicly makes disparaging or derogatory remarks concerning the actions of any Tournament Director, Appeals Committee member/Reviewer, or the SABF shall be subject to a disciplinary penalty. This includes public criticism of any decision given.

#### **A5 RULES FOR SPECTATORS**

In terms of Law 76 and these regulations, spectators may watch in an Open Room under the following conditions:

1. When Open and Closed Room status has not been defined, players have a limited right to refuse the presence of spectators, for cause.
2. Spectators may not look at the hand of more than one player, nor move from one side of a table to the other, except with the permission of the players and a Tournament Director.
3. Spectators must not display any reaction to the bidding and play of a deal in progress.
4. During the bidding and play of a hand spectators must refrain from any mannerism, remarks or conversation with a player or other spectators.
5. Spectators may not call attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question of fact or law except when requested to comment by a Tournament Director.
6. Spectators must keep their cell phones or similar messaging devices switched off. Failure to observe this rule will result in the spectator being required to leave the playing area for the remainder of the session and a repeated offence in any subsequent session will result in that spectator being barred from watching play for the remainder of the Congress.
7. Smoking regulations for players apply to spectators as well (see A2.1 above).
8. Should the spectator leave the Open room for any reason, he may not return to that room while the session is still in progress

#### **A6 THE RIGHT TO VARY**

1. The SABF reserves the right to alter, vary or amend for cause and at its discretion, any of the methods of conducting the events in this tournament, within the scope of the Laws, as well as the right to take whatever action is deemed appropriate to allow the tournament to reach an equitable conclusion.
  
2. The Tournament Committee of the SABF reserves the right to penalise any contestants whose action at the table is deemed to deliberately benefit the opponents or other specific contestants, or who do not play to the best of their bridge playing ability and for reasons other than those associated with the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

### **- REGULATIONS GOVERNING BIDDING AND PLAY**

#### **B1 IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE CONVENIENCE & BENEFIT OF PLAYERS**

1. It is in every pair's own interests to ensure that their artificial calls comply with these regulations and the definitions of the SABF Conventions Control Regulations, a copy of which is available from a Tournament director or on display on the SABF website.  
Contravention of the CCR definitions will result initially in a warning to the pair concerned. A second infraction by a pair will be penalised 1 VP in addition to any score adjustments that may be applied. A third contravention will be penalised 2 VPs and if the call was artificial the pair concerned will be barred from using the convention for the remainder of the event.

2. Alerts must be given for calls that contain information about which opponents might not be aware, whether natural or conventional.
3. In terms of Law 75 there will be no score adjustment for a Mistaken Bid, however repeated occurrences may lead to a procedural penalty in terms L90. Mis-bids of artificial overcalls which cause confusion to the opponents shall be treated as misinformation and a score adjustment may be necessary. The offending pair may also receive a procedural penalty. A second mis-bid will result in banning the players from using that particular convention.
4. Players are obliged to summon a Director, in terms of Law 9B, as soon as attention is brought to an irregularity. Failure to do so may prejudice the non-offending pair. During play, Dummy may only call the Director once attention has been brought to an irregularity, and may not initiate the Director call of his own accord. (See Law 43A1)

## **B2 PLAYERS' SEATING DECISIONS**

Once a pair has selected which seat each member of the pair will occupy at the start of a session, (North or South, East or West), they may not change that decision during that session without the permission of a Tournament Director, who will only grant such permission for cause (Law 5A).

## **B3 CONVENTION CARDS**

It is mandatory that both members of a pair have fully completed, identical convention cards to substantiate their explanations in a dispute about a mis-bid or mis-explanation. These convention cards must be available to opponents at all times during the bidding and play. In the absence of proof on a fully completed convention card, a Tournament Director will assume mis-explanation rather than a mis-bid and will apply the appropriate law which may result in a disadvantageous score for the offending side. All conventional bids and plays are required to conform to the SABF Conventions Control Regulations. The SABF requires the completion of a Convention Card of either the WBF format or the one supplied to players at the start of play.

## **B4 BIDDING BOXES**

1. An inadvertent call by a player may be changed under Law 25A only when the Director is satisfied that the following three conditions have occurred:
  - a) The player's partner has not yet called and;
  - b) The player has obviously and inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and;
  - c) The player corrects, or attempts to correct, the inadvertent call without pause for thought, immediately after that player's attention is brought to that call.
2. When the auction has been completed, the lead is made face down but all bidding cards shall remain on the table.

## **B5 ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS**

1. Alerts must be given for any call that contains information of which the opponents might not be aware, whether the call is natural or conventional. The alert must be given by the partner of the player who made the alertable call by using the 'Alert' card and a full explanation must be given only if an opponent asks.
2. Failure to alert an alertable call, whether accidental or deliberate which, in the opinion of a Tournament Director, subsequently causes damage to the non-offending side due to the lack of correct information may result in an adjusted score

being given and the imposition of at least the minimum procedural penalty of a half VP against the offending side. The Tournament Director may award this penalty even if the non-offending side has not been damaged.

3. Explanations of alertable calls given before the start of play do not absolve players from alerting such calls at the appropriate time during the bidding.
4. Explanations of play conventions must be disclosed at the start of a round and must not be alerted during the play of the hand.
5. It is incumbent upon both pairs to inform their opponents of the basics of their system before the commencement of bidding on the first board, as required by the CCR. Subsequent to this if a bid is not alerted it may be assumed to be natural, unless the previous calls in the auction make it obvious that the call could be artificial or the call has been previously described as artificial. Failure to alert is, however, still an infraction.

#### **B6 PSYCHIC CALLS**

1. Psychic calls will be adjudicated by Tournament Directors, Appeals Committees or the Reviewer in terms of Law 40 and the WBF Code of Practice.
2. The name of a player who psyches must be reported to a TD, for the purpose of recording frequency of psyching and description of the psychic call made.
3. It is disallowed to have prior agreement by a partnership to vary its understanding during the auction or play following a question asked, a response to a question, or any irregularity (Law 40 B3).
4. Psyching of forcing artificial calls such as a precision club or opening of strong two clubs, and their responses are disallowed.

#### **B7 CLAIMS AND CONCESSIONS**

1. Claims and concessions shall be ruled upon as per Laws 68 to 71.
2. The following guidelines, issued by the WBF Laws Commission, for the adjudication of a claim will be applied where no claim statement or an incomplete or faulty claim statement has been made by the claimant.
3. A claim of a certain number of tricks is a concession of the remainder of any other unplayed tricks and a concession of any number of tricks is a claim of the remainder of any unplayed tricks. Where a concession is made by a defender but partner immediately objects, neither the concession nor any claim of the remainder of the tricks has occurred. Play continues under Law 68B but Law 16D may apply.
4. Where it is considered that a suit would be played, it is deemed that it will be played from the top down, unless previously otherwise specified.
5. Where more than one suit may be played, the Tournament Director will not accept any assertion by the claimant that any particular suit will be played before another, but will apply the dictates of Laws 70D & 70E. Where a claimant claims all the remaining tricks it will be deemed to play trumps last, unless he has specified otherwise. If an opponent possesses an unexpected winning card and the claim can be restored by trumping or overtrumping in turn, then it would be irrational not to do this.

6. No illegal play or infraction contained in a faulty clarification statement made by a claimer will be allowed to be part of the ruling on the subsequent play. For example, if the clarification statement by the claimer would have resulted in a revoke, it is deemed for the revoke not to occur and will not be included in the Tournament Director's adjudication. The Director follows the statement of claim up to the point of breakdown and from there on rules as though no statement has been made, but should follow anything in the balance of the claim that he considers to still be applicable.

## **B8 CORRECTION PERIOD**

The correction period expires 2 hours after scores have been made available for inspection (Law 79C) except when an alternative period of time has been announced by the Chief Tournament Director. If there is insufficient time between sessions, the period will expire 15 minutes before the start of the subsequent session.

## **B9 APPEALS**

1. Rulings which require a Tournament Director to exercise judgement may be appealed. An appeal must be made in writing on the approved form and handed to a Tournament Director by no later than the end of the correction period. When lodging an appeal or a request for a review the appellant must deposit the amount of R300 with the Chief Tournament Director. This deposit will be refunded unless the committee determines that the appeal lacks merit, in which case the deposit will be forfeited and retained by the Organising Committee for a cause to be announced. Any Director's decision, subject to appeal, which is touted to other players for their opinion prior to an Appeals Committee (or Reviewer's) decision, will not be heard.
2. Appeals will be referred to a "Tournament Reviewer" and this will usually be done at the end of a session or play
3. In order to do equity, an assigned adjusted score may be weighted as per Law 12C. This power is given to the Director, and forthwith to the Appeals Committee or Reviewer. In general, the procedure is set out in the WBF General Conditions of Contest

## **REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO PAIRS EVENTS**

### **C1 LATE STARTS AND SLOW PLAY**

1. Players seating themselves after session commencement time may be penalised at the discretion of a Tournament Director.
2. In the event that play of the allotted number of boards has not been completed at a table when the move has been called, both pairs shall receive a warning, but see 21.3 below. Thereafter, if either pair is involved in slow play on any subsequent round of that event, that pair will be penalised a minimum of a quarter-top for each round in which they are involved in slow play.
3. If one pair at a table is able to show, by timeously reserving their rights with a Tournament Director that the delay was caused due to slow play by the opponents, the warning or penalty shall apply only to the offending pair. The Tournament Director shall be the sole

arbiter of whether rights were timeously reserved.

## **C2 SUBSTITUTION**

A substitution will be allowed for *cause majeure* for one session only

## **C3 COMPUTER & TRAVELLING SCORERS**

1. If an incorrect score is entered as a result of a keyboard entry error, it will be corrected.
2. Otherwise a score may only be changed before the start of the next session and with the consent of the Director provided that both pairs agree to the alteration

## **C4 BRIDGEMATE SCORES**

1. North or South enter the board number, contract and result on the bridgemate.
2. North or South hand the bridgemate to East or West for verification
3. Input errors are only corrected if both pairs agree within the prescribed correction time.
4. A penalty of a half VP may be imposed for input errors to both pairs.

## **C5 TIES**

1. When two pairs tie and it is determined that it is necessary that the tie has to be broken, reference shall be made initially to the boards played against each other. The pair with the better match point total on those boards shall be ranked above the other.
2. When ties cannot be broken by in terms of 26.1 above, then all boards played by the tied contestants shall be considered and tie-breaking points awarded on a scale of 3 tie-breaking points for all scores between 75% and 100 %, 2 tie-breaking points for all scores above average but less than 75% and 1 tie-breaking point for an average. The tied pair with the greater number of tie-breaking points so awarded will be ranked higher.
3. Where more than two pairs are tied for a position, the tie-breaking point ranking procedure of 26.2 above will be applied to determine the rankings.

## **C6 SCORING AND SEATING**

1. Scores will be calculated on a cross IMPs basis using a 12 board table to convert to VPs
2. Final scores will be the accumulation of all matches played.
3. Seating of pairs will be based on a random draw for the first round robin and thereafter based on their position in the log.

## **C7 ADDITIONAL PENALTIES**

1. New boards may not be commenced with less than 8 minutes on the clock. Boards will be removed if time limit is breached. A warning will be issued for the first offence should only one board be removed but for subsequent offences a penalty of a half VP will be imposed. Should more than one board be removed, each of these boards will attract a penalty of a half VP each.
2. In the case of being unable to play a board because the result was overheard, the offending pair(s) will be penalized 1 VP.
3. Should a pair withdraw for any reason during a round robin, the scores

against that pair will be cancelled. If they withdraw after the completion of a round robin, the scores will remain.