

South African Bridge Federation

Trials 2023

Announcement of Trials

For Open and Women's Teams to represent South Africa in the African Zonals to be held online from the 28th May to the 3rd June 2023 and if successful at the WBF World Bridge Games in 2023 in Marrakech Morocco from 20th August to 2nd September 2023

Dates and venue of Trials

The Open and Women's Trials will be held from the 5th to the 10th of February 2023 online at centres to be determined once entries are known. Should all entrants for one or both of these events be from the same region then that tournament will be held live. Please note that the exact length of trials will depend on the number of entries accepted and the period above is the time framework within which playing sessions will take place. Prospective entrants should reserve these dates.

Closing Dates for Entries

Closing date for entries in Open and Women's Trials is midnight on 8th January 2023

Entrants in the Open and Women's Trials will be informed whether their entry has been accepted no later than the 12th January. The format, schedule and playing times will also be announced on or before the 12th January.

The SABF reserves the right to accept late entries in any category.

Conditions of Entry, Entry Fee and Individual Subsidies

Trials are open to all South African citizens and residents who satisfy the WBF residency criteria found at

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/marrakech2023/right-to-enter>

The Entry Fee for the WBF World Bridge Games will be paid in full by the SABF. Subsidies will be paid to team members at the committee's discretion and the SABF will strongly support fund-raising efforts by players in our national teams.

Format of Open and Women's Trials

The Trials will be held on a team's basis, the winning team in each category qualifying to represent South Africa.

Should more than 4 teams enter in one or more of the categories, a round robin will be held with the top 4 teams qualifying for a knockout semi-final. The team finishing first in the round robin will choose their opponents in the semi-final.

Should less than 5 teams enter the format for qualification will be announced by the tournament committee at close of entries.

The number of boards played per session is set at 24 but may be increased for the semi-finals at the discretion of the committee

The Carry-Over

There will be a carryover for the semi-final and final knockout matches. The carryover will be based on the imp difference obtained during the match between the 2 teams in the round robin. If the team that won that match finished higher ranking in the round robin, they will receive 50% of the imp difference plus 0.1imp. If they finished lower ranking in the round robin, they will receive 33% of the imp difference plus 0.1 imp. The maximum carry over will be 16.1 imps. (The 0.1imp is added to avoid any ties in the knockout phase). If the 2 teams have tied their match during the round robin, the higher-ranking team in the round robin will have a 0.1 imp carryover. All ties will be broken using the standard WBF method of looking at an imp quotient (number of imps won divided by number of imps lost) and other methods in the unlikely event that there remains a tie.

Entry Fee

The entry fee per player will be based on the number of sessions played which can only be determined once entries are closed. The initial fee will be set at R80 per session so for example should 6 teams enter then

The round robin has 5 sessions so each player would pay R400

The semi-final would be 2 sessions so each player would pay an additional R160

The final would be 4 sessions so each player would pay an additional R320

Additional rules for teams

Only teams of 4 or 6 may enter Trials.

If a team of 6 is entered each pair must play a minimum number of sessions at each phase of the competition. These minima will be announced once final entries are known.

Should a team be unable to field a complete team for *cause majeure* at any stage in the competition then one substitute for one session will be permitted failing which the team will be withdrawn.

Should a team of 4 win the competition that team will be asked to choose an additional pair from teams qualifying for the semi-finals

Withdrawal of Qualified Pairs

In the event that an individual or a pair withdraws from any of the S A Teams for any reason at any time prior to the World Bridge Games, the team will be approached to replace that individual or pair from any of the teams qualifying in the semi-finals. If a player or a pair in a South African team in any category withdraws at any time prior to the start of play in the relevant Bridge Games, an acceptable replacement player or pair must be found, failing which the S A team may be withdrawn from the event.

If a non-playing captain is nominated by the team, this must be approved by the SABF. No husband/wife/"significant other" of any player in a team may be nominated as captain of the team. The playing or non-playing captain of each team will be responsible for:

- i) Organising practice sessions before the event
- ii) Organising a review of the opponents convention cards and taking relevant copies to the event, distributing when needed
- iii) Ensuring that the teams convention cards are submitted for the relevant events in accordance with WBF policy
- iv) Having the final say in determining the line ups for the events themselves (the team may have input, but the captain's word should be final)
- v) Ensuring all admin tasks are dealt with timeously during the event (captain's meetings, line ups etc)
- vi) Reporting back to the SABF subsequent to the event

Acceptance for Entries for Trials

All players at Grandmaster level and players who have represented South Africa within the last five years will be accepted as trialists. All other entrants will be screened by the SABF committee and accepted should they deem there are valid reasons to do so.

The SABF reserves the right to allow, or invite, additional pairs to enter trials after entries have closed if there is a valid reason to do so.

Members of a representative team are awarded S A colours if SA citizens or Federation colours if residents.

It is important to note that no member of the SABF Committee can discuss or provide advice to a player as to the suitability of his/her partner in terms of whether or not an entry is likely to be accepted for trials in any category. Correspondence or verbal discussions are not possible due to the confidentiality of the process of screening entries.

Those wishing to enter Trials must enter online.

If an entry is accepted, Proof of Payment of the entry fee (where applicable) to the Bank Account: Nedbank Rosebank Account number 1 777 000 327 will be required within a week of the announcement of the accepted entries for Trials.

SABF 10th November 2022