

Format and Regulations for Trials 2026

Dates for trials

- a. Open and Women's trials 3 May – 9 May 2026.
Closing date for entries 22 April 2026
- b. Mixed trials and Senior trials 17 May – 23 May 2026.
Closing date for entries 12 May 2026.
- c. SABF reserves the right to extend the closing date.

The length of trials is dependent on the number of entries received but players must be available for the full duration indicated above. SABF may start or end the trials any time within the indicated framework.

Eligibility for trials

1. South African citizens or permanent residents.
2. Fully paid-up members of the SABF who are in good standing with The Federation.
3. SABF reserves the right to refuse any entry to the trials.

Format of the trials

Trials will be played Face-to-Face at the following venues;

- a. Open and Women's trials will be held at the Links Bridge Club Johannesburg
- b. Senior and Mixed trials will be held in Cape Town.
- c. Screens will be in use. Players are required to alert their own bids and their partner's conventional bids. All bids, including those above 3NT must be alerted. All explanations must be written. Verbal explanations will not be accepted if there is a dispute.
- d. Cell phones and smartwatches must be switched off completely and must be visible at the play tables. Contravention of cell phone rules will attract penalties without warnings. 1st offence 1VP, 2nd offence 3VPS , 3rd offence will result in the immediate disqualification of the pair. Penalties are cumulative over the qualifying rounds and the final.

The exact format for trials is highly dependent on the number of entries received.

- a. Pairs trials will be held provided at least 8 pairs enter in each section

- b. If more than 8 pairs have entered:
 - i. For up to 10 pairs entered there will be no qualifying round.
 - ii. 11+ pairs there will be an initial qualifying round to bring the number of pairs for the final down to 8 pairs
 - iii. Seating and draw will be random.

- c. If fewer than 8 pairs have entered
 - i. If 4- 7 pairs enter, pairs will be asked to form teams of 2-3 pairs and a teams trial will be held. This will take the form of a knockout event with a minimum of 96 boards
 - ii. If 3 or fewer pairs enter – SABF reserves the right to not send a team in that particular category
 - iii. If the entry requires a teams format
 - a. A straight knockout will be played.
 - b. 96 boards over 2 days 6X16 board segments 2 hours for each segment (7.5min per board)
 - c. If there is a tie at the end of play, a further 4 boards will be played until a result is obtained.
 - d. For a team's Final
 - i. Seating rights, a toss of coin will determine who may choose seating rights for rounds 1,3 or 5 or 2,4,6. Away teams must put in their line-ups at least 30 minutes before the start of the round. The home team must put in their line-ups 20 minutes before start of the next round. Late posting of line-ups will be penalised with 1 warning for first offence, 3imps for first offence, 6 imps for 2nd offence and 10 imps for third offence.

2. Entry fees –R2400 per pair. Please pay to the account below.

If there is a qualifying round, players who are eliminated will receive a refund according to the number of sessions played.

Name of account: SABF

Nedbank current account number 1777000327

Reference: Pair Name (person responsible for the entry), SABF number, trials 2026

3. Rules for trials. WBF rules for duplicate bridge (2017), the Supplementary regulations (2022) , rules for online bridge as posted on the SABF website will apply. Entrants are expected to familiarise themselves with the above rules.
4. Convention cards: Partnerships are expected to have completed convention cards which must be submitted to B. Donde (bdonde101@gmail.com) at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the event. HUM (highly unusual methods as defined by the WBF) will only be permitted if there is a final following qualifying rounds. Each pair must have 2 identical convention cards available at each match for their opponents to peruse.

The SABF reserves the right to change any of the above rules for cause.