

## **SABF Rules for Trials**

Trials to select the South African Representatives in the African Zonal Championships and World Bridge Federation events will be held annually. In each 4-year cycle the WBF holds two World Bridge teams (every 2<sup>nd</sup> year), World Bridge series, and World Bridge games. The World Bridge teams (Bermuda, Venice cup, D'Orsi, Wuhan) are held in the odd number years. The World Bridge games are held in even numbered years divisible by 4 and the World Bridge series is held in even numbered years not divisible by 4. The World Bridge series is an open event for all member states who may send as many teams and pairs as they wish, and no trials will be held for this event. However, the SABF reserves the right to vet teams who would like to play in this event.

For the remaining 3 years, trials will be held to select teams to represent South Africa. Where possible, we will send teams in all 4 categories, Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed. It has been agreed that trials will alternate in each of these years between a pairs trial and a teams trial. The decision whether to run trials as a face-to-face or online event will be decided upon each year by the tournament committee and the SABF board.

### **Eligibility for Trials**

1. Players entering trials must all be South African Citizens or permanent residents in good standing with the SABF and who satisfy the WBF residency criteria.
2. If there are any outstanding disciplinary hearings involving a player, that player may not enter the trials.
3. For Senior trials, players must be turning 65 or older in the year of the World Bridge event.
4. Mixed trials must have Male/Female partnerships
5. Only biological women may enter the women's trials.

### **Rules for Pairs Trials**

1. If at least 12 pairs enter, a Pairs tournament with cross-imping will be held. If more than 16 pairs enter, there will be qualifying rounds to reduce the field to 12 pairs.

2. if only 4-11 pairs enter then they **must** form teams of 2 or 3 pairs who will then play knockout matches to determine the SA representatives. If any pair is unable to form a team, they will not be eligible to play in the trials.
3. if fewer than 4 pairs enter then there will be no trials nor team sent.

### **Rules for Teams Trials**

1. Teams may be formed for 2 or 3 pairs or 5 member teams.
2. If a team of fewer than 6 members qualifies, they must choose another pair or player from the losing finalists to complete the team.
3. The event will take the form of a knockout where the number of rounds will be determined by the size of the entry.
4. If an odd number of teams enter, the organising committee will design a format to eliminate teams prior to the knockout stage of the tournament.

### **Drop-out of Pairs**

1. If for any reason, a pair or player drops out of the qualified team before the event, a pair must be chosen from the losing finalists or semi-finalists to complete the team. If pairs trials were held, the pair who came 4<sup>th</sup> must be invited to join the team and if not available the pairs coming 5<sup>th</sup> (and so on) will be invited.
2. When pairs trials are held, if none of the top 3 pairs are willing to play, a team will not be sent in that category
3. When teams trials are held, if more than 2 or more pairs drop out of the qualified team, the losing finalists will be invited to represent South Africa for that event.

### **Colours**

SA colours are awarded only to South African Citizens according to SASCOG rules. SABF colours may be awarded to permanent residents.

### **Financial Support**

Currently, the SABF is unable to offer any financial support for successful trialists. However, the SABF will pay entry fees for the African Zonal Championships, World Bridge teams and the World bridge games.

## **Captains**

1. Qualified teams may select a captain who may be either one of the team members or a non-playing captain.
2. The Captain chosen may not be husband/wife/" significant other" of any player in a team. The SABF will not in any way sponsor the captain. If a non-playing captain is nominated by the team and they must be approved by the SABF.

The playing or non-playing captain of each team will be responsible for:

1. Organising practice sessions before the event.
2. Organising a review of the opponents' convention cards and taking relevant copies to the event, distributing when needed.
3. Ensuring that the teams convention cards are submitted for the relevant events in accordance with WBF policy.
4. 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).
5. Ensuring all admin tasks are dealt with timeously during the event (captain's meetings, line ups etc).
6. Reporting back to the SABF after the event.

**The SABF reserves the right to amend these rules at any time should they deem the circumstances call for a different ruling.**