

# REDLAND BRIDGE CLUB INC

## BRIDGE PLAY BY-LAWS – 2013

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## AUTHORITY

### 1. ESTABLISHMENT

The Management Committee has established these By-laws to supplement and amplify the provisions of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge wherever those Laws allow discretionary action by a Regulating Authority. They are also intended to complement the Rules (Constitution) of the Redland Bridge Club (RBC) and to detail the processes to be adopted by RBC to manage its day to day operations where these have not been specified in the RBC Rules.

### 2. REGULATING AUTHORITY

As provided by the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Law 80B), the Club has been assigned by the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) and the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) to be the Regulating Authority for all Duplicate Bridge events conducted under the auspices of the Club.

- 2.1. Events sponsored by the Club shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the QBA Regulations as published from time to time, and these By-laws, which shall be applied to all participants in Club events, whether they are members or non-members.
- 2.2. If the Club undertakes to conduct an event as an agent of the QBA or the ABF or the WBF, then these By-laws may be superseded, in part or in whole, by any appropriate measures/s stipulated by the primary authority for the event.
- 2.3. However, the Club may hold a bridge event open only to its own members where the type of system card allowed may be restricted.

## EVENTS

### 3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The purpose and format of all Club events, with the days/dates, starting times, duration and any conditions, shall be established and publicized by the Committee either in a composite calendar, or by way of individual notices.

### 4. ENTRY TO CLUB EVENTS

- 4.1. Entry to ordinary weekly single session events shall be unrestricted unless otherwise specified by the Committee
- 4.2. Entry to be declared special events may be restricted to RBC members.
- 4.3. Entry to Honour Board Events will be open to all Home Club Members of RBC and to any non-Home Club Members of RBC who have played at RBC at least six (6) times in the twelve months prior to the event. **Amended by the Committee 6.2.2017**
- 4.4. It is emphasized that in entering a Club tournament, a player agrees to participate in all sessions of that event, or to arrange a substitute, in accordance with the provisions of Clauses 26 and 27 of these By-laws.
- 4.5. Any Pair or Team that is unable to participate in all session of a Championship event may use a substitute for a single (for Pairs) or a pair (for Teams) event but substitutes cannot be used across different Pairs or Teams as the case may be. Where substitutes are used, this disqualifies the Pair/Team from Honor Board recognition but all players are eligible for Masterpoints that are awarded for their play.

- 4.6. Entry to any Club Congress will be open to any players holding a current ABF registration.
- 4.7. The Committee, in concert with the appointed Director, is to establish the closing time for entry to any event, together with any penalties for arriving late on the day.
- 4.8. Notwithstanding any of the above, the Club reserves the right to refuse the entry of any person to any Club event.

## 5. TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER

In accordance with the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Law 80B), the Management Committee is authorized to appoint a Club member to be the contact person for all special club events such as Club Championships, social events etc. However, the appointed Congress Convenor has responsibility to organize all matters concerning congresses held at the Club. For ordinary weekly events, the appointed Director shall act as the de facto Tournament Organizer.

## 6. EVENT DIRECTOR

All bridge sessions at the Club are to be controlled by one or more Directors appointed by the Club. The duties, responsibilities and powers of Directors shall be in accordance with the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Law 81), the QBA Regulations (Section H) and these By-laws.

- 6.1. For ordinary weekly Club events and Special events, Directors may take part as one of the players.
- 6.2. For Congresses, the Club may request of QBA for the appointment of a particular and appropriately qualified Congress Director but QBA will determine who will be appointed as the Tournament Director for the Congress. For such events, the Tournament Director will be a non-playing Director.

## 7. MOVEMENTS

The movement to be applied in any session of an event shall be set by the appointed Director who shall aim to achieve equity for all players at all times.

- 7.1. In any session, the Director is to ensure that at least 24 boards are IN PLAY otherwise Masterpoints cannot be awarded. Additionally, the movement should ensure that each player plays at least 75% of the total boards in play. As an example, in a 6½ Table Mitchell movement playing seven (7) 4-board rounds, the non sit-out side would play 28 boards while the sit-out side would play 24 boards, which is 86% of the total boards in play. This meets the ABF requirements for Masterpoints to be awarded.
- 7.2. Final qualifiers are to be either the top 14 pairs in a Howell movement, or the top 7-NS and 7-EW in a Mitchell. For Consolations, the remainder of the field is to be divided equally.

## 8. WEEKLY EVENTS

Ordinary weekly events may be divided into sections depending on the number of contestants and the Club's recommended movement schedule. Where possible, sit-out time for a half table should be no more than 4 boards (24 minutes). As a guide, and at the discretion of the Director:

- 8.1. Up to 12 tables – 1 section.
- 8.2. 12½ to 24 tables – 2 or more sections except a single Appendix movement can be used where there is a half table and fewer than 15 tables.
- 8.3. 24½ or more tables – 2 or more sections.
- 8.4. Participants should not be required to play more than 36 boards in any one session.

8.5. Where ever possible, all sections are to play duplicated board sets.

## 9. SPECIAL WEEKLY REQUIREMENTS

At the Discretion of the Director:

9.1. Where possible, all Monday sessions should comprise two or more sections, one Restricted and one or more Open sections. However, where there are not sufficient players available for graded sections to be run, the Director can move players to make one or more Open sections as might be appropriate.

9.2. Where a Restricted section is run, only pairs who each hold a ranking of not higher than 50 Masterpoints are eligible. This requirement may be waived in the case of a beginner with less than 2 Masterpoints being partnered by a much more experienced player with more than 50 Masterpoints but in this case, the experienced player will be ineligible to be awarded Masterpoints.

**Clauses 9.3 and 9.4 deleted by the Committee 6.2.2017**

## 10. PREPARATION OF BOARDS

Pre-dealt boards with hand records are to be provided for all sessions at all events. The collection and security of pre-dealt boards are to be the responsibility of the Head Dealer, Event Organizer or the appointed Director.

## CALLING

### 11. METHOD

In all events, all calls in an auction in any session are to be written on approved bidding forms (or bidding boxes where these are used) that are supplied by the Club. However, the Director can authorize verbal bidding as per QBA Regulations.

### 12. NOTATION

The notations used to identify calls or bids shall be:

12.1. 1-Club; 2-Clubs etc are to be marked as: 1C; 2C etc

12.2. 1-Diamond; 2-Diamonds etc are to be marked as: 1D; 2D etc

12.3. 1-Heart; 2-hearts etc are to be marked as: 1H; 2H etc

12.4. 1-Spade; 2-Spades etc are to be marked as 1S; 2S etc

12.5. 1-No Trump; 2-No Trumps etc are to be marked as 1NT; 2NT etc

12.6. Double is to be marked as: X

12.7. Redouble is to be marked as: XX

12.8. Pass is to be marked as: /

12.9. Following a verbal ALERT, a player must circle his/her partner's bid to which the alert applies.

### 13. GENERAL RULES

Calls should be written in a consistent legible manner, avoiding scribbling, variations in size, pressure or thickness, or the creation of unnecessary marks. Deviations may be deemed to convey unauthorized information and be penalized accordingly. Players should endeavour to contain

each notation within a single square on the bidding form. Bidding forms must not be marked prior to the start of calling to show the dealer or vulnerability. The bidding sheet must remain in view until the third player (on declarer's right) has played to the first trick, whereupon dummy should turn the bidding sheet and the board over to obscure Vulnerability and Dealer or otherwise remove them from sight (QBA Regulation: Written bidding B4.9) . After the end of a round, used bidding forms must be removed from the view of all players.

## **BIDDING SYSTEM**

### **14. CLASSIFICATION**

The ABF has set standards for the classification of bidding systems used in ABF events. These criteria are contained in the current QBA Regulations (System Regulations L 1-7) and are to be applied in all Club sponsored events other than as provided by Clause 2.3 of these By-laws. Systems are identified by a colour code: GREEN, BLUE, RED, YELLOW (HUM) and BROWN STICKER indicating the degree of artificiality with GREEN being Natural.

### **15. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

In any partnership, both members must conform to the same bidding and play systems, including special and conventional calls and plays, and maintain this agreement for the remainder of any one session. Deviations may be acceptable only if permitted by the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Law 40C).

### **16. APPLICATION**

In all Club events, the following conditions are to apply.

16.1. GREEN or BLUE systems may be used in any event.

16.2. RED systems may not be used in ordinary weekly Club events but may be used in Club Championships, Congresses and Inter-Club Tournaments.

16.3. YELLOW (HUM) systems and BROWN STICKER treatments will not be permitted in any Club event.

### **17. PLAYER'S OBLIGATIONS**

Players are responsible for classifying their own systems appropriately according to these requirements. If players are in any doubt about the appropriate classification of their system, they may submit their System Card to the Chief Director/Director for classification. Players must disclose fully the scope of their conventional agreements, particularly aspects that may require unusual defensive measures.

### **18. SYSTEM CARDS**

System details are to be recorded on approved ABF System Cards. They must be legible to anybody, and show the names of the relevant pair and an indication of the classification of the system.

18.1. For ordinary weekly Club events, each pair must have at least one relevant system card on the table during a session.

- 18.2. For Club Championships, Red point events and Congresses, each participating pair must have two identical cards on the table throughout the event.
- 18.3. Players who fail to meet these obligations may be required, by the Chief Director, to follow a very simple bidding system, specified by the Chief Director/Director, for the remainder of the session.
- 18.4. In any round, after the auction period commences, and until the end of play in that round, a player must not refer to his/her own system card. Players may refer to their opponent's card/s.

## **ALERTING**

### 19. PRINCIPLES

It is an essential principle of the game of Bridge that partnerships may not have secret agreements, either in bidding or in card play. All agreements must be fully available to any opponents. System cards always should be available, and any questions by opponents must be answered as fully as possible.

### 20. ALERTABLE BIDS

The general principle is to alert agreements that opponents may not fully understand or may reasonably misinterpret. All apparently natural bids at the three or lower level, but including conventional opening bids at the 4-level such as Namyats and other 4-level Transfer Pre-empts, that convey a meaning that opponents may not expect, must be alerted. This includes strong bids that sound weak, weak bids that sound strong, and all other calls that convey meanings different from, or additional to, their normal meanings.

### 21. SELF-ALERTING BIDS

The ABF has specified certain calls that carry their own alert and need not be alerted. These include:

- 21.1. All Doubles and Redoubles;
- 21.2. All Cue-bids of an opponent's bid suit;
- 21.3. All bids at the four level or higher but excluding Namyats and other 4-level Transfer Pre-empts which must be alerted; and
- 21.4. Following an opening bid of 1NT, a response of 2C (STAYMAN) in an uncontested auction.

### 22. ALERTING REQUIREMENTS

Alerting requirements at all Club events are to conform to the Regulations made from time to time by the QBA (Alerting Regulations, Section G).

## **SCORING**

### 23. SCORING REQUIREMENTS

Methods used in Club events will be those as specified in the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Laws 77, 78 and 79). Special methods may be applied in specified events with the approval

of the Committee. Scores may be recorded on the scoring sheets accompanying each board, or on the BRIDGEMATE terminals at each table.

- 23.1. In individual and Pairs events, the North/South players shall be responsible for the correct entry of all scores. East/West players shall be responsible for endorsing the accuracy of each entry.
- 23.2. In Teams events where computer scoring (eg, Bridgemate) is in use, each pair in a team shall be responsible for the correct recording of their own scores for each round in agreement with their opponents, and then comparing them with their team mates and arriving at an agreed result. The team captain shall be responsible for reconciling the final scores with the captain of the opposing team.

## 24. CORRECTION

Incorrect or disputed scores may be altered on the travelling score sheet or the BRIDGEMATE score records during play at a normal Club session provided that both parties agree to the change. After a normal Club session has been completed, changes may be made up to the start of the next same-day session (i.e. a Monday session may be changed within the 7-day period until the start of the next normal Monday session) but only on the authority of a Director and with the agreement as to the correct score by at least one member of each of the competing pairs.

## 25. RESULTS

In all Club sponsored events, results, where there may be any question regarding the finishing order in any event, shall be determined in the following manner:

- 25.1. In any event where a cash prize has been awarded, ties shall not be broken. The cash shall be divided as evenly as possible among the tied contestants;
- 25.2. In PAIRS events, where two or more Pairs may obtain the same percentage scores, the Pair/s gaining the highest Matchpoint score shall be declared the winner;
- 25.3. In TEAMS events, where two or more Teams have obtained the same Victory Point score, the Team/s gaining the highest International Matchpoint score shall be declared the winner; and
- 25.4. In the event of any exact ties, after the foregoing rules have been applied and contestants are still tied, the results shall not be split. All Pairs or Teams gaining the same score shall be declared winners, and all prizes or trophies shall be shared.

## **SUBSTITUTES**

## 26. APPLICATION

If a nominated entrant in a multi-session Club event is unable to play in any session of that event because of sudden illness or injury, urgent personal business or any other sufficient reason, he/she or his/her partner or team captain may apply to the Chief Director for approval to use a nominated substitute. The Chief Director should consider the effect of the substitution on other contestants and the integrity of the event.

## 27. CONDITIONS

The provisions of substitutes will be governed by the QBA Regulations (C, D, E and F) that are in effect at the time. In any question or dispute involving substitutions, the DIRECTOR'S

DECISION SHALL BE FINAL. Where a multi-session Club event is held (eg Club's qualifying rounds for the GNOT or Club red-point events), the substitute can play in only one (1) of the nominated pairs or teams for that event. However, for a zone event such as GNOT, players can be nominated to represent the Club irrespective of whether or not that person took part in the qualifying session/s.

## **APPEALS**

### **28. APPLICATION**

During the progress of an event, any player who is dissatisfied with any ruling by a Director may, with the agreement of his/her partner or team captain, appeal against that ruling.

- 28.1. The first appeal should be made verbally to the Director to reconsider his/her ruling. The Director should consult other Directors present at the session on the ruling and then advise the player/s of the final ruling.
- 28.2. If the player is still dissatisfied with the ruling, he/she is to advise the Director as soon as possible, but in any case not later than 30 minutes following the end of the session, of an intention to lodge an appeal. The Club's Appeal's procedures are then to be followed with an Appeal Committee formed as soon as possible to hear the Appeal. The Appellant is required to lodge a fee of \$50, which will be refunded if the Appeal is found in favor of the Appellant.
- 28.3. The completed Appeal form is to reach the Club Secretary or President within three days of the incident.
- 28.4. On receiving an appeal, the Committee is to convene a Club Board of Appeal within three days to adjudicate on the matter. The Appellant/s, their Opponents and the Director should be present at the Board of Appeal to provide information relevant to the Appeal. The Board shall advise the appellant of its decision within three days of that meeting.
- 28.5. The consideration of any appeal should be cognizant of the provisions of the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Laws 92 and 93) and the QBA Regulations Section I.

### **29. CLUB BOARD OF APPEAL**

The Club shall establish a panel of experienced players, of whom any three or more may be co-opted to form a Board of Appeal for any occasion. Whenever convened, the Club's Appeals Procedures are to be followed with one member appointed as Chairman to preside over all deliberations and decisions.

## **GENERAL CONDUCT**

### **30. PROPRIETIES**

All participants in Club sponsored events, whether they be members or not, are expected to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as published from time to time, especially with the provisions of the WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 (Laws 72, 73



and 74). Flagrant or repeated offences may be penalized by the Director, or reported to the Committee for further disciplinary action.

### 31. SESSION START

Players should be present at the Club House at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of a session. They should be **READY TO COMMENCE PLAY** at the scheduled starting time. This stipulation is to ensure that all preparations for play such as determination of the movement, distribution of the boards and any other equipment and the activation of the **BRIDGEMATE** scorer are complete.

### 32. LATE-COMERS

Players who arrive late without prior warning or sufficient reason may be penalized by the Director. In particular:

32.1. Players who arrive after the start of play may be refused inclusion in the session. At the discretion of the Director, a late comer may be allowed to play but if this results in some boards not able to be played in the round, the late comer pair will be given an adjusted minus score for each board that could not be played.

32.2. Players who arrive after the close of the first round will not be admitted to the movement in any circumstances.

### 33. TIME LIMITS

The count-down timer normally will be set to allow a cumulative interval of six minutes per board to be played in each round with an additional one minute for boards, and East/West players, to move for the next round, unless special circumstances require another interval. A warning signal will be sounded three minutes before the scheduled end of each round.

### 34. SLOW PLAY

Players should endeavour to avoid any delay to the completion of a round by excessively slow play, prolonged post mortems or social exchanges. All boards should be played and scored within the time limits set by the Director.

34.1. Players should move as soon as possible after the Director has called for a change of seats. Unnecessary delays, apart from those due to slow play by other players, may lead to a failure to complete subsequent rounds in the allocated time and to incur penalties.

34.3 At any table, if for the first time, bidding on the board has not been completed nor the lead card placed on the table by the three minute warning signal, then, at the discretion of the Director, both pairs may be required to cease play and have an **AVERAGE** score awarded for any uncompleted board/s. After a pair is given an average score because of their slow play in two rounds, any subsequent slow play by the same pair will result in an Average minus (40%) being given to the offending pair.

34.4 On subsequent occasions where the same pair is found to be late in completing a round, the play of any uncompleted board/s will be terminated at the discretion of the Director. Offenders will be awarded an **AVERAGE MINUS (40%)** score with an **AVERAGE PLUS (60%)** score being awarded to the non-offending opponents.

### 35 POST-MORTEMES

Discussion of hands played at the table is not recommended and is to be discouraged even if all boards in a round have been played and scored, and there is no likelihood of delay to the progress of play. In any event, discussions must not be audible to players at other tables, and must not be continued to another table in the presence of new opponents. Any violation of these requirements may incur a penalty from the Director.

### 36. QUESTIONS DURING AUCTIONS

36.1 It is not illegal but it is UNETHICAL to question opponents on any facet of the opponent's calls if the ENQUIRER HAS NO INTENTION OF OVER-CALLING. Such questions should be left until the close of the auction and before the opening lead has been faced. It is ILLEGAL if questions are put in the expectation of providing improper information to partner.

36.2 Except for questions during the auction concerning the last bid by the Opponent, questions cannot be asked about a specific bid at the end of the auction. However, a full review and explanation of all bids made during the auction can be requested by any player.

### 37. CARD SELECTION

At any time during the play of a hand, it is UNETHICAL for a player to obviously select a card to play by drawing it partly or wholly out of his/her hand, and then replace it and select another card. In the case of an opening lead, once the card is placed on the table, whether faced or not faced, it can be returned to the hand ONLY on instruction of the Director after an irregularity (WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007, Laws 41A and 47).

### 38. IRREGULARITIES

In the event of any irregular or illegal action, whether obvious or suspected, the DIRECTOR MUST BE CALLED to the table to adjudicate on the matter. The players involved are not authorized to resolve the incident on their own initiative, no matter how convenient this may be. A move to prevent the Director being called by anyone at the table must be strongly resisted. A violation of this principle may compromise players' rights, and may be penalized by the Director. Players are reminded that calling the Director need not incur any penalty on any player. The Director's duty is to apply the Laws of the WBF and other Regulations, including these By-laws, which are designed primarily not as punishment for irregularities, but as protection from any damage.

### 39. MOBILE PHONES AND PAGERS

The use of mobile phones, pagers and other electronic communications devices is not permitted during any session time. Entrants with a bona fide 'on-call' need may lodge such items with the Director of the day who will alert them to any calls.

39.1. A warning will be issued at the start of each session, quoting the conditions of this By-law. If a phone goes off after this warning, a final room warning should be given by the Director.

- 39.2. Thereafter, all breaches or audio disturbances from such devices will incur an automatic non-discretionary penalty as specified below:
- 39.2.1. In Pairs events, 50% of the Matchpoint top of a board.
  - 39.2.2. In Teams events, 3 Victory Points.
  - 39.2.3. In Knock-out Teams, 9 International Matchpoints.