

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ASIA BRIDGE FEDERATION TEAM OF FOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section A

General Conditions

1. The Far East International Team of Four Championships will be held once in every calendar year except for Team Olympiad years, and for these years, PABF Congress will be held.
2. The Tournament will be conducted in a double round robin so that each of the participating teams plays two distinct matches against every other team. Ideally the length of the individual matches will be 32 hands or close thereto and there will be two matches per day.
3. a. The Tournament schedule is to be arranged so that the Championships take no longer than 11 consecutive days. The Championships will commence on a Saturday afternoon and the first delegates' Meeting is to be held on that Saturday.
b. In case the number of teams entered makes it impossible to complete the schedule within 11 days, on the basis of two matches per day, the host NCBO is authorized to run 2 1/2 or 3 matches per day and in such event they may be reduced appropriately the number of boards per match but in no case to less than 20 boards. For 20 board matches there will not be a change of opponents at half time. For longer matches the half time change of opponents will be maintained.
Note: The guideline was accepted in 1979 that a minimum of 24 boards per match were to be played with maximum of 9 playing days, and that the starting time should not earlier than 12:30. NCBOs were to advise the host NCBO at least 60 days before the start of the tournament whether they intend to participate.
c. The Pairs Championship will be run either before or after the Team of Four Championships, at Host NCBO's option.
Note: It was decided in 1979 that the host NCBO should report within 45 days how it intends to run the tournament and provide full details to the Secretary who would then obtain approval from the Executive and inform the host NCBO accordingly.
4. The playing contingent of each of NCBO teams shall consist of a maximum of 6 players. Each team must be headed by a captain who may be either playing or non-playing.

Section B

Venue and Date of the Championships

1. The Federation Delegates' meeting held each year in conjunction with the current year's Championship Tournament will choose the venue for the next year's Tournament. This meeting may also decide on the venues for any of the next three years.
2. Every bona fide member NCBO is eligible to become the site of the Tournament.
3. Applications for the roles of host NCBO may be made directly at the above-mentioned meeting or at any time prior to that through the Federation Secretary.
4. All applications will be put to the vote in an alphabetical order. Delegates may vote for one NCBO only. Simple majority will be decisive.
5. A member NCBO not present at the meeting may take part in the voting on this matter by means of a letter addressed to the meeting or the Federation Secretary.
6. In case the Delegates' meeting does not receive a single application for the role of the host NCBO for the forthcoming year, the decision is postponed for two months. If the Federation Secretariat receives more than one application during this period, it will arrange for a vote by mail.
7. The Tournament should commence sometime between May 1 and June 30. Within these limits, actual dates are left to the convenience of the host NCBO. However, approximate

dates should be circulated by the host NCBO by November 1 of the previous year.

Section C

Eligibility of Players

1. Any person will be considered by the Federation as eligible to represent a particular NCBO provided he or she satisfies one of the following three conditions: (of course member NCBO may impose stricter eligibility requirements for their own team members, should they so desire.)
 - a. The player is a national of the NCBO concerned.
 - b. The player has been a resident in the NCBO concerned during three years out of the five years immediately preceding the date of the Tournament.
 - c. The player has lived six months immediately preceding the Tournament in the NCBO concerned.
2. A member NCBO may seek through the Federation Secretariat exceptional approval for a player who does not qualify under the above rules. Such requests must be submitted to the Secretariat not later than two months prior to the scheduled start of the Tournament and must include a full account of the special circumstances involved. The Secretariat will arrange for a vote by mail and simple majority will be decisive.

Section D

Entry Procedure

1. Each member NCBO must advise the host NCBO of its intention (or otherwise) to take part in the Tournament not later than two months in advance of the scheduled starting date.
2. A name list of the players and team captains must be forwarded to the host NCBO so as to reach them latest one month prior to the start of the Tournament.
3. Summaries of the bidding system(s) used by the team must be forwarded to the host NCBO and all the other participating NCBOs by registered mail so as to reach them latest one month before the beginning of the Tournament.
4. Each NCBO may, if it wishes to do so, submit together with the team list, mentioned under 2 above, a reserve list consisting of at most four players. This reserve list must be accompanied by summaries of the bidding system(s) used by the players concerned.

Section E

Team Changes

1. After the name list is submitted, changes in the team will be subject to the following rules:
 - a. Up to 2 hours before the start of the Tournament, requests for changes will be approved. The restrictions on bidding systems applied to new pairs shall be those set out in Section F4, i.e. the same as those applying to pairs who have failed to supply their bidding system notes as required under Section D3, F1 and F2.
 - b. At any later time changes may be made only under emergency conditions and with the approval of the Tournament Director:
 - 1) Under all circumstances, only those players who are directly affected by the emergency may be replaced.
 - 2) If in spite of the emergency, the playing strength of the team is still 4 or more players, then replacement(s) may be made only provided the affected player(s) had not as yet taken part in the Tournament.
 - 3) If as a result of the emergency the playing strength is reduced to less than 4 players the Tournament Director may permit replacement of player(s) that had already taken part in the Tournament in order to bring up the playing strength to just 4 players.

2. IN all cases eligibility rules of Section C must be satisfied.

Section F

Bidding System Summaries

1. All pairs must fully disclose their bidding systems by filling the current WBF Convention Cards, which shall be provided by the Secretariat. If supplementary sheets are necessary, they must be at most 6 pages using A4 size papers. All supplementary sheets must be type-written.
2. After the bidding summaries are received by the host NCBO, the tournament Director will decide which of the systems are sufficiently complex to warrant permitting the opposing teams to refer at the playing table to their notes on defence against the system concerned. The Tournament Director will circulate a list of such systems to all the participating NCBOs.
3. If the bidding summaries are not provided as required under Section D3 and F1, any of the opposing teams may appeal to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the Tournament. If the Tournament Director finds the appeal valid he will impose penalties as follows:
 - a. If in the opinion of the Tournament Director the improperly introduced system is sufficiently complex as to constitute an undue hardship on the opponents the system will be barred.
 - b. If in the opinion of the Tournament Director the system, though improperly introduced, is relatively simple he will authorize its use but will allow the opposing teams to refer at the playing table to their notes on defence against the system concerned.
 - c. A system authorized under the preceding sub-section shall not be used until at least 24 hours after the bidding summaries have been provided.

Section G

Tournament Director

1. The Tournament Director and Assistant Directors are appointed by the host NCBO. Their powers and duties shall be as defined in "The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge - International Code - 1984" and any subsequent amendments or additions thereto.
2. The appointment of the Tournament Director shall be made no later than one month prior to the start of the tournament.
3. The Tournament Director may in case of need appoint one of the assistant Directors as Deputy Director and may delegate to the latter his full authority for a special period of time. There shall be no more than one Deputy Director at any one time.

Section H

Appeals Committee

1.
 - a. An Appeals Committee will be constituted prior to the start of the Tournament.
 - b. This Committee shall be appointed by the President of the PABF and the President or his nominee shall act as Chairman. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall have the right to vote. The Committee will have the power to reserve or amend such rulings of the Tournament Director which are the subject of a properly submitted appeal.
 - c. In the first instance all appeals must be made to the Tournament Director. If the appellants are not satisfied with the result of the Director's review of the case they may request that their appeal be referred to the Appeals Committee.
 - d. Appeals must be presented through the Teams Captain or his authorized representative. Notice of the appeal must be made within thirty minutes of the completion of the relevant match. A full statement in writing must follow within next 24 hours.
 - e. The Tournament Director will be present at Committee Meetings and may take part in the discussions but not in the voting. Voting will be by open show of hands and simple

majority will be decisive.

- f. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- g. Any member whose team is involved in the dispute should abstain from voting.
2. The Appeals Committee shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all question of Law, whether under these Regulations, these Rules or the proprieties, arising on any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions shall be the final authority in such matters. The Committee can always reconsider such findings and decisions.
3. a. At least three members of the Appeals Committee should be on call at all times during play of the Championships. This group shall be known as the Incomplete Appeals Committee and is empowered to deal with any problems brought to it, unless the members concerned deem that the relevant appeal should be passed to the Full Committee.
- b. The quorum for a Full Appeals Committee Meeting shall be 2/3 of its members.
- c. If one of the parties involved is dissatisfied with a ruling of the Incomplete Appeals Committee it may demand a Full Appeals Committee Meeting, but in this case if the ruling of the Incomplete Committee is upheld the party that requested the review will be fined HK\$200.00.
4. The Appeals Committee is encouraged and has the right to interest itself during the duration of the Tournament in anything touching on the Laws and proprieties of the game.

Section I

Rules for Captains' Meetings

1. A Captains' Meeting shall be held prior to or concurrently with the first Delegates' Meeting, but in the latter case it must end before the conclusion of the Delegates' Meeting. Further Captains' Meeting may be called for by the Delegates' Council or any two captains representing different NCBOs.
2. The Captain or a nominee of the Captain appointed in writing of every team taking part in the Tournament shall be entitled to attend a Captains' Meeting and to vote thereat.
3. All Captains' Meetings shall be attended by the Chief Tournament Director or his deputy who will acts as Chairman.
4. The Agenda for the first Captains' Meeting shall include the following:
 - (1) The Drawing of Team Numbers
 - (2) Tournament Director's instructions to the Captains in regard to their more important duties.
 - (3) Captains' requests for explanation on any point regarding their duties, playing conditions, tournament schedule and any other matter of that nature.
 - (4) Any matter put to it by the Council of Delegates.
 - (5) Any other matter.
5. A Captains' Meeting may by majority vote make such recommendations to the Council as it considers fit, but i has no authority to alter or rescind any decisions taken by the Council or the host NCBO Organizing Committee.

Section J

Captains' Duties and Prerogatives

1. The Captain has to submit his line up as required in Section N6 and N7.
2. When players from the Closed Room are released the Captain must proceed to the Scoring Room to confirm the results of the session.
3. The Captain may ask the Tournament Director to permit him or his representative to stay in the Closed Room during play, subject to the provisions of Rule - Section L5.
4. The Captain and any representative of the Captain may not coach his players at the playing

table. He may not speak to his team members from the moment any player withdraws his hand from the board until all hands are replaced. He may intervene for the following purpose:

- a. To protect the rights of his team if he believes them to be jeopardized in any way.
- b. To require that a Director be called to the table.
- c. To intimate his own intention to make a protest or appeal on behalf of his team in reference to any matter.
- d. To curtail unnecessary discussions.
- e. To decline to allow a pair or his team to lodge a protest with the Appeals Committee.

Section K

Tournament Schedule

1. The host NCBO shall prepare in advance as far as the programme permits a schedule of daily matches in terms of undetermined teams represented by code numbers.
2. The above schedule should include the following information for each of the matches:
 - a. Table reference number.
 - b. Which of the two teams is "moving" and which is "sitting" in each match. (In this respect, the second leg of the Round Robin should be the opposite of the first leg.) Each of the team is to be a sitting team approximately half of the matches in each Round Robin.
 - c. Which team occupies the NS seats in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room and Vice Versa.
3. It is recommended that all sessions commence at approximately 1 p.m. and be scheduled to end about midnight.
4. Code numbers will be drawn at the first Captains' Meeting as per Section I4(1) and the number drawn for each team will determine its positions in the Tournament Schedule.

Section L

Playing Arrangement

1. Platforms for spectators should be provided around the tables in the Open Room and no authorized person should be allowed inside the area bounded by these platforms. If there is not enough space for platforms, barriers of some sort should be provided to keep spectators at a reasonable distance from the tables.
2. Spectators are not allowed to converse with the players and also among themselves while the bidding or play of a hand is in progress. Spectators are not supposed to disturb the players in any other manner. The Tournament Director should see to it that the spectators are made aware of this rule.
3. Only the following persons may freely enter and leave the Closed Room while play is in progress:
 - (1) The Tournament Director;
 - (2) A limited number of specifically designated Tournament Officials displaying special identification for this purpose;
 - (3) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Federation;
 - (4) Members of the Appeals Committee requiring access to the Closed Room for the purpose of carrying out their duties.
4. Team members playing in the Closed Room may not leave the Closed Room until play has been completed in both rooms, except with the permission of the Tournament Director.
5. The Tournament Director may, if he thinks fit, grant a team captain or his representative special permission to sit with his team in the Closed Room subject to such conditions as the Tournament Director may impose, but such person shall enter the Closed Room before play

- begins and shall not leave the Closed Room until the other members of his team leave.
6. Free access to the scoring and recording area shall be restricted to the following persons :
 - (1) Tournament Officials on duty;
 - (2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Federation;
 - (3) Members of the Appeals Committee on duty.
 7. A Team Captain may enter the scoring and recording area only on the invitation of the Tournament Director or an Assistant Director.
 8. It is the duty of all players to play for the Vu-Graph or Bridgerama whenever requested to do so by the Tournament Director.
 9. A Score-board listing the results of the completed matches and the running total scores of all teams shall be displayed in the Open Room or some other suitable and accessible place. To make the running scores more realistic, whenever a team has a bye, it will receive a temporary award of 18VP. This temporary award will be deductible at the end of each Round robin, thereby reducing the running scores to their true value.

Section M

Intervals and Announcements of Scores

1. Each match is to consist of two sets of approximately 16 boards each.
2. At the beginning of each set the "sitting" pairs must take their places at the table in advance of the "moving" pairs.
3. Before beginning the first set each team may form its participating pairs from its players in any manner whatsoever.
4. At the end of the first set and before beginning the second set each team may rearrange its pairs in accordance with the following:
 - a. Substitutions may be made by replacing one or two players who participated in the first set by one or two players who did not take part in that set.
 - b. No player who participated in the first half may take part in the second unless:
 - (1) If a member of the "sitting" team, he plays the second set in the same room as that in which he played the first set.
 - (2) If a member of the "moving" team, he plays the second set in the opposite room to that in which he played the first set.
5. The participating pairs formed by each team under 3 and 4 above must under normal circumstances be consistent with the provisions of Section D and F. In other circumstances, the provisions of Section E will be applied.
6. At such period, before the start of the first set as determined by the Tournament Director each "sitting" Team Captain must submit to him his Team line-up for that set, indicating which pair will play in which room and at which position each player will sit in each Room. Each "moving" Team Captain will be advised of the opposing "sitting" Team's Line-up by the Tournament Director and to him will subsequently be required to submit his Team Line-up similarly for that set.
7. At such period after the end of the first set and before the start of the second set as determined by the Tournament Director each "sitting" Team Captain must submit to him details of his Team line-up for the second set, including details of substitutions (if any), in the same manner as for the first set. Each "moving" Team Captain will be advised of the opposing "sitting" Team's line-up by the Tournament Director and to him will subsequently be required to submit his Team line-up similarly for the second set.

Section O

Procedure at the Playing table

1. All players should remember that English is the Official language and any conversation at the playing table should be in English only.
2. Players may not consult their own bidding systems at the table. Opponents' bidding system summaries may be consulted but should be kept off the table. Notes on defence against opponents' bidding systems may be consulted if authorized under Section F3 or F4.
3. The auction will be in writing on a special bidding sheet the basic form of which is illustrated in Appendix III attached hereto.
4. The auction will be in accordance with the Rules for Written Bidding as contained in Appendix II attached hereto.
5.
 - a. Under no circumstances should the player make their bids with undue haste.
 - b. During the first round of bidding all players, when it is their turn to bid, must pause at least 3 seconds before making any call.
 - c. Following right-hand opponent's bid of more than the minimum necessary in the selected denomination - whether it be an opening bid or not - a player must pause at least 5 seconds before making any call.
 - d. Following the first artificial bid made by his right-hand opponent, a player must pause at least 5 seconds before making any call.
 - e. For the purpose of this regulation, the term "artificial bid" shall mean a bid alerted as such.
6. After the auction is concluded, the declarer and dummy should not exchange hands.
7.
 - a. The Opening lead may not be made until the bidding sheet is removed. The bidding sheet may not be removed without the approval of the declarer and both defenders. If the opening lead is made before declarer's sanction, declarer may study dummy before authorizing the removal of the bidding sheet.
 - b. Opening lead shall be made face down and shall be exposed only after the leader's partner has completed his inquiries if any as to the meaning of opponents' conventional bids. The leader's partner shall not make any inquiry after the lead is exposed.
8. Before spreading his hand, the dummy player should remove the bidding sheet from the table and keep it out of the players' sight during the entire play of the hand. Dummy should record the first three leads and cards played by all players.
9. When the entire hand has been played, the bidding sheet should be replaced on the table. The South player is required to ensure that the score is correctly entered thereon and initialled by East or West. The players then record their individual hands (except when excused from this chore by the Tournament Director).
10. In order to avoid delays, no discussions or "post-mortem" will be allowed after the play of a hand.
11. Fouled Boards
 - a. Whenever it is possible to do so, the Director will correct the board and allow play to proceed. However, the team responsible for fouling the board will be fined 3 IMP i.e. its score shall be reduced by 3 IMP.
 - b. When it is not possible to correct the boards, the following provisions will apply:
 - 1) If the team responsible for the fouling has done well on the board, the board is redealt and the offending team is fined 3 IMP.
 - 2) If the result achieved at the first table is neutral, the board is redealt and the offending team is fined 3 IMP.
 - 3) If the innocent team has achieved a good result on the board, the Director will award an adjusted score (greater than 3 IMP) and there will be no fine.
 - 4) When both teams are at fault, the board will be redealt and there will be no fine.
 - 5) Whenever there is not sufficient time for a replay, the board will be canceled, but the

fine will remain.

Section P

Ethics and Deportment

The privilege of representing one's NCBO as a participant in the PABF is not only a right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is also dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all, irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in Victory Point and because participants are no longer appear as private individuals but public representatives, observance of the highest standards becomes the more imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the proprieties. Repeated violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

Section Q

Victory Point Scale

1. The WBF Scales in Appendix IV shall apply in accordance with the number of boards played in each match.
2. In the event of a tie in VPs at the end of each Round Robin, the tie shall be broken by IMP Quotient; i.e. the total IMPs won in all matches divided by total IMPs lost in all matches.

Section R

Penalties for delaying a Match

1. The time allowed will be 7 1/2 minutes per board, i.e. 8 boards per hour.
2. Delay in starting:
A grace period will be allowed as follows:
First offence : 10 minutes' grace period - yellow warning;
Second offence : 10 minutes' grace period - red warning;
Third and subsequent offence : 5 minutes' grace period;
The following penalties will be applied at the end of the specified grace period:

0	-	5 minutes late	= warning
5+	-	10 "	= 1 VP
10+	-	15 "	= 2 VP
15+	-	20 "	= 3 VP
20+	-	25 "	= 4 VP

Over 25 minutes late, at the discretion of the Appeals Committee, may forfeit a match.
3. Delay in Play:
A team shall be deemed to have delayed the game if it is more than 10 minutes behind schedule. Grace periods will be granted as follows:
First offence : 10 minutes' grace period - yellow warning;
Second offence : 5 minutes, grace period - red warning;
Third and subsequent offence : No grace period;
The penalties for delay are as follows:

0+	-	5 minutes late	= 1 VP
5+	-	10 "	= 1 1/2 VP
10+	-	15 "	= 2 VP
15+	-	20 "	= 2 1/2 VP
20+	-	25 "	= 3 VP

Over 25 minutes late, at the discretion of the Appeals Committee, may forfeit a match.
4. Delay in presenting line-up:

A delay in presenting the line-up of a team will, if it causes any delay in the start of a match, be subject to the same penalties as a delay in starting. The Tournament Director will decide whether a delay in presenting a line-up has delayed the start of a match, and the period of delay caused.

5. In case a team feels that the opposing team is causing undue delay the Team Captain or any player may request the Tournament Director to appoint a monitor to observe and decide which team is responsible for the delay.
6. Team penalties are to be deducted from the total score and not in the particular match where the penalty was incurred.

Section S

Forfeited Matches

1. Any team, four of whose members are not at the table 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time of a match will forfeit that match, except under emergency conditions accepted by the Tournament Director.
2. The offending team will receive 0 VP.
The non-offending team will receive:
either a. its average score for all matches (or all other matches) played during the round in which the forfeit occurs.
or b. the complement of the average score of the offending team for all matches (or all other matches) played during the round in which the forfeit occurs.
or c. 18 VPs.
 whichever is the greatest.

Section T

Screens

1. Use of screens :
 - a. Screens shall be used at all tables in the Open and Ladies Team events, unless otherwise requested by the host NCBO and approved by the Delegates' Meeting.
 - b. When screens are not used at all tables as provided in Section T1-a, the teams playing at the tables with screens shall be the appropriate number of the teams for the time leading in the tournament.
 - c. The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout.
2. The Auction :
 - a. The auction will take the form of silent bidding, with each player recording his bid on a movable Bidding Board passed under the screen from time to time. The method and procedure used in recording a bid will be proposed by the host NCBO and agreed by the Delegates' meeting.
 - b. After both players on one side of the screen have bid, the Bidding Board shall be passed under the screen to the other side and bidding will continue.
 - c. The player who makes the final bid in an auction shall enter the declarer and the final contract on the Record Sheet, after this have been inspected by his opponent on the same side of the screen, the Bidding Board and the Record Sheet shall be passed under the screen for inspection by the other players. The Bidding Board and the Record Sheet should then be passed to, or retained by, dummy.
 - d. The opponent on declarer's left should make the opening lead face down, then the screen should be raised and dummy's cards should be exposed.
 - e. Dummy is responsible for recording on the Record Sheet the Bidding, the first 3 tricks played and at the conclusion of play the number of tricks won by declarer and the score on

the board. The opponent on the same side of the screen as dummy should then initial the Record Sheet to indicate his agreement thereto.

3. Position of Screen :
 - a. During the auction, the screen should be in its low position, i.e. there should be a gap of not more than 1 1/2 inches between the bottom of the screen and the table.
 - b. During play, the screen should be raised to its high position, i.e. there should be a gap of about 10 inches between the bottom of the central part of the screen and the table.
4. Skip Bids and Alerts :
 - a. The usual 5 second pause is required following a Skip Bid by the Right Hand Opponent, whether the latter sits on the same side of the screen or the opposite side.
 - b. If a player makes an artificial bid, he should alert his opponent on the same side of the screen, and his partner should alert the opponent on the other side of the screen, with the Alert Card.
5. Explanation :
 - a. A player may when it is his turn to call or play may request a full explanation in writing of the alerted bid from the opponent on the same side of the screen of any bid or bids made by the opponents during the auction.
 - b. A player when alerted may request a full explanation in writing of the alerted bid from the opponent on the same side of the screen.
 - c. During play, the declarer may request an explanation in writing of the defender's card play conventions from the opponent on the same side of the screen.
 - d. All request, further requests, explanations and further explanations should be made in writing.

Section U

Change of Regulations

1. Any amendment which has the support of at least all but one of the member NCBOs shall be introduced with immediate effect.
2. Any amendment which falls short of the support stipulated under 1 above, but which does receive a simple majority, will become effective 6 months after the date of the proposed amendment being received. Any Federation Tournament taking place in the intervening 6 months will be governed by the old rules.