

# GRAND NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS 2021 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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## 1 General

- 1.1 The Grand National Novice Pairs (GNNP) is conducted by Real Deal Bridge (RDB) in conjunction with the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The competition will be held under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017. The ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) will apply as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of any inconsistency, these Supplementary Regulations will take precedence.
- 1.3 The Semi-Finals and Final of the competition will be conducted on the Real Deal Bridge online platform. Club Heats may be held in real life or on any online platform.
- 1.4 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the ABF Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the Chief Tournament Director shall be final and conclusive.

## 2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Laura Ginnan.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director and Scorer is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The ABF representative is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.5 The Recorder is Chris Hughes.

## 3 Eligibility and Substitutions

- 3.1 In order to progress to the Semi-Finals, each member of the partnership must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association.
- 3.2 To be eligible to progress to the Semi-Finals:
  - i) both members of the partnership must have fewer than 100 masterpoints at 30-6-21;
  - ii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction as the GNNP or higher;
  - iii) at the time of playing in the club heat, Grand Slam players must have a rating of less than 54%.

3.3 No substitutes are permitted in semi-final or final sessions.

## **4 Systems**

4.1 Only GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions are not allowed.

## **5 Correction Period and Time of Appeal**

5.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) and the time for requesting a review of a Director's ruling (Law 92B) expire 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the board was played.

## **6 Event format**

6.1 The GNNP will be played in three stages.

### *6.2 Club Heats*

6.2.1 Clubs may apply to Real Deal Bridge to conduct heats which can be held at any time in the period of November 15-21. Real Deal Bridge will provide deal files and other related information. Club heats are open to all players, however only pairs which satisfy the eligibility criteria in Section 3 above are able to progress to the Semi-Finals stage. The Club is responsible for the allocation and submission of masterpoints. The Club event may run a heat as a B4c red point event using their annual B4c allocation. The Club may elect to run the heat either as a face-to-face event or using any online bridge platform.

6.2.2 At least four eligible pairs from the Club Heat will qualify to the Semi-Finals. In addition, the club may qualify further eligible pairs. The maximum number of pairs who may qualify is equal to 20% (fractions rounded up) of the total number of pairs who played in the Club heat, including both eligible and ineligible pairs. The Club has complete responsibility for determining the ranking order of pairs. There is no provision for appeal against the decision of the Club.

6.2.3 After the conclusion of the heat, the Club must advise Real Deal Bridge of the names, ABF numbers and email addresses of all pairs who have qualified to the Semi-Finals. The list of qualifiers must be received by Real Deal Bridge by 5.00 pm (AEDT) on Tuesday, November 23. No subsequent changes or additions to the list of pairs will be accepted.

### *6.3 Semi-Finals*

6.3.1 The Semi-Finals will be held on the Real Deal Bridge platform in the week of November 29 to December 5 inclusive. At least one Semi-Final session will be held each day. At its absolute discretion based on the number of qualifiers to the Semi-Finals, Real Deal Bridge may elect to conduct an additional Semi-Final session on one or more days.

6.3.2 Subject to 6.3.8 and the payment of any entry fee set by Real Deal Bridge, there is no limit to the number of sessions in which a qualified pair may compete. Any pair which has qualified to the Semi-Finals may play in any Semi-Final session.

6.3.3 Semi-Final sessions will be held as Mitchell movements, with entered pairs being randomly assigned as either North-South or East-West. The number of rounds and the number of

boards per round will be determined by Real Deal Bridge once the number of entries to the session is known.

- 6.3.4 Scoring will be by standard duplicate matchpoints.
- 6.3.5 From each Semi-Final session, the first-placed pair from both the North-South and East-West directions will qualify for the Final. In addition (unless there are 14 Semi-Final sessions), sufficient highest scoring second placegetters will qualify to make up the 28 pair Final. Ranking is based on each pair's percentage score.
- 6.3.6 Critical ties affecting qualification within a Semi-Final session will be broken in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations.
- 6.3.7 If there is a tie on percentage between two or more second-placed pairs affecting qualification, the pair which finished closest to first in the same direction in their Semi-Final will be ranked higher. If this fails to break the tie, it will be broken by lot.
- 6.3.8 Semi-Final winners may not compete in another Semi-Final after they have qualified for the Final. In addition, if there are exactly 7 Semi-Final sessions, pairs which finished in second position and have therefore qualified for the Final may not compete in any further Semi-Final sessions.

#### 6.4 *Final*

- 6.4.1 The Final will be held on the Real Deal Bridge platform at 1.00 pm AEDT on Saturday, December 11.
- 6.4.2 The Final will be played as a Mitchell movement of 14 two board rounds. Qualified pairs will be randomly assigned as either North-South or East-West.
- 6.4.3 Scoring will be by standard duplicate matchpoints.