



Interstate Teams Selections (ITS)

Supplementary Regulations – 2025

1. General

These supplementary regulations are to be read in conjunction with the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations, and if required, the Bridge NSW and ABF regulations pertaining to online bridge. In the case of inconsistency, these Supplementary Regulations will apply.

The Events and Tournament Structure

The Open Interstate Teams Selection (**OITS**) is conducted in two stages, Qualifying and Final. The Qualifying is played on RealBridge, the Final is face-to-face.

The Women's Interstate Teams Selection (**WITS**) is played online on RealBridge over 3 consecutive days in one or two stages, depending upon the number of entrants.

The Seniors Interstate Teams Selection (**SITS**) is played online on RealBridge over 3 consecutive days in one or two stages, depending upon the number of entrants.

The Youth Interstate Teams Selection (**YITS**) is conducted as a single stage as a face-to-face event with no pre-qualification.

All events will be independent and scheduled to allow players to compete in all events for which they are eligible.

Eligibility and Entry

Non-contending pairs, including interstate and ineligible pairs, may enter the OITS Qualifying, providing both players are members of a club affiliated with Bridge NSW. Only players who are permanent residents of NSW and who are bona fide members of a club affiliated with Bridge NSW and who are eligible to represent NSW at the ANC may enter the WITS or SITS or the OITS Final.

Any question regarding a player's eligibility shall be decided by the Bridge NSW Events Committee. Such decision will be appealable to the Bridge NSW Board whose decision will be final.

Only registered players who identify as female may play in the WITS.

Only registered players who were born before the 1st January 1962 may play in the SITS.

Players born in 1999 or earlier may play in the YITS with the permission of Youth Committee Chair or other person delegated by the Board. Only registered players who were born on or after the 1st January 2000 are eligible for the Youth Team.

The Director may, at his discretion, allow a pair, which is ineligible for any reason, to play in one or more sessions to complete a movement.

Advance entry is required. Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of the Director.

All players in the OITS Final, the WITS or the SITS must be eligible and available to play in the ANC Teams Championship should they qualify.

Subject to ratification by the Bridge NSW Board, the pairs who finish in the first three places in the OITS, WITS, SITS and YITS will constitute the NSW Teams for the current year's ANC Teams Championship.

A player who has qualified for a team becomes ineligible to enter any subsequent ITS event.

Members of each team may be required by the Board to take part in promotional activities as members of the NSW representative teams.

Entry Fees

Entry fees for the various stages of each event will be set by a sub-committee headed by Chairman of the Events Committee.

Grants

Grants to attend the ANC are set by the Bridge NSW Board each year and vary depending on the location.

Responsibilities of ANC Team Members

Players making the teams are obliged to comply with all ABF regulations and supplementary regulations, including those concerning the submission of their system that will be played at the ANC.

Unless representing Australia or NSW in Bridge, all team members who are residents of Sydney are expected to play in the Bridge NSW Team of 3 Congress on 1 June 2025.

Substitutions

Substitutes in all stages of all events must be requested in accordance with the Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations, *i.e.* by submitting the online form at <https://bridgensw.com.au/substitution/> at least 5 days in advance. In cases of sudden illness or real emergency, ratification may be granted in fewer days or even retrospectively, but players are warned that the Substitution Regulations provide for significant penalties if the Events Committee rules that a substitute does not satisfy the criterion of equivalent standard.

Scoring

In the WITS and SITS Finals and both stages of the OITS, for the purposes of Law 12C, average plus and average minus will be set at +3 IMPs and -3 IMPs respectively. In the WITS and SITS Qualifying stages and the YITS, average plus and average minus will be set at +2 IMPs and -2 IMPs respectively.

Systems

Yellow Systems are not permitted in any online RealBridge session. Subject to the above restriction and section 4.5.2 of the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations, Yellow Systems are permitted only in the OITS Finals.

Time Limits

For each match in the OITS, WITS and SITS Finals, a total time limit of 7 minutes per board will be allowed. If the players have not removed their cards from the board during the allotted time, that board and any other unplayed boards will not be played. Penalties for slow play will be:

1st offence: warning; 2nd offence: 3 IMPs; 3rd offence: 6 IMPs; 4th and subsequent offences: 9 IMPs

Where more than one board is unplayed, an additional fine of 2 IMPs per board unplayed will be imposed on a pair determined by the Director to be responsible for the slow play.

Seeding

Seeding of fields, when required, will be done by a committee appointed and chaired by the Bridge NSW Chief Tournament Director.

RealBridge

It is a requirement that all players on RealBridge have working video and audio connections. Players may only turn off their camera with the permission of the Director. Players in breach of this regulation will not be permitted to enter any subsequent event stage.

A change of a played card will be permitted via "Undo" for a misclick where the Director is satisfied that the original card played was unintended. A change of call will be permitted via "Undo" for a misclick where the Director is satisfied that the original call made was unintended. Players may accept "Undo" requests without calling the Director.

Posting of Scores

Players should note that scores posted on RealBridge and CompScore3 may not be calculated according to these Supplementary Regulations. The official scores are those appearing on the Bridge NSW website or as specified by the Director.

Withdrawal of Pair during OITS, WITS and SITS Finals

If possible, a substitute pair of equivalent standard will be found. Neither the withdrawn pair nor the substitute pair will have any claim on qualifying for the ANC team.

Should no suitable substitute pair(s) be available, then:

- (a) if the withdrawal occurs before the start of the nth match of an n-table final, all scores involving the withdrawn pair will be expunged and all the remaining scores shall be recalculated for all matches.

(b) if the withdrawal occurs later, all scores involving the withdrawn pair shall stand. Pairs yet to play the withdrawn pair will be assigned scores under Clause 12.9 of the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations.

Replacement of Team Member

Replacement applies when a player (or pair) withdraws from the team after completion of the OITS, WITS or SITS Finals due to circumstances such as death, illness, unavoidable personal problems, refusal of Board ratification or any other reason. In such cases, the affected pair will be replaced by the highest ranked pair available, with the proviso that the replacement pair(s) finished in the top half of the field. If the team is still incomplete, the Chair of the Events Committee may select any available and eligible players (not confined to those who played in the event) to complete the team. Any such selection must still be ratified by the Bridge NSW Board, which may take whatever action it considers necessary to fill the vacancy created.

Unauthorised Withdrawals

Subject to recommendations from the Events Committee and reviews from the Board, any unauthorised withdrawal will result in the offending player(s) being denied entry to all 2026 ITS events, as well as other possible sanctions.

Other Considerations

The 2025 Australian National Championships are scheduled to be held in Brisbane on 7-11 July 2025. It is a requirement that all potential representatives comply with all relevant mandates of the ABF and State and Federal Governments.

If the dates of the ANC are changed for any reason, pairs may withdraw without penalty at the end of the stage in progress when the change is announced. The appropriate regulations for replacement of withdrawals will be implemented.

Bridge NSW reserves the right to reschedule any session or specify the OITS Final be held on RealBridge rather than face-to-face.

2. Open ITS

OITS Qualifying

The Qualifying will consist of four sessions, over two consecutive days as specified in the Bridge NSW Calendar <https://bridgensw.com.au/events/>

All entries must be received by 6:00 pm on the day preceding the event by two days (e.g. if the event starts 22 Feb, entries close at 6:00pm on 20 February).

The entrants will be seeded into two fields, which will be the North-South and East-West fields, sitting in these directions throughout. Seeding will be made to ensure that, as far as possible, an equal number of non-contending pairs are in each field, and that the overall strength of the two fields is equivalent. Mitchell-based movements will be used, arranged so that each pair plays all the boards used in a session and against as many of the pairs in the other field as practicable.

Scoring will be by "IMPs-against-median". For each board, each pair's score is computed by comparing its score with the middle score (median) according to the IMP scale.

The 7 highest scoring pairs in each field (NS and EW) shall progress to OITS Final.

Ties in OITS Qualifying

If two or more pairs from the same field finish with the same IMP totals, their relative rankings for the purpose of progression to the Final shall be determined, in order, by:

1. where an incomplete movement has been used, determining the total IMPs of all their opponents. The pair with the highest total shall be deemed to have had the most difficult draw and shall be placed highest;
2. for a 2-way tie, comparing the scores of the tying pairs on all boards. The pair with the greater number of better scores will be placed higher;
3. for ties involving 3 or more pairs, IMP the score on every board against all the other tying pairs. The pair with the greatest number of IMPs will be placed highest;
4. counting the number of boards on which each of the equally ranked pairs has scored a positive number of IMPs. The pair with the greatest number of positive scores shall be placed highest;
5. counting the number of boards on which each of the equally ranked pairs has scored a negative number of IMPs. The pair with the least number of negative scores shall be placed highest;
6. lot.

Withdrawals

Pairs who qualify to the Final, but then declare themselves unavailable, will be replaced by the highest ranked available pair from the same field (NS or EW) as the withdrawal. Players declaring themselves unavailable for the Final after the start of the last session of the Qualifying run the risk of not being permitted, by the Events Committee, to be a contending player in 2026.

Carry-Forwards

All pairs will be assigned a carry-forward of $B(X-\mu)/\sigma$ where X = the pair's score in IMPs; μ = the average score for that direction; σ = the standard deviation for that direction; B = the factor required to give a maximum carry-forward of 24.0 IMPs (irrespective of the lowest carry-forward).

OITS Final

The 7-table final will play 13 x 8-board matches, 7 matches on the Saturday, 6 on the Sunday. Matches will be arranged to balance the NS and EW fields evenly for each round.

Scoring will be by cross-IMPs. Each pair's score on a board will be compared with the score at every table and the sum of all the IMPs generated will be divided by the number of tables.

The scores for all matches will be calculated in total IMPs. Maximum wins are capped at 24 IMPs and maximum losses at 28 IMPs.

For the purposes of applying the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, each match in the Final Stage is considered a separate session.

Ties in the Final

Should there be a tie for third place (including a three-way tie for second place, etc), rankings will be determined, in order, as follows:

1. The pair with the smallest carry-forward to the Final will be ranked highest.
2. Pairs will be ranked according to the number of matches won (a draw is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ win) – those with more wins being ranked above those with fewer.
3. The totals will be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result of each of the pairs still ranking equally.
4. The pair with the greatest number of IMPs scored from matches that involve only those pairs involved in the tie will be ranked highest.
5. By lot.

Score Correction Periods

For the OITS Qualifying, midday on Monday 24th February.

For the OITS Final, 30 minutes after the completion of the session. If played on RealBridge, midday on Monday 10th March.

Substitutions

In the OITS Qualifying, the standard Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations will apply, viz a maximum of two (2) substitutions.

Each of the matches in the OITS Final will be treated as a separate session. The maximum number of substitutions allowed is three (3).

3. Women's and Seniors' ITS

Entry and Format

All entries must be received by 10.00 am on the day preceding the event. If the number of entries is 18 or fewer, a full round robin will be played over 3 days as shown in the following table.

# Pairs	# Matches	# Boards per match	# Matches on Fri, Sat, Sun
7-8	7	20	2, 3, 2
9-10	9	16	3, 3, 3
11-12	11	14	4, 4, 3
13-14	13	12	4, 5, 4
15-16	15	12	5, 5, 5
17-18	17	10	6, 6, 5

Byes in the draw are acceptable if an odd number of pairs have entered – Bridge NSW will only provide a house pair if one can be found to play throughout.

WITS/SITS Qualifying

If there are more than 18 entries, the event will be played in 2 stages; a 1-day Qualifying and a 2-day Final. The Qualifying stage will be played over 2 sessions on the Friday specified in the Bridge NSW Calendar. If an odd number of pairs enter, Bridge NSW will provide a house pair. The entrants will be seeded into two fields, which will be the North-South and East-West fields, sitting in these directions throughout the Qualifying stage. The movements shall be arranged so that each pair plays all the boards used in a session. The exact format of the Qualifying and Final will be dependent on the number of entries.

# Pairs	# Matches in Qualifying	# Boards per match	#Qualifiers to Final	Qualifiers % of field	# Matches in Final
19	10	6	10	53	9 x 12 bds
20	10	6	10	50	9 x 12 bds
21	11	5	10	48	9 x 12 bds
22	11	5	10	45	9 x 12 bds
23	12	5	10	43	9 x 12 bds
24	12	5	12	50	11 x 10 bds
25	13	4	12	48	11 x 10 bds
26	13	4	12	46	11 x 10 bds
27	14	4	12	44	11 x 10 bds
28	14	4	12	43	11 x 10 bds
29-34	14	4	14	<48	13 x 8 bds

The basis of scoring will be "IMPs-against-median", as for the OITS

Carry-Forwards

All pairs will be assigned a carry-forward of $B(X-\mu)/\sigma$ where X = the pair's score in IMPs; μ = the average score for that direction; σ = the standard deviation for that direction; B = the factor required to give a maximum carry-forward of 24.0 IMPs (irrespective of the lowest c/f).

Ties

If two or more pairs from the same Qualifying field finish with the same IMP totals, their relative rankings for the purpose of progression to the Final shall be determined using the same tie-breaking procedures as for the OITS Qualifying.

WITS/SITS Final

The Final stage will be played as specified in the Bridge NSW Calendar. Session times will be advertised in advance.

All finals, as shown in the previous tables, will begin play on day 1 at 10.00 am. Matches will be arranged to balance the NS and EW fields evenly for each round.

Scoring will be by standard cross-IMPs. For an n-table Final, each pair's score on a board will be compared with the score at every table and the sum of all the IMPs generated will be divided by n.

The scores for all matches will be calculated in total IMPs. Maximum wins and losses are capped as follows.

Match length (boards)	Maximum win (IMPs)	Maximum loss (IMPs)
20	40	50
16	32	40
14	30	36
13	28	34
12	26	32
9-10	25	30
8	24	28

For the purposes of applying the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, each match in the Final Stage is considered a separate session.

Substitutions

In a 2-session WITS/SITS Qualifying, the maximum allowance is one (1) substitution for one (1) session. Each of the matches in the WITS/SITS Final will be treated as a separate session. The maximum number of substitutions allowed is one (1) for 20-board

matches, or two (2) for 14 or 16-board matches, or three (3) for 8, 10, 12 or 13 board matches.

Ties in the Final Stage

Should there be a tie for third place in the WITS/SITS Final (including a three-way tie for second place, etc), rankings will be determined using the same criteria as for the OITS Final.

Score Correction Periods

For events held on RealBridge:

For WITS Qualifying (if held), 8.30 pm on Friday 28th March.

For the WITS Final, midday on Monday 31st March.

For SITS Qualifying (if held), 8.30 pm on Friday 25th April. For the SITS Final, midday on Monday 28th April.

4. Youth ITS

The event will be played over 2 sessions as specified in the Bridge NSW Calendar.

All entries must be received by 10.00 a.m. on the day preceding the event. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Director.

The exact format of the event, the number of boards per match and the method of datum calculation on each board will be determined by the Director once the number of entries is known. The event will likely be played as a round robin or double round robin with Butler scoring, each pair's score on a board being calculated by comparing their score with the datum by IMPs. The highest and lowest 10% of YITS scores (0.5 rounded up) will be deleted before calculating the datum. The Director may also include scores from a strong field that has played the boards previously, with relative weightings at the Director's discretion, in the calculation of the datum scores.

For matches of 7 boards or more, the net IMP score for the match will be converted to Victory Points using an appropriate ABF continuous VP scale as determined by the Director. For matches of 6 boards or fewer, the scores for the matches will be calculated in total IMPs with a maximum win being capped at (6 x n) IMPs and a maximum loss at (7 x n) IMPs, where n is the number of boards.

The eligible pairs finishing first, second and third will constitute the NSW Youth Team. Should any such pair(s) be unavailable for any reason, invitations will be offered in finishing order to lower placed pairs, with the proviso that the invited pair(s) finished in the top half of the field. If the team is still incomplete, the Chairman of the Events Committee may select any eligible Youth players (not confined to those who played in the YITS) to complete the team. Any such selection must still be ratified by the Bridge NSW Board.

Substitutions

No substitutions are allowed for contending pairs in the YITS.

Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
1.1	22 Dec 2024	Changed time and date for close of entries for OITS and minor format changes