



Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations

1. Terminology and Definitions

Altered score is an adjusted score awarded by the Director to the opponents of a unit containing a substitute determined not to be of an equivalent standard.

Approved substitution is the use of a substitute who has been approved before the session, as per clauses 6.1 and 6.2, whether the request was made before the 5 day period or later, or an emergency substitute subsequently approved by the Tournament Committee as per clause 6.3.

Augmentation is the addition of one or two players to a team. The resultant team may have up to six players. The augmented players become permanent members of the team.

Equivalent standard means that degree of equivalence where the ability of the substituting pair is neither significantly higher (“overweight”) nor significantly lower (“underweight”) than that of the substituted pair as determined by a simple majority vote of the Tournament Committee. In determining the degree of equivalence, masterpoint rank need not be the determining factor and the relative experience of the partnerships and players should be taken into account.

Illegal substitution is the use of an ineligible substitute, a substitute of non-equivalent standard, a substitution without prior notification or a substitution that puts the unit in excess of the number allowed under clause 8.1.

Ineligible substitutes include those who have entered in the same stage of the competition, those still competing in the competition and those who would not have been eligible to enter the competition. Players ineligible to enter the competition on the basis of residency (e.g. overseas visitor substituting in the Interstate Teams Selection or GNOT) may be approved.

Stage of event means those successive sessions where the size of the field which is eligible to win the competition is not reduced (excluding reduction due to disqualification or withdrawal) or as otherwise defined in the Supplementary Regulations of the event. In partial knock-out events, all successive knock-out sessions shall constitute the one stage.

Substitute means a non-unit player who represents that unit for one session or a part thereof. *Substitution* means the replacement of a unit member by a substitute for one session or a part thereof.

Unit means the original team, pair or individual unless replaced by players who become permanent members of the unit (under clause 8.4), and includes augmented players (in the case of teams events). For a teams event, a unit shall consist of four, five or six members. For a pairs event, a unit shall consist of two members.

2. It is a condition of entry to all Bridge NSW events that each unit is obliged to play

in all sessions or organise an approved substitution.

3. The unit is responsible for the payment of all table money, notwithstanding the use of a substitute.
4. Substitutions are allowed for convenience or cause.
5. If the substitute fails to satisfy a stratification category (e.g. a male substituting for a female in mixed pairs, a substitute who does not meet the terms of eligibility for a restricted team) then the unit will henceforth be ineligible to win any titles or prizes or to progress to subsequent stages of the competition.

6. Procedure

6.1. All requests for substitution must be submitted using the on-line form at <https://bridgensw.com.au/substitution/> .

6.2. All requests for substitution should be made at least 5 days before the relevant session.

The request will be decided by the Substitutions Convenor, in consultation with other members of the Events Committee that he or she may appoint. Permission will be declined only if the proposed substitute is materially over- or under-weight, and if clause 11 below is not met. A rejection of the request (which may be accompanied by a list of players considered suitable) will require the applicant to submit a new request.

6.3. In the case of sudden illness or real emergency, the request may be made at any time before the start of the session, but players should be aware of the penalty provisions of clause 7.1 that will apply if a substitute is not of equivalent standard. The determination of equivalent standard by the Events Committee will take place as soon as practicable after the session.

6.4. Emergency substitutions not covered by the Regulations may be allowed for substantial cause by a special ruling of the Director subject to such terms as the Director may impose. In the last resort, the Director may take any action necessary to keep the tournament in motion.

6.5. Notwithstanding clause 9.1, any substitution not advised to the Director or Events Committee prior to the start of the session will be deemed overweight and subject to the penalty provisions of clause 7.1 (a) or (c).

6.6. Notwithstanding clause 9.1, the Supplementary Regulations of an event may specify that the penalty provisions of clause 7.1 will apply for any non-emergency substitution not approved in advance.

7. Penalties

7.1. If a substitute used is not of equivalent standard (see definitions), the unit will be penalised as follows.

a) For use of an overweight substitute in knock-out matches, a

penalty of 20 IMPs per 14 boards (*i.e.* approximately 1.43 IMPs per board for matches of other length).

b) For use of an underweight substitute in knock-out matches, a penalty of 6 IMPs per 14 boards (*i.e.* approximately 0.43 IMPs per board for matches of other length).

c) In IMP or matchpoint scored events, the offending unit will receive the lower of their actual score and their average score for sessions not involving unapproved substitutes.

7.2. The Director shall report to the Events Committee any instance where he is of the opinion that an illegal substitution has occurred. The Events Committee may treat an illegal substitution without reasonable cause as an unauthorised withdrawal.

8. Substitution

8.1. The number of substitutions allowed in a stage of any tournament shall be as set out hereunder, unless specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations of the tournament.

No. of sessions in stage (<i>n</i>)	Pairs events (includes Butler)	Teams events
1	No substitutions	No substitutions
2	One substitution	One substitution
3	Two substitutions	Two substitutions
4	Two substitutions	Two substitutions
5	Three substitutions; the unit must play as a pair in three sessions	Three substitutions
6	Four substitutions; the unit must play as a pair in four sessions	Four substitutions
7	Four substitutions; the unit must play as a pair in four sessions; each player must play at least five times	Five substitutions; four sessions must be substitute-free
8	Four substitutions; the unit must play as a pair in five sessions; each player must play at least six times	Six substitutions; five sessions must be substitute-free
9+	The unit must play as a pair in at least 60% of the sessions; each player must play in at least two thirds of the sessions	(<i>n</i> -2) substitutions; the unit must play as a team in at least 60% of the sessions

8.2. The Events Committee may approve additional substitutions in special circumstances. In particular, absence while representing Australia or NSW or participation in WBF or Zone 4, 6 or 7 Championships or finals of national

events may be considered a special circumstance, provided approval is obtained in advance.

- 8.3. Any unit which does not comply with clause 8.1 in respect of a competition will be disqualified except as provided under clause 8.2
- 8.4. Upon application by the unit to the Events Committee, a substitute may become a permanent member of a unit by replacing a player of equivalent standard. Such application must be made before the commencement of the next stage of the event. In such circumstances the replaced player will be deemed to have been a substitute. The reconstituted unit must comply with clause 8.1
- 8.5. If a player substitutes for a small number of boards, the Director may rule that a substitution has not taken place.

9. Score adjustments

- 9.1. If a substitution is of equivalent standard, whether approved before the session or afterwards, the session scores will stand.
- 9.2. If a substitution is not of equivalent standard, the Director will award an altered score to the opponents.
 - a) If the substitution is overweight, the altered score will be the highest of:
 - the actual score obtained in the match/round,
 - the average of all the other match/round scores that the opponents obtained in that stage of the competition,
 - the complement of the unit's average score for all other matches/rounds not involving unapproved substitutes for that stage of the event.
 - b) If the substitution is underweight, the altered score will be the higher of:
 - the average of all the other match/round scores that the opponents obtained in that stage of the competition,
 - the complement of the unit's average score for all other matches/rounds not involving unapproved substitutes for that stage of the event.

10. Augmentation

- 10.1. Permission to augment must be obtained from the Director and the Events Committee.
- 10.2. No augmentation will be permitted after the start of play of the penultimate round of stage 1 of any event.
- 10.3. Augmented players must:
 - be of equivalent standard (see definitions) to the other members of

the team. If the Director, in conjunction with the Events Committee, is of the opinion that the augmented players have an ability significantly higher (or significantly lower) than the other players in the team, the augmentation will not be allowed.

- not have entered the event.
- be eligible to enter the event.

11. Round Robin or similar formats

Where the Substitutions Convenor determines that, because of the event format, an overweight or underweight substitution or augmentation will not confer an advantage or disadvantage to any competing unit, relative to any other competing units in the event, substitutions will be approved, even if overweight or underweight. Clauses 5 and 8.1 above shall not be affected by this clause.

12. Ineligible units

- 12.1. If permitted by the Supplementary Regulations, a non-eligible unit may enter an event which has restricted entry provided it pays all the entry fees as though it were eligible.
- 12.2. Ineligible units that enter an event under the provisions of clause 11.1:
- are not entitled to any prizes or titles associated with the event,
 - may not qualify to any subsequent stage of the event,
 - are not entitled to any outright masterpoints, but are entitled to sessional masterpoints.

13. Late entry and missed sessions

- 13.1. Units may be accepted into a field, after the completion of the first session, provided they obtain the Director's permission.
- 13.2. Units that enter an event under the provisions of clause 12.1 will be awarded a score of 40% (or the 40th percentile score) for any session they have missed. In a knock-out event with repechage section, such units will be accepted into the repechage section only.
- 13.3. If a pair, or the majority of players in a team, are representing Australia or NSW, the pair/team may be excused from attendance at conflicting sessions and will be awarded a score of 55% in a matchpoint event or 13/20 VPs (or equivalent in an IMP-scored event), provided:
- approval from the Substitutions Convenor is obtained in advance,
 - no more than 40% of the sessions are missed,
 - neither of the last two sessions of the event is involved.
- 13.4. Entry fees for units that enter an event under the provisions of clause 12.1 or clause 12.3 will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.
- 13.5. If the Tournament Organiser changes the date of a session from that advertised at the time of entry, any unit unable to attend or arrange

substitutes for that session will be awarded its average score from sessions played.