

Election of Bridge Victoria Operations Committee (BVOC)

Background

As part of the development of Bridge Victoria, BVOC agreed the need to democratise bridge across Victoria. That is, provide a fair process for electing representatives for the Bridge Victoria Operating Committee from 2024.

Bridge clubs in Victoria are diverse. There are large and small clubs, private and public clubs, online clubs and clubs based within another larger club (eg RACV, KYTC and RACV). BVOC is committed to working with all clubs and improving the statewide services to clubs. However, from the standpoint of appointment of BVOC members (and elections if required) it was agreed that this is best achieved by establishing regions on a geographic basis.

A working group was established by BVOC to recommend regions and the process for how BVOC representatives are appointed. This working group recommended we have the three existing country regions (WRBA, NRBA, ERBA) plus three metro regions (see attached list). The regions have been developed based on:

1. A geographic area in Victoria that clubs can identify with
2. A size of between 300 -1300 affiliated members and up to 16 clubs
3. A mix of large and small clubs and including both private and public clubs

The 3 country regions (WRBA, NRBA, ERBA) already hold annual competitions and have established committees (president and secretary treasurer). The three metro regions do not have similar structures and committees but could do so. It is likely the larger clubs in each zone would maintain communication with other clubs in the region. Some discussion between clubs in each region is encouraged.

Structure of BVOC

BVOC membership will be comprised of the nominated (or elected) representative from each of the 6 regions.

BVOC can co-opt members who could serve as volunteers on BVOC. Co-opted members would be appointed on a needs basis to represent specific skills and input seen as important to BVOC. (eg financial, legal, marketing, etc).

If there is no nomination from a region, there would be a vacancy on BVOC for that region. The intent is that the BVOC composition be guided by representatives from the region, on a democratic basis, but maintain sufficient flexibility to ensure BVOC is an effective body in running the State Bridge in Victoria.

The State Manager would attend meetings but ex-officio (no voting rights).

A Chairperson will be elected by the committee formed.

In summary, there will be 6 nominated/elected members from the regions, up to 4 skills-based volunteers and a State Manager.

Nomination (and Election) Process

Each region would be responsible for deciding who their representative on BVOC would be. This would be a person nominated and seconded by a club executive member within the region. In most cases a consensus would be developed within the region as to who the nomination to BVOC would be.

An election will be unnecessary if a consensus can be developed in the region. In the unusual circumstance that there was more than one person seeking to represent a region on BVOC, an online election could be held. Affiliated members would be eligible to vote. A software package called 'election runner' could be used for voting when there is a contested position.

The Process for the Annual Formation of BVOC from regions.

The current foundation BVOC committee was appointed by VBA based on applications from clubs and regions. From 2024, BVOC members will be based on nominations from the region, and if necessary elected. It will be an annual appointment and the process below will be followed each year.

- 1 February – State Manager calls for nominations from each zone by 7 March
- By 7 March – Regions/clubs nominate candidates for BVOC representation
- 7 March – where 1 nomination – elected unopposed to BVOC (Note: 7 March is chosen as date for close of nominations because the 3 country regions will have met and held meetings by this time, so would be in a better position to provide a nominee)
- 7-14 March – where more than 1 nomination from a region, an online election using a software package called 'election runner' (or similar software). Affiliated members in the zone where election is to be held will vote to determine who will be the BVOC representative. Voting would be optional. Nominees for the BVOC position will be given the opportunity to outline their platform for the information of voters.
- 15 – 22 March results of any election decided.
- 30 March newly elected BVOC meet. BVOC determine if additional 'co-opted' BVOC members are needed to compliment skills, and if so those people(s) be approached. Any person co-opted for their skills would be approached by state manager and asked to volunteer.

If there is no nomination from a region, the state manager may be proactive in encouraging a late nomination, based on names/suggestions put forward by BVOC members.

BVOC membership for the current year communicated to clubs and VBA.

Numbers and Clubs

The regions shown below have been developed by BVOC and after consultation with clubs. Unaffiliated or social clubs are not included as part of the regional structure.

There are a small number of online bridge clubs, in total about 120 members. Initially online clubs will be regarded as part of the region where the club contact person resides. Any decision on how on-line bridge clubs will be represented on BVOC in future will be based on the outcome of the ABF review into on line bridge which is expected to be delivered in late 2023.



BRIDGE VICTORIA

Review Process

The process to nominate and elect BVOC representatives will be reviewed on a regular basis and, after consultation with affiliated clubs, will be changed to reflect the wishes of clubs and changing needs of bridge in Victoria.

Metro Regions

Metro Central & North	Alexandra	40	
	Alphington Bridge Centre	13	
	Australian Club	1	
	Bridge Fanatics	17	
	BW Online	25	
	KLTC	329	
	Lyceum	19	
	MCC Bridge Club	74	
	Melton	13	
	Moonee Valley	302	
	Northern	204	
	RACV	121	
	Sunbury	28	
Williamstown	99	1,285	
Metro East	Knox	24	
	Melbourne Bridge Club	112	
	Oz	57	
	Royal SY	184	
	The Quiet Club	84	
	Tricks and Trumps	2	
	Upwey	25	
	U3A Knox	51	
	Waverley	501	
	Yarra Valley	58	1,098
Metro South & Peninsula	Bayside	290	
	Beaumaris	13	
	Berwick	67	
	Bridge @Blake	22	
	Bridge @Tivoli	15	
	Frankston	60	

Gardenvale	50	
Gardenvale School	54	
Grand Prix	2	
Kattery	79	
Mornington	94	
Patterson Lakes	29	
Peninsula	27	
Rye Dromana	94	
Theodore Herzl	29	
Victorian Bridge Centre	359	1,284

Country Regions

Eastern Region Bridge Association	Bairnsdale	64	
	Paynesville	22	
	Phillip Island	40	
	Real Deal Bridge	9	
	Sale	77	
	South Gippsland	51	
	Traralgon	53	316
Northern Region Bridge Association	Benalla	68	
	Bendigo	113	
	Deniliquin	41	
	Echuca Bridge Club	24	
	Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	47	
	Maine	35	
	Mildura	42	
	Nagambie	22	
	Sandhurst	1	
	Shepparton	32	
	Wangaratta	39	
	Whittlesea	32	
	Wodonga	16	
Yarrawonga	30	542	
Western Region Bridge Association	Ballarat	93	
	Donald	13	
	Geelong	226	
	Ocean Grove	135	

Torquay	72	
Warrnambool	76	615
TOTAL ALL AFFILIATED MEMBERS		5,140