

Bridge Victoria Team Selection Policy March 2024 - MTC

VICTORIAN ANC TEAM SELECTION POLICY

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1. Principles

In preparing these regulations for the selection of teams to represent Victoria at the Australian National Championships, the following principles were used:

- 1.1 The teams selected should be close to the best team available in that category, acknowledging that the single objectively best team is rarely clearly identifiable in bridge.
- 1.2 The selection methods used should offer pathways for players from all parts of Victoria and from all clubs;
- 1.3 The selection methods used will allow up-and-coming or less well recognised pairs/players a chance to succeed;
- 1.4 The selection methods used should reward players who play in qualifying events with the partner they intend to compete with if they win selection; and
- 1.5 Selection methods can vary between categories, allowing for size, strength, depth and experience of the fields which can differ substantially between categories. This might include pathways for self-selected teams and teams of pairs.

2. General Regulations

- 2.1. The conduct of the Victorian ANC representative team selections will be governed by the current Bridge Victoria Tournament Regulations and any supplementary regulations contained in this document.

2.2. All players entering the last stage of the Open, Women's or Seniors representative team selection playoffs have by their entry declared their availability to represent Victoria in the Interstate Teams Championship at the next ANC and their capacity to meet the specified residential and membership regulations.

2.3. All players entering a Youth team playoff (should one be required) have by their entry declared their availability to represent Victoria in the Interstate Youth Teams Championship at the ANC.

2.4. Players are advised to check Bridge Victoria calendar for specific dates and times of the differing Streams, Heats and Finals.

3. General Eligibility Criteria

All players contesting any Bridge Victoria State Event must be a financial member of Bridge Victoria or a club affiliated with the VBA prior to the commencement of the qualifying stages of the event. If contesting for selection into the Victorian Youth team, a player must be a financial member of Bridge Victoria or a club affiliated with the VBA or alternatively be a member of the ABF Youth Player's Club.

3.1. Contending players in the Open, Women's and Seniors' divisions must:

- a) have been residing in Victoria for a period of not less than 6 of the 12 months immediately preceding the final stage of the Selection Trials; or
- b) be a non-Victorian resident whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the VBA for at least six months immediately prior to the final stage of the Selection Trials; or
- c) be a new Victorian resident who satisfies Bridge Victoria Match and Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with Bridge Victoria for at least 6 months after the Selection Trials.

3.2. Contending players in the Women's division must be female (or qualify as such under the ABF Cross-gender policy).

3.3. Contending players in the Seniors' division must have attained the age of 60 years as at 1st January in the year of desired representation – see ABF guidelines for regular updates.

3.4. Contending players in the Youth division must be under the age of 25 years as at 31st December in the year prior to representation.

4. Substitution, augmentation, change of personnel, and replacement

4. 1 Substitution is not a right but a privilege. Substitution regulations as outlined in Bridge Victoria Tournament Regulations are all directly applicable to state qualifying events.

- a) Except in extreme emergency situations, If the substitute fails to satisfy a stratification category (e.g. age qualification for a youth or seniors event) then the pair/team will henceforth be deemed ineligible.

b) Substitution into the final stage of each selection category shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience. The Director shall report to the Match and Tournament Committee any instance where he/she is of the opinion that the substitution was for insubstantial cause.

4. 2 Augmentation to teams prior to a State Team Playoff

Open Nominated VQP Teams. No augmentation will be permitted following the closing of nominations, except under unforeseen circumstances, subject to the approval of the MTC.

4. 3 Change of personnel

a) Prior to the State Team Playoff: After participants for the State Team Playoffs have been determined but before play has commenced, a team may apply to change its personnel by application to and subject to the approval of the MTC.

b) After the State Team Playoff: If a four-membered team is successful in the State Team Playoffs, it must augment to a team-of-six ahead of the VBA Council ratification. The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of three or more eligible pairs and submit this to the MTC for selection. The normal expectation is that nominated pairs will come from the final of the State Team selection event. The MTC will then make a recommendation to the VBA Council for endorsement.

4.4 Replacement Players and Replacement Pairs after the State Team Playoff: Replacement applies when a player or pair withdraws from a State Team after its selection due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal problems, refusal of ratification, or any other reason.

4.4.1 Replacement of a pair:

a) Where the State team has been selected using a pairs format, the Replacement Pair will be the pair in the next finishing position in the Selection Event (Playoff)

b) Where the State team has been selected using a teams format, the Replacement Pair will be selected from an ordered short list compiled by the two remaining pairs. The normal expectation is that nominated pairs will come from the final of the State Team selection event. The MTC will make a recommendation to the VBA Council from the names submitted.

c) The selection of a Replacement Pair remains subject to ratification by the VBA Council.

4.4.2 Replacement of a single member of a State team: When a player needs to be replaced under the provisions of Paragraph 4.4, the remaining members of the team may nominate up to two Replacement Players (and may, if they wish, specify a preference). The Replacement Player shall be chosen, if necessary, and endorsed by the MTC in consultation with the other members of the team. The Replacement Player shall be subject to ratification by the VBA Council. In the event that the MTC refuses endorsement or the VBA Council refuses ratification, the pair shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the team.

4.4.3 Replacement after ratification:

Changes of team membership after ratification by VBA Council are the responsibility of the MTC and Council. In general, the guidelines regarding changes to team personnel prior to ratification will apply but are at the discretion of the MTC and the VBA Council.

4.5 Replacement of a single member of a pair or a team entered in the final stage of a State Team Selection but prior to its commencement.

- a) The Replacement Player must be any player who meets the criteria (e.g. VQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event.
- b) The Replacement Pair must be any pair that meets the criteria (e.g. VQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event.
- c) In the last resort, the MTC may select a Replacement Pair for ratification.

5. Open Team Qualification Process

Four teams, based on VQP's earned between January 2nd of the previous year and the following January 2nd will participate in the Open Team Final. The teams must comprise four or six players. After finalisation of each VQP team's composition, later augmentation will not be permitted.

The Victorian open team will be selected via a two-day knockout IMP teams' competition. There will be semi-finals on the first day and a final on the second. Screens will be used throughout. The teams will be informed of the conditions of contest (e.g. starting and session times, number of boards) prior to the event via email.

6. Women's Team Qualification Process

6.1 The women's selection process will comprise two stages – a preliminary and final stage. The representatives of each of the three regions will automatically qualify for the women's playoff final. Other pairs will qualify through the preliminary stage held through an event organised by Bridge Victoria.

Should a region fail to nominate a pair then the next-placed pair in the preliminary stage will be offered a place in the final.

6.2 All pairs who have not qualified as one of the regional pairs may qualify for the women's playoff final via the preliminary stage which will be conducted over 3 evening sessions conducted through Bridge Victoria.

6.3 Where possible the preliminary stage will be conducted as a round robin, however this is subject to the number of entries received and may be changed at the director's discretion; any changes will be relayed to the participants at the beginning of the event. Scores will be cross impeded.

6.4 **Women's Playoff Final:** The final of the Women's Playoff will be held on a single weekend at the Victorian Bridge Centre .

- a) The format of the women's playoff will be a round robin where all pairs will play all other pairs entered. Screens will be used. Scores will be cross-imped.
 - b) Bridge Victoria reserves the right to reduce the final to a lesser table event if the required number of pairs is not achieved.
 - c) The final of the Women's and Seniors' ANC Teams selection will be played on the same weekend. If the fields are identical in size the event will be scored across both fields but ranked separately.
- 6.5 The top three pairs at the conclusion of the women's playoff final will be put forward by MTC to Council for ratification as the Victorian Women's Representative Team for that year.

7. Seniors' Team Qualification Process

7.1 The senior's selection process will comprise two stages – a preliminary and final stage. The representatives of each of the three regions will automatically qualify for the seniors' playoff final. Other pairs will qualify through the preliminary stage held through an event organised by Bridge Victoria.

Should a region fail to nominate a pair then the next-placed pair in the preliminary stage will be offered a place in the final.

7.2 All pairs who have not qualified as one of the regional pairs may qualify for the women's playoff final via the preliminary stage which will be conducted over 3 evening sessions conducted through Bridge Victoria.

Where possible the preliminary stage will be conducted as a round robin, however this is subject to the number of entries received and may be changed at the director's discretion; any changes will be relayed to the participants at the beginning of the event. Scores will be cross impeded.

7.3 Seniors Playoff Final:

The finals of the Seniors' Playoff will be held on a single weekend at the Victorian Bridge Centre.

- a) The format of the Seniors playoff will be a round robin where all pairs will play all other pairs entered. Screens will be used. Scoring will be cross-imp.
- b) Bridge Victoria reserves the right to reduce the final to a lesser table event if the required number of pairs is not achieved.
- c) The final of the Seniors' and Women's will be played on the same weekend. If the fields are identical in size the event will be scored across both fields but ranked separately.

7.4 The top three pairs at the conclusion of the Seniors playoff final will be put forward by MTC to Council for ratification as the Victorian Seniors Representative Team for that year.

8. Youth Team Qualification Process

8.1 Players who are older may be allowed to play subject to authorisation by the ABF Management Committee.

8.2 Should three or fewer pairs nominate, the VBA Council will consider, on recommendation of the MTC, ratifying the nominees as the Victorian Youth Team without any further selection process. Should more than six players nominate, the Match and Tournament Committee will decide on the method of selection to be used.

8.3 If required, a letter signed by the VBA president outlining the player's commitment to Bridge at a high level, may be provided to those who could have trouble getting time off school or have clashes with other commitments.

9. ANC Team Captains

9.1 The Youth Team NPC will be appointed by the VBA Council.

9.2 All other teams are required to nominate one or more non-playing captains, for consideration by the VBA Council. All team members must agree to the nomination/s. Should the team be unable to agree on a suitable nominee the VBA Council will appoint one.

9.3 It is strongly preferred that the nominated captain does not have a close familial or similar relationship with anyone on the team.

9.4 Teams contesting the Open playoff may appoint a non-playing captain. This person will not automatically become the captain should the team win the playoff. The VBA Council reserves the right to select another captain in its sole discretion.

9.5 The VBA Council may reject a nomination in its sole discretion.