



Players Handbook

General Information

Regulations

Bridge sessions at the Bundaberg Bridge Club are run in accordance with the [World Bridge Federation \(WBF\) Laws 2017](#) and the [Queensland Bridge Association \(QBA\) Regulations](#) (updated August 2026).

Etiquette

Players are expected to maintain a courteous approach and to do nothing to discomfort others. Greet your opponents at each table, and make new players and visitors feel welcome.

Ethics

Ethical behaviour is fundamental to the game of Contract Bridge. All players should ensure they:

- Maintain an even tempo in bidding and play
- Avoid giving unauthorised information through questions, hesitations and body language
- Give a clear explanation of their bidding when requested by opponents
- Keep an accurate trick count and do not disturb the cards until the score has been recorded.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must be turned off during play. However, if you are expecting an important call, please advise the Director and ensure you move outside quickly when answering.

Dress Standards

Players are expected to observe a reasonable standard of dress. Rubber thongs, singlets and bare feet are not acceptable.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the club building or within six metres of any entrance to the building or the pathways.

Complaints and Compliments

All suggestions and complaints should be submitted either in writing or by email to the Club Secretary. Compliments are always welcome and can be delivered in any manner.

Fees

Bundaberg Club members pay \$7 per session; visitors pay \$10.

Annual Membership

Annual membership for existing members is \$70 and is payable on December 31 for the following year. New members pay an additional \$20 to join the club.

MyABF

MyABF is used to pay for all sessions, competitions, congresses and annual membership. Players should ensure they have activated automatic top up so they always have sufficient funds in their MyABF account.

Club Sessions

Bridge Sessions

Bridge is played at the club four times a week:

- Monday Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4:30 pm (Duplicate)
- Tuesday Morning 9:00 am – 12:00pm (Supervised Play)
- Wednesday Morning 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Duplicate)
- Friday Morning 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Duplicate).

Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of play to allow the Director to determine the best movement for play.

Directors

The Director is responsible for determining the best possible movement based on the number of tables, the ability of the players and the available time. Howell Movements are played with 5½ or fewer tables (usually 27 boards); Mitchell Movements are played with 6 or more tables (usually 28–33 boards).

Players are expected to cooperate with the Director at all times by calling them to address any infraction of the laws or unethical behaviour, or to report a board that appears to have been entered incorrectly.

Rulings on Infractions

It is illegal for players to make rulings and apply penalties after an infraction. While players may feel they are being helpful by resolving problems at the table, they often rule incorrectly and create more problems than they solve.

When there is an infraction at your table, simply raise your hand and call “Director Please”.

Appeals

The ruling of the Director must be accepted at the table without argument. However, an appeal against the ruling may be lodged immediately after the end of play with the Director so that an appeals committee may be convened and the outcome of the appeal determined.

System Cards

Only green and blue systems are allowed in club sessions and events. Pairs are required to bring one current ABF System Card to the table and place it so it is accessible to their opponents.

Players should explain their basic system when they first arrive at a table to give their opponents a chance to discuss their defence before play starts.

Alerting

Alerting is a fundamental part of the game. It is not optional and players cannot tell their opponents to NOT alert bids. All players need to fully understand the [QBA Alerting Regulations](#).

Masterpoints

Masterpoints are awarded to players based on their success in club sessions and congresses. The total number of Masterpoints (green, red and gold) determines the rank of a player. A number of Novice Events are included in the club calendar and players with fewer than 100 masterpoints are eligible to enter.

Green Masterpoints are awarded for most club sessions. The club is also entitled to award a specified number of red points and these are used for Championship events and for some duplicate sessions which are listed in the calendar. Red points are also awarded at most Qld congresses.

Gold points can be earned by playing in the GNOT heats and finals, the Barrier Reef Congress, the Brisbane Gold Congress and a number of interstate events

Slow Play

The duration of a round is based on six minutes per board plus one minute for moving. If a board can't be played in time, the Director is required to award a score of 50% to each pair playing that board. For a pair who is playing well this may seem unfair, however all players have a responsibility to ensure the round finishes on time.

You are not being asked to think or play more quickly, but you can reduce wasted time by:

- Moving quickly to the next table when the move is called
- Being aware when it's your turn to bid
- Claiming when appropriate
- Entering the board details into the Bridgемate promptly
- Keeping socialising and post mortems until the end of the round.

Supervised Play

Supervised play is designed for newer players, however all players are welcome to attend and it is not necessary to organise a partner in advance. Masterpoints are awarded for this session provided at least 18 boards are played, but they are calculated at a reduced rate.

Lessons

The Club provides lessons twice yearly for beginning players commencing in February and July. Lessons for improving players are organised as needed.

Special Events

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

The GNOT Final is an annual competition played online between the winning teams from each of the 64 zones in Australia. Queensland is divided into seven zones and Bundaberg competes against Gympie, Maryborough and Hervey Bay Bridge Clubs in the Wide Bay Zone.

The Bundaberg GNOT Qualifying Heat is a three-week gold point event played in March on a Wednesday morning. The preferred format is 10 teams of 4–6 players, playing three nine-board matches on each of the three weeks. Masterpoints are awarded to each player at the rate of 0.36 points per win, but no extra points are awarded for place-getters.

Teams including substitutes, should sign on for the event at least one week before the start date.

The top half of the field in the Bundaberg heats is eligible to play in the Wide Bay Zone Semi Final in Maryborough in August. The top four teams from this event then compete in the Zone Final the following weekend. QBA regulations state that only teams who are prepared to play in the GNOT Final in September are allowed to enter the Zone Final.

The GNOT is run by the Australian Bridge Federation and each pair must have two identical system cards.

Teams Championship

The Teams Championship is a three-week red point event played in June on a Wednesday morning and uses the same format as the GNOT; 10 teams, playing nine boards against every other team. Masterpoints are awarded to each player at the rate of 0.18 points per win and additional points are awarded for place-getters.

Teams including substitutes, should sign up for the event at least one week before the start date.

Pairs Championship

The Pairs Championship is a three-week red point event played in November on a Wednesday morning. Only pairs that play each of the three weeks qualify to win the event, but other pairs are welcome to play during these sessions. The Director sets up the movement such that approximately the same number of boards are played each week and consolidates the results using the Computer Scoring system.

While the pairs play as one field, prizes are allocated to the winning Open Pair and the winning Novice Pair (in which both players must have fewer than 100 Masterpoints). Novices are entitled to win the Open Championship, in which case the next best performing Novice Pair wins the Novice Championship.

Pairs should sign up for the event at least one week before the start date.

Perfect Teams

The Perfect Teams is a three-week green point event played in August on a Friday morning. The format is a single-session team event (American Whist or New England Relay) where the players of a four-person team partner each of the other three players in that team over the three-week period. At the end of the event, the team results are consolidated using the Computer Scoring system. While it is preferable to have four players in a team, if players are unable to commit to a three-week event, five-person teams are permitted.

Teams should sign up for the event at least one week before the start date.

Italian Pairs

The Italian Pairs is a three-week green point competition played in October on a Friday morning. Players do not play with their regular partners. Instead, each week an experienced player is paired randomly with a less experienced player. The Director sets up the movement such that approximately the same number of boards are played each week and consolidates the results using the Computer Scoring system to produce one winner.

Players should sign up with their usual partner (to ensure there is an even number of players) at least one week before the start date.

President's Trophy

The President's Trophy is held once a year on the last Friday in September. It is a novice competition (one winner only), in which novice players are paired with experienced players.

Noel Potter Pairs

The Noel Potter Pairs is a three-week green point competition played in May on a Friday morning. Only pairs that play each of the three weeks qualify to win the event but other pairs are welcome to play during the sessions. The Director sets up the movement such that approximately the same number of boards are played each week and consolidates the results using the Computer Scoring system.

Kevin's Friendly Fridays

On the second Friday of every month, experienced players are encouraged to play with less experienced players. Players are encouraged to bring a plate to share and enjoy a drink and lots of camaraderie after play finishes.

Bundy–Bargara Challenge

Bundaberg Bridge Club invites the Bargara Bridge Club to a Challenge on the third Friday in February. The field is divided into two equal sections with 9 or 10 tables in each. Seating is organised so that each club is positioned alternately N/S and E/W in each section. The Director tallies the scores at the end of the event to determine which club is the winner in each section and which club is the overall winner.

MyABF is not used for this event because many Bargara players aren't members of the ABF, so all players need to bring \$7 cash. Players from both clubs are encouraged to bring a plate for morning tea.

Bundaberg Congress

The Bundaberg Congress takes place on the second weekend in July. It has been very popular in the past and books out early so members are advised to enter as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

While the Management Committee has run this event very successfully for a number of years, they rely heavily on club members for assistance. Helpers are required to procure raffle prizes, sell raffle tickets, sell money board numbers, supply delicious goodies for morning and afternoon tea, assist with dealing boards, set up the room on Friday afternoon, assist in the kitchen, caddy during sessions, and clean up after play on Saturday and Sunday evenings. All offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Wide Bay Zone Open Teams and Pairs Trials

Players whose home club is in Wide Bay Zone are encouraged to compete in a one-day teams competition. The two or three top teams (depending on Zone finances) are subsidised to play in the QBA Festival of Bridge in Brisbane in October. Similarly, a pairs competition is held and the top two or three pairs receive a subsidy. The trials are held at the Maryborough Bridge Club on a Sunday in May and June.

As is the case for all Congresses and special competitions, both players in a pair must have two identical system cards on the table.

Australia-Wide Pairs

The Australian Bridge Magazine runs three nation-wide competitions each year:

- Australia-Wide Novice Pairs in the last week of May (players with fewer than 100 MP)
- Australia-Wide Open Pairs in the last week of August
- Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs in the last week of October (players with fewer than 300 MP).

Participation costs \$5 per player in addition to the normal table fees. The club is supplied with a deal file of 36 boards that have been randomly selected from past National tournaments and the club plays whichever movement best suits the number of participants. Players receive a booklet at the end of the session with a commentary on the deals and the achievable results. Scores are compared with approximately 80 clubs throughout the country and the top 25 pairs overall in each competition win prizes.

Six weeks before each event, the committee will determine whether there is sufficient interest among the Wednesday morning players to proceed. A minimum of four tables is required for each event.