



ABF PRINCIPLES FOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS DISCUSSION PAPER

For consultation and feedback

Version 1.0
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Introduction

It is important the ABF define guiding principles behind its policies for representative team selection, training and support. These principles will inform decisions made by the Board, the Tournament Committee and other committees, and can be used to measure progress over time.

This paper proposes four principles to be adopted. The Board is seeking feedback on the proposed principles, including:

- Should the proposed principles be adopted
- Are we missing principles you expect to be there

Feedback can be submitted to the Secretary (secretary@abf.com.au) by Sunday 28 August.

Principles for representative team policies

Select the best team this year

The playoffs should aim to select the team most likely to effectively represent Australia in the target events. This aim should apply whether trials are pair-based or team-based, and it means the playoffs should focus on current performance rather than past results or any perceived future improvement.

Drive year-to-year improvement

Improvement over time will only happen if tangible steps are taken each year. The ABF is investigating a range of ways to guide improvement for players and pairs. To help drive the improvement, support for representative teams needs to provide some stability while also ensuring new pairs have ample opportunities. The ABF should aim to avoid both stagnation in the selection and wholesale changes each year.

Foster long-term partnerships

Bridge is fundamentally a partnership game, and long-term partnerships are a feature in most successful national teams. Encouraging development of successful partnerships among Australian players should underpin decisions relating to representative teams.

Provide fair opportunities to all players

All interested players and pairs should be provided a clear understanding of what is required to progress, and opportunities to continue their development when they achieve earlier requirements. The playoff process and any ABF development program should be well understood and seen as fair to prospective participants.