



September 28

ABF Affiliation

2013

This document outlines the benefits for a bridge club to affiliate with the Australian Bridge Federation to ensure that the full range of benefits and opportunities are provided for the club and for all of its members.

**The benefits
of affiliation -
Australian
bridge clubs**

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Our Vision:

Australians recognise bridge as a sport which helps build their communities. This will be achieved by excellence in management and investment in innovative technology.

Our Mission:

The Australian Bridge Federation administers, communicates, fosters and promotes enjoyment and participation in the sport of bridge throughout Australia.

Our Values:

- Being appreciative and recognising the efforts of our volunteers
- Being tolerant and respectful
- Being fair and professional in all our dealings
- Operating with honesty and integrity
- Consistency in decision-making and problem solving
- Being open and accountable

Our key Challenges

1. Enhance the profile of bridge within the Australian community
2. Maximise our use of technology to both attract and retain people in the sport
3. Develop and maintain effective relationships with key external stakeholders
4. Ensure regulations and policies are in place to enable players to have a positive experience at all bridge sessions
5. Demonstrate and support the highest standards in good administration
6. Demonstrate and support excellence in financial management

THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

National body	ABF								
	NSWBA	VBA	QBA	BAWA	BFACT	TBA	SABF	NTBA	
State bodies (members of the ABF)									
Affiliated clubs	342	152	67	53	34	6	9	16	5
Total members (30 April 2013)	33,846	13,643	5,188	7,410	4,097	864	788	1,680	176

The ABF is structured on a Federal basis. Clubs affiliate to their State Body. Through the State body's membership of the ABF, they gain access to National benefits as well.

Affiliation fees are due to the State Body. Capitation fees are due to the Australian Bridge Federation.

WHO DOES WHAT?

Australian Bridge Federation

- Selects and coaches National teams
- Produces the bi-monthly ABF Newsletter (*available on-line and in hard copy to clubs*)
- Runs the ABF masterpoint scheme
- Provides a subscription to the Australian Bridge Magazine for every affiliated club
- Runs the Summer Festival of Bridge (*January - Canberra*) and GNOT finals
- Provides teaching and promotion grants to States
- Conducts free teacher training workshops around Australia
- Provides marketing advice, assistance and promotional material to interested clubs
- Administers James O'Sullivan trust fund (*clubs can apply for assistance with premises funding*)
- Arranges nationwide public and management liability insurance cover for all clubs (*cost is passed to the States*)
- Arranges nationwide protection of **all** of the voluntary workers who provide services to their State bodies, clubs and tournaments.
- Issues all new members with an '*Information Kit for New Members*'.

State Associations

- Selects and coaches State teams
- Produces a regular Newsletter for members (*on-line and in hard copy to clubs*)
- Runs all State championships

- Administers all Congresses and the Congress calendar
- Arranges directing workshops to train and *upskill* club directors
- Arranges teaching tours and workshops
- Provides assistance with funding to organise and attend all of the above

KEY BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION

- Being part of the State and National “*bridge family*” – *providing your members with increased opportunities for socialising with other players.*
- Access to discounted personal, business and commercial insurance coverage through our National sponsor – Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers. Our **extremely** popular personal travel insurance for members includes coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions and applies for members up to 90 years of age. The annual policy runs from 1 March each year and covers **all** domestic and international travel undertaken during the year. Highly competitive fees apply – see below:

Up to age 60 years old	\$140.00
Age 61-65 years old	\$180.00
Age 66-70 years old	\$225.00
Age 71-75 years old	\$280.00
Age 76-80 years old	\$345.00
Age 81-85 years old	\$420.00
Age 86-90 years old	\$500.00

- Access to discounted hotel accommodation in Australia, New Zealand and parts of Europe through our arrangement with our sponsor, Toga Hospitality (*Travelodge Hotels, Vibe Hotels, Adina and Medina Apartments*).
- Ability to issue masterpoints to your players thus being able to allocate **green** masterpoints to your regular duplicate sessions and **red** masterpoints to your special events.
- Ability to run congresses.
- Ability to participate in State events (*and players can receive grants to attend State finals*).
- Ability to participate in National events (*all ABF events, and GNOT heats*) – including access to our **free** Celebrity Speaker seminars.

- Ability to access a variety of funding assistance (*grants and loans*); *eg*
 - ✓ The ABF provides generous grants to all state and territory bodies for the promotion of bridge in their clubs. All of this money finds its way to clubs who put in proposals for assistance and quite commonly clubs have used these funds to buy things like electronic table top scorers, library books, have bridge teachers come and give lessons - these all enrich the bridge playing experience of players at club level.
 - ✓ The James O'Sullivan Trust makes available loans at low interest to affiliated clubs and State bodies of up to \$30,000 over 30 years to assist with major capital works such as purchase or building of premises, upgrade of existing premises etc.
- Free insurance cover for your club (*Management liability, Public liability*) - The ABF spends a significant amount of money each year providing blanket insurance cover for all its clubs to cover public liability and management and professional indemnity insurance. This insurance cover provides great comfort for players and club committees that they can seek compensation in many common situations plus protection from litigation where their decisions and actions may adversely impact another person in some material way (*e.g. denial of membership rights*).
- Free insurance cover for your volunteers. The ABF has an insurance policy which protects all of the voluntary workers who provide services to their State bodies, clubs and tournaments.
- Access to director training workshops in all States and Territories.
- Provision of free teacher training workshops (*sometimes with subsidies to attend*). These are intended to improve the overall quality of bridge teaching at club level which, as you know, is usually where new players first enter the world of competitive bridge.
- Access to skilled, well trained bridge teachers so that your members can continually develop and improve their *game*.
- Access to free support and advice from the ABF National Teaching Coordinator and the ABF Marketing Officer.
- Part of your State and ABF mailing list, receiving regular newsletters and the State calendar.

- The ABF, as the national body affiliated to the World Bridge Federation, selects national teams to play in international events. Whilst bridge at this elite level is far removed from the experience of the majority of our club players a significant proportion do like to follow the fortunes of our national teams overseas and to share in their success when we have some. Our website is a terrific service in helping our members follow our national teams and to track results of all our major domestic events.
- All new members receive a '*New Member's Information Kit*' upon joining a club. This booklet covers topics such as :
 - ✓ *A welcome from the ABF President*
 - ✓ *Information about the game of bridge*
 - ✓ *Our administrative structure*
 - ✓ *Knowledge and skills development*
 - ✓ *Ethics and Etiquette*
 - ✓ *Your Bridge Ranking*
- The ABF is a proud supporter of *Make-A-Wish Australia* and *Neurological Research Australia*.