



The Timing and Location of the Open, Women's and Seniors' Playoffs

The ABF Tournament Committee is seeking feedback on the timing and location of the open, women's and seniors' playoffs from players who have contested past playoffs or are aiming to contest future playoffs.

The ABF's current arrangements for playoffs came into effect in 2016. The ABF indicated at that time that it would seek player feedback on the format, timing and related issues as the four-year cycle drew to a close. A detailed consultation will take place in 2019 so that changes – if any – can be introduced with adequate notice.

In advance of that detailed consultation the ABF seeks players' views on two issues:

1. Should some adjustments be made to the November/December time slot for the playoffs?
(Please note that players will be consulted next year about whether the playoffs should revert to February/March or some other time slot.)
2. Should the playoffs be held in Canberra?

[NOTE: This questionnaire is designed so you can complete it electronically. Each box before an option is a tick box: if you click the box it will insert a cross. Click again to remove the cross. Where the question allows an open answer, please type your answer in the box. You can type as many words as you wish. After answering the questions, please save your document and send it via email to playoffsdiscussion@abf.com.au.]

About you

Have you contested a playoff?

- Yes No

Which playoff(s) do you hope to contest in the future? [Please tick as many as relevant]

- Open Seniors Women's Mixed

Are you working for a living?

- Yes, full time Yes, part time No

Where do you live? [Enter town or city]

Timing

The current practice is for:

- the open playoffs to start two weeks after the Spring Nationals, i.e. the second weekend of November; and

- the women's and seniors' playoffs to start the weekend after the GNOT final, i.e. the first or second weekend in December.

The timing was chosen so players could have a break between events (e.g. the Spring Nationals and the Open Playoffs), and to allow players who were unsuccessful in the Open Playoffs time to put together teams for the Women's or Seniors' Playoffs and meet requirements such as notification of systems.

This year that means the women's and seniors' playoffs will start on 8 December and finish on 13 December.

Questions

1. Has the timing of past playoffs prevented you from entering them?

Yes No

2. Will the timing of this year's playoffs prevent you from entering them?

Yes No

3. Would you be more or less likely to enter future playoffs if they were brought forward by one week?

More likely No difference Less likely

If more or less likely, please indicate which playoff(s) you would contest:

Open Seniors' Women's

4. If the Women's and Seniors' Playoffs were brought forward by one week AND if the GNOT finals were also brought forward by one week, would you be more or less likely to enter the GNOT?

More likely No difference Less likely

5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the timing of the playoffs?

Location

In 2016 and 2017 the playoffs were held in Canberra. For the previous 14 years all the playoffs except one were held in Sydney.

The playoffs were moved from Sydney because of the difficulty and significant cost of finding a suitable venue, especially in December when hotels are expecting to host Christmas functions (which are a significant source of revenue for hotels).

In addition to venue costs, holding the playoffs outside Canberra increases costs for the ABF as all the equipment (screens, boards, Bridgemates, bidding boxes, BBO computers and cameras etc) has to be shipped. Depending on the location, these costs may be partially offset by a reduction in the subsidies paid to players to travel to the venue.

A number of players have in the past expressed a preference for holding the trials in a location that is different from where they live. Their argument has been that this avoids lengthy travel times and the distractions of home.

Questions

6. Where should the playoffs be held? [1 = very unsuitable, 2 = somewhat unsuitable, 3 = neutral, 4= suitable and 5 = very suitable. Feel free to offer additional comments about any location, including where in the city they should be held, e.g. eastern suburbs of Sydney.]

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canberra | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Tweed Heads / Coolangatta | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Sydney | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Elsewhere (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |

7. If the playoffs were moved from Canberra would you be more or less likely to participate? [1 = much less likely, 2 = less likely, 3 = neutral, 4 = more likely and 5 = much more likely.]

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tweed Heads / Coolangatta | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Sydney | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Elsewhere (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |

8. If the playoffs were held in Sydney should they start later so players could avoid peak-hour travel?

- Yes No Don't care

9. Would you be willing to play evening sessions to accommodate a later start?

- Yes No Don't care

10. Would you be willing to pay more in entry fees to cover any additional cost of holding the playoffs outside of Canberra?

- Yes No Don't care

11. Would you be willing to pay more in entry fees to cover the additional cost of a better venue (i.e. one that is centrally located, near to options for food, drink and accommodation)?

- Yes No Don't care

12. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the location of the playoffs?