

Frequently Asked Questions

Australia's Representative Team High-Performance Program

1. What is Australia's Representative Team High-Performance Program?

The Australian Bridge Federation is developing a long-term High-Performance Program to strengthen Australia's representative teams and improve Australia's international performance.

The program aims to build stronger partnerships, better preparation, clearer pathways and a more structured performance environment that supports players to compete with the world's best.

This is a long-term journey that will be introduced in stages over the coming years.

2. Why is the ABF introducing a High-Performance Program?

Australia has one of the largest bridge communities in the world, but our international performance has not always reflected the depth of talent across the country.

The High-Performance Program aims to convert Australia's strength into stronger and more consistent international results through better preparation, stronger partnerships and clearer pathways.

3. Is this just about Pairs PQPs?

No.

Pairs PQPs are an important first step, but they are only one part of the broader High-Performance Program.

The program also focuses on:

- stronger partnerships
- better preparation
- coaching and support
- clearer player pathways
- stronger leadership
- greater international competitiveness

As outlined in the presentations:

Better qualification alone will not deliver better results.

4. Why were Pairs PQPs introduced?

Pairs PQPs were introduced to:

- reward partnership performance
- encourage stable partnerships
- create a stronger qualification pathway
- better align qualification with international competition

The intention is to place greater emphasis on partnerships, recognising that international bridge is won by partnerships.

5. What did the International Performance Review identify?

The review identified five key opportunities for stronger international performance:

- Cultural change
- Partnership-based selection
- Greater international competition exposure
- Dedicated leadership
- Sustainable funding

These recommendations provide the foundation for the High-Performance Program.

6. What is the long-term vision?

By 2035, Australia aims to have a representative system that consistently develops, prepares and supports players to compete with the world's best.

The vision includes:

- Partnership development
- Targeted preparation
- Visible pathways
- Performance-based selection

- Community engagement
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7. What happens next?

The program will be introduced in phases.

NOW (2026) — FOUNDATION

- Pairs PQPs
- Partnership emphasis
- Stronger foundations
- Clearer expectations
- Two-way consultation

NEXT (2027–2030) — BUILD

- International Performance Director
- Coaching and support programs
- Representative pathways
- International preparation
- Continued refinement of the High-Performance Program

LATER (2031–2033) — PERFORM

- Greater international competitiveness
- Stronger representative partnerships
- Greater visibility
- Sustainable High-Performance environment

FUTURE (2034–2035) — EXCEL

- International success
 - Sustainable excellence
 - Greater national recognition
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8. What will this mean for representative players?

The High-Performance Program aims to provide:

- greater clarity and transparency
- improved preparation and support
- stronger partnerships
- clearer pathways
- a more structured performance environment

Representative bridge will continue to require commitment, preparation and accountability from players, supported by greater investment from the ABF.

9. What isn't changing?

Some important things remain the same.

- Playoffs remain.
 - Performance remains central.
 - Selection remains performance-based.
 - Excellence remains the objective.
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10. Why does this matter to the wider bridge community?

Representative success benefits the whole bridge community.

The program aims to create:

- stronger Australian teams
- stronger clubs and pathways
- more Australians competing successfully on the world stage
- greater visibility of representative bridge
- stronger community pride and connection

As highlighted throughout the community presentation:

Success → Visibility → Interest → Participation → Growth

11. How can I contribute?

The High-Performance Program is being developed collaboratively with Australia's bridge community.

You can contribute by:

- Completing the **Have Your Say Feedback Form**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz1G_dLplhL9okrpUiMicK4uJ-mvR55gEJJCnLUUWC76D-HA/viewform?usp=publish-editor
- Submitting an idea in the **Representative Team Naming Campaign**
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGXkzZq4TUP95Tg371G7jPQqZavz2E0wXunJLfUls4p9QWrA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>
- Following updates on the ABF website.

12. Is the High-Performance Program finalised?

No.

The High-Performance Program is a long-term journey that will continue to evolve through consultation, engagement and ongoing refinement.

The ABF welcomes ideas and feedback from representative players, aspiring representatives and the broader bridge community as we continue to build the program together.

Our Vision for 2035

By **2035**, Australia aims to have a representative system that consistently develops, prepares and supports players to compete with the world's best.

Our ambition is to achieve:

- **A stronger, more competitive Australian presence on the world stage**
- Stronger representative partnerships
- Clearer pathways from club to country
- Better preparation, coaching and support
- Increased visibility of Australia's representative teams
- A stronger bridge community connected through representative success

Together, we're building stronger Australian teams, a stronger bridge community and a future Australian bridge can be proud of.