

18 May 2018

Bulletin 5 - 2018 International Programme for 2019

Target Events & Player Subsidies:

In 2019 we expect to send teams to the APBF (usually held in May or June) and to the World Team Championships (usually held between August and October). At this stage we do not know the venue or the timing of these events.

The World Team Championships will include a Mixed Team category for the first time, which will be played in conjunction with the existing categories of Open, Women and Senior. We think it is likely that Mixed Teams will also be added to the APBF from 2019 onwards.

At this stage we do not know what Youth events will be held in 2019.

The addition of the Mixed Teams category places an additional challenge from a budget point of view. We plan and budget for International bridge on a four year cycle. 2019 is year three of the current cycle which has an agreed budget of \$400,000 for the four year period.

The events which we plan to support are:

- Year 1 (2017) APBF and World Bridge Championships
- Year 2 (2018) Asia Cup and World Youth Teams
- Year 3 (2019) APBF and World Bridge Championships
- Year 4 (2020) World Bridge Games and World Youth Teams.

The Budget of \$400,000 will be inadequate to pay travel subsidies for all these events.

The International Committee (IC) has resolved to give priority to the Open, Women and Youth Teams for each of the above events. We will aim to pay a travel subsidy which will approximate to the economy class airfare.

We will endeavour to provide a travel subsidy for the Senior and Mixed Teams at the World Bridge Championships and the World Bridge Games. It is unlikely that we will be able to pay a travel subsidy for Mixed and Seniors at the APBF or the Asia Cup.

The amount of the travel subsidy will be determined on a year by year basis and will be stated on the squad application forms.



Selection Process:

The current method of selection has been in place since 2011. The IC believes that those methods have worked well over the past six years. We are a country with a limited player base and a consistent selection policy has allowed players to have an extended run in international teams, even when results have not been that good. Those players have built up an extensive international experience and we have achieved success in our Open and Women's teams in Poland (2016) and Lyon last year.

The IC nevertheless felt that a review of the current system was timely so we invited submissions to be received by the end of February. Those submissions were initially reviewed by a subcommittee and then by the IC. There were eleven submissions in all. A number of those submissions dealt with particular matters such as funding and the IC considered those submissions in making the statements above relating to the budget.

Other submissions demonstrated there was an appetite for a knock out teams trial. There was also considerable feedback on the use of datums in Island events as a basis for selection. The IC considered this and decided that the following will be adopted to select teams for 2019.

1. We considered our 4 year cycle of events NZB had traditionally participated in.
2. We considered it was appropriate for the single event years 2 and 4 (Asia Cup and World Bridge Games) to be selection only. We would however consider a trial for year 4.
3. We intend years 1 and 3 (World championships and APBF) be a hybrid system where applications are sought for Open, Women and Mixed to join a squad made up of teams or pairs. The selectors would decide if the entries warrant a trial. If they don't consider that to be the case then they will select. If they do decide on a trial then selectors will form suitable unattached pairs into a team or teams. We imagine that mostly we would have between 2 to 4 suitable teams.
4. Applications as a team of four or as a pair would be made on forms similar to those that are currently used. Entries would be allowed in more than one category. The existing 100A point eligibility test will still apply.
5. An entry fee will be payable to meet trial costs. It will be refundable should no trial be held for any category or if a pair or team is not selected for a trial. Trials would rotate between Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. There will be no equalisation. Wellington may host the first trial if geographically appropriate for 2019 subject to agreement on date and club availability. The entry fee is likely to be \$100 per player.
6. Matches will be played behind screens.
7. Should a trial take place then it would be over 2/3 days. Suggested formats are as follows with 16 board sets.

Two teams - 128 boards over 2 days

Three teams - 96 boards as a trifecta over 1½ days then a 96 board final over 1½ days with full carryover.

Four teams - 96 boards over 1½ days double round robin, then 96 board final over 1½ days with full carryover.

The Selectors have the right to alter the format as they see fit.

8. The winning team plays in the Bowl or equivalent with the 3rd and reserve pair to be selected after consultation with the winning team.

9. The Selectors will choose for the APBF with an eye to foster development but with at least one of the winning team to play subject to availability.

10. We will aim to complete trials by mid-December in years 1 and 3 (and possibly 4) where it is deemed appropriate. Where trials are held the teams will be announced within one week of the trials. In years 2 and possibly 4 the Selectors will announce the teams by the end of February.

11. Mandatory participation in the Island events would no longer be required but we would strongly recommend playing and may elect one to be compulsory. No pairs will be selected on the basis of datums only. Selectors will be looking at performance in recent major tournaments in New Zealand and overseas, as well as past performance in international events.

12. The addition of mixed teams to the Bowl event will bring new challenges. While inviting entries, and possibly a trial, any third pair could come from outside the original entrants to allow for aspirants who miss out on their first choice team. In the case of selection, that could be deferred to allow for second choice availability. That third pair would still need to meet the 100A point eligibility test, while acknowledging that the Selectors have discretion to relax this requirement.

13. Youth and Senior teams will be selected unless the Selectors deem it necessary to hold a trial. The Selectors reserve the right to adopt this approach in any other category.

14. It is anticipated that the application forms will be available at the end of July and that there will be a deadline of mid-October for sending those applications to the Secretary.

Regards

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