



South African Bridge Federation

Trials for Open, Women's and Mixed Teams 2024

Announcement of Trials

Trials for the **Open**, **Women's** and **Mixed Teams** to represent South Africa at the **World Bridge Games** from 23rd October to 5th November 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will be held in April and May 2024.

Venue and Dates of Trials

All Trials will take place online using the BBO platform at supervised central locations which will be determined once the entry numbers are known.

Both the **Open** and the **Women's** Trials will be held from 13th to 20th April and the closing date for entries is 31st March. You can elect to enter one of these but not both.

The **Mixed** Trials will be held from 4th to 11th May and the closing date for entries is 22nd April. You can elect to enter the **Mixed** Trials as well as the **Open** or **Women's**.

Please note that the exact duration of all three Trials will depend on the number of entries. The above dates are therefore to be regarded as the date range in which the sessions will take place. Prospective entrants should reserve these dates and note that the exact start and end dates for each Trial will be announced later when known.

The SABF reserves the right to allow, or invite, additional pairs to enter Trials after entries have closed if there is a valid reason to do so.

Conditions of Entry, Entry Fee and Individual Subsidies

Trials are open to all South African citizens and residents who satisfy the WBF eligibility regulations (see <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/eligibility-regulations/>).

The SABF reserves the right to refuse any entry if they feel the entrants are not of a sufficient standard to play in this event.

Players who qualify to represent South Africa in the **Open** or **Women's** Teams are not permitted to play in the **Mixed** Teams Trial.

The entry fees for the teams who go forward to represent South Africa in the **World Bridge Games** will be paid in full by the SABF. There will be no additional subsidies but the SABF will strongly support fund-raising efforts by players in our national teams.

All players who enter Trials are expected to make themselves available for the main event at the **World Bridge Games** in Buenos Aires in October/November 2024 if they qualify.



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Entry Fee for Trials

The entry fee for each of the **Open**, **Women's** and **Mixed** Trials will be based on the number of sessions that need to be played and this can only be determined once entries are closed.

If the SABF, in its sole discretion, deems it appropriate that one or more of the Trials should include a pre-qualification round, then the cost of that round will be R750 per player (R1 500 per pair). There will then be a further cost of R750 per player (R1 500 per pair) for qualifying entrants to participate in the final. If there is no pre-qualification round, then the cost will be R1 500 per player (R3 000 per pair).

Once an entry has been confirmed as accepted, the entry fee must be paid direct to the SABF, account number 1777000327, Nedbank branch code 198765. In the reference field, please insert "TR24/Pair Names" (e.g. "TR24/Laurel & Hardy"). Proof that payment has been made must be provided not less than one week prior to the start of the Trials.

Format of the Open, Women's and Mixed Trials

The Trials will be held on a pairs' basis with cross-imping and Victory Point conversion using the WBF Continuous VP Scale. The three top pairs in each event will qualify to represent South Africa in the **World Bridge Games** in 2024.

A "pairs trial" requires at least eight pairs. Accordingly, for each of the Trials:

- i) If three or fewer pairs enter, the SABF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, not to send a team for that event.
- ii) If from four to seven pairs enter:
 - They will be invited to form two or three teams and any pairs who are not invited onto a team will be eliminated and their entry fee refunded.
 - If two teams are formed, they will play a head-to-head final of not fewer than 96 boards. The winning team, if it consists of only two pairs, must pick a third pair from the losing team.
 - If three teams are formed, they will play a three-way match to eliminate one of the teams followed by a head-to-head final of not fewer than 96 boards. The winning team, if it consists of only two pairs, must pick a third pair from the losing team.
- iii) If nine or more pairs enter, a pre-qualification round will be held to reduce the field to eight pairs who will then play a final to select the top three pairs.



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Withdrawal from a Qualifying SA Team

If an individual or a pair withdraws from any of the SA Teams for any reason at any time prior to the **World Bridge Games**, the pair that finished fourth in their respective Trial will be invited to join the team. If two pairs withdraw, the pair that came fifth will be invited to join the team. No team will be sent if none of the top three qualifying pairs is able to play or if all three withdraw prior to the event for any reason.

The SABF reserves the right to vet the substitutions.

Captains

Any nomination of a non-playing team captain must be approved by the SABF. No husband, wife or “significant other” of any team player may be nominated as captain of the team. The playing or non-playing captain of each team will be responsible for:

- i) Organising practice sessions before the event.
- ii) Organising a review of the opponents’ convention cards and taking relevant copies to the event, distributing when needed.
- iii) Ensuring that the teams’ convention cards are submitted for the relevant events in accordance with WBF policy.
- iv) Having the final say in determining the line-ups for the events themselves (NB. the team may have input, but the captain’s word should be final).
- v) Ensuring all administrative tasks are dealt with timeously during the event (i.e. captain’s meetings, line-ups, etc.)
- vi) Reporting back to the SABF after the event.

Members of a representative team are awarded SA colours if SA citizens or Federation colours if residents.

Supervised/Monitored Play (as amended)

Each SABF regional union must provide a suitable venue in which the Trials can be played and strictly monitored. For a venue to be suitable, it must provide adequate internet access (BBO does not require audio-visual feeds) and be equipped with uninterruptible standby power to minimise the effects of loadshedding or other loss of mains power.

In the interest of promoting bridge and to maximize the chances that the best pairs will qualify, the tournament committee has agreed the following rule amendment.



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Players may be permitted to play from home in exceptional circumstances provided the following commitments are fulfilled:

- i) Players may submit a written request to play from home that clearly indicates the reason why they cannot come into a Centre. Supporting documents such as doctor's letters must accompany the application. The application must be received at least one week prior to the start of the event and should be sent to bdonde@cancersa.co.za.
- ii) If given permission, players must play in a room with 360-degree camera coverage. The cost of setting up the equipment required will be at the player's expense. The video feed must be connected to the Tournament Director or other designated monitor. The system must be tested prior to the start of the event.
- iii) Any glitches or downtime in the camera surveillance system will result in forfeiture of the match being played and may result in disqualification of the pair.
- iv) Players must request and obtain permission to leave the room from the Tournament Director or other designated monitor.

Please note that this is a concession and not a right. The decision of the tournament committee on whether you can play from home is final and cannot be appealed.

N.B. The SABF reserves the right to amend these rules if required.