NSWBA Rules Pertaining to On-line Congresses
Effective from 27 August 2020, last updated 10 January, 2022

Regulations
The normal NSWBA regulations pertaining to Congresses apply. In addition, the entry form is to specify the platform being used and any pre-congress preparation that the entrants must undertake to be familiar with the relevant software. Players should be online, visible, and ready to play at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of each session.

Directors
The Director must be accredited at Congress level or higher and experienced using the relevant on-line platform.

Entries
All members of the ABF Masterpoint System are eligible to enter.

Licence Fees
The NSWBA Congress Licence Fee will be $0.80 per red masterpoint issued.

Masterpointing
Red masterpoints at Level B4 are awarded and the normal Congress MP rules apply. Responsibility for masterpointing and reporting to the State Masterpoint Secretary lies with the Chief Director. Unless special permission is given by the National Event Co-Ordinators, Congresses which are run free of charge to players are not eligible for masterpoints.

Communication
The Director is responsible for ensuring that both kibitzing and the ability of players to chat to the tournament are disabled for all sessions.

Robots
If available, a robot pair may be used to fill a half table if required. Players may not have a robot partner, other than as a temporary substitute permitted by the Director when a player is disconnected.

Event Formats
A. Using the RealBridge Platform
   1) Pairs
     - cumulative over 2 sessions, each of at least 24 boards
     - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs

   2) Pairs
     - first session: qualifying, of at least 24 boards
     - second session: final plus one or more consolations
     - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs.

   3) Swiss Pairs
     - played as one tournament over at least 2 sessions
     - at least 48 boards
     - each match must be for a minimum of 5 boards
     - scoring by net Matchpoints or net cross IMPs. Match scores may be converted to Victory Points at the organiser's discretion.

   4) Swiss Teams
     - played as one tournament over at least 2 sessions
     - at least 48 boards
     - each match must be for a minimum of 5 boards
     - normal IMPs scoring with match scores converted to Victory Points.

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B. Using the BBO Platform, the only permitted formats are the following:
1) Pairs
   - cumulative over 2 sessions, each of at least 24 boards
   - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs

2) Pairs
   - first session: qualifying, of at least 24 boards
   - second session: final plus one or two consolations
   - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs
NB This format takes considerable expertise and preparation - it is not recommended unless using a very experienced Chief Director.

3) Swiss Pairs
   - Danish format as per BBO technology (pairs may play one another more than once)
   - played as one tournament on a single day
   - at least 48 boards
   - each match must be for a minimum of 5 boards
   - scoring by net Matchpoints or net cross IMPs. There is no conversion to Victory Points.

4) Swiss Teams (not currently available in the ABF Virtual Clubs Scheme)
   - format as available with BBO technology
   - played as one tournament on a single day
   - at least 48 boards
   - each match must be for a minimum of 5 boards

5) Individual
   - format as available with BBO technology
   - cumulative over 2 sessions, each of at least 24 boards

C. Using the StepBridge Platform, the only permitted formats are the following:
1) Pairs
   - cumulative over 2 sessions, each of at least 24 boards
   - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs

2) Pairs
   - first session: qualifying, of at least 24 boards
   - second session: final plus one or two consolations
   - scoring by either Matchpoints or cross IMPs

3) Swiss Pairs
   - played as one tournament on a single day
   - at least 48 boards
   - each match must be for a minimum of 5 boards
   - scoring by net Matchpoints or net cross IMPs. Match scores may be converted to Victory Points at the organiser's discretion.

Note. As the above platforms evolve and other platforms become available, the NSWBA will investigate their suitability for running Congresses and, in conjunction with the National Event Coordinators, update this list of acceptable platforms and event formats.

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The following regulations apply to events conducted under the ABF Virtual Clubs Scheme:

Entry fees
The full entry fee for the event must be paid by the players in BB $ at the time of the event. A proportion of the total entry fees paid will be returned to the club by BBO - currently approximately 65%. The players cannot be charged any additional "external" fee for playing.

Prizes
BB $ are the only prizes permitted to be awarded. It is perfectly acceptable for no prizes to be offered. The prizes, or absence of prizes, must be clearly advertised.

Pre-event Registration
Players must have registered their BBO username on the ABF Mailing List.