

South African Bridge Federation

Trials 2019

Announcement of Trials for Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed Teams to represent South Africa in the African Bridge Federation Zonal Championship in May 2019.

The African teams that finish first and second in the ABF Zonal Championships to be held in Morocco in June (final dates still to be announced) in the categories above will represent Africa (Zone 8) in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl and National Mixed Teams to be held in Wuhan, China from 14th to the 28th September 2019.

Dates of trials:

(1) Open and Women's Trials: 5th – 10th February 2019.

(2) Senior's and Mixed Trials: 9th – 13th April 2019.

Please note that the exact length of trials will depend on numbers of entries accepted and the dates shown above are the time framework of the period within which playing sessions will take place. Prospective entrants should reserve these dates.

Closing date for entries in Open and Women's Trials: Midnight on 6th January 2019

Closing date for entries in Senior's and Mixed Trials: Midnight on 10th March 2019

Entrants in the Open and Women's Trials will be informed whether their entry has been accepted and the venue, format, schedule and playing times will be announced on or before 16th January 2019. Entrants in the Senior's and Mixed Trials will be informed whether their entry has been accepted and the venue, format, schedule and playing times will be announced on or before 20th March 2019. The SABF reserves the right to accept late entries in any category.

Conditions of Entry, Entry Fee and Individual Subsidies:

1. A condition of entry for each player is South African citizenship or resident. This is a SASCOC and WBF requirement and, if not previously submitted to the SABF, an entry cannot be accepted unless a copy of the photo page of a currently valid South African identity document is submitted.
2. The entry fee is R1 300 per player but will be waived for entrants living further than 100 km from Johannesburg. WBF rules stipulate that any entrant in the Senior's team trials must be 60 years or older during the year in which the competition is held.
3. The entry fee for the African Zonal Championships as well as the entry fee into the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl and National Mixed teams will be paid in full by the SABF.

Format of Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed Trials

As in previous years the format in each category will depend on the number of pairs accepted for trials in that category.

- (i) If 8 pairs or fewer are accepted in a category, there will be Team Trials in this category.

If 3 pairs are accepted, they will form the S A team. If 4 - 8 pairs (inclusive) are accepted, the pairs will be asked to form teams of 4 or teams of 6, whichever they prefer, and an appropriate schedule of long board matches will take place. If any pair accepted for trials is not chosen to be part of one of the teams thus formed, that pair is automatically eliminated from trials. If a team of 4 wins the trials, the team will be required to nominate a third pair to join their team for the Zonals (and, should they qualify, for the BB, VC, d'OS and Mixed) from among the accepted trialists in that category.

- (ii) If 9 pairs or more are accepted in a category, there will be Butler pairs trials in that category where the pairs finishing first second and third will form the SA team.

Open, Women, Mixed and Seniors

In the event of an individual or pair withdrawing from any of the S A Teams for any reason at any time prior to the Zonals or the World Championships, in the case of Butler pairs the 4th pair will be offered the place and should they fail to accept then the 5th and so on down the line. Where teams trials have been held and a pair from the winning team withdraws, then the remaining 4 members may choose a pair from the other teams that participated, in the absence of which the team must make a proposal to the SABF for a replacement pair. SASCOC and WBF rules will apply. In the event that an individual withdraws from the team, the 4 team members (excluding the partner of the person withdrawing) may elect to invite the partner of the person withdrawing to propose an alternative person as his/her partner in the team and submit this proposal to the SABF for approval OR the 4 team members (excluding the partner of the person withdrawing) may choose a new pair according to the rules above. The SABF will not approve a team of 4 or a team of 5 to represent South Africa at the Zonals or at the World Championships. If a player or a pair in a South African team in any category withdraws at any time prior to the start of play in the relevant Championship, an acceptable replacement player or pair must be found, failing which, the S A team may be withdrawn from the event.

Acceptance of an entry for Trials

At the SABF Annual General Meeting in May 2016 in Hazyview, the SABF appointed an expert subcommittee under the chairmanship of Graham Burrows to recommend a set of bridge achievements to be used when deciding on the eligibility of each player entering the trials in 2017.

The majority recommendation of the subcommittee will still form the basis for entry to the 2019 Trials, the SABF screening and evaluating the record of each player in terms of the benchmarks suggested by the subcommittee, namely, his/her achievement in National and/or International events, Provincial events and “premier” Regional events (including SAWBA where applicable). The Masterpoints and Performance Index of each entrant will be taken into account and a successful entrant should have attained at least 2 of the following within the past 3 years:

Events	Open	Women	Seniors
National Teams	Top 5 Teams	Top 10 Teams	Top 10 Teams
National Pairs	Top 11 Pairs	Top 22 Pairs	Top 22 Pairs
Interclub	Top 5 Teams	Top 10 Teams	Top 10 Teams
Inter-provincial	Top 2 Teams	Top 3 Teams	Top 3 Teams
Provincial Teams ¹	Top 2 Teams	Top 3 Teams	Top 3 Teams
Provincial Pairs ¹	Top 3 pairs	Top 5 pairs	Top 5 pairs
SAWBA Teams	n/a	Top 6 Teams	n/a
SAWBA Pairs	n/a	Top 12 Pairs	n/a

All players at Grandmaster level and players who have represented South Africa within the last 3-5 years will be accepted as trialists. Acceptance for previous trials is not an automatic qualification for Trials 2019.

In line with the recommendation of the SABF subcommittee, the SABF retains the discretion to accept an entry for trials if there are deemed to be valid reasons to do so.

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.

Members of a representative team are awarded S A colours if they are SA citizens. Residents will be awarded federation colours. The SABF reserves the right to not send a team to the Zonals and/or the World Championships in any one of the 4 categories.

It is important to note that no member of the SABF Committee can discuss or provide advice to a player as to the suitability of his/her partner in terms of whether or not an entry is likely to be accepted for trials in any category. Correspondence or verbal discussions are not possible due to the confidentiality of the process of screening entries.

Pairs wishing to enter the Open or Women's Trials should enter online or send an email before midnight on 6th January 2019 to Roz Bernstein at microz@linkpackaging.co.za . The following information should be submitted with each entry:

The name of each player, his/her SABF number, and a copy of the photo page of his/her S A id document (if this or a copy of his/her passport has not been submitted to the SABF within the past two years).

Pairs wishing to enter the Senior's or Mixed Trials should enter online or send an email before midnight on 10th March 2019 to Roz Bernstein at microz@linkpackaging.co.za . The following information should be submitted with each entry:

The name of each player, his/her SABF number, and a copy of the photo page of his/her S A id document (if this or a copy of his/her passport has not been submitted to the SABF within the past two years).

Payments should be made to SABF at Nedbank Rosebank account number 1 777 000 327 and will be required within a week of the announcement of the accepted entries for Trials.

SABF 20th November 2018