

National Ranking and Selection Policy, 2023-24

A. Purpose

The policy aims to provide clear and unambiguous guidelines for the selection and seeding of Indian teams in various categories for participation and representation in international competitions.

The above policy will be relevant for the following WBF Events:

- a) **World Bridge Games - Country Representation for Teams and Pairs** (to be held at Centro de Convenciones de Buenos Aires, Argentina from 22nd October up to and including the 5th November 2024) *Participation in Pairs will be announced later subject to Sports Ministry Approval.*
- b) **World Bridge Teams Championships** - in the year 2025, provided qualification through BFAME Championships is obtained.
- c) **Any World Bridge Tour event where BFI is invited to send an INDIAN representative team**
- d) **Any International invitation event sent to BFI where INDIAN representative team is required through nomination or trials.**

RANKING POINTS EVENTS COVERED FOR THE SELECTION TRIALS 2024 (Selection Trials Proposed to be in the month of April/May, 2024)

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|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">ALL CATEGORIES: YEAR 2023</p> <p>ALL INDIA National events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Holkar Yeshwant Rao – Indore (Dec 23)b) Mohanlal Bhartia Grand Prix - Delhic) All Indian Shree Cement - Kolkatad) HCL International - Delhie) Interstate - Guwahati <p>FEDERATION EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">f) Summer Nationals - Goa <p>ZONAL EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">g) East Zone Championship - Kolkata <p>INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">h) BFAME Championships - Lahorei) APBF Championships - Hongkongj) 45th World Championships - Moroccok) Asian Games – Hangzhou <p style="text-align: center;">YEAR 2024</p> <p>FEDERATION EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Winter Nationals – Jabalpur (2023) <p>ALL INDIA National events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Tolani Open National Master- Nagpur | <p style="text-align: center;">MIXED CATEGORIES: YEAR 2023</p> <p>ALL INDIA National events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Prime National Mixed - Mumbai <p>Qualifying EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) K.K. Bhatnagar Event at Summer Nationals – Goa <p style="text-align: center;">YEAR 2024</p> <p>National Championship event:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Smt. Vijya Jajoo Memorial - Delhi (March, 2024) <p>Qualifying EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Qualifying Event - (March, 2024) <p style="text-align: center;">WOMEN CATEGORIES: YEAR 2023</p> <p>Qualifying EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Prime Women Eventb) Qualifying Women Event at Summer Nationals, Goa <p style="text-align: center;">YEAR 2024</p> <p>Qualifying EVENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Women Qualifying Event – (March, 2024)b) Fenesta Ladies Pairs – (<i>proposed</i>) |
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This policy has been formulated by the members of the nominated Ranking Committee (a subset of technical committee) of Bridge Federation of India upon instructions of Executive committee of Bridge Federation of India.

The Ranking Committee has undertaken several inputs as guided by the previously announced Ranking policies of the years 2022, 2021 and 2018 and with the recent selection committee appraisal of performance of the athletes at BFAME Championships (Lahore), APBF Championships (Hongkong), 46th World Championships (Morocco) and Asian Games 2022(Hangzhou) in addition with the suggestions given by the appointed coaches of BFI.

As compared to the targets mentioned in the TOPS scheme of SAI, the achievements by the athletes selected during the year 2023 in the major tournaments (APBF, World Championships and Asian Games) has not been satisfactory in all sectors with the known expectation of a medal in the Men category at Asian Games.

As recommended, the focus area of the current policy is to strengthen the ongoing process of selection through more phases of coaching camps and selecting a core of probable based on performances at these camps and impart online coach training. However, these stated guidelines will also be applicable to any and all future competitions.

The committee reserves the rights to modify the policy at a later date, said modifications will be widely published on BFI website as well as other communication channels, and the applicability of these modifications will be clearly defined.

The policy aims to establish the following:

- Time bound performance evaluation criteria
 - Period of evaluation
 - Respective weights of periodic performance (emphasis on more recent performance)
- Events to be considered for purpose of evaluation
- Respective weights of events considered
- Ranking points for any Team with more than 2 foreign/OCI players will be void whether in domestic or international events. There must be at least 2 pairs having Indian passport.
- Qualification benchmarks for various categories
- Process and procedure to be followed during selection trials
 - When the target events include men's category but not open
 - When the target events include open category but not men
 - When the target events include both (in same or different events)

B. Members of Ranking Committee

- 1) Mr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Hon. General Secretary, BFI
- 2) Mr. Anand KS Samant, Eminent Player & Ex Ec. Member
- 3) Mr R Venkatesh, Eminent Player
- 4) Mr. T C Pant, Ex. Jt. Secy, BFI
- 5) Mr. Debasish Ray, Eminent Player

C. Members Technical Committee

- Mr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Hon. General Secretary, BFI
- Mr. Anand KS Samant, Elite Player & Ex Ec. Member
- Mr. R Krishnan, Elite Player & EC member
- Mr Sumit Mukherjee, Elite Player & EC member
- Mr R Venkatesh, Eminent Player
- Mr. T C Pant, Ex. Jt. Secy, BFI

National Coach Advisors:

- Mr. Vinay Desai (National Coach)
- Mr. Joyjit Sen Sarma (National Coach)
- Mr. Anal Shah (National Coach)

D. Scope

- This policy will be applicable to Open/Men, Women and Mixed and Seniors Categories.
- Most performing exceptional Girls and boys from junior's category will be included in the above list as per recommendation of Juniors Selection committee.
- Players to be selected for Juniors World Championship for Juniors and Sub Juniors will be dealt separately with a **separate Ranking Point Scheme**
- As per the guidelines, the terminology used "athlete" as defined by the MYAS and SAI mean a single identity, thus, in Bridge it would be "pair".

E. Performance Evaluation

The process of performance evaluation is quantified by awarding ranking points to participating athletes based on the performance in the scheduled events over an extended period.

- Points are awarded exclusively for partnerships only. **However, individual players forming new partnerships can avail 30% of the highest-ranking points awarded to him in any partnership based on the total ranking points published for the respective selection cycle in contention. The average of both the total ranking points calculated above will be actual ranking point awarded for that respective pair.**
- In case where team is of 5-members, the eligible pair will be the one, which plays maximum number of boards in combination wherever possible to be determined.

1) Performance period

For purposed of evaluation of performance the performance period will be as follows

a) In case the selection trials are scheduled to take place in first half of calendar year(till 30th June):

Total Period of consideration – **Two full calendar years** immediately preceding the year of selection trials + **the year of selection trials up to the notification and invitation of entries.**

All events held prior to invitation of entries held in the calendar year of trials will be considered. To emphasise the performance in more recent period, a weightage formula will be applied as per the table below:

Definition – Calendar year of Trials = TYYY

| Period of consideration | Factor of ranking points earned in the period |
|--|---|
| Partial Year (TYYY, up to invitation of entries) | 100% |
| TYYY -1 (Immediately preceding year) | 100% |
| TYYY -2 (One year prior to trials) | 50% |

Any Ranking Point event calculated in the current PARTIAL year at 100% weightage will be reduced to 50% weightage in the next year for those who have availed the full benefit initially (the pair should be in the qualifying list of eligible pairs. Participation or non-participation in selection trials is irrelevant). This option is irreversible.

Similarly, any event ranking points held in TYYY-1 if considered in previous selection trials will be reduced to 50% for the current calculation of Ranking points for those qualified pairs. However, if a player/pair who is currently qualified in current selection trial was ineligible in the previous qualifying of selection trial, then such individual/pair will attain 100% weightage of ranking points for Partial Current year as well for ranking points year earned in TYYY-1 year.

b) In case the selection trials are scheduled to take place in second half of calendar year (1st July of YYYY) or completion of SUMMER Nationals whichever is later:

Total Period of consideration – Two full Calendar years immediately preceding the year of selection trials + the year of selection trials up to the notification and invitation of entries.

All events held prior to invitation of entries held in the calendar year of trials will be considered. To emphasise the performance in more recent period, a weightage formula will be applied as per the table below:

Definition – Calendar year of Trials = TYYY

| Period of consideration | Factor of ranking points earned in the period |
|--|---|
| Partial Year (TYYY, up to invitation of entries) | 100% |
| TYYY -1 (Immediately preceding year) | 75% |
| TYYY -2 (One year prior to trials) | 25% |

Example: Selection Trials to be held in 2024

| | ALL RANKING EVENTS ARE EXCLUSIVE IN NATURE | | RANKING EVENTS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED IN 2023 SELECTION TRIALS | |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | Trials date – Jan-June 2024 | Trials date July-Dec 2024 | Trials date – Jan-June 2024 | Trials date July-Dec 2024 |
| Period of | Factor of ranking | Factor of ranking points | Factor of ranking | Factor of ranking |
| 2024 | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 2023 | 100% | 75% | 50% | 50% |
| 2022 | 50% | 25% | 50% | 25% |

- Reduced weightage applicable for the individuals/pairs who are qualified in current list as well were qualified in the immediate preceding qualifying list.

2) Scheduled Events

a) International events:

- Events organized under the auspices or by World bridge Federation where representation is by NBO (BFI selects the team). **Open international events where players participate on their own are not considered for awards.**
- Zonal events Asia Pacific Bridge Championships (ABPF – Zone IV, VI & VII) – **held once in 2 years (only team events).** Competitive nations in Asian Games
- BFAME Championships (Zone IV) where Indian teams participate after selection trials or nominated by selection panel of BFI.
- **International Recognized Events by WBF (only LIVE events)– World Bridge Tour and under OCA (Olympic Committee of Asia) in which INDIA is recognized as a member nation or is invited due to performance achievement for which the trials are conducted or the team is nominated by selection panel of BFI.**

- b) National Championships organized under auspices of BFI
- c) All India National Events of selection berth – Category A events
- d) Zonal Events
- e) Specific designated events exclusively for Mixed or Ladies Categories

Ranking Point Weightages

- The specific events, their weightages and awards are defined in Annexure 1.
- The BFI reserves the right to add or remove any event from the designated event list.
- The BFI reserves the right to modify the weightages of ranking point awards to any scheduled event.
- Starting with April 01, 2022, pairs events will be awarded at 50% of the ranking points award for corresponding team's event for Men/open events only. However mixed and ladies pairs event will be awarded at 25% of the ranking points for main teams event wherever applicable.
- There will be no change in ranking points awarded up to March 31, 2022 as per the revised ranking policy 2021. For the years 2023-25, the ranking points for HCL International event will have weightage of 90% of BFI Federation events w.e.f. from 1-1-2023
- All teams or pairs attaining the same rank will be awarded the average of ranks of all such positions.
e.g. teams finishing in 5-8 position, if they all have these ranks by way of being losing quarter finalists, will be awarded the average of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th position respectively.

F. Qualification benchmark for selection trials

At the time of invitation of entries, the total Ranking Points of all Pairs as per their performance in the respective events will be consolidated and computed with due application of weightage formula defined above. From the overall list, the following will be invited to participate in the selection trials in their respective category:

- 1) Open Category – Top 28 Ranked Pairs**
- 2) Mixed Category – Top 20 Ranked Pairs**
- 3) Women Category – Top 16 Ranked Pairs**

- There will be no additions to the above list in any category in case of any dropouts.
- In case where the target event has men's category but not open, top 28 men's pairs will be invited from open list.
- In case where the combined trials are held for open and men's category, top 28 pairs from open list will be invited.
- Except where one or both members of a partnership are deceased, all partnerships will be fully recognized for consideration of the qualifying list and multiple partnerships will be considered legitimate for computation of the qualifying list.
- As per National Sports Code, BFI reserves the right to invite any additional pairs not in above stated qualifying benchmark list based on exceptional performance provided such pairs have undergone training for at least 180 days with any BFI accredited national coach and have won at least 5 national BFI recognized tournament titles (team or pair event) in preceding 3 years. Such pair will be awarded ranking points equivalent to half of the median ranked pair eligible to participate in the respective trial.
- In case there is a change in the partnership and both players are selected as per qualification benchmark within their category with some other players as partners, the changed partnership can participate in the trials subject to BFI approval. However, they will carry average of the ranking points at 30% of their highest ranking points in any partnership as explained in point no. (E) above.

- BFI reserves the right to prohibit a player from participating in the selection trials provided it finds unfit on any of the following grounds. In such cases the constituent pair will get eliminated
 - Case with disciplinary committee, past and present record, Player not in good standing with federation
 - Physical and health reasons - duly assessed by Medical officer of BFI
 - Past records and unfavourable report by of Coach, NPC while representing India.
 - Misbehaviour at Coaching camps and reported by Coaching Camp director and Coach
 - Absence at Coaching camp
 - Unfit under NADA

G. Process and procedures at the selection trials

These procedures refer to Open/Men, Mixed and Ladies categories. The senior trials are handled separately.

The selection trials will be held live under guidelines issued by SAI in form of evaluation of coaching camps and competitions. The camps will consist of Elimination and Final stages. The number of elimination stages, and qualifications will be based on number of actual entries, based on the following table:

| No of Entries | 25-28 | 19-24 | Upto 18 |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Format | Two elimination rounds Elim 1 -> Elim 2 : 12 to 16* Elim 2 -> Finals : 8 | Two elimination rounds Elim 1 -> Elim 2 : 12 to 14* Elim 2 -> Finals : 8 | One elimination round Elim -> Finals : 8 |

** Depending upon the list of entries received for the categories*

Weightages will be given to camp performance, ranking points will be based on the table below:

| Stages (Men/Mixed/Women) | VP Score | Win / Loss Ratio | Ranking Points Weightage | Carry Forward Points (1 st Elim) | Carry Forward Points (2 nd Elim) | Conv Card Compliance |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Elimination – 1 | 70 Points | 5 points | 20 points | NA | NA | 5 points |
| Elimination – 2 | 70 Points | 5 points | 15 points | 10 points | NA | NA |
| Final | 75 Points | 5 points | 10 points | - | 10 points | NA |

Note:- For the purpose of calculation of carry forward score, the camp performance for each pair will be sum of points awarded for VP score + win loss ratio + carry forward from previous stage if any. The highest point earner will receive 10 points and other pairs will be proportionately awarded as per their camp performance score to the highest leader.

H. Selection of team

The top 3 pairs from each category, along with pair #4 as first reserve will constitute the selected team. The selected team and the reserve pair will undertake to follow and attend any coaching and training program devised by BFI. Lack of preparation or discipline during the training program can lead to the coaches making a recommendation to substitute the selected pairs with next reserve.

In case Men and Open teams are selected via a common trial, the following process will apply:

1. Top 3 pairs irrespective of gender will form part of Open Team.
2. Top 3 men pairs will form part of Men's Team.

National Ranking and Selection Policy

Annexure 1 – Ranking Points

A. Ranking point Weightages for different ranks

For all events, top 8 ranks (unless specified otherwise in clause B below) will be awarded ranking points as per the table below. Actual events, and Ranking points for rank 1 in each event are defined in detail.

The example table depicts percentage of awards with 100% for rank 1 for teams.

| Rank | Ranking Points |
|------|----------------|
| 1 | 100 |
| 2 | 90 |
| 3 | 80 |
| 4 | 70 |
| 5 | 50 |
| 6 | 40 |
| 7 | 30 |
| 8 | 20 |

B. Qualifying events for Selection trials and Ranking Points

1) WBF Championship events where representation is by NBO (these are the highest ranked international event for performance points ranking scheme and will have 100% point scale of 176)

Awards (Ranking Points) – Top 8 Places to be awarded (**Rank 1 Teams = 176 points, Rank 1 Open Pairs = 88 points**).

For World Bridge Tour Event: (For Teams and Pairs)

- Category A: Weightage will be 75% of WBF Championship events
- Category B: Weightage will be 50% of WBF Championship events
- Category C: Weightage will be 35% of WBF Championship events

The Ranking points will be awarded only for the Team event and Pair event for the main designated event of that championship and no stratified or side events will be eligible.

2) International Zonal Events – Asian Games, APBF (75% WBF events performance points provided such Indian Team qualifies **for the Semi Final spot** in the main team event)

Awards (Ranking Points) **Rank 1 Teams = 132, Rank 1 Open Pairs =NIL**

3) BFAME and Commonwealth Games where BFI selects or nominates a team (25% of WBF events performance points provided such Indian Team qualifies for the Semi Final spot in the main team event)

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Rank 1 Teams = 44, Rank 1 Open Pairs = Nil**

4) National Championships by Federation (these are highest ranked domestic event and are awarded 50% of WBF events performance points)

- Winter nationals
- Summer Nationals

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Rank 1 Teams = 88, Rank 1 Open Pairs = 44**

a) National Events for selection Berth (events of National importance and are awarded 75% of National Championships performance points)

- Interstate National Bridge Championships
- Yeshwant Rao Holkar Trophy, Indore
- Shree Cement, Kolkata
- Mohanlal Bhartia Memorial, Delhi
- Tolani Open National Masters

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Rank 1 Teams = 66, Rank 1 Open Pairs = 33**

International Events held in India:

- HCL International, Delhi (being the only International BFI recognized event of National importance, hence awarded 90% of National Championships performance points)

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Rank 1 Teams = 79.2, Rank 1 Open Pairs = 39.6**

b) Zonal & Other Events (held each year where BFI accords recognition in advance will be eligible for 25% of National Championships performance points) ***subject to payment of capitation fees for ranking points:***

- Delhi Gymkhana – not held in 2022,2023 & 2024
- FNCC, Hyderabad – not eligible for ranking points
- East Zone Championships – eligible for 2023
- West Zone (President’s cup) – not held in 2022, 2023

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Rank 1 Teams = 22, Rank 1 Open Pairs = Nil**

c) Events exclusively for Mixed Category (Pairs will be awarded 25% of National championships performance points)

National level Mixed Events:

- Smt. Vijaya Jajoo National Mixed championships
- Prime Mixed National Teams and Pairs

Awards (Ranking Points) –

In case of Teams and Pairs event held together, Ranking points will be: Team event(Rank 1 Teams 66 points , Pairs event = 22 points).

In case only Pairs event is held then Ranking points will be 66 points.

Other Ranking Mixed Events:

- Dr. K.K. Bhatnagar Memorial Mixed Pairs event
- **Qualifying Events** for Mixed Category if held at Summer Nationals or Winter Nationals
- Any other event deemed to be a ranking point event at a future date.

Awards (Ranking Points) – **Pairs = 22 points.**

d) Events exclusively for Ladies Category (Pairs will be awarded 25% of National championships performance points)

- Fenesta Ladies Pairs.
- Prime Ladies Pairs
- Qualifying events for Ladies category if held at Summer Nationals or Winter Nationals
- Any other event deemed to be a ranking point event at a future date.

In case of Teams and Pairs event held together, Ranking points will be: Team event (Rank 1 Teams 66 points, Pairs event = 22 points).

In case only Pairs event is held then Ranking points will be 66 points.