

National Ranking and Selection Policy, 2024-25

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 for the calendar year 2025.

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

- a) **BFAME Championships** - in the year 2025, to be held from 10-18th April at Dubai
- b) **47th World National Teams Championships - Country Representation for Teams and Pairs** (to be held in Herning, Denmark between August 20 and August 31)
- 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 COACHING CAMPS 2025

Coaching Camps Proposed to be held from 6-20th March, 2025

- Open – 6- 12th March, Mixed – 13-17th March, Women & Seniors – 18-20th March

ALL CATEGORIES: YEAR 2024

ALL INDIA National events:

- a) Mohanlal Bhartia Grand Prix – Delhi (March 2024)
- b) All Indian Shree Cement – Kolkata (May 2024)
- c) HCL International – Delhi (Oct 2024)
- d) Interstate - Goa (Sept 2024)

FEDERATION EVENTS:

- e) Summer Nationals – Mangalore (June 2024)
- f) Winter Nationals – Pune (December 2024)

ZONAL EVENTS:

- g) East Zone Championship – Kolkata (Nov, 2024)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- h) 16th World Bridge Games, Argentina (Oct, 2024)

YEAR 2025

ALL INDIA National events:

- a) Holkar National Championships, Indore (Jan, 2025)
- b) Tolani Open National Master- Chennai (Feb, 2025)

MIXED CATEGORIES: YEAR 2024

ALL INDIA National events:

- a) HCL National Mixed Pairs - Delhi
- b) Prime National Mixed Event- Mumbai

Qualifying EVENTS: (Cat – B)

- a) K.K. Bhatnagar Event at Summer Nationals – Mangalore
- b) Phoenix Mixed Pairs at Winter Nationals - Pune

YEAR 2025

National Championship:

- a) Smt. Vijaya Jajoo Memorial - Chennai (Feb, 2025)

Qualifying EVENTS: (Cat – B)

- a) VK Agrawal Mixed Event, Indore - (Jan, 2025)

WOMEN CATEGORIES: YEAR 2024

Qualifying EVENTS: (Cat – B)

- a) Gouri Rao Women Pairs at Summer Nationals – (June 2024)

- b) Amla RUIA Women Pairs at Winter Nationals (Dec, 2024)

YEAR 2025

National Championship:

- a) EA Bridge Women National Championship - Chennai (Feb, 2025)

Qualifying EVENTS: (Cat – B)

- a) ALBA Women Qualifying Event, Mumbai – (Jan, 2025)

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 from 2022-2024 with the recent selection committee appraisal of performance of the athletes at 16th World Bridge Games, Argentina as well past performance at Asian Games 2023 in addition with the suggestions given by the appointed coaches of BFI.

It is extremely important for the federation to strongly work towards achievement of the targets given in the TOPS scheme of SAI for all projected calendar years. BFI aims to implement measures to develop the evaluation process of performance of athletes and given proper exposure and training. Recently, there has not been satisfactory performance in all sectors as noticed during 2023 calendar year as well in the current year at 16th World Bridge Games except for the Indian Seniors team which achieved Silver medal.

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

- Mr. S Sundarram (Technical Committee, Chairman)
- Mr. Debasish Ray, Hon. General Secretary, BFI
- Mr. Anand KS Samant, Eminent Player
- Mr B Prabhakar, Eminent Player
- Mr. Shantanu Rastogi, Invitee
- Mr. R Venkatesh, Eminent Player

C. Members Technical Committee

- Mr. S Sundarram (Technical Committee, Chairman)
- Mr. Debasish Ray, Hon. General Secretary, BFI
- Mr. Anand KS Samant, Eminent Player
- Mr B Prabhakar, Eminent Player
- Mr. Shantanu Rastogi, Invitee
- Mr. MBV Subrahmanyam

National Coach Advisors:

- Mr. Vinay Desai (National Mixed Coach)
- Mr. S Sundarram (National Men Coach)
- Mr. Anal Shah (National Women Coach)
- Mr. Girish Bijoor (National Seniors 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 or fulfilment of minimum playing quota and declared by such pair to be eligible.

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) Calendar Year mean starting from 1st April to 31st March for that year**

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.

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 ranking events exclusively for Mixed or Ladies Categories (Cat A or Cat B)

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 subject to minimum ranking points as provided for Cat B events.
- 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 24 Ranked Pairs with 4 reserves**
- 2) **Mixed Category – Top 20 Ranked Pairs with 4 reserves**
- 3) **Women Category – Top 12 Ranked Pairs with 4 reserves**

***The above qualification will be subject to approval by the SAI sanction process**

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 24 men's pairs will be invited from open list.
- In case where the combined trials are held for open and men's category, top 24 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 Selection Committee 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. 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 will be based on team format with entries to be invited.

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:

Elimination Stage

- **Formula for Ranking point Carryover**

$$1.5 * n * (RP - RP_{min}) / (RP_{max} - RP_{min})$$

n - No of Matches to be played in each Round Robin

RP – Ranking points of the pair

RP_max – highest Ranking points amongst all participants of E1

RP_min – lowest Ranking points amongst all participants of E1

Final Stage:

- **Formula for Ranking point Carryover**

$$1.0 * n * (RP - RP_{min}) / (RP_{max} - RP_{min})$$

n - No of Matches to be played in Finals

RP – Ranking points of the pair

RP_max – highest Ranking points amongst all participants of Finals

RP_min – lowest Ranking points amongst all participants of Finals

- **Formula for Camp Performance Carryover**

$$0.5 * n * (VP - VP_{min}) / (VP_{max} - VP_{min})$$

n - No of Matches to be played in Finals

VP – VP Score of the pair in Elim not counting carryover

VP_max – highest Elim VP Score amongst all participants of Finals not counting carryover

VP_min – lowest Elim VP Score amongst all participants of Finals not counting carryover

Final Ranking will be done based on Total VPs scored in Final + Ranking point Weightage in Final(Vps) + Carryover to Final (Vps)

H. Selection of team

OPEN CATEGORY:

The camp will consist of preliminary and final league. The preliminary league may consist of one or two eliminations based on entries received while the final league will consist of 8 top ranked pairs from the last elimination round of the preliminary league. The format in the final stage is proposed as follows:

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

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

The top 3 pairs 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.

MIXED AND WOMEN CATEGORY:

The top 3 pairs 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.

National Ranking and Selection Policy 2022

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 National Championships, 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, 2024

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
- NK Gupta HCL Mixed 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:

- ***Qualifying Events*** for Mixed Category if held at Summer Nationals or Winter Nationals
- VK Agarwala Mixed Pairs Event, Indore
- 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)

National level Women Events:

- EA Bridge National Women Championship

Other Ranking Women Events: (Cat-B)

- Prime Ladies Pairs, Mumbai
- ALBA Women Pairs, Mumbai
- 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.