



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST for all European Championships and other Tournaments held under the auspices of the European Bridge League

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Preamble

These General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) are the standard regulations which apply to all European Bridge Championships and other tournaments held under the auspices of the European Bridge League (EBL).

The EBL Eligibility Code, the EBL Disciplinary Code, the EBL Anti-Doping Regulations, the EBL Dress Code, the EBL Systems Policy, the EBL Alerting Policy, the EBL Policy on Psychic Bidding, the EBL Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations and the EBL Code of Practice are part of the Conditions of Contest for every European Bridge Championship and are annexed to GCoC.

The EBL also issues Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) further to regulate any European Bridge Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

In the event of any inconsistency between these GCoC and the SCoC, the SCoC shall prevail.

Expressions used in these GCoC and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in duplicate bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Championship Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa and reference to one gender shall include the other.

1. Definitions for the General Conditions of Contest (GCoC)

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) shall have the following meanings:

Appeals Form

means the form prescribed by the EBL for the lodging of appeals or reviews.

Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screens Regulations

mean the Policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that regulates the use of Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screens.

Brown Sticker Announcement Form

means the form designed for the announcement of Brown Sticker Conventions (bids, overcalls and subsequent auction) as defined in the EBL Systems Policy.

Championship Chairman and Championship Manager (Operations Director)

mean the respective persons so designated by the EBL.

Championship Committee

means the committee constituted either generally or for a European Bridge Championship pursuant to the Statutes of the EBL, and includes persons or entities designated by the committee for certain tasks.

Competitor's Commitment Form

means the form prescribed by the EBL which must be signed by all competitors in order for them to be eligible to participate in the Championship.

Credentials Committee

means the committee constituted either generally or for a European Bridge Championship pursuant to the Statutes of the EBL.

Disciplinary Commission

means the commission in charge of all matters pertaining to ethics and behaviour etc. Their duties, powers and function are defined in the EBL Disciplinary Code.

EBL Alerting Policy

means the Policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that regulates the alerting procedure.

EBL Policy on Psychic Bidding

means the policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that specifies the EBL's Policy with regard to Psychic Bidding.

EBL System Card or Convention Card

means the System Card authorized by the EBL for the disclosure of Systems by contestants and includes Supplementary Sheets.

EBL Systems Policy

means the Policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that regulates the use of Systems.

European Bridge Championship

means any event so designated by the EBL from time to time and if the context permits, also means the totality of such events scheduled for play at a particular site.

Executive Committee

means the Executive Committee of the EBL established under the Statutes of the EBL.

Head Tournament Director (Head TD)

Means the official defined in Law 81. Other designated Tournament Directors (TDs) are his assistants as defined in Law 81D.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUM)

mean any of the systemic agreements so described in the EBL Systems Policy.

Host NBO

means the NBO which hosts a European Bridge Tournament.

HUM System

means a System that utilizes Highly Unusual Methods, as defined in the EBL Systems Policy.

Laws

means the current version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. 'Law' means a law contained therein.

Line-Up Desk

means the facility set up at the site of a tournament for the teams to register their Line-ups and for the provision of other services relating thereto.

NBO

means a National Bridge Organisation that is a member of the EBL.

Playing Area

means the area defined by the EBL which may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the playing rooms which are designated for the use of the players, and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be defined in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest and will be identified to the participants at the tournament.

President

means the President of the EBL.

Schedule of Play

means the schedule for the play, either as contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest or as subsequently determined by the EBL.

Session

means a segment of play (as prescribed by the Schedule of Play) after which scores are computed. May be further defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC)

means the additional Conditions of Contest issued from time to time by the EBL for the further regulation of a particular tournament.

Supplementary Sheets

means such additional pages containing System details as are annexed to and form part of EBL System Cards in accordance with these and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

System

means all agreements and understandings a pair has as to the meaning of any call or play as those respective expressions are defined in the Laws.

These Conditions of Contest

means these General Conditions of Contest together with the regulations, codes and policies listed in the Preamble..

WBF

means the World Bridge Federation, an International Sport Federation, recognised by the IOC and incorporated in Switzerland.

WBF Guide to Completion

means the publication of that name issued by the WBF to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF Convention Cards for a World or European Bridge Championship, which can be found at <http://www.worldbridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/conventioncards/Guidetocompletion.pdf>

For the interpretation of these General Conditions any special partnership understanding is included in the terms “convention”, “conventional call”, “conventional play”, “conventional agreement” or the like.

World Standard Card

means the System Card devised by the WBF for use in specific circumstances defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

2. Conditions of Entry**2.1 General**

European Bridge Championships are conducted under the auspices of the EBL and all events designated as European Bridge Championships shall be played in accordance with the Laws. These Conditions of Contest, and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC), supplement the Laws as required.

2.2 Media

By participating in a European Bridge Championship, each NBO and its contestants agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the EBL.

2.3 Competition Requirement

Each NBO agrees that in the interest of promoting goodwill in the world and for the proper conduct of a European Bridge Championship, it shall instruct its contestants that they must compete against all other contestants. Entry in a European Bridge Championship and subsequent refusal to play against any other team or contestant as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification of any team, or of any contestant refusing to play. Such disqualification shall extend for the balance of the European Bridge Championship involved. Furthermore, the offending contestant(s) and their NBO shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.4 Political Statements

Each NBO further agrees that for the proper conduct of any European Bridge Championship it shall instruct its competitors that at no time during the course of or in relation to the event may they make any form of public political statement or comment. Any contestant(s) making such a statement may be disqualified from the event or events in which they participated or

intend to participate and shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL, for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.5 Invitation to Participate

Participation is subject to nomination by a player's NBO and approval/invitation by the EBL.

2.6 General

To be eligible for participation a competitor must comply with the EBL Eligibility Code.

2.7 Credentials Committee

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the EBL, the Executive Committee has appointed a Credentials Committee, whose functions shall be

(a) to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players and other team members whose names have been submitted by an NBO for invitation to compete. These names must be transmitted to the President, or his designee, in writing, as prescribed by the relevant SCoC;

(b) at its discretion, to refuse to invite any player or other team member whose name has been submitted for invitation by an NBO, as aforesaid, to participate. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.

2.8 Competitors' Commitment

Players in Pairs events and Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams events are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form (see Appendix 2). The Competitors Commitment is binding and the absence of such a signed form renders the competitor ineligible to participate in the event. The NBOs are directly responsible for the fulfilment of the above mentioned mandatory requirement. Competitors as defined above who have not previously signed a Competitor's Commitment form will need to provide a signed copy of this form when they register on site at the event.

3. Official Language

English is the official language.

At the table the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English.

The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities. No appeal due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

4. Ethics and Deportment

4.1 *Player's obligations*

The privilege of representing one's country as a player, non-playing captain, coach or other team official is not an inalienable right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. The EBL expects all teams and partnerships to play to win.

In the absence of penalties expressed in IMPs or VPs, given that participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standards becomes the more imperative.

Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. It is expected that Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officers and Teams will receive all decisions of the Director, the Committees and the Disciplinary Commission in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political, religious and/or racial statement (see also section 2.4).

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

4.2 *Looking at partner*

Players are requested not to look at their partner during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.

4.3 *Discussions*

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match to avoid discussions with partner or argument with opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to the Tournament Director or, subject to the limitations in Section 15, to the Captain of the team.

4.4 *Anti-Betting Regulation*

It shall be a violation for any player, team captain or official, or any other persons associated with or related to a player, team captain or official participating in any EBL event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof.

Any violation will be subject to charges to be presented to a hearing before the EBL Disciplinary Commission.

5. Anti-Doping Regulations

It is mandatory for all participants to follow the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations. (<http://worldbridge.org/anti-doping-regulations.aspx>)

6. Dress Code

The participants in an EBL Championship must comply with the EBL Dress Code. (www.eurobridge.org/dress-code.aspx)

7. Restrictions and Security

The following restrictions apply to the playing areas

7.1 Smoking and Alcohol

7.1.1 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes)

Smoking in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke.

Violations will be subject to a standard penalty (see Section 21)

7.1.2 Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to consume alcohol.

Violations will be subject to a standard penalty (see Section 21)

7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times.

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device that is not switched off into the playing area will cause his team to be subject to a standard penalty (see 21.2).

The Championship Manager or the Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the EBL for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Sections 27.2 and 27.3 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

As instructed by the Championship Manager the Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area, or from remaining there, for the duration of the current match. The Championship Committee may extend the duration of the non-admission of the individual concerned to include further matches.

7.3 Pets

Pets are not allowed in the playing area.

7.4 Security

For security reasons all people at the Championship Venue must wear their official identification badge.

8. Disqualification from any EBL Championship or Tournament

Should a team, pair or individual player be disqualified as a result of a decision made by the Championship Committee, Disciplinary Commission or the Executive Committee (whether following a one round disqualification by a Tournament Director or not), no refund of the entry fees, either in part or in whole, will be made. (See also Section 33.4)

9. Vu-Graph & Broadcasting

9.1 *Obligation to play*

All contestants are required to participate in any form of broadcasting of the play whenever so required by the organizers.

9.2 *Access to the Vu-Graph Room*

Access to the Vu-Graph rooms is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty, TDs and non-playing captains (subject to space available and approval by the Championship Manager.)

10. Media Presentation – Registration – Publication

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews etc. arranged by the EBL, including video, Internet, TV, radio or any other media presentation.

NBOs and their representatives at a tournament authorise the EBL to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of that tournament. They further give their consent to the EBL using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information are the exclusive property of the EBL and may not be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent.

11. Completion of EBL System Card

11.1 *Publication of Systems*

Registration of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets with the EBL gives the EBL the right to publish such System Cards via Internet or to any parties at the Championship in such form as it sees fit. When full systems are registered on site, for the purposes of providing additional information, these will not be published by the EBL to persons other than those requiring them for the purpose of running the Tournament.

11.2 *Requirements*

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and also to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The SCoC will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, in accordance with the EBL Systems Policy and in addition to rules established in these Conditions of Contest, which may include provision for the electronic submission of System Cards prior to the start of the Championships. (see Section 11.5)

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the EBL System Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their System Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with the SCoC.

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purposes of this section unless:

- (a) all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the WBF Guide to Completion, these Conditions of Contest, and the SCoC;

- (b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the EBL that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction, may be omitted. The classification of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card.

11.3 *Supplementary Sheets*

- (a) The EBL System Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet.
- (b) The number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of System Cards will be set forth in the SCoC.

11.4 *Approved System Card Editors*

System (Convention) Cards may be prepared using any of the following programs

Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel – templates for either of these programs can be found on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org or by emailing the Systems Administrator, Anna Gudge (anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com)

The WBF CCE or the Lee Edwards program may also be used, but their use is strongly discouraged. Players are advised that these programs may not work well on the latest computer software and they may find it preferable to use either Word or Excel. They do not convert readily to PDF and for this reason the original files must be provided if they are used.

The cards may also be provided in Acrobat PDF format, but in this case the file size should not exceed 150k; however because of problems converting the symbol fonts to pdf players are advised that they should submit the original files at the same time.

When using Word or Excel, players must ensure that the information on the card prints on two pages, and that the font size is not too small. If the information does not fit within the two pages, then cross-referenced supplementary sheets, in English, should also be provided. (see 11.3 b).

PLEASE NOTE that image files of any type are not acceptable (i.e. files in formats such as .jpg, .tif or .bmp.), nor are .pdf files created from scanned documents or images.

These cards will be converted by the Systems Administrator to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com.

11.5 *Electronic Distribution of Systems*

If electronic submission/registration of System Cards prior to the start of the Championships is required by the SCoC, the systems will be displayed on a web site designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) sent by

email to the captain of the team making the registration and, if email addresses are provided for the team members, also to them individually. In order to facilitate communications, each team's system submission should include as many contact email addresses as are available within that team or its officials. If captains have queries concerning the systems of other teams, they should email the Systems Administrator who will pass the query on to the team concerned.

Pairs are responsible for checking their own system cards on line to ensure that the card displayed is complete, correct and has any supplementary notes that are required.

The EBL deems the publication of the URL of the web site to the Captains of all teams submitting systems in accordance with the regulation detailed above to constitute distribution of systems. All teams should make every effort to download and print sufficient copies of their opponents' systems for their own use. The website will clearly display the date stamp of registration and any revised systems will be marked rev1 or rev2 and so forth, so captains should check regularly for updates. No changes will be made to any systems on the web site after a date to be set in the SCoC, except in cases of emergency, in which event e-mail notification will be sent to all other captains.

Failure to submit a System Card in accordance with this regulation and the relevant regulation and time set forth in the SCoC will result in a fine of 1 VP for a delay up to one week, 2VP for a delay of up to two weeks and 3 VPs for a delay exceeding 2 weeks; and in addition the team may be subject to further sanctions, including restrictions on bidding and play agreements, at the discretion of the Championship Committee or its designee.

11.6 General

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage.

12. Use of System Cards at the Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the SCoC, each member of a pair must hand to one of his opponents at the table at the start of each session of an event his duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the SCoC for a specific European Bridge Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the session.

After withdrawing his cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, a player may not consult his own Card or Supplementary Sheets except as provided in Law 40 B2(b). He may consult the WBF Guide to Completion in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner, or one made or contemplated by himself. Notes on the defence against HUM systems and on defence against

the defences, and against the artificial elements of the brown sticker elements of any system, are deemed to be part of the opponents' system and may be used by both pairs at the table.

13. Alerts and Explanations

The Alerting Policy of the EBL applies.

14. Length of Matches

10 board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes

12 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes

14 board matches: 2 hours

16 board matches: 2 hours 20 minutes

20 board matches: 2 hours 50 minutes

Teams judged guilty of slow play will be subject to penalty. Additional time will not be allowed for teams playing on Vu-Graph; neither will extra time be granted because of the use of bidding boxes, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons. Vu-Graph presentation of any match or session will not start until the Tournament Director notifies the Chief Commentator or his designee.

For shorter or longer matches the allowed time will be based on approximately 8 minutes and 45 seconds per board.

15. Non-Playing Captains

15.1 General

A non-playing captain (NPC) may observe his team either in the Open Room or in the Closed Room during play subject to the rules set forth in this Section and to any supplementary regulation made from time to time by the EBL before an event begins. The NPC must enter the room before play begins at the start of a session.

15.2 Rights of a Non-Playing Captain

A non-playing captain may act in order:

- (a) to protect the rights of his team if he believed that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- (b) to curtail unnecessary discussion;
- (c) to forbid a member of his team to make a protest;
- (d) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his team;
- (e) to require, but only after the play of a board has been completed, that a tournament director be called at the table;
- (f) to make known his own intention of making a protest or an appeal on behalf of his team in reference to any matter in respect of which his players have not done so;

- (g) to ensure that a player not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch his team mates.

15.3 Procedure during Matches

- (a) An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that session. Exceptionally, if the NPC is requested to leave the playing room by a Tournament Director, the President, or the Championship Chairman or Manager, he may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- (b) Except as provided for in 15.2 above, an NPC is bound by the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76).
- (c) During the time allowed for a session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, an NPC should only address members of his team at the table in the English language or in a language understood by the opponents. If it is desired to use a language other than English the permission of the opponents should be sought and, where reasonably possible, should be given. If difficulty arises, an NPC wishing to speak to his team in a language not known to the opponents should do so through an interpreter or team member who can translate for the benefit of the opponents.
- (d) At any time when a comparison of scores is allowed a non-playing Captain may draw his players' attention to his observation of an infraction but he is bound as a spectator by Law 76B until that time.

15.4 Delegation of Responsibility by the NPC

NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC. While the EBL recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach, etc.), it is only when they are officially registered as members of the team and have been invited to participate in the relevant event by the EBL, that they may perform certain of the official functions assigned to the NPC. Such additional team officials may not enter either of the playing rooms if the NPC is present in one of the playing rooms except as a spectator at a neutral table, and must obtain the permission of the Championship Manager or Head Tournament Director who may impose further conditions on such entrance at his discretion.

16. Substitutes in Team Tournaments

If, for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a session or because of an emergency that develops during the session, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute need not be a member of the NBO represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player from another team playing in the same competition and must fulfil any restrictions in gender and/or age that apply for the event in question.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Championship Committee or his designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the

Championship Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skills were considerably greater than those of the player replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Championship Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

The Championship Committee shall have authority to determine whether, and to what extent, a substitute may become a permanent replacement.

17. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments

The Head Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made. The same restrictions as in 16 above apply to the substitute.

18. Forfeits in Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Championship Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The result of the match shall be determined in accordance with Appendix 1 (Scores in Forfeited Matches). If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the non-offending team shall be credited with the IMP difference closest to the assigned Victory Points score.

A second forfeit by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team.

19. Substitute Boards in Team Tournaments

A "substitute board" is one introduced into play in a session or a match, to replace a board already played at one or both tables. Depending upon the decision of the Championship Committee the results of a substitute board may, or may not, be counted as part of the session or match. Substitute boards are put into play by the Tournament Director either on his own volition or by direction of the Championship Committee.

20. Fouled Boards

A board is considered "fouled" if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

20.1 *Fouled Boards in Team Tournaments*

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, Law 86D should be applied, but if a board has not been played at the other table it should be played or replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (in accordance with the SCoC). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. That match is scored as though the board had never been played*.

The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Championship Committee. When the Tournament Director has reason to believe the Championship Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final session of a match, he should have a provisional board played during the session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The Tournament Director, on his own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

***Example:** if the 7th board in a 16-board match is fouled and the error is discovered when the contestants are computing the result of the match, the board is disregarded and the match is scored as though it consisted of only 15 boards.

20.2 Fouled Boards in Pair Tournaments

When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. Procedures for scoring fouled boards are contained in the SCoC.

20.3 Penalties for fouled boards in Teams or Pairs Tournaments

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault, that side shall be subject to procedural penalty equal to half a standard penalty (see 21.2). in accordance with the SCoC.

21. Penalties

21.1 Penalties and Fines

Penalties and fines will be applied according to these Conditions and the SCoC. Unless specified otherwise, all penalties are mandatory.

21.1.1 Unnecessarily Slow Play

It is a serious breach of propriety deliberately to break a Law or Rule even if one is willing to accept the prescribed penalty. Accordingly, over and above the prescribed penalties, the Tournament Director may impose an additional penalty in cases where he is of the opinion that players are indulging deliberately in unnecessarily slow play.

The following regulations will be observed in putting this rule into effect:

- (i) No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.
- (ii) Such a penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which a verbal warning has been given.

(iii) The penalty may, in the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other to reflect the measure of each team's responsibility for the occurrence.

21.1.2 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under Section 21.1.1 above all penalties for violations of time procedure and slow play are mandatory and require no previous warning to the players that penalties will be applied.

21.1.3 Leaving the Room

If a player leaves the playing room during a match without the permission of a tournament director that player's team will be fined the standard penalty.

21.2 Standard Penalty

The standard penalty for a team is 2 VP (see Section 21.3 for a knockout match) or ½ board in a BAM match, or, in the case of pairs events, 50% of the match points available on a board during the session. Repeated violation of the relevant regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing.

22.3 Knock Out play

(i) When the director gives an IMP procedural or disciplinary penalty to a team in knockout play, that penalty relates to the match score. For example, if the match score is 40 IMPs - 38 IMPs in favour of Team A, and if Team A is penalised 3 IMPs then the match score becomes 37-38.

(ii) The IMP penalty for an infraction under Sections 7.1 and 7.2 shall be equal to the square root of the number of boards in the match, with any fractions rounded up. (For example, for a 28 board match the penalty will be 6 IMPS.)

22. Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screens

The Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply, where necessary.

22.1 Bidding boxes

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory.

22.2 Bridgemates and other Devices used for the recording of matches.

Electronic or other devices may be used to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, to send the collected data to any control centre, etc.

22.3 Screens

Screens will be used whenever possible.

23. Verification of Scores

The correction period and the protest period are determined by relevant sections in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest.

24. Regulations for Electronic Line-Ups

The line-ups must be submitted in accordance with the details in the Supplementary Conditions of contest. Failure of a captain to submit his line-up in a timely fashion shall result in fines in accordance with the SCoC.

25. Play of the Cards

During the course of play, each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time so that it can be seen by all players at the table.

Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.

Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping with tricks won pointing towards partner and tricks lost pointing towards the opponents.

26. Duplicated Boards

Whenever possible duplicated boards will be used throughout.

27. Attendance in Playing Rooms

27.1 General

Subject to any supplementary regulations made by the Executive Committee or its designee or special permission of the President, only the following are permitted to enter the playing rooms:

- (a) Participants assigned to play in that room;
- (b) Tournament Directors;
- (c) Personnel needed to operate these Championships, including, but not limited to, scorers, timers, caddies and Vu-Graph personnel;
- (d) The EBL President and members of the Championship Committee;
- (e) The Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission;
- (f) Members of the Championship Committee who are on duty;
- (g) Staff personnel for provision of refreshment and room cleaning, if necessary;
- (h) "Officials on duty" appointed for a specific session or sessions by the EBL President;
- (i) Members of the Daily Bulletin staff to be named by its Editor;
- (j) Approved journalists who have been accredited by the President (or his designee) of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) and ratified by the EBL President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee.

(The Championship Manager or Head Tournament Director, before the start of the session, may limit the number of individuals who represent categories (i) and (j) For purposes of the following, those individuals are considered a single group and members of it are referred to as "representatives".)

The assignments of places in the playing rooms to representatives in categories (i) and (j) shall be made by the Editor of the Daily Bulletin subject to the following rules:

Except by permission of The Championship Manager or Head Tournament Director, not more than one “representative” shall be at any table at the same time; preference will be given to category (i).

The “representative” must enter the room before the session begins, must remain on the same side of the screen throughout the session and, should he leave before the end of the session, may not re-enter any playing rooms.

“Representatives” may be assigned to Open and Closed Rooms.

“Representatives” will normally not be allowed in both playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-graph and/or broadcast via internet, unless space is available as determined by the Championship Manager.

27.2 Spectators

All Spectators are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, and the Laws of the game, to which they are subject. Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players, talking, or otherwise distracting their attention.

Supplementary regulations may require a special identification tag or badge issued on the instructions of the Championship Committee for entrance to the venue and/or playing area.

Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Championship Manager (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) a limited number of spectators watching at the table (in Team competitions Open room only) will be permitted, subject to the Conditions and Restrictions below.

27.3 Conditions and Restrictions

For the purposes of this section “representatives” and all other non-participants are considered spectators.

- (a) Spectators are not permitted to smoke or consume any alcoholic drinks in these areas, nor may they bring mobile telephones, pagers or any other electronic devices into these areas. Spectators contravening any of these regulations will be required to leave the playing area immediately and will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the Championship without specific permission from the Chairman of the Championship Committee or in his absence the Head Tournament Director.

The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a spectator from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the EBL for the detection of such electronic devices.

- (b) No more than six spectators (including journalists) – three on each side of the screen - shall be permitted at any one table.

- (c) Spectators must be seated at the start of the session. If they leave the table before the end of the session they must leave the playing room and may not return during that session.
- (d) Spectators must remain at one table during a session. The observance of this regulation is particularly important. Any spectator who attempts to move to a second table (for example, to follow a moving East-West pair) will be required to leave the room for the remainder of the session and at the discretion of the Championship Committee may be subjected to greater penalties.
- (e) Looking at two hands or sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.
- (f) Non-playing players from a team are not permitted to watch their own team's match.
- (g) No spectators can be admitted in the playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-Graph or broadcast via internet.
- (h) Until it is too late for the players to obtain a ruling, spectators have a responsibility not to call attention to any error or irregularity they believe they may have observed.
- (i) If matches are designated as "Pit Matches" additional spectators, at the discretion of the Head Tournament Director will be permitted

It is the Tournament Directors' responsibility to ensure that the above conditions are enforced.

28 General Rules During Play

28.1 Obligation to remain at the Table

Leaving the table needlessly before round or match is finished is a breach of the proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to the standard penalty (Section 21.2)

28.2 Finish of Play

In Team matches, at each table when play has finished, the players should agree the scorer and then leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible.

29 Prohibition on Leaving the Competition

All contestants are expected to participate until the end of the event. Any contestant failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined. If a contestant believes it cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason it should seek permission from the Chief Tournament Director and the Operations Director to withdraw.

30 Pit Matches

The EBL may allow the Open Room segment of selected matches to be played in special areas (Pits) designed for spectators to observe the play. Such matches are referred to in these Conditions as "Designated Pit Matches" and

may be subject to supplementary regulations issued by the EBL after the date of these Conditions of Contest. However, spectators at any Designated Pit Match shall not include non-playing team members from either of the competing teams.

31 Rulings and Appeals

The Tournament Director shall be summoned to a table as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. After the Director has given the ruling, any appeal against such ruling will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Review Procedure set out hereunder. The interpretation of the Bridge Laws is a matter to be referred to the WBF Laws Committee. The decisions reached shall be final.

31.1 Review Procedure

Appeals will be heard by a “Reviewer” appointed by the Championship Committee.

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review and of the possible grounds for seeking such a review. Unless specified otherwise in the SCoC the time limit for seeking a review is in accordance with Law 92B.

The TD will fill in details of the decision on the relevant form, and then the player will complete the form stating his reasons for asking for a review and hand it to the TD who will arrange for the review. A deposit of Euro 100 must accompany the form. The Reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

The Euro 100 deposit will be forfeited and the penalties described in Sections 21.2 and 21.3 of the GCoC will be deducted from the score of the appealing side if in the opinion of the reviewer there is insufficient basis for requesting the review.

32 Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest

The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest or any SCoC is a matter to be referred to a committee composed of the Championship Committee Chairman, who will chair it, and members of the EBL Rules and Regulations Committee present. The decisions reached shall be final

33 Eligibility for Awards

33.1 Medals

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will normally be awarded for EBL Championships.

In all teams events, the winning team in the final will be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy. The losing finalists will be awarded the Silver Medal. For the play off regulations to determine the Bronze Medallists, see Section 34 below.

In all pairs events, the winning pair shall be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy or prize, the second placed pair shall be awarded the Silver Medal and the third placed pair the Bronze Medal.

33.2 Master Points Awards

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points plan, details of which can be found at <http://eurobridge.org/ebel-master-points-plan.aspx>

33.2.1 Special Conditions

In team events, in order to qualify for MPs won by the team, a player must have played a certain minimum number of boards of the total number of boards played by his team.

- a) Tournament consisting only of a Round-Robin or of a Swiss without any KO phase: a player must have played at least one third of the boards played by his team.
- b) Tournament consisting of a Round-Robin or Swiss followed by a KO phase: a player must have played at least one third of the boards played by the team in the Round-Robin or Swiss.

In addition, he must have played at least one third of the boards played by his team in the whole KO-phase and at least one third of the boards played in the last KO-match won by his team.

33.2.2. Conceding Team

In team events, in the case of a team conceding: if we assume team A is playing team B and team B concedes, then the one third rule will not apply to team A and all players are deemed to have played the correct number of boards for that round.

33.2.3 Special Events

For events in which the above rules cannot be applied, the SCoC will have provisions determining such conditions.

33.2.4 Force Majeure

The EBL Executive Committee may still award MPs and title to a player who genuinely participated in many boards in all the matches but could not completely comply with the above mentioned conditions because of illness or force majeure.

33.3 European Champion Title

In order to qualify for the title of European Champion the conditions are the same as those needed to qualify for the MPs for the Championship.

33.4 Pairs or Teams Disqualified after final results are known

See also Section 8 for contestants disqualified before or during an event.

33.4.1 Team KO Events

The disqualified teams are removed from the final rankings and their positions remain vacant. (If both finalists are disqualified then the playoff - for 3,4 places - winner and loser will be ranked first and second respectively. Third place will remain vacant).

33.4.2 Non-KO Team Events (single or multiple stages) and Pairs Events

All teams finishing below the disqualified team(s) move up to fill the vacant spaces, and the relative ranking is not affected. Awards (medals, prizes, master points etc) are conferred according to the new ranking.

33.4.3 Forfeiture of Prize Money

Where applicable, prize money earned by a disqualified contestant must be returned to the EBL.

34 Play off Regulations for 3rd place

The detailed play off Regulations for bronze medals or 3rd place as appropriate will be contained within the Supplemental Regulations for each EBL Championship.

35 Changes to the Conditions of Contest

The EBL Executive Committee, or the Championship Committee by its delegation, reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC, at any time after its publication and before the beginning of the event. After the start of the event only on the initiative of the Head Tournament Director may changes be proposed to the Championship Committee/Championship Manager, which will then decide whether or not to implement such amendments.

36 Responsibility of the EBL

The EBL schedules an event to occur at a particular time and place. However, the EBL makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person, that any particular event will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

37 Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest

Entering or being accredited to attend a European Championship or Tournament means that everybody concerned with such entry or accrediting (Organisations, Teams and Individuals) knows and agrees to abide by these General Conditions of Contest and the relevant SCoC.

APPENDIX 1

CALCULATION OF RESULT WHEN A TEAM FORFEITS A MATCH

A: ROUND ROBIN TEAMS

The non-offending team

will get the higher of 13 VP or the result of this formula:

$$\frac{3}{4} \times 20 \left(\frac{\frac{x}{20-x}}{\frac{x}{20-x} + \frac{y}{20-y}} \right) + 5$$

where

x = non-offending team average result in VPs

y = offending (forfeiting) team average result in VPs

The forfeiting team

will get the reciprocal of the non-offending team result (that is a maximum of 7 VPs.) Depending on circumstances, this result may be reduced by the Championship Committee.

B: SWISS TEAMS

The non-offending team will receive 13 VPs.

The forfeiting team will get a maximum of 7 VPs. Depending on circumstances, this result may be reduced by the Championship Committee.

APPENDIX 2



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

A ZONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION
International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

COMPETITOR'S COMMITMENT

First Name: _____

Family name: _____

Address: _____

NBO and EBL Code No: _____

Gender: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I wish to play in European Bridge League ("EBL") events

If a minor, name and address of the legal guardian(s) and date of birth:

1. I agree and commit myself to participate in such EBL events that I apply to play in and/or that I am nominated by others to play in and to compete with respect for the EBL rules and fair play.
2. I am aware that the EBL events are governed by the Laws of Bridge, the Conditions of Contest, the EBL Disciplinary Code and all other Rules & Regulations of the EBL and I undertake to comply with such rules, all of which are fully known to me, and/or any amendment of, or addition to, the same that is published on the official website of the EBL.
3. I therefore agree to be submitted to such rules, regulations, and procedures to the jurisdiction of the bodies and persons that are in charge of applying them. After the exhaustion of internal remedies within the EBL system, I acknowledge that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Lausanne, Switzerland) has ultimate

jurisdiction for all disputes in connection with the EBL events and agree that recourse to the ordinary courts of law is prohibited.

4. I undertake to behave properly under all circumstances and contribute in all aspects to the good image of the EBL events and of the hosts of such events.
5. Through my participation in the EBL events I commit to promote the celebration of bridge in an international community with respect for cultures and customs from all over the world.
6. I agree that I will abstain from all public display of political actions, statements or comments within any EBL event and acknowledge that the EBL will not, without limitation, be responsible for any political, financial or other sanctions that any local or national authorities may impose on me.
7. I accept that EBL has the final authority to exclude me from its events in cases of non-compliance with this commitment (including any applicable EBL rules and regulations) or in cases of misconduct, the meaning of which shall take into account local customs and traditions.
8. I confirm that I have not received any information including, without limitation, advice by a physician or another person that my health might be negatively affected or that my level of fitness may not be sufficient to participate in any EBL event.
9. I agree that I will be personally responsible for any damage that I may cause to persons or property and that I will be liable for indemnifying such damage. Therefore I accept that EBL (including its members, directors, officers, employers, staff operators, volunteers, contractors or agents) shall not be liable under any circumstances in connection with any damage that I may cause during any EBL event.
10. I accept and agree that if I participate in any EBL event it shall be at my own expense except for such costs as EBL, the Host City, and/or any other party explicitly accepts to bear.
11. In particular and without limitation to the foregoing, I accept that all the expenses concerning the travel to the Host City and back and all the costs of my stay, including accommodation, meals, transfers etc. are not in the responsibility or at charge of EBL or the host.
12. I agree to follow the regulation in the General Conditions of Contest or Supplemental Conditions of Contest for each particular event in which I participate concerning the use and possession in the playing area of electronic devices (for example mobile phones, pagers, smart phones, pocket computers etc). I accept and agree to be inspected in order to ensure compliance with the present clause.
13. I accept and agree not to smoke or to consume alcoholic beverages at the competition venue, except in such areas where smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages might be explicitly allowed and in such case only after the end of the segment, match or game in which I am participating.
14. I accept to be subject to the anti-doping rules of the WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION (WBF). In particular I accept to submit to doping control by or at the request of WBF or EBL and I accept consequences and sanctions as well as the jurisdiction of WBF and EBL and of the Court of Arbitration for Sports as provided for in the anti-doping rules of WBF which I can consult on www.worldbridge.org
15. I agree to be photographed, filmed, identified and otherwise recorded during any EBL event, both during and outside the competitions. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be published and broadcast worldwide by any means (TV, internet etc.) and may be used by EBL and the host for non-commercial promotion purposes at no cost to EBL or the host. I agree that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be used for any investigatory and evidential purposes in connection with any disciplinary enquiries.
16. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may also be used by EBL post-event for promotional and editorial purposes related to future EBL events.
17. I will not participate in, nor support betting related to EBL events and understand that all forms of promotion of betting related to such events are prohibited.

18. I agree that any dispute not to be adjudicated in application of specific procedures provided for by EBL but which arise between myself and EBL and/or Host Member Federation and/or the Championship Organising Committee and/or their respective members, directors, officers, staff operators, employees and volunteers, including but not limited to claims for damages of either party against the other arising out of occurrences (acts or omissions) linked with my participation to a EBL event shall be governed by Swiss Law and exclusively settled by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, in accordance with the CAS rules then in effect.
19. I am aware and I agree that my participation in any EBL event is conditional upon my valid acceptance of and my compliance with each and all the provisions of this document. I acknowledge that if there is from time to time any contradiction or inconsistency between this declaration (on the one hand) and the EBL Statutes and Rules and Regulations (on the other), the latter will prevail.
20. In addition, I accept the conditions of the WADA Athlete Consent form detailed below:

As a member of the EBL and/or a participant in an event authorized or recognized by the EBL, I hereby declare as follows:

- (a) I acknowledge that I am bound by, and confirm that I shall comply with, all of the provisions of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time), the World Anti-Doping Code (the "**Code**") and the *International Standards* issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency, as amended from time to time, and published on WADA's website.
- (b) I consent and agree to the creation of my profile in the WADA Doping Control Clearing House ("**ADAMS**"), as requested under the *Code* to which WBF is a *Signatory*, and/or any other authorized *National Anti-Doping Organization's* similar system for the sharing of information, and to the entry on my *Doping Control, Whereabouts* and *Therapeutic Use Exemptions* related data in such systems.
- (c) I acknowledge the authority of EBL under the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to enforce, to manage results under, and to impose sanctions in accordance with the WBF Anti-Doping Rules.
- (d) I acknowledge and agree that any dispute arising out of a decision made pursuant to the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, after exhaustion of the process expressly provided for in the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, may be appealed exclusively as provided in Article 13 of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to an appellate body for final and binding arbitration, which in the case of *International-Level Athletes* is the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- (e) I acknowledge and agree that the decisions of the arbitral appellate body referenced above shall be final and enforceable, and that I will not bring any claim, arbitration, lawsuit or litigation in any other court or tribunal.

21. I have read and understand the present declaration and wish to be bound by its contents.

Date

Signature (or, if a minor, signature of legal guardian and minor)

Recent Main Changes to the General Conditions of Contest

- **September 2016:**

Amendment of Player's Commitment Form (Appendix 2) from event specific to applicable to all events; and corresponding change in §2.8

- **October 2016:**

Addition of second paragraph in §25 relating to varying the orientation of a played card.

- **December 2016:**

- Definitions: Link added to WBF Guide to Completion
- §11.5 Example added of sanctions pertaining to late filing of system card
- §33.4 New §33.4 added, dealing with procedure for revised ranking following disqualification of a competitor. Reference to §33.4 added to §8

- **February 2016:**

- Definitions: Head TD changed
- §11.4, §11.5 Revision of approved System Card Editors, and changes in display of System Cards on the web.
- §27.2 Provision for requirement of ID to enter venue
- §31.1 Additional instructions on filling in the review form