



**EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**  
YOUTH COMMITTEE

## **20th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

# **Rules and Regulations**

### **INTRODUCTION AND NATURE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 20th European Youth Bridge Championships ('the Championships') are played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ('the EBL') at the *Palazzo del Turismo* in *Riccione, Italy*, commencing on *Wednesday 13 July* and ending not later than *Sunday 23 July 2005*.

The Championships consist of three series: a **Junior** series, a **Schools** series and a **Girls** series. Each series consists of a complete 'round robin' of matches of 20 boards, with teams playing against all other teams in the same series. The results of the matches are expressed in victory points and the team in each series with the greatest number of victory points at the completion of the 'round robin' is the winner of that series (and so on for the other placings).

The Championships are played under the International Code - *Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 1997* (with the revisions approved thereafter by the WBF Laws Committee) and these *Rules and Regulations*, whose special provisions for these Championships supplement the International Code as required.

## **1. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION**

### **1.1. RIGHT TO ENTER - ENTRY FEES**

Each member country, which is up to date with the payments of its dues to the EBL is authorized to enter one team in the Junior series, one team in the Schools series and one team in the Girls series of the Championships. Countries must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with payment of dues to the EBL before they can participate in the Championships.

The entry fees, euro eight hundred (€800) per Junior team, euro five hundred (€500) per Schools team and euro eight hundred (€800) per Girls team, must be paid to the EBL's account:

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE  
Bank Paribas of Switzerland  
2 Place de Hollande  
CH-1211 Genève 11  
Switzerland

*Ac.no.:* 097300 L

to be received not later than 1 July 2005.

Each member country must play against every other country. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

## 1.2. TEAM MEMBERS

Each team is entitled to have four, five or six players; in addition there may be a non-playing captain and possibly other officials. The players of the *Junior* and *Girls* series must have been born **on or after January 1st, 1980**; the players of the *Schools* series must have been born **on or after January 1st, 1985**. Subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee, the members of any team may be changed up to the time of commencement of play on the first day of the Championship, but not thereafter. No player may participate in two series running concurrently.

If a country has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added after the commencement of play on the first day only with permission of the Appeals Committee.

## 1.3. ENTRIES - CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The names of the captain, the team officials and the players of each team together with the date of birth of all players must be submitted to the EBL Youth Committee electronically by filling the form available on Internet at the address:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/05riccione/Asp/EntryFormStep1.asp>

not later than 1 July 2005.

The Youth Committee will forward all entries to the Credentials Committee of the EBL for approval. Every proposed player must, along with other criteria, satisfy the Credentials Committee that he either:

- a. was nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition;

*or*

- b. was nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition.

By entering the Championship, both the NBO and the participants directly authorize the EBL to take pictures and film the participants during the championships, retain the same in permanent electronic form, and authorize the EBL to utilize, publicize and disseminate all or part of the material obtained without payment or acknowledgment.

#### 1.4. DRAW FOR NUMBERS

Prior to play, an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and will be published in the programme.

#### 1.5. NUMBER OF BOARDS

Each team in each series will play one match of 20 boards against every other team of the same series. All matches will be played straight through without a break.

#### 1.6. SYSTEMS

1.6.1. **Systems Policy and Systems allowed:** The *EBL Systems Policy 2000* as varied by these Regulations shall apply to the Championships. (The *EBL Systems Policy* is identical to the *WBF Systems Policy*, with the exception that the former does not allow psychic conventional opening bids in Pairs events. The *WBF Systems Policy* is available at the Internet site: <http://www.worldbridge.org/dept/systems/policy.htm>)

The Championships are classified in Category **3** of the *EBL Systems Policy*. Accordingly, all systems of bidding and card play may be used, with the exception of ***Highly Unusual Methods*** and ***Brown Sticker Conventions***.

Each partnership can play only one system. The two members of any partnership must play the same system. No team may lodge more than four systems to be used by its players.

The use of system variations by one partnership is permitted provided that:

- a. full disclosure is effected;
- b. the situations in which system variations are to be used are clearly defined. For instance, a pair may use different systemic arrangements according to the vulnerability, or according to the position of the opener in relation to the dealer;
- c. the variations/deviations from the principle system do not require the development of a system of special defences. This means that the variations must be either natural or along the lines of a recognized Strong Club system.

It is not permitted to vary the use of the system against specific opponents in a manner different from the definition of use submitted in the system material.

The system to be used by each pair must have been lodged in accordance with the present Regulations (see regulation 1.6.2. below). Change of basic system or material changes in lodged systems during the Championships need approval by the Appeals Committee before they can be used.

1.6.2. **Written explanation of systems:** Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their system, and to make full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The obligation is always on the user of a system or convention to show that he has made a sufficiently clear statement of his methods.

- 1.6.2.1. **Completion of WBF Convention Card:** The full written disclosure is to be made by the completion in due form of the *WBF Convention Card* and *Supplementary Sheets* as required. Participants are required to complete the Card electronically, through the *WBF Convention Card Editor*, a computer programme available for downloading, free of charge, at the Internet site: <http://www.worldbridge.org/applic/wincce2.18.exe>

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form unless:

- a. all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the *WBF Guide to Completion* and these *Rules* - but in case of inconsistency between the *Guide* and these *Rules and Regulations*, the latter shall prevail;
- b. the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the system used including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings;
- c. the Card is of appropriate sticker colour.
- d. Pairs using substantial system variations shall complete a second Convention Card, whereby the second card will be supplementary to the first, and the first Convention Card must be cross-referenced to it (and bear a statement under *Systems Summary*).

- 1.6.2.2. **WBF Convention Booklet:** A reference on the Card to the name of a convention described in the *WBF Convention Booklet* shall be deemed to incorporate in the Card the full text of the relevant convention as described in the *WBF Convention Booklet*. Should any modification on the description contained in the *WBF Convention Booklet* be used, sufficient details of such modification must appear on the Card in the appropriate section where the subject convention is named. No modification should be written on the *WBF Convention Booklet* itself.

- 1.6.2.3. **Coloured Stickers on Convention Card:** A space is provided at the top right-hand corner of the first page of the Card on which a coloured sticker is to be affixed and maintained, such sticker colour to be green, blue or red, in order to signify the following systemic approaches to bidding, namely:

- green = natural
- blue = strong club/diamond, where one club/diamond is always strong
- red = artificial. This category includes all artificial systems, which do not fall under the definition of *Highly Unusual Methods*, other than strong club/diamond systems. Examples would be a system where one club shows either a strong one club opening or a naturally inclined or balanced one club opening; a system which contains unusual bids at the two- or three- level (other than *weak-two* or *multi*). Furthermore, all pairs using system variations (except for

varying one no trump opening point count ranges) shall identify their card with a red sticker.

- 1.6.2.4. **Supplementary Sheets:** The WBF Convention Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate 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. The number of Supplementary Sheets is limited to four A4 sized pages, typed doubled-spaced in English.
- 1.6.2.5. **Complex Systems:** A partnership using a complex system may lodge a comprehensive statement of its methods in English (which may be of any length) with the Appeals Committee prior to the commencement of the Championships. Any statement so lodged will be used by the Appeals Committee (and may be used by the partnership in argument before the Appeals Committee) to assist it in determining whether or not full and proper information was given to the opponents as to the meaning of calls made in the auction by the partnership.
- 1.6.2.6. **General Consideration:** The greater the number and complexity of bids and plays of purely conventional meaning used, the more improbable and difficult it is for opponents to recognize and therefore to understand them. The onus of disclosure is always on the user of the convention and the benefit of any doubt will always be given by the Tournament Director (or Appeals Committee) to the opponents.
- 1.6.2.7. **Distribution of systems:** Each team entered for the Championships shall lodge with the Appeals Committee the original copy of the Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets. The Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets must be sent by electronic mail to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee:

Patrick Jourdain (pdjourdain@hotmail.com)

by 1 July 2005 at the latest.

Copies of all Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets will be available for collection by the captains as of 12.00 hrs noon on Wednesday, 13 July 2005, for the Junior and the Girls series, and as of 12.00 hrs noon on Monday, 18 July 2005, for the Schools series. No team may apply for more than three copies of each system.

Failure to lodge the Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets as required by this rule may result in the use of the system being prohibited, in which case the system described on the *World Standard Card* will have to be used. At the discretion of the Appeals Committee a further penalty of €100 may be imposed. The burden of proof that their systems have been received by the Appeals Committee lies on the countries.

## 2. RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

### 2.1. COMPOSITION AND SEATING OF TEAMS

- 2.1.1. **Designation of teams:** The team mentioned first in the schedule printed in the programme is designated as the *Home Team*. Their opponents are designated as the *Visiting Team*.
- 2.1.2. **Line-Up procedure:** In all series, for the first round, the captain of the Visiting Team must submit the line-up of his team at least one hour in advance of the starting time and the captain of the Home Team is allowed an additional ten minutes.

For subsequent rounds, the captain of the Visiting Team must submit the line-up of his team within twenty minutes of the official end of play of the previous round, and the captain of the Home Team is allowed an additional ten minutes.

All line-ups will be posted on the information board for continuous display.

Repeated violations of this time schedule will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

1st delay:	a written warning
2nd delay:	½ VP penalty
following delays:	1 VP penalty for each delay
furthermore:	the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until ten minutes before start of play.

- 2.1.3. **Seating of Home Team and Visiting Team:** The teams meet according to the schedule printed in the programme. The Home Team sits throughout in the North-South position in the Open Room and in the East-West position in the Closed Room. No changes in the line-up may be made unless authorized by the Tournament Director in charge. Such permission will only be given in case of illness or in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.1.4. **Substitutes:** If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute so designated does not need to be of the appropriate age or sex, or a national of the country for which he substitutes, but the Tournament Director will try to near these conditions as closely as possible. A substitute cannot be a player of another team. The decision as to whether the result of a match in which a substitute has played either partly or wholly shall stand, and what penalties, if any, may be imposed, shall be the responsibility of the Appeals Committee, which will adjudicate upon every case in which a substitute plays.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform a member of the Appeals Committee on duty as soon as possible and furnish the Appeals Committee with a written report.

## 2.2. TIME PROCEDURE AND PENALTIES FOR SLOW PLAY

2.2.1. **Start of the match:** At the beginning of each match the Tournament Director on duty will announce the time by which the round must be completed. This will be two hours and fifty minutes after the start of the matches of 20 boards including the time for dealing (if so required), system explanation and scoring procedure. Play in the Open Room between two opposing teams may start only when the players of the same teams are seated in the Closed Room.

Any team, which is not seated and ready to play at the start of a round, will be fined 1 VP and 1 VP for every 5 minutes thereafter. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the start of each match. If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a match the fines for slow play in the same round will be based on the time at which all players were seated at the table and ready to play.

### 2.2.2. End of the match

a. A match of 20 boards must be finished two hours and fifty minutes after the announced starting time. If, at the end of the allocated time, play has not been concluded both teams will share the following penalties:

up to 5 minutes late:	1 VP
more than 5 and up to 10 minutes late:	2 VPs
more than 10 and up to 15 minutes late:	4 VPs
more than 15 and up to 20 minutes late:	6 VPs
more than 20 and up to 25 minutes late:	10 VPs

For delays of more than 25 minutes the Appeals Committee may impose a more severe penalty.

- b. If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any necessary corrective measure, including the designation of a monitor at the table for the duration of the round.
- c. At his discretion, the Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play but his failure to do so does not diminish the responsibility of the players.
- d. 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:
1. 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.

2. The penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which the verbal warning last referred to is given.
3. The penalty may, at 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.
4. The penalty imposed will take the form of ½ or more VPs, to be deducted from the offending team's score.

2.2.3. **Penalty warning:** All penalties except for the above mentioned in §2.2.2.d. are automatic and it requires no previous warning to the players from the Tournament Director that penalties will be applied automatically.

### 2.3. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY

- 2.3.1. **Official Language:** All players are reminded that the official language of the Championships is English and during a match the players are expected to converse in this language only.
- 2.3.2. **Smoking & Alcohol:** Smoking and the consumption of alcohol in the playing area, the lobby and toilets are prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke or drink alcohol before the end of the session. Any player or team official smoking or drinking before, during or after the session in the playing area, lobby or toilets will result in his team being fined 2 VPs. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing, and in the team official not being allowed into the playing area and lobby.
- 2.3.3. **Mobile Telephones & Pagers:** Mobile telephones and pagers may not be brought into the playing area, the lobby and toilets. Any player or team official bringing a mobile phone or pager into the playing area, the lobby and toilets will result in his team being fined 2 VPs. This penalty is automatic.
- 2.3.4. **Dealing:** The same boards will be played in all matches of a round. For this reason, boards will have been duplicated in advance under the supervision of the Director of Operations. Consequently, no dealing shall take place at the table.

In the event of an irregularity resulting in dealing becoming necessary, the players will be required to deal all boards, as needed, before play begins.

#### 2.3.5. Duplication of boards

- 2.3.5.1. Wherever possible, boards will be duplicated more than once so that the Open Room and Closed Room may play different sets (and see Rule 3.4.2).
- 2.3.5.2. Where it is not possible for the boards to be twice duplicated, the following provisions shall apply: every table in the Open and Closed Room will be designated by a letter (or number). Every match will be played at tables designated by the same letter (thus, if a team is playing at table A in the Open Room their team mates will be at table A in the Closed Room). All



sets of boards will have marked on them the same letter as the table at which they are being played.

The North and East player at every table is required, at the beginning of each match, to complete a *curtain card* by writing the name of his country thereon, and then to place such curtain card in the pocket of the first board played corresponding to his position.

The boards will be changed between the Open and the Closed Room by board movers.

The players are required to check that the boards given to them are the correct boards, and that they are played in the correct orientation. To do this:

- a. The players should check that the letter marked on the boards corresponds with the table letter.
- b. North and East should check the curtain card completed by their respective opponents in the same seat in the other room.

- 2.3.6. **Non-playing pairs:** Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing.
- 2.3.7. **Finish of play:** As each table finishes playing a match, players should leave the Room (Open or Closed) as quickly as possible, provided that at least two hours have elapsed since the start of play. Otherwise, all players must remain at the table until two hours have elapsed since the start of play. They may not watch play at other tables.
- 2.3.8. **Leaving the Playing Room:** No player may leave the Playing Room (Open or Closed) during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If any player leaves the Playing Room (unless as provided by §2.3.7. above) without permission of the Tournament Director, his team will be fined 2 VPs. This penalty is automatic.

No recorder (see §2.3.11 below) may leave the Playing Room (Open or Closed) during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If a recorder leaves the Playing Room during the round without permission of the Tournament Director, the N/S Team of the table at which the recorder was present will be fined 2 VPs. This penalty is automatic.

- 2.3.9. **Authorized persons in the Closed Room:** Authorized persons (exceptions by special permission of the Chairman of the Youth Committee) are:
- a. Participants assigned to play in the room;
  - b. Tournament Directors;
  - c. EBL Operations Director;
  - d. Personnel needed to operate the tournament, including assigned scorers, recorders (including the N/S team's non-playing captain; cf. §2.3.11), monitors, board movers, etc.;

- e. President of the EBL;
- f. Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee;
- g. Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee;
- h. Officer-in-Charge;
- i. A maximum of two members of the Daily Bulletin staff to be named by its Editor, who will have to remain for the entire match in the Closed Room;
- j. A maximum of four approved journalists who have been accredited by the President of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) or his designate, all of whom will have to remain for the entire match in the Closed Room;
- k. Venue staff for provision of refreshments and room clean up.

2.3.10. **Scoring at the table:** At each table North is responsible for completing the official scorecard, which will be collected at the end of each match. If matches are being fully recorded by official scorers, North's responsibility for scoring the official scorecard remains.

At the end of each match North and East at each table must agree on the scores on the official table scorecard and confirm this by signing their initials.

2.3.11. **Recording the matches:** At each table South (or the N/S team's non-playing captain, or his designate to be approved by the Tournament Director) is responsible for recording the bidding, play to the first three tricks and the result on the appropriate form provided at the table.

The recording of the four hands will be made by the organizers.

2.3.12. **Use of the systems:** 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. At his turn to bid or play, he may consult the *WBF Convention Booklet* in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner nor one made or contemplated by himself.

## 2.4. END OF MATCHES, RESULTS

2.4.1. **International Match Points:** In all matches the difference in scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (IMPs).

2.4.2. **Victory Points:** In each match there will be 30 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the following scale:

Difference of IMPs	VPs	Difference of IMPs	VPs	Difference of IMPs	VPs
0 - 2	15 - 15	27 - 31	21 - 9	54 - 59	25 - 4
3 - 8	16 - 14	32 - 36	22 - 8	60 - 65	25 - 3
9 - 12	17 - 13	37 - 41	23 - 7	66 - 72	25 - 2
13 - 16	18 - 12	42 - 47	24 - 6	73 - 79	25 - 1
17 - 21	19 - 11	48 - 53	25 - 5	80 & up	25 - 0
22 - 26	20 - 10				

- 2.4.3. **Effect of penalty points:** In no case will a penalty imposed under these *Rules* benefit the score of the non-offending side.
- 2.4.4. **Scoring of results:** Both teams are required to score the results at the end of each match. The captains of the respective teams must then agree the score and sign the *Result Card*. The captain of the team that has won the match or the captain of the home team in case of a tie, must hand the Result Card (signed by both captains) to the lineup desk within 10 minutes after the end of the match. Repeated failure to hand in the Result Card in time will be subject to VP penalties.
- 2.4.5. **Control of results:** The scoring team shall check the results submitted by the captains and post the scores.
- 2.4.6. **Protest time:** In respect of scores and results, protest time ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day's play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match.
- 2.4.7. **Official results:** If at the end of protest time no protest has been lodged, the posted result, shall become the official result of the match with the exception of:
- a pending appeal;
  - adjustment in respect of any fines to which either team is liable;
  - final completion by the replay of one or more boards where such a replay has been directed;
  - an error in score discovered later by the scoring team.
- An official result may be altered only by written notice from either the Tournament Committee or the Appeals Committee.
- 2.4.8. **Publication of decisions:** All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of Rules etc., must be posted on a board at a marked location. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it, does not nullify the penalty.

## 2.5. BYES, RANKING, AWARDS AND TIES

2.5.1. **Byes:** In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 18 VPs.

Countries must play against every other country against which they are drawn. A country not able to play against another country will score zero. Its opponents will receive a figure arrived at by taking the average score obtained against the defaulting country by the eight teams nearest in the ranking list to themselves at the end of the Championships, or 18 VPs whichever is the greater.

2.5.2. **Ranking:** The teams will be ranked according to the total number of VPs gained in the Championships.

2.5.3. **Awards:** The winning team of the Junior series will be named European Junior Champions and will receive the *David Pigot Cup* which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners.

In accordance with the current WBF regulation, the first five teams of the Junior series will qualify to represent the European Zone in the same series of the **2006 World Youth Championship**. In the event of the withdrawal of any of the leading five teams, the sixth and, if necessary, the seventh, eighth or ninth-placed teams will be considered to have qualified for the Championship. Should more than three teams withdraw, the EBL reserves the right to make any decisions necessary concerning representation of the Zone at the World Youth Championship. In the event of the host country being invited to participate in this event and this country is among the teams qualifying, then the sixth team will be considered a qualifying team for the Championship. If the WBF modifies the regulation or the number of teams qualified from the European Zone, the EBL will modify the above accordingly.

The winning team of the Schools series will be named European Schools Champions and will receive the *José Damiani Cup* which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners.

In accordance with the current WBF regulation, the first three teams of the Schools series will qualify to represent the European Zone in the same series of the **2006 World Youth Championship**. In the event of the withdrawal of any of the leading three teams, the fourth and, if necessary, the fifth, sixth and seventh-placed teams will be considered to have qualified for the Championship. Should more than three teams withdraw, the EBL reserves the right to make any decisions necessary concerning representation of the Zone at the World Youth Championship. In the event of the host country being invited to participate in this event and this country is among the teams qualifying, then the fourth team will be considered a qualifying team for the Championship. If the WBF modifies the regulation or the number of teams qualified from the European Zone, the EBL will modify the above accordingly.

The winning team of the Girls series will be named European Girls Champions and will receive the *EBL Cup* which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners.

European Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points plan.

- 2.5.4. **Ties:** A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. Where that match has resulted in a tie in VPs, any difference in IMPs will decide. Where there is no difference in IMPs scored, the tie will be broken by total points scored in that match. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained. The other teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist, the same rule will be applied as in the case of a tie between two teams.

### 3. REGULATIONS SUPPLEMENTING THE LAWS

#### 3.1. SCREENS AND BIDDING BOXES

Screens and bidding boxes will be used throughout and their use is mandatory.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screen-mates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.

Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but Law 25 may apply). North and South pass the tray under the screen after their screen-mate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screen-mate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards.

The International Code Law of Duplicate Bridge 1997 is modified as follows:

- Law **9A2(b)**; Law **42B(3)**; Law **43A(1)(b)**

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed by his screen-mate, but should try to avoid exposure of a premature opening lead.

- **Law 20:** *Review of the auction*

Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screen-mate.

*Explanation of calls*

1. During the auction

At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screen mate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.

2. During the play period

Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.

3. Communication

At no time prior to completion of the hand is there communication between a player on one side of the screen and a player on the other side of the screen concerning the auction or explanations given or received.

- **Laws 25 through 32; Laws 36 through 39**

The principle in the WBF Code of Practice applies. When it is possible to pass only the calls in the legal auction through the screen (after any rectification) there are no penalties and players on the other side of the screen are not informed of any occurrence. For infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

- a. Tray not passed

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screen-mate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The Director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.

- b. Both sides at fault

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player – North or South – moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty.

- c. Only one side at fault

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction – East or West – also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

## d. Irregularity not noticed

When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

## e. Information – authorized or not

(i) Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity. If the Director determines that the unauthorized information from withdrawn calls precludes normal bidding, he shall award an artificial adjusted score.

(ii) If a player sees a call on the tray that he was not previously observed because the tray did not pass fully under the screen, the information is authorized and may be used until the left hand opponent has called.

• Law 33: *Simultaneous calls*

The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.

• Law 40: *Alerts*

When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screen-mate. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call.

• Law 41A: *Opening lead out of turn*

The offender's screen-mate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced opening lead out of turn – through no fault of the declaring side:

- a. and the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.
- b. and the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card.

When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The Director shall award adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

• Law 73D: *Variations in tempo or manner*

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray.

A delay of the bidding tray on one side of the screen of up to 15 seconds (at any time during the auction and whether or not out of tempo) shall not give rise to any inference of unauthorized information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses up to 15 seconds can be considered normal.

In the case of a 'hot seat ruling' (when a player is confronted with a wholly unanticipated situation) a hesitation may be found not to suggest one action over another if the delay may represent time spent in considering what options the player has, rather than in choosing among them.

If attention is first drawn to a player's breach of tempo by his screen-mate, the Director may rule that up to that time the players on the other side of the screen were not conscious of such breach.

• **Law 76: Spectators**

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.

### 3.2. ALERTING

The EBL *Alerting Policy* applies. Any call which:

- (i) has a special or artificial meaning, *or*
- (ii) whose partnership meaning may not be understood by the opponents

is an *alertable call* which must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the 'alert procedure'.

The 'alert procedure' is as follows:

A player who makes an *alertable call* alerts his screen-mate by placing the alert card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the alert card to his opponent.

When the bidding tray is returned to their side of the screen both players are obliged, before either has made a further call, to alert their screen-mate if partner's call is a *alertable call*; using the 'alert procedure'.

It is the obligation of the player making an *alert* to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an *alert* has been made. Players who collude in a method of alerting, other than the one specified here, do so at their own risk.

### 3.3. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

1. In the event of a dispute as to whether a player has made a correct explanation of his partner's bid (and thus his partner has made a mistaken bid) or whether he has made a mistaken explanation of the bid (see Law 75 and the footnote thereto) the burden of proof is on the offending pair to establish that the explanation was correct. Such burden of proof shall not normally be discharged unless the relevant part of the partnership's methods is covered adequately in their written explanation of system.
2. Special attention of the players is drawn to Law 75B, which provides that habitual violation of partnership agreements may create implicit agreements which must be disclosed. Failure to disclose implicit agreements may be subject to penalty.



### 3.4. FOULED BOARDS

#### 3.4.1. **Replay of boards:**

- a. The Tournament Director shall not order a fouled board to be replayed when the final result of the match without that board could be known to a contestant. In that case, where appropriate, the VP penalties set out in Rule 3.4.3. below shall be applied and the Tournament Director shall not award an adjusted score (unless Rule 3.4.3.e. applies).
- b. When Rule 3.4.1.a. above does not apply the Tournament Director shall exercise his authority under Law 6 to order that the board be redealt and replayed unless Rule 3.4.2.e. applies.

In addition to the board being redealt, where appropriate, the penalties in VP set out in Rule 3.4.3. below shall be applied.

The time required to play the redealt board shall not result in an extension in time for the purpose of Rule 2.2. unless, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, some special circumstances warrant an extension for any particular period of time.

#### 3.4.2. **Fouled boards (twice duplicated)**

- a. Twice duplicated boards  
Where the boards have been twice duplicated - one set for the Open Room and a second set for the Closed Room - regulation 3.4.1 shall apply.
- b. Incorrect number of cards  
All players must count their cards before looking at them. If a hand does not consist of 13 cards, the Tournament Director must be called immediately to correct the mis-duplication.
- c. Penalty for mis-counting  
If any player looks at his cards before counting and has 14 or more cards, the board may be considered 'fouled'. The offending side will be penalized ½VP for each such occasion.
- d. Replay of fouled board  
If a board is 'fouled' under rule 3.4.2.c, the Tournament Director shall see if he can apply Law 13 to allow play to continue. If he cannot allow play to continue, he shall exercise his Law 6 authority whenever lawful and reasonably possible to order the board to be re-dealt and re-played.
- e. Mis-duplication  
Players are required after the play to return all 13 cards to the correct quarter of the board. If after the round a team alleges a board has been mis-duplicated (so that the hand is different in the Open Room from the Closed Room) the relevant board in the Open Room and the Closed Room will be checked. If it is ascertained, on the basis of cogent evidence, that a board has been mis-duplicated the result on that board will be cancelled. No re-dealt board will be played.

- 3.4.3. **Penalties for fouled boards:** When the board is being played for the second time, and:
- a. a player finds that he has an incorrect number of cards in his hand and neither he nor any other player with more than 13 cards has seen his hand, then the board will be corrected by the Tournament Director before play and no penalty will be imposed;
  - b. any player looks at his cards before counting them and has 14 or more cards, the board may be considered *fouled*. The offending side's team will be penalized ½VP for the first offence. This penalty will be increased for a further offence committed by any player of the same team;
  - c. the cards have been placed in the board at right angles (90 degrees), since the North player in the first room is responsible, his team will be penalized by the subtraction of ½VP from its score and the hand will be replayed in both rooms. North's responsibility does not relieve the other players of their duty to supervise the correct return of the cards to the board;
  - d. a board has been placed at right angles in the second room and any player has seen the wrong hand, since the North player in the second room is responsible, it being North's responsibility to place the board on the table correctly, his team will be penalized by the subtraction of ½VP from its score. If the board has been substantially correctly tabled and East or West pick out the North or South hand and look at it, the Law relating to improper information will be applied;
  - e. one or more cards are found to have been exchanged in the hand of each of two partners (the opponent's cards being correct), either:
    - the board will be cancelled and the offending team, whose players in the first room hold hands found to be misboarded on arrival in the second room, will be fined 1 VP;
    - or*
    - if, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, a result superior to that which he considers the normal result on the hand was obtained by the non-offending side in the first room, he may award an adjusted score, allowing the non-offenders the benefit of their superior score. In this event there is no further penalty;
  - f. a card or more than one card is found to have been exchanged with a card or cards in an opponent's hand, the board will be cancelled and there will be no penalty imposed.

These penalties are automatic.

## 4. ETHICS

### 4.1. GENERAL

- 4.1.1. **Player's obligations:** The privilege of representing one's country as a player in a European Bridge Championship 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.

In the absence of penalties expressed in IMPs or VPs, because participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standard becomes the more imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the *Proprieties*.

Players, captains and teams are expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Directors, Appeals Committee and Tournament Officials in a sportsmanlike manner. Violations may result in the suspension or disqualification.

- 4.1.2. **Looking at partner:** Players are requested not to look at their partners during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.
- 4.1.3. **Discussions:** As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match, to avoid discussion with partner or argument with opponents. In case of dispute a player's proper recourse is to refer to his captain, if applicable, or to the Tournament Director in charge.
- 4.1.4. **Partnership understandings:** Under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a player is not allowed to make a call or play based on a partnership understanding unless the opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless the use of such a call or play has been fully disclosed on the Official Convention Card. Detailed explanation may be deferred until the call of play is actually made.
- Psychic bids are permissible, but at all times should have the same element of surprise for partner as for the opponents.
- 4.1.5. **Leaving the table during the bidding and play:** No player may leave the table during the bidding. Dummy may leave the table after the opening lead has been made with the consent of his screen-mate.
- 4.1.6. **No 'time-out':** A player may leave the table between hands to go to the lavatory or to get a (non-alcoholic) drink. But no partnership may leave the table together and no partnership may have any discussion during the match except through the screen aperture (between hands) in the presence of their opponents.

## 5. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS

### 5.1. RIGHTS OF A NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN

A non-playing captain may act in order:

- a. to protect the rights of his team if he believes that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- b. to curtail unnecessary discussions;
- 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 that a Tournament Director is called to the table;
- f. to intimate 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 non-playing pair in a particular match is not allowed to watch its teammates in play.

## 5.2. CONVERSATION AT THE TABLE

During the course of a round of play, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, a non-playing captain should avoid addressing members of his team at the table in any but the English language or a language understood by the opponents; if he wishes to converse in any language other than English, he must first seek the consent of the opponent, which should be given where reasonably possible. If any difficulty arises, the non-playing captain should speak only through a member of his team who is able to translate for the benefit of the opponents.

A non-playing captain may not converse with the members of his team (or their opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table until all hands have been replaced in the board, except for the purposes listed in §5.1.

## 5.3. SUBSTITUTE CAPTAINS

The captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who may not be a player. Such appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.

# 6. VUGRAPH

## 6.1. OBLIGATION TO PLAY

When Vugraph is in use, any team must play in the Vugraph Room when and as often as required.

## 6.2. ACCESS TO VUGRAPH ROOM

Access to the Vugraph room is limited to the four players, the Vugraph operators on duty and those persons (except non-playing captains, journalists and Bulletin representatives) authorized to be in the Closed Room (see Rule 2.3.9.)

## 6.3. PLAYING TIME

1. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (§2.2.) will apply to the players in the Closed Room of the Vugraph.
2. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (§2.2.) will apply to the Open Room of the Vugraph with the following variations:
  - a. the two hours and fifty minutes period is calculated by the Tournament Director from the time the first board is made available for play at the table;

- b. the Tournament Director may add such further times as is in his opinion clearly attributable to delay in delivery of hands to the room or to the operation of Vugraph.

## 7. APPEALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

### 7.1. APPEALS

- 7.1.1. **Procedure:** A team, through its captain, may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director, provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes after the end of the round.

Notification of intention to appeal must be given to one of the Tournament Directors. In the first instance such notification does not need to be in writing, but it should be committed to the official Appeals form as soon as is practicable with the help of the Tournament Director who made the ruling and the form, when completed, should be given to the Tournament Director who will hand it to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty.

The Appeals form must be filled out completely and correctly.

The Tournament Director states the facts (board identification and bidding), what happened at the table, his ruling and who made the appeal. Each team represented by its captain may add its remarks to the explanation of the Tournament Director and may state whether they want to make an oral statement to the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals form must be signed by the Tournament Director and the captains of both teams involved. After signing, no corrections are allowed.

Once lodged, an appeal may be withdrawn only by the captain of the appellant team.

A deposit of €30 must accompany each appeal. This deposit will be returned if the appeal is judged not to have been frivolous.

One or more of the team appealing (players or captain) must present himself at the hearing of the appeal. If no one from the team appealing presents himself at the hearing the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeited.

- 7.1.2. **Practices in the Appeals Committee:** On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form as provided in §7.1.1. the Tournament Director will, as soon as possible, inform any member of the Appeals Committee on duty, who will advise the Tournament Director at what time the Appeals Committee will convene to hear the appeal.

The Appeals Committee will be entitled to interview and to take into account the statements or representations of any person and any documentary matter that it considers may assist the Committee to reach a decision.

The verdict of the Appeals Committee will be written on the Appeals form and handed to the Tournament Director for him to notify the teams concerned.

## 7.2. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 7.2.1. **Composition of the Appeals Committee:** All appeals against the ruling of Tournament Directors shall be dealt with by an Appeals Committee appointed by the EBL. The Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee and the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, before the commencement of or during the tournament, appoint additional members of the Appeals Committee who shall have full voting powers.

The President of the EBL is automatically a member of the Appeals Committee. Three members of the Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Appeals Committee whose national team is concerned shall abstain from taking part.

- 7.2.2. **Investigations:** The Appeals Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws or these Rules, which may arise during the course of the Championships, irrespective of the way in which such a matter has been brought to its attention, either by way of an appeal against a Tournament Director's ruling or on its own initiative or otherwise howsoever.

- 7.2.3. **Judgement:** The Appeals Committee, also acting as the National Authority as referred to in Law 93C, shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of Law, whether under the Laws or these Rules, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

The Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse, vary or modify the findings or decisions of a Tournament Director, and remove, increase or vary any penalty which may have been imposed, or substitute a different class of penalty or an adjusted score.

On an investigation made for reasons other than an appeal the Appeals Committee may impose such penalty on any party or direct that such an adjusted score be entered for any boards as it shall deem proper.

In any case, whether on an appeal or otherwise, where circumstances are considered by the Committee to justify or require it, the Appeals Committee may recommend to the EBL Executive Committee (represented by its present members) to suspend a player or players for one or more sessions or for the remainder of the current Championships or disqualify a team. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to a Tournament Director under the Laws.

## 8. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

### 8.1. JOURNALISTS

- 8.1.1. **Application of these Rules and Regulations:** All Journalists 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 them observing these *Rules and Regulations*, to which they are subject.

- 8.1.2. **Accreditation:** All Journalists present at the Championships must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA). In the event of disagreement over accreditation between the EBL and the IBPA, the view of the EBL shall prevail.

## 8.2. SPECTATORS

- 8.2.1. **Application of these *Rules and Regulations*:** All Spectators are considered invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these *Rules and Regulations*, to which they are subject.
- 8.2.2. **Entry in the Open Room:** Entry in the Open Room is allowed during the first two hours of each round. Thereafter no spectators will be admitted, nor will spectators who have left the room for whatever reason be re-admitted.
- 8.2.3. **Watching at the table:** No more than eight spectators (including team officials and journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where 'pits' are in use a large number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)

Spectators may watch at only one table. The observance of this regulation is particularly important when pre-duplicated boards are in play. Any spectator who attempts to watch at a second table will be required to leave the Open Room and, at the discretion of the Appeals Committee, may be subject to greater penalties. If a spectator leaves the room temporarily and then re-enters he must return to the same table.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and must refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.

Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident, no special interest must be shown. Sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.

## 9. OFFICIALS IN CHARGE

### 9.1. OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

- 9.1.1. **Identification:** The Officer-in-Charge, whether a member of the Executive, the Youth, the Appeals or the Tournament Committee, is appointed by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee to assist the Tournament Directors with advice regarding the observance of the *Rules and Regulations* and to act as a representative of the EBL.
- 9.1.2. **Functions:** All important decisions involving fines should be verified by him and reported to the Tournament Committee. The Officer-in-Charge will ensure that only authorized persons are permitted to enter the Closed Room.

## 9.2. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

- 9.2.1. **General duties of Tournament Directors:** The Tournament Director's responsibilities are in the main covered by Law 81.

The Tournament Director will be required to complete a form for each round and for each room showing starting times at all tables and noting late starts and finishes and all other incidents.

Before the beginning of the following round, all important incidents must be reported by the Tournament Director to the Appeals Committee and any penalties or changes in scores must be reported in addition to the Officer-in-Charge.

The Tournament Director is advised to verify with the Chief Tournament Director all penalties that have been automatically applied in accordance with the Laws or Rules before advising the Officer-in-Charge.

- 9.2.2. **Adjusted score:** The Tournament Director's attention is drawn in particular to Law 12A1, which states: '*The Director may award an assigned adjusted score when he judges that these Laws do not provide indemnity to the non-offending contestant for the particular type of violation of law committed by an opponent*'. The interpretation of this Law should not only be that the Director *may award*, but *should award* an adjusted score.

- 9.2.3. **Slow play penalty:** As soon as practicable after imposing or waiving a penalty under 2.2. the Tournament Director must inform a member of the Appeals Committee and prepare a written memorandum setting out the relevant facts and circumstances giving rise to his decision to invoke the rule and the penalties that he has imposed. The memorandum must be given by the Tournament Director to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty at the first opportunity.

- 9.2.4. **Significant Rules and Laws:** The attention of the Tournament Director is drawn to §2.2.2. of the present *Rules and Regulations*.

The Tournament Directors are particularly requested to enforce Laws 7, 9, 43 and 65 and the attention of all players has been drawn to the special rules relating to slow play (see §2.2.2.).

The attention of the Tournament Directors is drawn to the fact that a player who exposes his hand and makes a claim or concession in relation to the remaining tricks is required forthwith to make an adequate statement of his intended line of play. The Tournament Directors are instructed that a player must not be allowed to derive benefit from any inference which, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the player might have drawn from the fact that the claim is contested.

- 9.2.5. **Infringement of Proprieties:** In a case of any alleged infringement of the Proprieties any Director who has been summoned to adjudicate may, if he sees fit, direct that the hand be played out without further ruling by him on the merits of the case and refer the question of whether such an infringement did or did not take place and of the penalty (if any) to be imposed to the Appeals Committee for decision.



- 9.2.6. **Appeal procedure:** No appeal will be considered by the Appeals Committee unless presented by the Tournament Director in the form as described in §7.1.1.

## 10. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE E.B.L.

### 10.1. AUTHORITY OF THE EBL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the EBL reserves the authority to modify or supplement these *Rules and Regulations*.

### 10.2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EBL

The EBL has scheduled these Championships to occur at a particular time and place in accordance with an agreement entered into between the EBL and the host NBO. However, the E.B.L. makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person that these Championships will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense arising should it not does so.

