



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

1. Disclosure Of Systems And Conventions

1.1 *EBL Systems Policy*

The EBL Systems Policy forms part of these Rules and Regulations (see Appendix A). The European Teams Championships (Open and Ladies) are Category 1 events. In Category 1 events all Systems are allowed.

During the Round Robin Stage if a pair is found to have used a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of up to two VPs deducted from the team's score. In addition any favourable result arising from the use may be cancelled. The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director. If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event.

1.2 *Submission of Systems*

Each team captain is responsible for sending the convention cards by email to:

Mrs. Anna Gudge
EBL Systems Administrator
e-mail: anna@ecats.co.uk

as soon as possible, but in any event before **10 May 2008**, for every partnership that will play in these Championships, their Systems described on the official WBF Convention Card, completed in accordance with the Guide to Completion, plus Supplementary Sheets as necessary to describe conventional sequences in detail . Penalties for failure to submit Convention Cards and Supplementary in time are (in addition to Section 1.2.1 below) specified in Section 3.

A list of the players' names and their email addresses should also be provided to Mrs Gudge.

The Convention Cards may be prepared using any of the following programs:

- the WBF Convention Card Editor (Windows Version), which is available for free download from www.worldbridge.org or www.ecatsbridge.com
- the Convention Card Editor written by Lee Edwards, available for free download from www.acbl.org or www.ecatsbridge.com
- the DOS Convention Card Editor
- Microsoft Word (a blank template is available from www.ecatsbridge.com)
- Microsoft Excel
- PageMaker or InDesign for the PC

NOTE : Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Systems MUST use the special forms provided which can be obtained from www.ecatsbridge.com or by email from anna@ecats.co.uk

When sending cards generated by the WBF CCE, pairs should ensure that if they have supplementary notes, the notes file, which is generated separately by the program, is also included. If using the Lee Edwards program it is important that the original files are sent (NOT bitmaps) and that both files are included.

The Convention Card may also be sent in Acrobat (PDF) Format PROVIDED Acrobat ver 6 is used and the file size is small. Picture formats (.jpg, .bmp etc) will not be accepted.

If programs other than the approved WBF Convention Card Editor are used, players are responsible for ensuring that the formatting is such that all the information lies within the printable area of the page.

On receipt of the cards, the Systems Administrator will convert the format to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com. It is advised that the latest version should be obtained.

Following registration of the systems for all pairs in a team, the systems will be displayed on a web site designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) will be sent by email to the captain of the team making the registration as well as to the individual team members.

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

Following the event, the EBL reserves the right to display the Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets in a public area for interested parties to see them. If a full system is submitted, this will not be included on such pages of the site.

The fact that Cards and Supplementary Sheets are circulated by the EBL does not mean that the EBL has considered such Cards as completely acceptable; systems although accepted as registered, may require amendments after being circulated.

1.3 Convention Cards not received in due time

Any partnership whose duly completed original Card and Supplementary Sheets have not reached the EBL Systems Administrator in accordance with these Conditions of Contest shall (in addition to the penalties referred to in Section 5) be required by the Tournament Appeals Committee (unless it rules otherwise) to use the system described on the World Standard Card for not less than the first two days of play. Furthermore, no HUM or Brown Sticker Conventions will be permitted for the duration of the Championship. The World Standard Card can be obtained from www.ecatsbridge.com Approval of Systems

1.4 The fact that Cards and Supplementary Sheets are made available to other NBOs by the EBL (see 1.2) does not mean that the EBL has considered such Cards as being officially approved; systems although acceptable, may require amendments after being circulated.

1.5 Supplementary Sheets

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the WBF Convention Card, a reference number should be placed prominently at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number, and containing the complete explanation must be submitted along with the Card.

1.6 Changes to Cards/Supplementary Sheets

- a) Any changes to the duly submitted (as per section 1.2) Card and/or Supplementary Sheets must be submitted in official form (see (d) below) as early as possible for everyone's benefit, but in any event **no later than 25 May 2008**. These changes (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions, and/or cosmetic revisions) must be first approved by the EBL. (See address in section 1.2).

- b) On site, changes to systems will be approved or required by the Chairman of the EBL Systems Committee or his nominee(s).
- c) In order for a change to be implemented, it must be duly approved, signed, and dated, and then circulated to all relevant teams in timely fashion. Such circulation may be done by mailing by the EBL, by manual distribution on site at the Captains' Meeting, or through Captain's mailboxes on site.
- d) Approval for a change may be given or refused in whole or part by the EBL and may be given subject to conditions. One such condition will usually be that any such change cannot be implemented in the course of a particular round robin or in the course of a particular stage of the event, with possible prejudice to unprepared opponents being a particularly important negative factor. Clarifications and improvements to presentation will not be considered as substantives changes.
- e) Official format for changes:
 - (i) A new page of the Convention Card/ Supplementary Sheet that reflects the proposed change.
 - (ii) A separate text document describing completely the proposed change and referring to the place(s) on the new pages where they can be found and any cross-references to Supplementary Sheet notes.
 - (iii) Two email addresses for communication should this be necessary; (phone numbers only for emergencies).

1.7 Addresses required

In order to facilitate the communications between the EBL and the teams regarding systems, each team's system submission shall include as many contact email addresses as are available within that team or its officials.

2. Special Responsibility for HUM, RED and BROWN STICKER

With regard to HUM, RED and BROWN STICKER systems / conventions, there is a special responsibility for users to explain their methods in sufficient detail (as per the Guide to Completion and the CCE), the *first time* that Cards are submitted for the 2008 European Championships. If these submissions are inadequate, the pair may be barred from using those inadequately described methods for at least the first six matches. These penalties are quite severe, but with the duly executed distribution of these Conditions and all significant materials by the EBL, no pair will be permitted to claim ignorance of this special responsibility. The NBO, the Captains and the players are jointly responsible for contacting the EBL should there be any problems in obtaining the necessary tournament information in timely fashion. If these materials are received late, it is the responsibility of both parties concerned to so inform the EBL Systems Administrator as soon as possible.

3. Special Regulations for teams using Brown Sticker Conventions

Explanations and continuations for Brown Sticker Conventions, together with a viable defence, must be presented using the Brown Sticker Convention Announcement form or the Brown Sticker Convention Overcall forms which are available in Word Format for download from www.ecatsbridge.com or by email from anna@ecats.co.uk. If these submissions are inadequate, or a defence is not proposed, the pair may be barred from using those badly or inadequately described methods for the entire tournament.

HUM Systems must be accompanied by the full system, in English and a hard copy of the system must be registered at the Convention Card Desk on site. Such system should include viable defences to the system.

Failure to comply with the above requirements concerning BS Conventions will result in the pair or pairs not being permitted to play these conventions/systems.

These penalties are quite severe, but with the duly executed distribution of these Conditions and all significant materials by the WBF, no pair will be permitted to claim ignorance of this special responsibility. The NBO, the Captains and the players are jointly responsible for contacting the WBF should there be any problems in obtaining the necessary tournament information in timely fashion.

If these materials are received prejudicially late, it is the responsibility of the jointly responsible parties to so inform the WBF as soon as possible.

3.1 Defences to Brown Sticker Conventions

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Stickers elements of any system (see the WBF System Policy,). These defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems

3.2 Seating Rights for Pairs using Brown Sticker Conventions

Teams will be awarded seating rights if they are playing against a pair or pairs using two or more BS Conventions but not if both teams have a pair using 2 BS Conventions.

4. Special Regulations For Teams Using Hum Systems

4.1 Highly Unusual Methods

Highly Unusual Methods are utilised in any System which exhibits one or more of the following features as a matter of partnership agreement:

- a) A Pass in the opening position may have the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, and the player who passes may hold values a queen or more above the strength of an average hand (an average hand contains 10 HCP)
- b) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
- c) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with values a king or more below average strength.
- d) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows (a) either length or shortage in a specified suit or (b) either length in one suit or length in another

4.2 Submission of HUM Systems

The team captain of any team containing one or more pairs intending to use a HUM System shall send a full copy of any HUM System in English, together with the Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets, to the EBL Systems Administrator **by 10 May 2008**. Failure to comply with this regulation or poor presentation of the System may result in such pair or pairs not being permitted to use HUM System, as the Tournament Appeals Committee shall in its discretion determine. In making any such determination, the Tournament Appeals Committee may apply Section 3. It is obligatory that a full copy of a HUM System, in English, also be filed at the Convention Card Desk, at the Championship site, by the time of the Captains' meeting.

4.3 Regulations for Pairs using HUM Systems

If a team includes any pair using a HUM System, it will be subject to the following regulations:

- The pairs using HUM Systems should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of matches or sessions, to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by the opponents.
- When a team that includes a pair using a HUM System (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM System team will always be the Visiting Team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM Systems (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.
- The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM System will submit three copies (clearly legible) of their defences (if any) to the HUM System in writing, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled line-up time for the match; these defences shall be filed at the Convention Card Desk and supplied by the captain to the captain of the opposing team. In preparing these defences pairs using Green, Blue or Red Systems are allowed to change their systems including opening calls. Pairs using HUM Systems are not allowed to change their opening calls.
- The pair using a HUM System must inform the opponents in writing (hand-written, 2 clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using the HUM System is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

4.4 Written Defences

Notes on the defence against HUM Systems and on defence against the defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems (See Law 40 footnote) and may be used by both pairs at the table, during the period when the aperture of the screen is closed and, also, for the purpose only of responding to a question, when the screen is open. See also Section 10 of the General Conditions of Contest for World Bridge Championships.

A pair may prepare written defences against the artificial elements of the Brown Sticker elements of any system (See the EBL Systems Policy 2000). Also these defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems.

5. Failure to File Systems in a Timely Fashion

Any team containing a partnership that, for any reason, has failed to comply with the time requirements of Section 1.2 shall (in addition to the requirements of Section 0):

- a) not be provided with URL of the web pages containing the Systems of opposing teams unless and until either the President or the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee has been provided with the systems for that team. The Systems will be provided on a CD to the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee for distribution on site.
- b) be subject to a decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee who may forbid the team to use specific conventional understandings not submitted in accordance with these Conditions of Contest. If a disallowed convention is used, the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose penalties at its discretion; and
- c) be fined SFr 200 to be paid prior to the commencement of the Tournament. In its discretion the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose a great financial penalty if it is considered appropriate.