



## EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

# 11<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP Vejle, Denmark • 1 – 6 July 2012

## CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The 2012 European Youth Pairs Championships, consisting Pairs and Mixed Pairs competitions, will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League ('the EBL'). There will be three series in the Pairs (Juniors Pairs, Girls Pairs, Youngsters Pairs) and one series in the Mixed pairs consisting of both Junior and youngster mixed pairs. (But see Section 3a). The Championship will be played under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and these Conditions whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the Laws as required.

### 1. Conditions of Entry

Participation in the Championship is by invitation by the EBL. Subject to the unfettered discretion of the EBL Credentials Committee, invitations will be issued to pairs where each member of the partnership:

- a. is a member of good standing of the National Bridge Organization ('NBO') nominating the player; *and*
  - (i) was nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such a 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*
  - (ii) 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.
- b. was born on or after 1 January 1987 for the Juniors and Girls series, or on or after 1 January 1992 for the Youngsters series.
- c. was nominated by the NBO of an EBL member country, which is of good standing with the EBL and not in arrears in the payment of monies due to the EBL.
- d. was nominated to the Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee on or before 15 May 2012

There will be no restrictions on numbers of entries per NBO. Nominations of pairs for all three series, which must be from the NBO, must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email)

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/12Vejle/information.html>

from 15 April 2012 until 15 May 2012. (This deadline will be enforced.)

e. The Mixed Pairs and all three series in the Pairs are for National Pairs (i.e. both players must come from the same NBO; transnational pairs are not permitted). The President's Cup (see section 3a) is transnational and trans-series.

Each pair must play against any other pair competing in the same series as designated by the Tournament Director. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification. Other consequences are possible at the discretion of the EBL.

By entering, each player accepts that he may be photographed, filmed or video-taped for publicity purposes.

## **2. Entry Fees**

The entry fees are €100 for mixed pairs and €150 per Junior, Girls and Youngster pair. The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 31st May 2012 to

**HSBC Bank**  
31 Chequer Street  
St Albans AL1 3YN – UK -  
**Account : EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**  
IBAN: GB82MIDL 4005 1571 2825 45  
SWIFT/BIC: MIDLGB22  
**(to be mentioned)**

## **Rules**

### **3a. Format**

The European Youth Pairs Championships are match pointed pairs tournaments and shall consist of stages, as outlined below. **See Section 3b dealing with possible changes.**

### **Mixed Pairs: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012**

One field open to all mixed pairs. Mixed pairs may consist of 2 junior pairs, 2 youngster pairs or one youngster and one junior. Medals will be awarded to the top ranked three mixed pairs.

There will be one stage, a round robin (all play all)

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### **Pairs:**

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Final movement and qualification details will be posted when the number of participating pairs in each series is finalized.

It is anticipated that each series will consist of two stages: a qualification stage on Wednesday and Thursday where all play all (round robin), and a final stage on Friday. There will be a carryover from the qualification stage to the final stage in accordance with section 3c.

### **President's Cup: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Pairs not qualifying for the Finals may play in the President's Cup, which is a match-pointed transnational and trans-series competition.

### 3b Changes to Format

The program and/or format (including number of qualifying pairs for the various stages, and the carryover provisions) may be altered by the Organizing Committee. This includes the amalgamation of two or more series for one or more stages, depending on the number of entries for each of the series. When two or more series are amalgamated into one series the criteria for qualification, carryover etc will apply to the field and not to each individual series, and will be based on the conditions outlined for the Juniors series. However separate prizes and awards will be based on the series to which the players are eligible.

### 3c Carryover

In each series, there will be a carryover from the qualification stage in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{S_{(p)} - S_{(m)}}{S_{(M)} - S_{(m)}} \quad \text{X 2 tops in final}$$

$$S_{(M)} - S_{(m)}$$

Where  $S_{(p)}$  = score of pair p

$S_{(m)}$  = score of last qualifying pair

$S_{(M)}$  = score of first qualifying pair

### 3d Sessions

For purposes of Law 12C2, (awarding of Average+ and Average -) a session is defined as a stage, and contains all the sessions in that stage.

## 4. Permitted Systems

The Championship will be played in strict accordance with the EBL Systems Policy (posted on Internet at <http://www.eurobridge.org/departments/systems/policy.html>) which in its entire form is part of these Conditions of Contest. Participants are reminded that the Championship belongs to Category 3 and therefore the use of both HUM systems and 'Brown Sticker conventions' is prohibited. In addition:

- a. Each partnership can play only one system of bidding and card play.
- b. The two members of any partnership must play the same systems of bidding and card play.
- c. System variations are not permitted (except for varying point count ranges of one no trump openings).
- d. Psychic artificial opening bids are prohibited.
- e. Pairs playing a Red Sticker system must submit their system in full to the Championship committee for approval before the start of the competition.

## 5. System Card

Contestants are required to make a full written disclosure of their system, and 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 full written disclosure is to be made by the completion of the EBL's Official *Convention Card* electronically through the *Convention Card Editor (CCE)* which is available for free downloading at the Internet address

<<http://www.worldbridge.org/departments/systems/cce.asp>>.

No supplementary sheets are allowed. A card will not be regarded as having been completed unless:

- a. all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the *Guide to Completion* and these Conditions of Contest - but in case of inconsistency between the Guide and these Conditions of Contest, the latter shall prevail;
- b. the Card contains a clear and sufficient explanation of the system used including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings;
- c. the Card is marked with the appropriate sticker colour.

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 made on the *WBF Convention Booklet* itself.

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 Championship. 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. The greater the number and complexity of bids and plays of artificial 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 artificial bid or play and the benefit of any doubt will always be given by the Tournament Director (or Appeals Committee) to the opponents.

One copy of the System Card must be handed to each opponent before the start of each round.

Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the above may give rise to the imposition of procedural penalties. In particular, the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty of 25% of the match points available on a board for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pairs' incomplete or inaccurate System Card. (The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score which the Chief Tournament Director deems appropriate because of the damage caused to the opponent.)

## **6. Assignment of Starting Positions**

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, as far as possible, that pairs from the same NBO play, if necessary to do so, against each other in the early rounds of the competition.

Subject to the above, the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Championship's Manager.

## **7. Time allowed**

All participants are required to be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time for each session of play. Should either member of a partnership not be seated in his starting position at the announced starting time, the pair shall be penalized 10% of the match points available on a board. If a player is more than five minutes late, the penalty shall be 20% of the match points available on a board, and the

offense shall be reported to the Tournament Appeals Committee for possible further penalty. If a player fails to arrive within thirty minutes of the announced starting time of the session, that pair shall be withdrawn from the Championship. In extenuating circumstances the Tournament Appeals Committee may reduce or eliminate any of the above penalties.

When screens are in use players are expected to complete each two-board round in 16 minutes and each three-board round in 25 minutes.

The Tournament Director may remove unplayed or partly played boards from pairs who are persistently slow.

a. If an unplayed board is removed:

(i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded average minus for the board; *and*

(ii) if the Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, the non-offending pair shall be awarded average plus for the board.

b. If a partly played board is removed the Tournament Director shall award a result on the board which he adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

### **8. Incorrect Number of Cards, Missing Cards, Fouled Boards**

a. Each individual player is responsible for seeing that his own cards are returned to the proper pocket. A player responsible for fouling a board will be assessed a penalty of 50% of the match points available on a board during the session.

b. When a board has been fouled, Law 87 shall apply and the scores will be divided into groups..

c. If a group contains fewer than four scores, match points in that group shall be as follows:

(i) Group contains only one score: both pairs are awarded 60% of the match points available.

(ii) Group contains two scores: if identical, both scores receive 60%; if different, the better score receives 65%, the lesser 55%.

(iii) Group contains three scores: best receives 70%, middle 60%, lowest 50%. Ties share the match points.

(iv) A fouled board discovered after four or more rounds will remain unchanged for the rest of the session.

e. For all groups containing four or more scores match points shall be awarded in accordance with the Neuberg formula: based on 0,2,4,... match point scoring

### **9. Scoring and ties**

a. Scoring shall be in match points (see Section 3 "Format")

b. Rank positions for all purposes in each stage in each series shall be in accordance with the match points earned, with any margin determining.

c. (i) Scores are tied only if they are identical. In the event of a tie in the finals, the pair with the highest score in the final stage (disregarding carryovers) will earn rank priority. In all other cases, when it is necessary to break a tie (or ties), every board each tied contestant played in that stage is considered. On each of these boards, a tied contestant is awarded two points for every other tied contestant he beat, and one point for every other contestant whose score on that board was the same. On any boards that the tied contestants did not play in common, each contestant will receive two points for each board on which his score was greater than average and one point for each board he scored exactly average. The tied contestant with the greater number of points figured by this method, earns rank priority.

(ii) If a tie (or ties) still exists the remaining tie (or ties) shall be broken in favor of the pair who scored the most match points against the highest ranking pair or pairs that all the tied pairs played against in that stage. Should a tie still exist, the foregoing procedure shall be used with the next highest ranking pair or pairs and so on until the tie is broken.

#### **10. General Rules during the Play**

a. The **official language** of this Tournament is English. Once cards have been removed from the board no language other than English may be used at the table without the agreement of all four players. No adjustment will be made and no appeal will be heard as a result of a misunderstanding in a language other than English

b. **Comparison of scores** or discussion of hands with other contestants during a session is illegal. Offending pairs may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or the Tournament Appeals Committee.

c. **Leaving the table** needlessly before the round is called is a breach of Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to 50% of the match points available on a board during the session.

d. Players may not leave the playing area during a session. At the end of a session, players must leave the playing area. (In these Conditions of Contest, playing area is as defined in accordance with Law 76 footnote.)

#### **11. Bidding Boxes, Screens and Bridgemates**

a. *Bidding Boxes*. Bidding boxes are supplied and their use is mandatory. A player's first call should be to his left with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Once the auction has been completed and all four players have had an opportunity to review the auction the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

When screens are in use, calls are made by the player placing the bidding card showing his selected call in front of him. When screens are not in use, a call is considered made when the bidding card has been completely removed from the bidding box.

b. *Bridgemates*. An electronic device called the Bridgemate, will be used throughout the championships to enter the results on the boards played. It is North's responsibility to enter those results and East has the obligation to check this input and to give his/her OK. Repeated violation of correct entering procedures may be subject to penalties

c. *Screens*. Screens will be used for all stages of the competition..

The screen procedures (Section C1.2) and screen regulations (Section C1.4) of the EBL will apply. These can be downloaded from

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/RulesAndRegulations10.pdf>

#### **12. Alerting**

a. The EBL policy applies to this event.

b. Players who participate in these events are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter. Full disclosure is vital.

c. The policy has been made as simple as possible. Players, however, are expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (Where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction.)

d. The following classes of calls should be alerted:

(i) Any call which has a special or artificial meaning; or which has a partnership meaning that may not be understood by the opponents,

- (ii). Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners.
- (iii) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.
- e. When screens are not in use special alerting procedures will apply.
- f. When screens are in use 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 alertable, 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.

A player can ask for an explanation of an opponent's call. He does so by a written question to the opponent sitting on the same side of the screen. The opponent gives a written answer, regardless of which member of the partnership has made the call

### **13. Withdrawal from the Competition**

After the Tournament has started no pair may cease participation in the competition at any time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director. Such permission shall only be given after consultation with the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee if the pair can show good cause.

### **14. Ethics and Deportment**

- a. The privilege of representing one's country as a player in a European Bridge Championship is not an inalienable right; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. Participants appear as public representatives rather than private individuals, and observance of the highest standard becomes the more imperative, even when there is no prescribed penalty for a particular action or lack of action.

Players are expected to accept the decisions of a Tournament Director and/or the Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner. Violations may result in the suspension or disqualification.
- b. Players are requested not to look at their partners during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.
- c. As a matter of propriety, and in order to save time, players are enjoined during play to avoid discussion with partner or argument with opponents. In case of dispute a player's proper recourse is to refer to the Tournament Director in charge.
- d. 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 System Card (see §5). Detailed explanation may be deferred until the call or play is actually made.

Psychic bids are permissible (except of artificial opening bids - see §4.d), provided that the partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation from the announced understanding than have the opponents.

## **15. Appeals against rulings**

- a. A pair may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director who ruled, provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes of the end of the session in which the board that is the subject of the ruling was played.
- b. 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. 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 pair 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 members of both pairs involved. After signing, no corrections are allowed.

A deposit of 150 Danish Kroner or €20 must accompany each appeal. This deposit will be returned unless the appeal is judged to be without merit.

An appeal shall not be heard unless both members of the partnership concur in making the appeal. One or more players of the pair appealing must present himself at the hearing of the appeal. If no one from the pair appealing presents himself at the hearing the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeited.

- c. On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form, the Tournament Director will, as soon as possible, inform any member of 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 which 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 pairs concerned.

## **16. Appeals Committee**

- a. 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. Three members of the Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Appeals Committee whose nationals are concerned shall abstain from taking part.
- b. The Appeals Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws or these *Conditions of Contest*, which may arise during the course of the Championship, 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.
- c. The Appeals Committee, also acting as the Regulating Authority as meant in Law 93.C, shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of Law, whether under the Laws or these *Conditions of Contest*, 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 Executive Council (represented by its present members) to disqualify a pair. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to a Tournament Director under the Laws.

### **17. Appeals on Scoring**

a. Any protest against a score, or against the total score attributed to a pair, must be made within the correction period (Law 79C): For each session the correction period expires 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection.

b. In accordance with Law 79C, the above correction period for the Qualification and semi-final stages will be extended and will end before the start of the next stage, provided that the error is wholly an error of the Official Scorer.

### **18. Journalists and Spectators**

a. (i) All journalists are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these *Conditions of Contest*, and Law 76, to which they are subject.

(ii) All journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL and by the proper Committee 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.

b. (i) All spectators are considered invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these *Conditions of Contest*, and Law 76, to which they are subject.

(ii) Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Chief Tournament Director (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) it is hoped (but not guaranteed) that a limited amount of watching at table by spectators will be permitted. In which event the following shall generally apply, subject to the right reserved to the Chief Tournament Director to prescribe more restrictive regulations.

a. No more than eight spectators (including journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where 'pits' are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)

b. Spectators must remain at one table. 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 Appeals Committee may be subject to greater penalties.

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

d. Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident, no special interest must be shown.

### **19. Non smoking**

Smoking in the playing area and toilets is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke, unless it is announced otherwise. Any player smoking during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

### **20. Alcohol**

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and toilets is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol. Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session. Repeated violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

### **21. Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be brought into the playing area and toilets. Any player bringing a mobile phone and/or an electronic device into the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 100% of the match points available on a board during the session. This penalty is mandatory.

### **22. Dress Code**

The EBL supports a dress code at its Championships. NBOs are required to provide their players with appropriate uniforms carrying a badge or emblem identifying the country represented. In addition, everyone entering the playing rooms is obliged to wear the official name badge provided by the organization. In case of loss, the organization will provide a duplicate badge at a cost of €5. All players, captains and coaches are required to wear T-shirts, polo shirts, shirts or blouses containing their Federation's logo. If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they too must carry the Federation's logo. All players are expected to be respectably dressed and are also required to follow the instructions given by the Tournament Directors. Any person not respecting the dress code in the playing area will receive a warning on the first occasion; a subsequent breach will result in that person being prohibited from entering the playing area.

### **23. Antidoping regulation.**

The procedures provided by the antidoping policy of the IOC will be followed and enforced. Players are requested to submit themselves to the antidoping test on request. If any player takes substances that might result positively when tested he is required to hand in the respective prescription or doctor's certificate in a sealed envelope on registration. This envelope will be opened only if the player concerned is drawn for the antidoping test. Otherwise, at the end of the Championships the sealed envelope may be collected from the organizers or may be destroyed unopened. Refusal to subject to the test or non-appearance will attract penalties decreed by the IOC policy.

### **24. Authority and Responsibility of the EBL**

- a. The EBL reserves the authority to modify or supplement these *Conditions of Contest*.
- b. The EBL has scheduled this Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the EBL makes no warranty to any participating NBO, pair or person that this Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense arising should it not do so.