



# **EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**

## **SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

### **16th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP RIGA, LATVIA**

**NOVEMBER 9th-11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The 16th European Champions' Cup ("the Championship") is to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in the Monika Centum Hotel, Eliabetes ilea 21, Riga, Latvia commencing on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and ending on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Championship will be governed by the Laws of Bridge 2017, the EBL General Conditions of Contest ("the GCoC", as published on the EBL website) and these Supplementary Conditions of Contest ("the SCoC"). Unless otherwise stated, or illogical in context, the definitions used in the GCoC apply also to these SCoC.

These SCoC may be amended and/or augmented, at the discretion of the EBL, if circumstances so warrant in order to ensure that the Championship can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

### **1.2 Format**

The Championship consists of three stages.

#### **1.2.1 Qualifying Round Robin:**

The 12 participating teams (see Section 2) play a complete round robin consisting of 11 rounds of 10 boards each.

#### **1.2.2 Semi-Final Stages (knockout)**

At the end of the round robin the teams will be divided into 3 groups according to their ranking at the end of the round robin. In each group there are two matches of two stanzas of 16 boards each.

Group A consists of teams ranked 1-4. The 1st ranked team chooses its opponent from teams ranked 3 and 4.

Group B consists of teams ranked 5-8. The 5th ranked team chooses its opponent from teams ranked 7 and 8

Group C consists of teams ranked 9-12. The 9th ranked team chooses its opponent from teams ranked 11 and 12

### **1.2.3 Final Stages (knockout)**

Each match in this stage consists of two stanzas of 16 boards each. The 2 winners in each group meet, and the 2 losers in each group meet. This allows a complete ranking from 1 to 12.

### **1.3 Draw**

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published in the programme and on the EBL website for the Championship.

Teams from the same country will be drawn to meet as soon as possible.

### **1.4 Programme and Timetable**

Opening	Thursday 9/11/17	09:50
Round Robin Rounds 1-2	Thursday 9/11/17	10:00 – 13:20
Lunch	Thursday 9/11/17	13:20 – 14:30
Round Robin Rounds 3 – 6	Thursday 9/11/17	14:30 – 21:30
Round Robin Rounds 7 – 8	Friday 10/11/17	10:00 – 13:20
Lunch	Friday 10/11/17	13:20 - 14:30
Round Robin Rounds 9 - 11	Friday 10/11/17	14:30 – 19:40
Semi Finals 1	Saturday 11/11/17	09:30 – 11:50
Semi Finals 2	Saturday 11/11/17	12:10 – 14:30
Lunch	Saturday 11/11/17	14:30 – 15:30
Finals 1	Saturday 11/11/17	15:30 – 17:50
Finals 2	Saturday 11/11/17	18:10 – 20:30
Closing Ceremony	Saturday 11/11/17	21:00

## **2 PARTICIPATION**

### **2.1 Right to participate**

The NBOs from the top ten ranked teams in the 53rd European Teams Championships (Budapest 2016) will be invited to send their most recent National Teams Champions to participate. In addition, the defending Champion from 2016 and a team from Latvia (the host country) will also be invited.

Teams may add a non-playing captain and/or a coach at their discretion.

The members of a team need not be members of the NBO submitting the team (but see Sec. 2.4).

Each participating team must play against all other participating teams. Refusal to play will result in disqualification.

## **2.2** *Entry fees*

There are no entry fees.

## **2.3** *Confirmation and Team Members*

Invitees must confirm their acceptance by 15th September 2017 by sending an email to [secretariat@europeanbridge.org](mailto:secretariat@europeanbridge.org). This confirmation should include:

- (i) The name of the club to which the team belongs. If the team is composed of players from different clubs the team will be named with the name of the captain followed by <country name> National Champion.
- (ii) The names of the players (4-6) and Captain (and coach if applicable)
- (iii) The name and email address of the person authorized to receive further information.

If confirmation is not received by this date the team may be considered to have withdrawn and will then be replaced by a team from the 11th ranked NBO in the Budapest 2016 Teams Championship. The same principle will be followed if there are further withdrawals.

## **2.4** *Credentials Committee*

The names of members of each team (and captain and/or coach if applicable) as submitted to the EBL secretariat in accordance with 2.3 above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration for approval of participation.

## **2.5** *Competitors' Commitment*

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams Championships are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form (see Appendix) before the start of the event.

# **3** **SYSTEMS**

## **3.1** *Systems Policy*

The EBL's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised July 2015) apply to this Championship which is a Category 3 event.

Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

The systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the General Conditions of Contest.

## **3.2** *Submission of Systems (in all Championships)*

Systems used in the Championship have to be registered with the EBL by October 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 by email to the Systems Administrator: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) (See Section 11 of General Conditions of Contest). Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications,

amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted by November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017. Later changes will only be accepted at the discretion of the Head TD or Championship Committee, who may impose conditions for acceptance.

The maximum number of Supplementary Sheets is six.

The opponents' filed Systems will be made available on the Internet to all teams who have filed their Systems.

It is the obligation of each team to print and bring a sufficient number of copies of both opponents' and their own System Cards and Supplementary Sheets to the Championship. The EBL provides no facilities for teams to make copies at the venue.

#### **4 RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES**

##### **4.1 *Seating of teams – Round Robin***

###### **4.1.1 *Designation of teams***

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team. The Home Team sits in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

###### **4.1.2 *Line-up procedure***

Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. Line-ups for a round have to be submitted within 15 minutes after the end of the previous round.

For the first round the details will be announced at the captains' meeting.

Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- 1st occasion a written (through the communication system) warning
- 2nd occasion ½ VP penalty
- Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

These penalties will be applied automatically by the scoring system and can only be waived by the Championship Committee in exceptional cases.

##### **4.2 *Seating of Teams – Knock out stages***

###### **4.2.1 *Designation of Teams***

In the semi-finals the higher ranked teams in the Round Robin is designated as the home team. In the finals the brackets are fixed. For example, if no.1 loses the semi-finals then their opponents take over no. 1 (or nos. 5 and 9 respectively) and the lowest number is designated as the home team.

The Home Team sits in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

###### **4.2.2 *Seating Rights***

The home team selects in which stanza it wants to have seating rights; the opponents then have seating rights in the other stanza.

#### **4.2.3 Line-up Procedure**

The team without seating rights submits its line-up within 10 minutes after the previous round has ended, and the opposing team within 5 minutes thereafter. If the team required to submit its line-up first is late, the other team shall be allowed 5 minutes from the time of such late submission in which to submit its line-up.

Teams that infringe this regulation will be subject to a penalty of 1 IMP for the first occasion and 3 IMPS for the second occasion.

#### **4.3 Period of Play and penalties for slow play.**

##### **4.3.1 Start of the round**

Playing time is 1 hour 30 minutes for 10 boards, and 2 hours 20 minutes for 16 boards.

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure. Players are requested to be seated before the scheduled start of play. Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be fined 1 VP (3 IMPS in KO play) and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP (3IMPS in KO play). In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director has to be satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player and, if not, will take the necessary measures. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match.

If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a round 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.

##### **4.3.2 End of the period of play.**

- (a) If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them:
- (i) Round Robin Stage:
    - from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
    - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
    - After 10 minutes: 2 VPs, removal of unplayed boards and a 3 IMP penalty for each unplayed board for each team.
  
  - (ii) Knock out stages:
    - from 0 to 5 minutes late: 3 IMPS.
    - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 6 IMPS.
    - From 11-15 minutes late: 9 IMPS
    - After 15 minutes: 9 IMPS, removal of unplayed boards and a 3 IMP penalty for each unplayed board for each team.

- (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 corrective measures that are necessary in his opinion, including, at his discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

The Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play, but an absence of warning does not diminish the responsibility of the players or their liability to be fined.

If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

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

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

- (i) No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.
- (ii) Such a penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which a verbal warning has been given.
- (iii) The penalty may, in the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other to reflect the measure of each team's responsibility for the occurrence.

#### **4.3.3 Penalty warning**

Except for a penalty under Section 4.3.2 (c) above all penalties for violations of time procedure and slow play require no previous warning to the players that penalties will be applied.

#### **4.4 Penalties**

If a player leaves the playing room during a match without the permission of a tournament director that player's team will be fined 2 VPs (6 IMPS in KO play.)

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault that side shall be subject to a procedural penalty of 1 VP (3 IMPS in KO play).



#### **4.5 Playing Area**

The Playing Area, as referred to in the General Conditions of Contest, means the rooms where play takes place, the corridors surrounding them and the toilets.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the Hotel Esplaande except in designated areas.

#### **4.6 End of rounds, results**

##### **4.6.1 IMP scale**

In the Round Robin stage the difference in the total point scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (“IMPs”)

##### **4.6.2 VP Scale**

For each match in the round robin stage there will be 20 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the continuous VP scale published on the EBL site.

#### **4.7 Protest time**

In respect of scores during the qualifying round robin stage the protest time of all matches ends one hour after the official finishing time of the Round 11 match.

In the case of the knock out stages: 15 minutes after the official finishing time for that stage.

The time for a request for a TD ruling ends 15 minutes after the end of the round.

The time for a request for a review of a TD ruling already received (see GCoC Sec. 31) ends 15 minutes after the end of the round or 15 minutes after the ruling in the event of the ruling being given after the end of a round.

#### **4.8 Byes, Ranking and Ties**

##### **4.8.1 Byes**

*In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 12 VPs.*

##### **4.8.2 Ranking**

The teams will be ranked from 1 – 12 in accordance with section 1.2

##### **4.8.3 Ties**

(i) Round Robin stage

In order to determine their grouping for the knockout stages, a tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents 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 tied teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

(ii) **Knockout Stages**

A tie in the knockout stage will be resolved by playing one additional board at a time until the tie is broken. ("sudden death")

#### **4.9 Addition to Screen Regulations**

##### **4.9.1 Removal of Board and Tray**

Only dummy or declarer removes the tray from the table and only dummy or declarer puts the board back in the centre of the table.

##### **4.9.2 Position of Calls on the Tray**

During the auction, all calls should touch the lower bar of that player's segment of the tray and overlap slightly the previous call.

A screenmate may draw attention to an incorrectly positioned call.

## **5. DRESS CODE**

The players must be dressed appropriately. Appropriate dress would, for example, be an open-necked shirt, or a smart polo or sweatshirt worn with trousers or skirt. Team members cannot wear shorts or open-toed sandals.

## **6. AWARDS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Ranked Team:	-	EBL Gold Medal and Trophy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranked Team:	-	EBL Silver Medal
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ranked Team:	-	EBL Bronze Medal

The winning team will receive the title of European Champion Club and be invited to participate in the next edition of the Champions' Cup.

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least one third of the boards played by his team and at least half the boards played by his team in the last KO match won by his team.

Bonus Master Points will be awarded to the teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS**

In case of a conflict between these Regulations and the General Conditions of Contest, these Regulations shall prevail.

Matters not regulated here are governed by the General Conditions of Contest and the Laws of Contract Bridge 2017.

## **8. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS**

The following can be found on the EBL website at [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org)

The EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Alert Procedure

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations

# APPENDIX



## EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

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

### COMPETITOR'S COMMITMENT

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NBO and EBL Code No: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. I agree and commit myself to participate in such EBL events that I apply to play in and/or that I am nominated by others to play in and to compete with respect for the EBL rules and fair play.
2. I am aware that the EBL events are governed by the Laws of Bridge, the Conditions of Contest, the EBL Disciplinary Code and all other Rules & Regulations of the EBL and I undertake to comply with

such rules, all of which are fully known to me, and/or any amendment of, or addition to, the same that is published on the official website of the EBL.

3. I therefore agree to be submitted to such rules, regulations, and procedures to the jurisdiction of the bodies and persons that are in charge of applying them. After the exhaustion of internal remedies within the EBL system, I acknowledge that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Lausanne, Switzerland) has ultimate jurisdiction for all disputes in connection with the EBL events and agree that recourse to the ordinary courts of law is prohibited.
4. I undertake to behave properly under all circumstances and contribute in all aspects to the good image of the EBL events and of the hosts of such events.
5. Through my participation in the EBL events I commit to promote the celebration of bridge in an international community with respect for cultures and customs from all over the world.
6. I agree that I will abstain from all public display of political actions, statements or comments within any EBL event and acknowledge that the EBL will not, without limitation, be responsible for any political, financial or other sanctions that any local or national authorities may impose on me.
7. I accept that EBL has the final authority to exclude me from its events in cases of non-compliance with this commitment (including any applicable EBL rules and regulations) or in cases of misconduct, the meaning of which shall take into account local customs and traditions.
8. I confirm that I have not received any information including, without limitation, advice by a physician or another person that my health might be negatively affected or that my level of fitness may not be sufficient to participate in any EBL event.
9. I agree that I will be personally responsible for any damage that I may cause to persons or property and that I will be liable for indemnifying such damage. Therefore I accept that EBL (including its members, directors, officers, employers, staff operators, volunteers, contractors or agents) shall not be liable under any circumstances in connection with any damage that I may cause during any EBL event.
10. I accept and agree that if I participate in any EBL event it shall be at my own expense except for such costs as EBL, the Host City, and/or any other party explicitly accepts to bear.
11. In particular and without limitation to the foregoing, I accept that all the expenses concerning the travel to the Host City and back and all the costs of my stay, including accommodation, meals, transfers etc. are not in the responsibility or at charge of EBL or the host.
12. I agree to follow the regulation in the General Conditions of Contest or Supplemental Conditions of Contest for each particular event in which I participate concerning the use and possession in the playing area of electronic devices (for example mobile phones, pagers, smart phones, pocket computers etc). I accept and agree to be inspected in order to ensure compliance with the present clause.
13. I accept and agree not to smoke or to consume alcoholic beverages at the competition venue, except in such areas where smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages might be explicitly allowed and in such case only after the end of the segment, match or game in which I am participating.

14. I accept to be subject to the anti-doping rules of the WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION (WBF). In particular I accept to submit to doping control by or at the request of WBF or EBL and I accept consequences and sanctions as well as the jurisdiction of WBF and EBL and of the Court of Arbitration for Sports as provided for in the anti-doping rules of WBF which I can consult on [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org)
15. I agree to be photographed, filmed, identified and otherwise recorded during any EBL event, both during and outside the competitions. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be published and broadcast worldwide by any means (TV, internet etc.) and may be used by EBL and the host for non-commercial promotion purposes at no cost to EBL or the host. I agree that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be used for any investigatory and evidential purposes in connection with any disciplinary enquiries.
16. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may also be used by EBL post-event for promotional and editorial purposes related to future EBL events.
17. I will not participate in, nor support betting related to EBL events and understand that all forms of promotion of betting related to such events are prohibited.
18. I agree that any dispute not to be adjudicated in application of specific procedures provided for by EBL but which arise between myself and EBL and/or Host Member Federation and/or the Championship Organising Committee and/or their respective members, directors, officers, staff operators, employees and volunteers, including but not limited to claims for damages of either party against the other arising out of occurrences (acts or omissions) linked with my participation to a EBL event shall be governed by Swiss Law and exclusively settled by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, in accordance with the CAS rules then in effect.
19. I am aware and I agree that my participation in any EBL event is conditional upon my valid acceptance of and my compliance with each and all the provisions of this document. I acknowledge that if there is from time to time any contradiction or inconsistency between this declaration (on the one hand) and the EBL Statutes and Rules and Regulations (on the other), the latter will prevail.
20. In addition, I accept the conditions of the WADA Athlete Consent form detailed below:

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

- (a) I acknowledge that I am bound by, and confirm that I shall comply with, all of the provisions of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time), the World Anti-Doping Code (the "**Code**") and the *International Standards* issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency, as amended from time to time, and published on WADA's website.
- (b) I consent and agree to the creation of my profile in the WADA Doping Control Clearing House ("**ADAMS**"), as requested under the *Code* to which WBF is a *Signatory*, and/or any other authorized *National Anti-Doping Organization's* similar system for the sharing of information, and to the entry on my *Doping Control, Whereabouts* and *Therapeutic Use Exemptions* related data in such systems.
- (c) I acknowledge the authority of EBL under the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to enforce, to manage results under, and to impose sanctions in accordance with the WBF Anti-Doping Rules.

(d) I acknowledge and agree that any dispute arising out of a decision made pursuant to the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, after exhaustion of the process expressly provided for in the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, may be appealed exclusively as provided in Article 13 of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to an appellate body for final and binding arbitration, which in the case of *International-Level Athletes* is the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

(e) I acknowledge and agree that the decisions of the arbitral appellate body referenced above shall be final and enforceable, and that I will not bring any claim, arbitration, lawsuit or litigation in any other court or tribunal.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

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