



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

The GENERALI

EUROPEAN LADIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Malta

14th - 16th June 1999

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The 1999 Generali European Ladies Pairs Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the League"). The Championship will be played under the International Code - Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 1997 and these Regulations whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the International Code as required.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Participation in the Championship is by invitation by the League. Subject to the unfettered discretion of the League's Credentials Committee, invitations will be issued to pairs of women:-

- (a) each of whom is a member of good standing of the NBO nominating the pair and
 - (i) was nominated by the NBO of the country of her 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

(ii) was nominated by the NBO of the country of her 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) whose nominating NBO is of good standing with the League and has paid its 1999 and all previous years' dues.

(c) who are nominated on or before the 15th May 1999 (although later nominations will be favourably considered subject to the availability of space) to:

Mr Bill Pencharz
Chairman, Credentials Committee
European Bridge League
P O Box 29048
London WC2B 5UL

Telephone 44-171-242 7089
Fax 44-171-242 3002
e-mail:100717.272@compuserve.com

2. ENTRY FEES

(a) Amount

The entry fee is 280 Swiss Francs per pair.

(b) Payment

(i) The entry fee of pairs nominated by NBOs who have made financial arrangements acceptable to the League (notably resulting from the absence of restrictions on currency movements) shall be invoiced direct to the NBOs in advance of the event.

(ii) All other NBOs shall be responsible for settling the entry fee of pairs nominated by the NBO

(a) either by transferring the amount to the League's bank account by 31st May 1999;

- (b) or by appointing a representative who will settle the amount in cash in Swiss Francs by 12.00 h on 14th June 1999, at the tournament reception desk. In this case, the NBO shall advise the Treasurer by 31st May 1999 of the name of its representative.

NBOs will be advised specifically on the applicable payment procedure by the Treasurer.

3. NATURE OF COMPETITION, SESSIONS, ETC.

(1) The Generali European Ladies Pairs Championship is a match pointed pairs tournament and shall consist of three qualifying and two Final sessions. The qualifying sessions will be of 24, 26 or 28 boards played in 12, 13 or 14 two-board rounds. The Final sessions shall be of 26 and 28 boards respectively played in 13 and 14 two-board rounds respectively.

Scoring in the qualifying rounds shall be "over the field" in matchpoints.

The first 28 or 30 pairs at the end of the third qualifying round shall qualify for the Final.

Scoring in the Final shall be the aggregate of:-

- (i) the carry forward score (see regulation no. 4)
- and
- (ii) the "over the final" score in matchpoints.

All pairs who fail to qualify for the Final two sessions of Generali European Ladies Pairs Championship shall have the right to play in the Consolation Event.

The Consolation Event shall consist of two sessions of 24, 26 or 28 boards played in 12, 13 or 14 two-board rounds.

Scoring in the Consolation Event shall be "over the field" in matchpoints. (There is no carry forward score from the qualifying rounds.)

The starting times for Sessions will be announced. The provisional times are as follows:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
First Session Qualifying Round	14 June 1999	13.30
Second Session Qualifying Round	14 June 1999	20.00
Third Session Qualifying Round	15 June 1999	12.30
First Session Final and Consolation Event	15 June 1999	20.00
Second Session Final and Consolation Event	16 June 1999	12.30

4. CARRY FORWARD SCHEME

For the purposes of regulation no. 3 the carry forward score of each pair in the Final is calculated according to the formula:

$$\frac{S}{M} \times \frac{P}{2} = \text{carry forward score}$$

Where:

- S is the number of match points scored by the pair during the three Qualifying Sessions.
- M is the maximum number of match points available to a pair during the three Qualifying Sessions, and
- P is the maximum number of match points available to a pair during the two Final Sessions

5. PERMITTED SYSTEMS

- (a) The European Bridge League's Systems Policy of March 1996 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") applies to the Championships.

Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted.

- (b) Psychic conventional opening bids are prohibited.
- (c) Both members of the partnership must play the same systems of bidding and card play.

6. CONVENTION CARD

- (a) Each pair must complete legibly and accurately in English four copies of the League's Official Convention Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.

Two copies must be handed to the Tournament Organizers at least 30 minutes before the start of the Championships. One copy of the Convention Card must be handed to each opponent before the start of each round of two boards

- (b) (i) Failure to complete the Convention Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may give rise to the imposition of procedural penalties.
- (ii) In particular the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty of 25% of the matchpoints available on a board for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate Convention 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.)

7. TIME ALLOWED

Players are expected to complete each two-board round in fifteen minutes when table screens are not in use and seventeen minutes when table screens are in use. The Chief

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 40% of the matchpoints available for the board, and
 - (ii) if the Chief Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play the non-offending pair shall be awarded 60% of the matchpoints available for the board.

- (b) If a partly played board is removed:
 - (i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded the lesser of 40% of the matchpoints available for the board and the matchpoint score for the result on the board which the Chief Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed, and
 - (ii) if the Chief Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play the non-offending pair shall be awarded the greater of 60% of the matchpoints available for the board and the matchpoint score for the result the Chief Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

8. BIDDING BOXES AND EBL ALERTING POLICY

The following regulation applies when screens are not in use (viz, the three qualifying sessions and the Consolation Event):

- (a) Bidding boxes are supplied and their use is obligatory. Calls are made by the player placing the bidding card showing her selected call in front of her. A player's first call should be to her 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;

(b) Alerting

Preamble

1. The EBL policy applies to this event.
2. 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.
3. The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players, however, are expected to alert whenever there is doubt (N.B. Where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction.)

Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not. (A Convention is a call that serves by partnership agreement to convey a meaning not necessarily related to the denomination named.)
2. Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless her side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
3. Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcall, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

The following calls should not be alerted (except when screens are in use):

1. All doubles.

2. Any no-trump bid which suggest a balanced or semi-balanced hand or suggests a no-trump contract.
3. All bids, with the exception of conventional opening suit bids, at the four level or higher.

When screens are not in use the player immediately upon her partner making a call that should be alerted alerts her opponents by clearly showing the alert card (or by pointing to the alert card in a clear and visible way).

The obligation is on the player making an "alert" to ensure that her opponents have noticed that an "alert" has been made.

At the time when it is her turn to call a player can ask for the explanation of an opponent's call. She does this by asking for an explanation from the partner of the player making the call.

9. SCREENS

Table screens will be used in both Sessions of the Final. When table screens are in use Regulations 10 and 11 below apply.

10. SCREENS, BIDDING BOXES AND ALERTING

- (a) Screens and bidding boxes will be used in both Sessions of the Final and their use is mandatory
 - (i) The North and East players sit on one side of the screen, the South and West players sit on the other side of the screen.
 - (ii) It is North's responsibility to place the board on and to remove the board from the table.
 - (iii) It is West's responsibility to lower the screen.
 - (iv) It is the responsibility of the opening leader or her partner to raise the screen.

(v) North places the board on the bidding tray and the players remove their cards from the board. The screen is lowered (and remains lowered during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it.

(vi) Calls are made with cards from the bidding box. A player places her selected call in the bidding tray which will be visible only to the players on her side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of her own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right.

(vii) After both players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is repeated until the auction is completed.

(viii) After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

(ix) After a legal opening lead is made the screen is raised the minimum necessary to permit all players to see dummy's cards and the cards played to each trick.

(x) The board remains in the bidding tray in the centre of the table until the end of the play of the cards.

(b) The "alert procedure" is as follows (when screens are in use):

A player who makes a call that should be alerted alerts her screen-mate by placing the alert card over the last call of the screen-mate, in her screen-mate's segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the alert card to her 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 an "alertable call"; using the "alert procedure".

The obligation is on the player making an "alert" to ensure that her screen-mate has noticed that an "alert" has been made.

A player can ask for an explanation of an opponent's call. She 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 whether the question concerned her own or her partner's call.

11. MODIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE

The International Code of Duplicate Laws is in effect except as specified below:

LAW 9A2(b)(1); LAW 42b(3); LAW 43A(1)(b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed by her screenmate. But she should try to avoid to have a premature opening lead exposed.

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 screenmate.

Explanation of Calls:

1. During the Auction:

At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate 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.

LAWS 26 THROUGH 32; LAWS 36 THROUGH 39:

For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not Passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate 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. These infringing calls may not be accepted.

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:

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.

LAW 33:

The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.

LAW 40:

Alerts:

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

LAW 41A:

Opening Lead out of Turn:

The offender's screenmate 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 an 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:

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 unauthorised information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses up to 15 seconds can be considered normal.

LAW 76:

Spectators:

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

12. ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITIONS

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, so far as is practicable, that pairs from the same NBO do not play against each other in the third qualifying session and the second Final and Consolation sessions.

Subject to the above the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director.

13. MANDATORY PENALTIES

The following penalties are automatic:

- (a) Failing to duplicate a board accurately - 50% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session;
- (b) Failing to notice the misduplication of a board at the first opportunity - 25% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session;
- (c) Fouling a board - 50% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session.

14. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT TABLE

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

15. LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the end of the third qualifying session provided they so notify the Chief Tournament Director before or soon after the publication of the ranking list after the third session has been posted.

No pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director; which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

16. ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT

Participation in the Generali European Ladies Pairs Championship is by invitation of the League. The privilege of representing one's own country as a participant in the Championship is not an inalienable right; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in matchpoints or monetary fines, and because participants appear as public representatives rather than as private individuals, observance of the highest standards is imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. Each player is reminded that it is a breach of ethics to break a law or regulation deliberately even if willing to accept a prescribed penalty.

Players are required to accept all decisions of the Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner.

17. APPEALS COMMITTEE

All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Appeals Committee. This Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the League's Appeals Committee (who shall be its Chairman) and not less than two persons nominated by the Chairman of the League's Appeal Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum. The Appeals Committee, also acting as the national authority under law 93C, shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of law whether under the Laws or these Regulations, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

18. LODGING OF APPEALS

- (a) An appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director must:
 - (i) be in writing on the special appeal form;
 - (ii) be lodged (by handing to the Chief Tournament Director) within 30 minutes of the end of the session during which the ruling was made;
 - (iii) be accompanied by a deposit of Lm 15.
- (b) An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a pair must:
 - (i) be made before the start of play of the next session, and in the case of the final session of the phase within 30 minutes of the publication of the ranking list at the end of the final session;
 - (ii) be accompanied by a deposit of Lm 7.
- (c) Deposits will be refunded if the appellant's case is judged to be well founded, even if rejected.

19. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

All players are reminded that English is the official language in which they should converse

during play. 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.

20. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

(a) Journalists

(i) Application of these Rules and Regulations All journalists are invitees of the League and their presence at the Championship 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.

(ii) Accreditation

All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the League and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Press Association (the IBPA). In the event of a disagreement over accreditation between the League and the IBPA, the view of the League shall prevail.

(b) Spectators

(i) Application of these Rules and Regulations

All Spectators are invitees of the League 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.

(ii) Watching at table

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.

No more than four 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.)

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 subjected to greater penalties.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to 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.

21. NON SMOKING

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

22. MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones may not be brought into the playing area and toilets.

Any player bringing a mobile phone into the playing area and toilets will result in his partnership being fined 100% of the match points available on a board during the session. This penalty is automatic.

23. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the League if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the Championship.