



## **EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

#### **23rd EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONS' CUP 3rd EUROPEAN WOMEN CHAMPIONS' CUP JUMARLA, LATVIA**

**NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

### **1.1 Introduction**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> European Open Champions' Cup ("the Open Championship") and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Women Champions' Cup ("the Women Championship") are to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in the Baltic Beach Hotel and Spa, (Juras Street 23/25) Jurmala LV-2015, Latvia commencing on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and ending on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The Championships will be governed by the Laws of Duplicate 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 Championships can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

### **1.2 Format**

The Championships consist of 3 stages.

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

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

The 12 participating teams in the Women Championship (see section 2) play a complete round robin consisting of 11 rounds of 10 boards each.

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

The Open and Women 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. 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. Each match will be played in two 16 board stanzas.

### **1.2.3 Final Stage (knockout)**

In the Open and in the Women Championship, each match in this stage consists of two 16 board stanzas. The two winners in each group will play each other, and the two losers in each group meet. This allows a complete ranking from 1 to 12.

### **1.2.4 Withdrawal from Final Stage**

Teams may withdraw after the first stanza of the final stage and the opponent will be declared winner of the match.

Teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> or below may withdraw before the start of the first stanza, but will forfeit all master points and prizes awarded for that stage. The opponents will be declared winners of the match and receive any master points and prizes awarded to the winner of that match. Should both teams withdraw no masterpoints or prizes will be awarded for that stage to those teams.

## **1.3 Draw**

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published on the EBL website for the Championship. Teams from the same country will be drawn to meet as early as possible.

### **1.4 Program and Timetable for Championships**

Captains' Meeting	Thursday 13/11/24	09:30
Opening	Thursday 13/11/24	09:50
Round Robin Rounds 1-3	Thursday 13/11/24	10:00 – 14:45
Lunch	Thursday 13/11/24	14:45 – 15:55
Round Robin Rounds 4-6	Thursday 13/11/24	15:55 – 20:40
Round Robin Rounds 7-8	Friday 14/11/24	10:00 – 13:05

Lunch	Friday 14/11/24	13:05 – 14:15
Round Robin Rounds 9 -11	Friday 14/11/24	14:15 – 19:00
Semi Finals 1	Saturday 15/11/24	09:30 – 11:45
Semi Finals 2	Saturday 15/11/24	12:00 – 14:15
Lunch	Saturday 15/11/24	14:15 – 15:15
Finals 1	Saturday 15/11/24	15:15 – 17:30
Finals 2	Saturday 15/11/24	17:45 – 20:00
Prize Giving, Closing	Saturday 15/11/24	20:30

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **2.1      *Right to participate***

The NBOs from the top nine ranked teams in the European Open Teams Championship in Herning 2024 will be invited to send their most recent National Teams Champions' Club to participate. In addition, the defending Champion from 2024, the champion of ESFG 2024 and a team from Latvia (the host country) will be invited in the Open Championship. No more than two teams from the same NBO will have a right to participate. (please refer to EBL First Invitation Letter).

The NBOs from the top nine ranked teams in the European Women Teams Championship in Herning 2024 will be invited to send the eligible Women Team to participate. In addition, the defending Champion from 2024, a team from Latvia (the host country) will be invited in the Women Championship and the winning Team from the EBL Women Online 2025 Championship will be invited. No more than two teams from the same NBO will have a right to participate. (please refer to EBL First Invitation Letter and SCoC for Women Online Championship 2025)

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 may result in disqualification and a report will be sent to the EBL Disciplinary Committee. (But see Sec. 1.2.4 regarding withdrawal from final stage).

### **1.2      *Entry fees***

There are entry fees in the Open Championship for all teams except the Host Team, the winner of the Champions' Cup 2024 and the winner of the European Small Federations Games 2024.

There are no entry fees in the Women Championship.

### **1.3      *Confirmation and Registration***

#### **2.3.1      *Confirmation***

NBO invitees must confirm their acceptance electronically via the event microsite at

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/Jurmala25/microsite/Participants.asp>

by latest 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 22:00 CEST. 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 11<sup>th</sup> ranked in the European Open Teams Championship in Herning 2024 and from the 10<sup>th</sup> ranked in the European Women Teams Championship in Herning 2024. The same principle will be followed if there are further withdrawals.

#### **2.3.2      *Player Names***

Names of players (and NPCs and coaches if applicable) must be submitted electronically via the event microsite by latest 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 22:00 CEST.

#### **2.3.3      *Team names***

The name of the club to which the team belongs, and the email address of the person authorized to receive further information, must be submitted by email to the EBL Secretariat at [secretariat@europeanbridge.org](mailto:secretariat@europeanbridge.org) by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 22:00 CEST latest.

(If the team is composed of players from different clubs the team will be named <NBO> Champion).

#### **1.4      *Credentials Committee***

The names of members of each team (and captain and/or coach if applicable) as submitted in accordance with 2.3.2 above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration for approval of participation.

#### **1.5      *Participants' Commitment***

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players, captains, coaches and other team officials in team championships are required to have signed the EBL Participant's Commitment Form:

[https://eu1.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAAABlqZhA3dplRmODm\\_RFB4seUimZ0gHqM3XB\\_rDHnT309J4zfARC8kqPWtELOU13p5EQ-bb0\\*](https://eu1.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAAABlqZhA3dplRmODm_RFB4seUimZ0gHqM3XB_rDHnT309J4zfARC8kqPWtELOU13p5EQ-bb0*) before 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 22:00 CEST.

## **2      SYSTEMS**

### **2.1      *Systems Policy***

The EBL's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised May 2022) apply to this Championship, which is a Category 2 event. Details of the Policy and the Guide to Completion of the System Card - which players should refer to when completing their cards - can be found at <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>.

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

Systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the GCoC. Particular attention is drawn to Section 11.2 (a) and (b) concerning the proper completion of the Card. See also Appendix II for Instructions for filling in the System Card, and Section 3.2 below.

**Cards must be in the correct format. The cards must be prepared using the WBF Template in Word or Excel** Template blanks in MS Word and MS Excel format can be downloaded from <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>.

Players are reminded not to use either 'Numbers' or 'Pages' on a Mac , nor is Google docs suitable for the preparation of system cards as none of these will convert to 2-sided pdfs.

The maximum number of Supplementary Sheets is six.

Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Methods must use the special forms provided which can be found in Appendices I and II of the EBL Systems Policy <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>

### **3.2      *System Cards***

#### **3.2.1      *Pre-scrutiny of System Cards***

Pairs/Teams desiring pre-scrutiny of their System Cards may send the cards to the EBL Systems Administrator, Anna Gudge at [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) for advice and corrections if necessary. These must be received at least two weeks before the submission deadline in 3.2.2.

### **3.2.2 Submission of System Cards**

Systems must be registered with the European Bridge League by email to the Systems Administrator: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) (See Section 11 of GCoC) before 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 22:00 CEST.

Any System Card that deviates from the requirements of Guide to Completion of the System Card (see Section 3.1 and Appendix I) will be subject to a 2 VP penalty for the team.

System Cards not received by the deadline will be subject to a penalty for the team, 2 VPs for a delay of up to one week, 3 VPs for more than a week.

Additionally, System Cards which have been submitted late, or are not properly filled in, may be subject to further sanctions, at the discretion of the Championship Committee or its designee. Such sanctions may include restrictions on bidding and play agreements.

Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted until 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 22:00 CET.

Revised cards submitted should have the revisions highlighted to ensure that other teams are able to see easily what changes have been made. Revised cards will be published on the website with the other systems, marked as REV1 or REV2 etc., thus giving captains the opportunity to compare them with the original submission.

The link to the website where the systems are displayed will be sent to the captain of each team once all the systems for that team have been registered. The captain may also request that it is sent to other team members (e.g. the coach) by informing Anna Gudge ([anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)) of the names and email addresses that they wish it to be sent to.

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.

## **3 RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES**

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

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

The team listed first on the program's match schedule is designated as the Home Team. The Home Team sits in the North/South positions in the Open Room and in the East/West 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 must be submitted no later than 5 minutes after the previous round ends and failure to comply will be subject to VP penalties as follows:

- 1st occasion 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 or its designee in exceptional cases.

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



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

In the semi-finals, the higher ranked team from 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 Carry-over**

In the semi-final and final stages, the team with a higher round robin ranking will be declared the winner.

#### **4.2.3 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.

#### **4.2.4 Line-up Procedure**

The team without seating rights submits its line-up within 5 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 25 minutes for 10 boards, 1 hour 40 minutes for 12 boards and 2 hours 15 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. All 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 0.2 VP (0.6 IMPs in KO play) for each completed minute. In the case where a player enters the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director will take necessary measures unless satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player. Any team not seated within 20 minutes for a round robin match and half an hour for a knockout match, 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.**

If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the procedure and penalties outlined in the GCoC Section 20.1 and Sections 20.1.1 (round robin) or 20.1.3 (knockout) will apply.

#### **4.3.3 Penalty warning**

Except for a penalty under GCoC Section 21.1.1 (Unnecessarily Slow Play) 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.)

#### **4.5 Playing Area**

The Playing Area, as referred to in the GCoC, means the rooms where play takes place, as well as the corridors, toilets and area in the vicinity.

Smoking is prohibited during sessions of play.

#### **4.6 Tablets and Screens**

Section 22 of the GCoC is modified as follows:

##### **22- Bidding/Score devices and Screens**

The Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply, where necessary.

22.1 This section does not apply.

22.2 Tablets will be used for bidding and entering results.

At each table one tablet will be allocated to each player.

Each player uses the tablet for bidding and scoring the result. See Regulations for Tablet Bidding on the EBL Site.

22.3 Screens

Screens will be used whenever possible.

#### **4.7 End of rounds, results**

##### **4.7.1 IMP scale**

The difference in the total point scores on each board is converted to International Match Points ("IMPs").

##### **4.7.2 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.

#### **4.8 Protest time**

In respect of scores in the qualifying round robin stage the protest time for all matches ends 30 minutes after the official finishing time of the Round 11 match in the Open Championship and of the Round 7 match in the Women Championship.

In the knockout stages it ends 30 minutes after the official finishing time for that stage.

The time for a request for a TD ruling or a review of a TD ruling already given ends 30 minutes after the end of the match.

#### **4.9 Byes, Ranking and Ties**

##### **4.9.1 Byes**

A team will receive 12 VPs for any match that is a “Bye”.

##### **4.9.2 Ranking**

The teams will be ranked from 1 – 12 in accordance with section 1.2 in the Open Championship and in the Women Championship.

##### **4.9.3 Ties**

#### **Round Robin stage**

In order to determine their grouping for the knockout stages, a tie between two teams will be broken by the result of the match between those two teams. If there should still be a tie, then the highest 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 broken 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 highest IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

## **5. DRESS CODE**

The players must be dressed appropriately. This 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. (In general, please refer to Dress Code on EBL website)

## **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 in the Open Championship will receive the title of European Club Champion and be invited to participate in the next edition of the Champions’ Cup.

The winning team in the Women Championship will receive the title of Champion of the Women Champions’ Cup and be invited to participate in the next edition of the Women Champions’ Cup.

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least half (fractions rounded down) of the boards played by the team in the round robin stage and at least half the boards played by the team in the last KO match won by the team.

## **7. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS**

In case of a conflict between these Regulations and the GCoC, these Regulations prevail.  
Matters not regulated here are governed by the GCOC and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

## **8. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE EVENT**

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

The EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Alert Procedure

The EBL Psychic Bidding Guidelines

The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations

The EBL Bidding with Tablets Regulations

WBF Guide to Completion of System Cards (on WBF site at

<http://www.worldbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Guidetocompletion.pdf>)

## **9. SUMMARY OF DEADLINES**

Registration of teams: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 22:00 CEST (see section 2.3.1)

Registration of players' names: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 22:00 CEST (see section 2.3.2)

Registration of teams' names : 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 22:00 CEST (see section 2.3.3)

Receipt of participant's commitment : 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 22:00 CEST (see section 2.5)

Submission of system cards: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 22:00 CEST (see section 3.2.2)

Minor changes to system cards: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 22:00 CET (see section 3.2.2)

## APPENDIX I

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE SYSTEM CARD**

All teams must submit a filled-out EBL or WBF Systems (Convention) Card for each pair by 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 22:00 CEST. The System Card is for the benefit of your opponents and poor or lacking information may be to your disadvantage in TD rulings. Non-compliance with these instructions may incur a VP fine and/or require the use of the WBF Standard Card.

Put the player names (and team name) both on the front and back of the card and also on each Supplementary Sheet \*.

Follow the instructions in the Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card

(<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>), as well as Section 3 of Supplemental Conditions of Contest and Section 11 of EBL General Conditions of contest. Note the update to EBL Systems Policy.

**You are expected to inform opponents as fully as possible of your methods. Your own “standard” or “normal” may not be theirs. Pay special attention to the following items which are frequently neglected.**

(You may, if necessary, refer to Supplementary Sheets. \*)

- DO NOT USE terms such as “weak”, “light”, “preemptive”, “destructive”, “optimistic”, “normal” etc. Instead, state (at least approximately) the HCP range. If this depends on position and/or vulnerability, tell how.
- Clarify responses to all openings, and to all overcalls (such as new suit, jump new, cue, jump cue, jump support). Just “Relay” or “Enquiry” is not sufficient.
- Under Defence to 1NT explain if, how and when your methods differ for different strengths.
- Be specific about how and when you use relays, transfers and “switch” agreements with or without competition.  
With what does partner accept a transfer?  
Does the transfer promise a suit, a suit plus values, or just values with later support of partner’s suit?  
Do the transfers include NT or cue bids?
- AVOID USING NAMES of methods.  
If you use a name, there may be more than one meaning. Explain yours.  
Don’t use words such as “standard”, “reversed”, “modified”. If space is needed refer to a numbered note in the Supplementary sheets.  
For example:  
Don’t use “Smith”, “modified Smith”, reverse “Smith”. Instead say for example, “Smith, LOW enc by both”.  
“Gazilli”; explain the way you play it, also continuation by opener and responder  
Other names needing clarification include Cappelletti, Drury, Ghestem, Hamilton, Kaplan, Kokish, Lebensohl, Muiderberg, Niemeyer, Rosenkranz, Rubensohl, Truscott, Turbo, Wilkosz, Woolsey etc

Supplementary Sheets:

- Any item on the Card that is clarified in the Supplementary sheets must have a reference to a numbered note.
- Explanations of developments not directly connected to a bid or overcall may be referenced to under an extra heading under Special bids: ADDITIONAL NOTES
- Provide the sheets with names and page numbers!