



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

2ND EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN PRAGUE- CZECH REPUBLIC 14th – 20th FEBRUARY 2025

Published by the European Bridge League
Maison du Sport International
54 avenue de Rhodanie
CH-1007 Lausanne Switzerland

January 2025

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Preamble

The 2nd European Winter Transnational Championships (EWTC) will be hosted at Top Hotel Congress Prague, Blažimská 1781, 149000 Praha 4-Chodov – Czech Republic.

The EWTC will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League (EBL). Unless stated otherwise in these Regulations, the EWTC shall be governed by the EBL General Conditions of Contest (GCoC).

The EWTC will consist of a 7-day Main Open Team event as well as a 4/5-day Side Open Team event (BAM Trophy). Both events will be transnational and there will be no restriction on the number of entries per NBO.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1.1 Right of Entry

Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.

All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Teams will be issued to teams of four, five or six.

1.2 Participant's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC: "... Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams events are required to have signed the EBL Participant's Commitment Form".

1.3 Registration

All entries to the events must be submitted electronically using the following website link: <http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/25Prague/microsite/participants.htm> by February 7th 2025.

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to its approval. Applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if space allows and if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be sent by email to secretariat@europeanbridge.org

by February 7th 2025 to qualify for return of the entry fee. Further information is available at <http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/25Prague/microsite/Information.htm>

2. ENTRY FEES

All information concerning entry fees and method of payment is available at:

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/25Prague/microsite/Information.htm#Fees>

3. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF PLAY (see section 5 and 6)

Friday 14/02/25	10:00	Transnational Teams Qualifying rounds 1-5 Swiss
Saturday 15/02/25	10:00	Transnational Teams Qualifying rounds 6-10 Swiss
Sunday 16/02/25	10:00	Transnational Teams (KO, Round of 32) BAM Trophy (BAM Qualification)
Monday 17/02/25	10:00 14:30	Transnational Teams (KO, Round of 16) BAM Trophy (BAM Qualification)
Tuesday 18/02/25	10:00 10:00	Transnational Teams (KO, Quarter finals) BAM Trophy (Semifinals A & B)
Wednesday 19/02/25	10:00 10:00	Transnational Teams (KO, Semi finals) BAM Trophy (Semifinals A & B)
Thursday 20/02/25	10:00	Transnational Teams (KO, Final) BAM Trophy (Final)

The above schedule of play is provisional and may be changed if circumstances warrant.

Refer to: <http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/25Prague/microsite/Information.htm> for any updated information.

4. DROP-INS FOR BAM TROPHY

Teams eliminated from the Round of 32 (or 16 -see section 5 below) and Quarterfinal stages of The Transnational Teams can drop into BAM Trophy and will be awarded a carry-over depending on the number of participants and the format. The carryover formula will be published at the start of BAM Trophy.

5. TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS

5.1 Qualifying Stage

The qualification stage will be played either over two or three days depending on entries, whilst the knockout stage will start from the round of 32 or the round of 16.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match. When there is an odd number of teams the bye team will receive 12 VPs.

5.2 Knockout Stage

This section is provisional and may be subject to changes according to the final number of participants.

- i) Either the top 32, or the top 16 teams from the Swiss qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage. There will be no carry-over from the Swiss to the knockout (but see section 5.3.2).
- ii) Each knockout stage will be played over 56 boards, 4 segments of 14 boards each, except for the 3rd/4th place playoff which will be played over 42 boards, 3 segments of 14 boards each.
- iii) A fixed bracket (see Appendix 1) will be created, thus there is no re-seeding between rounds and a lower ranked team that beats a higher ranked team takes over that higher ranked team's seednumber.
- iv) In case of 32 qualifiers, the teams placed 1st-8th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-8. They, in that order, get to choose their opponents from the teams placed 17th – 32nd in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 32-17 respectively. The remaining seed numbers 9-16 are assigned according to the original seeding (based on EBL and WBF Master Points) made before the start and published as soon as the participating teams are known. In case of 16 qualifiers, the teams placed 1st-4th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-4. They, in that order, get to choose their opponents from the teams placed 9th – 16th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 16-9 respectively. The remaining seed numbers 5-8 are assigned according to the original seeding (see above). This section may be modified on site according to the number of participants.

5.3 Tie Breaking

5.3.1 Swiss

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated and the team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.
- ii) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

5.3.2 Direct Knockout

If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, the team winning the direct match in the Swiss qualifying stage will be declared the winner. If the direct match in the Swiss were a draw or if there were no direct match in the Swiss, then the team better placed in the Swiss will be declared the winner.

6.BAM TROPHY

The format of BAM Trophy will be Board-A-Match. It is anticipated that there will be a qualification stage followed by a Final A and Final B. Depending on the number of participants there may be a Semi Final stage. All details will be published before the start of the event.

7.SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

7.1 Systems Policy

Both events are designated Category 3 events, i.e. neither “HUM” systems nor “Brown Sticker” conventions are allowed.

Psyching artificial opening bids is forbidden.

7.2 System (Convention) Cards

- i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the EBL's Official System Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.
- ii) Each pair is required to hand two copies of its system card to the opponents before the start of the match. During the knockout phase each team delivers a copy of each system to its opponents as soon as the matches to be played are decided. Detailed instructions will be given at the captains' meeting.
- iii) Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties.

In particular the Head Tournament Director shall impose a procedural penalty (1/2 standard penalty – see section 21.2 of GCoC) for each occasion on which he considers that an opponent has been severely inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate System Card. The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score that a Tournament Director deems appropriate because of damage caused to the opponent.

During a match or round changes in system cards are normally not allowed. If a team nevertheless wants to change a system card it lodges a request with the Head Tournament Director, who needs to approve such change.

8. TIME ALLOWED

8.1 Qualifying stage

Players are expected to complete each 10 board Swiss Teams match in 1 hour 25 minutes. If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the penalties outlined in section 20.1.1 of the GCoC will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them. The Head TD may remove unplayed boards from players if in the Head TD's opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition. The match will be scored in accordance with section 20.1 of the GCoC

For otherwise cancelled boards the Head Tournament Director will deal with them according to Law 86B.

8.2 Knockout stage

Players are expected to complete each 14-board segment in 2 hours. For late play and unplayed boards see section 20.1.3 of the GCoC.

8.3 Late arrival

All participants should be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time. Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time will receive a warning for a first offence during that phase of the event for being up to 5 minutes late. Late arrivals of more than 5 minutes, or further late arrivals, will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Head Tournament Director. The penalty will range from half the standard penalty to the standard penalty (see section 21.2 of the GCOC). Furthermore, such team will be considered as the offending side for purposes of section 8.1 and 8.2 above for at least the number of minutes by which it arrived late.

9. LINE-UPS AND SEATING

9.1 Line-Ups

9.1.1 Swiss

In each match of the Swiss, the first named team will be the Home Team and there is no requirement to submit line-ups in advance.

9.1.2 Direct Knockout

Direct Knockout Line-ups for the knockout will be explained on site, including the time for the first lineup to be submitted. From the second segment of the KO stage onward, the Team without seating rights shall submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session, or at such other time as the Operations Director determines. The Team with seating rights shall submit its line-up no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session: provided that if the team required to submit its lineup 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. Violation of these time schedules will be subject to IMP penalties according to the following scale, and the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until 10 minutes before start of play.

- (i) first occasion – a written warning
- (ii) second occasion – 1 IMP penalty
- (iii) subsequently – 3 IMPs penalty for each occasion

9.2 Seating

9.2.1 Swiss

In the Swiss, the designated Home Team sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match. The Home Team has the right to seat its players after the Visiting Team has done so.

9.2.2 Direct Knockout

The scoring system will automatically assign seating rights for each stanza (set of 14 boards) using a random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

- A. Each team will have seating rights in two stanzas.
- B. The four stanzas are divided into portions of two each: 1-2, 3-4; when a team is assigned seating rights in one stanza, the other team automatically gets seating rights the other stanza of that portion.
- C. If a team gets seating rights in stanza four, the other will get seating rights in stanza one.

9.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms

In all stanzas of a match the lower seed number will sit North-South in the room designated as “Open” regardless of whether it has seating rights for that stanza. The rooms respectively referred to as the “Open” and the “Closed” rooms shall be so designated in each match (or session) by the Operations Director or his designee.

10. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any team may cease participation in the competition after the last session of the Qualifying stage provided it so notifies the Head Tournament Director in writing no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No team may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Head Tournament Director or the Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the team can show good cause.

11. SCORING AND BIDDING AT THE TABLE

Electronic or Digital devices will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

Tablets will be used for bidding and entering results.

Each table will have four tablets allocated to each player.

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

12. SCORE CORRECTIONS

12.1 Correction Period

The Correction Period normally expires 30 minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on a day if the stage ends on that day or at the start of play the following day if the stage continues.

Thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- a) Awaiting a decision of the Reviewer on a requested review.
- b) Completion of play or replay boards where the Championship Committee or the Head Tournament Director has directed such replay.

12.2 Incorrect Scores

Requests to correct manifestly incorrect scores (e.g. four spades scored as played by West, but in fact played by North) entered at any time during a stage may be requested until 30 minutes after the end of that stage.

Otherwise, a request to change a score that was agreed upon at the table may be submitted only until the end of the Correction Period, and the score will be changed only once it is proven erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Head Tournament Director.

However, no correction may be requested more than 30 minutes after the scores are posted for the final round of a stage. This includes the Direct Knockout stages, where every round is a stage.

In respect of the final stage’s play protest time ends two hours after the official finishing time of that stage but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Prize-giving Ceremony or Closing Ceremony.

13. APPEALS: REVIEW PROCEDURE

See section 31 of the GCoC.

14. SECURITY

No player or team official is allowed at the Championship Playing Areas without displaying the personal badge.

15. AWARDS & PRIZES

15.1 Titles and Awards

15.1.1 Medals

EBL Medals will be awarded to the first four ranked teams in the Transnational Teams event. The winning team will be awarded the title of European Winter Transnational Champion.

15.2 MasterPoints

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme, provided that the player has played at least half of the boards played by his team in the Swiss stage and at least half the boards played by his team in the last KO match won by his team. The relevant EMP scales are available on the EBL website.

WBF and National Master Points may be awarded according to the respective Master Point rules and regulations of those organizations.

16. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

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

17. 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.

18. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

The following can be found on the EBL website at www.eurobridge.org

[The EBL Systems Policy](#)

[The EBL Disciplinary Code](#)

[The EBL Alert Procedure](#)

[EBL Regulations for Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates, and Screens](#)

[EBL Regulations for Bidding with Tablets](#)

[The EBL Master Point Plan](#)

APPENDIX 1: Fixed Bracket for 32 teams

See section 9.2.3 for determination of “Home” and “Closed” rooms.

