



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

ONLINE EBL QUALIFICATION COMPETITIONS FOR WORLD TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 and EBL CHAMPIONS' CUP 2021 23rd – 28th August 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION and FORMAT

1.1 Introduction

This Event comprises Qualification Competitions of the EBL for the World Teams Championships 2021/2022 ("the WTC") to be played online, using the RealBridge platform (RB), at venues to be determined by the EBL Championship Committee on the proposal of the NBOs, under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") 23rd to 28th of August 2021. The event consists of 4 National Teams Competitions in the Open, Women's, Seniors' and Mixed Categories. Play in all Categories will finish on the 28th of August but the starting date will depend on the number of teams in the respective Categories. At each venue where play takes place there will be at least one official Observer (see Section 2.4).

The Event will be governed by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 ("the Laws"), the EBL General Conditions of Contest ("the GCoC") as published on the EBL website, these Supplementary Conditions of Contest ("the SCoC") and the separate regulations that will be communicated in letters to the NBOs. Unless otherwise stated or illogical in context, the definitions used in the GCoC apply also to these SCoC. But see Section 7 hereunder in connection with interpretation of the Laws.

This includes possible precautionary measures due to Covid 19.

1.2 Format

It is anticipated that each of the four Competitions will be played as a single complete round robin of matches with 12-16 boards.

The duration, format and number of boards in a particular Competition will be determined when the number of teams registered is known. It is however anticipated that the full 6 days will be used if a Competition comprises 23 or more teams.

The time allocated per board is 7 mins 30 secs.

Updates to the above are available on the competition microsite

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/21OnlineNationalTeams/microsite/Information.htm>

1.3 Draw

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published on the EBL microsite

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/21OnlineNationalTeams/microsite/Information.htm>

Should there be a variation in the number of teams participating, adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be published on the event-microsite prior to the start of each Competition.

2. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

2.1 Registration

2.1.1 Registration of Teams and Players' Names

Registration of teams must be submitted via the EBL electronic registration system (not by e-mail) at db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/21OnlineNationalTeams/microsite/participants.asp no later than 12 July 2021.

Registration of players' names must be submitted as above no later than 2 August 2021.

2.1.2 Right to enter

Each member NBO is authorised to enter one team in each Competition. NBOs must have paid the entry fee and be in good standing with the EBL, including payment of 2021 dues to the EBL. Each pair in the Mixed Team Competition must have one player of each gender.

Each participating NBO must play against all other participating NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play may result in disqualification and possible disciplinary measures.

To participate in the Seniors' Competition a player must be aged 62 or older during 2021.

2.1.3 Competitor's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form (see GCoC Appendix 2) before the start of the event.

2.2 Entry Fees and Costs

2.2.1 Entry Fees

The entry fee for each Competition will be €100 per day of play. Consequently, the maximum possible fee for one team (not one NBO) is €600.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 26 July 2021 to

Credit Suisse AG

Rue de Lion d'Or 5-7

CH-1002 Lausanne-Switzerland

Account: EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

IBAN: CH88 0483 5135 2558 8200 0

SWIFT/BIC: CRESCHZZ80A

2.2.2 Venue Costs

The NBO will be responsible for all local costs of equipment and playing venue(s).

The EBL will be responsible for all costs related to the RealBridge platform and Tournament Directors.

2.2.3 Costs of Observers

The EBL will be responsible for the compensation, travel and per diem of up to 2 Observers per NBO. If additional Observers are needed due to the layout of the playing venue(s) the NBO will be responsible for their costs. The NBO will be responsible for the costs of accommodation of the Observers at their venue(s).

2.3 Team Members

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach or team-manager, each team is entitled to have six playing members. An NBO may change or add members up to 3 days before the commencement of play of each Competition.

All such changes are subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee.

Except with the permission of the Head TD or Championship Committee, such substitute or added player must use one of the systems already filed in accordance with Section 3.2 below.

No player may play in more than one Competition.

2.4 Observers

At each venue where play takes place there will be at least one official Observer who, except for EBL staff and EC members, shall not be from the same NBO they observe. The Observer must be physically present at all times during each session of play.

2.4.1 Duties of Observer

The Observer shall verify that the set-up of the playing area corresponds with what was agreed by the NBO and the EBL (see Section 4.3.1). The Observer shall ensure that all rules governing the play and attendance in the venue, as per a separate protocol, are strictly observed and that there are no violations of Laws 72, 73 and 74. In particular the Observer shall ensure that Section 4.3 of these SCoC is strictly observed. At the end of each round the Observer will sign a declaration (provided by the EBL) certifying the proper conduct of the round and noting any irregularities there may have been.

2.4.2 Appointment of Observers

Each participating NBO must nominate at least one person of impeccable reputation willing to serve as an Observer in another country and submit such names to the EBL Championship Committee for approval. If an NBO itself uses more than one then it must nominate at least two Observers. Only Observers approved by the Championship Committee will be appointed. The number of Observers at each venue will be determined by the Championship Committee. Observers will be compensated (see Section 2.2.3). TDs may be nominated and act as Observers but will in such case not fulfil any TD functions whatsoever.

2.5 Tournament Directors

There will be two categories of TDs:

- "Table" TDs working within the RB platform; and
- "Consulting" TDs on call in a separate "room".

2.5.1 Table TDs

These EBL certified TDs, familiar with the RB environment, will be responding to TD calls from players “at the table”. They will collect the facts and issue routine rulings. If necessary they will bring the case to the Consulting TDs for adjudication. They will also assist the players with practical matters related to the RB platform.

2.5.2 Consulting TDs

These top-level EBL certified TDs will conduct any polling of players and will issue rulings in consultation with the Table TD. One of these TDs will be appointed Head TD by the Championship Committee.

For polling purposes the Championship Committee will appoint suitable players, not participating in the relevant Competition, to be available on call for consultation.

2.6 Credentials Committee

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as submitted to the EBL website in accordance with Section 2.1 above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration of approval of participation.

Only accredited people can enter the venue of the event.

3. SYSTEMS

3.1 Systems Policy

The EBL Systems Policy (Revised January 2020) apply to these Competitions.

All four Competitions are classified as Category 3 events (no HUMs or Brown Sticker methods).

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

Regulation 6 of the EBL Systems Policy (regarding submission of multi defences) does not apply to this event.

The systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the GCoC, and submitted as described below.

3.2 Submission of Systems (in all Competitions)

Systems in all Competitions have to be registered with the EBL no later than 2 August 2021 by e-mail to the Systems Administrator: anna@ecats.co.uk (see Section 11 of GCoC). Captains should ensure that their e-mail address is provided to enable the URL for opponents’ systems to be sent and they should check it regularly so they are available for any queries that may arise concerning a system registered by their team.

Note that VP penalties and other restrictions will be applied in accordance with the GCoC for late submission.

Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted up to 15 August 2021. Revisions 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 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. The URL will be sent to the captain of each team, who may also request that it is sent to other team members (e.g. the coach) by informing Anna Gudge (anna@ecats.co.uk) of the names and e-mail addresses that they wish it to be sent to.

3.3 Format of Cards for submission

Cards must be in the correct format and templates in Word and Excel can be downloaded from <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>. Players are asked not to use the old WBF CCE format.

Any revised cards submitted should have the revisions highlighted to ensure that other teams are able to see easily what changes have been made.

Pairs are reminded to check that their card fits onto two sheets (a front and a back) when printed without the font being too small, with supplementary sheets as required. A card not formatted correctly will be rejected and the pair required to make the necessary changes to ensure that it can be printed properly.

4. RULES FOR RUNNING THE TEAMS MATCHES

4.1 Composition and Seating of Teams

4.1.1 Designation of teams

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches is designated as the Home Team.

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 before the end of the previous round. The actual names of the players must be used.

For the first round the details will be announced on the Event Microsite and in the pre-bulletin.

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

- 1st occasion a written (through e-mail) 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 Operations Director in exceptional cases.

4.1.3 Seating of teams

The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room. Players will be seated automatically by the RB platform based on the line-ups submitted.

4.2 Period of Play and penalties for slow play

4.2.1 Start of the round

The time 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 5 minutes 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 for each completed minute. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match. See GCoC Appendix 1. 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.

4.2.2 End of the period of play

(a) If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the penalties outlined in GCoC 20.1.1 will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them (but see 4.2.2 (c) below).

(b) If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in their opinion.

The TD 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.

To determine the responsibility of each side for the slow play the TD may use data recorded by the RB system. 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) 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 Head TD will take into account the time of start of play for the next round.) The match will be scored in accordance with Section 20.1 of the GCoC.

4.3 Playing Area

The playing area, as referred to in the GCoC, means the room or rooms approved by the EBL (see Section 4.3.1) where play takes place.

No player is allowed to play from home or from any area not designated as the playing area.

4.3.1 Equipment and Layout

The NBO is responsible for providing the playing area with a fast and stable internet connection, and for the players' devices to have a well-functioning camera showing each player's face at all times. The players' "stations" must be positioned so that they cannot see another player's station without turning around in a way that would be seen on video, and so that the Observer can easily see all players' monitors.

The NBO must send the EBL (secretariat@europeanbridge.org) an outline with drawings or photos of how they intend to set up their venue for approval no later than 12 July 2021.

4.3.2 Attendance in Playing area

Only active players and official Observers on duty are allowed in the playing area. With the permission of the official Observer a person may be allowed in the playing area to deal with a technical problem. Spectators are not allowed.

NPCs, coaches or other team officials may be at their team's venue until the start of play. They may not be there during play. They, as well as team members not currently playing, may watch play on the delayed kibitzing facility provided.

4.3.3 Smoking, Eating and Alcohol

Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes), eating or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited when in the playing area. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke, eat or consume alcohol. Only non-alcoholic drinks and reasonable amounts of snack food on the table before play starts are allowed.

Violations will be penalized by a standard penalty (see Section 21 of the GCoC).

4.3.4 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Except computers in use for play mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication may not be taken into the playing area. No headphones, earphones or comparable devices are allowed, only keyboard communication.

Violations will be subject to a standard penalty (see Section 21 of the GCoC).

4.3.5 Other Equipment and Items

The only items allowed at a player's station are:

- their monitor (with RB in full screen mode, sound muted and microphones off);
- their keyboard and "mouse";
- the opponents' System Cards and Supplementary Sheets;
- a private score card and writing utensil; and
- non-alcoholic drinks and snack food.

4.3.6 Detection of Equipment

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the EBL for the detection of such electronic equipment.

4.3.7 Pets

Pets are not allowed in the playing area.

4.3.8 Security

The Observer will be responsible for identifying persons allowed in the playing area.

4.4 GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY

4.4.1 Language

Players may communicate only in English, even if all players have another language in common. TD adjudications will be in English only.

4.4.2 Behaviour

During the match players should avoid discussion or arguments with partner or opponents. In case of dispute a player's proper recourse is to the TD.

4.4.3 Dress Code

The dress code of the EBL does not apply but players are expected to be appropriately dressed when visible.

4.4.4 Calling the TD

Mechanical problems will be dealt with automatically. However, it is necessary to call the TD when:

- (a) the platform has not dealt with a mechanical issue satisfactorily;
- (b) a player is unresponsive, or the play becomes 'stuck' in some other way;
- (c) there is conflicting information about the meaning of a call or play, e.g. when an alert/explanation is different from the system card or does not reflect the partnership understanding;
- (d) there appears to be use of unauthorised information;
- (e) there is a dispute over a claim/concession;
- (f) there is a request for an undo;
- (g) there is any bad behaviour.

4.4.5 Consulting System Cards

Consulting one's own system card is not allowed.

4.4.6 Talk during the session

Except for calling the Observer in case of going to the toilet, or some mechanical/logistical problem at the playing venue, no talk is allowed at the table.

4.4.7 Alerts and Explanations

Players are responsible for alerting and explaining by text to both opponents any call they make that is alertable (self-alerting).

4.4.8 Pauses in bidding and play

There will be delays automatically generated by the platform before first round bids and plays are visible. Details of the delays will be announced at least a week prior to the start of the event-

4.5 End of rounds, results

4.5.1 IMP scale

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

4.5.2 VP Scale

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

4.6 Protest time

In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following. In respect of scores which are manifestly incorrect, protest time is extended to prior to the start of the penultimate round.

In respect of scores in the final day's play protest time ends two hours after the official finishing time of the final match.

The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection.

4.7 Publication of decisions

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be e-mailed. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it does not nullify the penalty.

4.8 Byes, Ranking and Ties

4.8.1 Byes

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

4.8.2 Ranking

Final rankings will be according to the total number of VPs scored by each team.

4.8.3 Ties

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 other matches 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 in those matches.

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 other matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

5. PROCEDURE FOLLOWING CLAIM OR CONCESSION

In principle, claims will be dealt with in accordance with Laws 68-71.

(a) If there is a claim and the claim is accepted but the opponents subsequently disagree, the TD will apply Law 69B.

(b) If one defender claims or concedes then the other defender has to agree before the claim/concession can be accepted by the declarer. If the other defender does not agree then play continues as in Law 68B2.

(c) If there has been a claim that the opponents have rejected (so the claiming side's cards are visible to the other side) and then a subsequent claim/concession occurs which requires a TD ruling, determination of 'likely' and 'normal' will take into account that one side can see all the cards.

(d) If both sides agree to play on then Law 68D applies.

6. SCREEN REGULATIONS

Only Section 3 “Screens” of the Bidding Box, Bridgemates and Screens Regulations, as modified by Section 4.4.7 (self-alerting), shall apply.

7. LAWS INTERPRETATIONS and OPTIONS

Words and phrases in the Laws and GCoC applicable in face-to-face bridge, and not specifically defined in these SCoC, shall be interpreted *mutatis mutandis* to an online environment.

7.1 Call Undo

A player wishing to substitute a call under Law 25A1 shall call the TD who will rule on whether to allow the substitution.

7.2 Call or Play Undo

A change of call or play based on misinformation <(Laws 47E2, 21B1(a)> may be allowed by the TD only. Otherwise, except as provided in Section 7.1, a change of call or play is not allowed.

7.3 “Face Down” Leads

There is no provision for face down leads. The opening leader should request, if interested, any information before leading.

8. RULINGS AND APPEALS

The review procedure outlined in Section 31 of the GCoC shall apply.

9. PARTICIPATION IN WORLD TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 8 top ranked teams in each Competition will earn the right to participate in the World Team Championships in 2021/2022.

Should a qualified team withdraw, it will be replaced by the 9th ranked team from these Competitions, and so on for any further withdrawals.

Should the WBF grant extra places in the World Teams Championships to EBL NBOs the places will be filled by the next ranked teams from these Competitions.

10. PARTICIPATION IN EBL CHAMPIONS’ CUP 2021

The 10 top ranked teams in the Open Championships will earn the right to send their NBO’s most recent national champion team to participate in the EBL Champions’ Cup, together with the host country and the winners of the previous Champions’ Cup.

11. MASTER POINTS

EMPs will be awarded. Details will be announced once final participation numbers are known.

12. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These SCoC may be amended and/or augmented, at the discretion of the EBL, if circumstances so warrant in order to ensure that the event can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner. This includes possible precautionary measures due to Covid 19.

13. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In case of a conflict between these SCoC and the GCoC, these SCoC shall prevail.

Matters not regulated here are governed by the GCoC, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and relevant provisions and regulations of the EBL (or failing that, a relevant regulation of the WBF)