

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

6th EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN OSTEND JUNE 15-29, 2013

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Preamble

The 6th European Open Championship (EOC) will be hosted in Ostend, Belgium.

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

The EOC will consist of Pairs and Teams medal events in the categories Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed as well as Open Pairs and Teams side events. All 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 (comprising at least two men and two women in the Mixed event).

All members of a team and both members of a pair in Senior events must be born before January 1st 1954.

1.2 Registration

All entries to the medal events must be submitted electronically using the following link http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/130Ostende/Microsite/Participants.htm on the website, by 31 May 2011.

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval. Applications submitted after the deadline of 31 May 2011 will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be acknowledged by email to webmaster@europeanbridge.org by June 5 to avoid payment of the entry fee.

Those who fail to notify withdrawals by this date will incur disciplinary sanctions.

Further information is available at

http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/130Ostende/Microsite/information.htm

2. ENTRY FEES

All information concerning how to pay what amounts, and any applicable discounts, is available at http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/1300stende/Microsite/information.htm#Fees

3. SCHEDULE OF PLAY

Refer to http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/130Ostende/Microsite/information.htm

4. DROP-INS FOR MEDAL PAIRS EVENTS

Provided they have already registered and paid for the Open Pairs medal event at the stipulated time, pairs formed by players from the semi-finals of the Open Teams competition may enter the Open Pairs competition at the semi-final stage. Such player may form a pair also with a player who did not participate in the same, or indeed any, team in the Open Teams competition. However, a team with four players may contribute a maximum of two, and a team with five/six players a maximum of three, drop-in pairs.

Such drop-in pairs will start the Open Pairs semi-final tied for the last position that would qualify for the final.

In case such pairs do not qualify for the finals they may enter two days of side events free of charge.

5. TEAMS COMPETITIONS

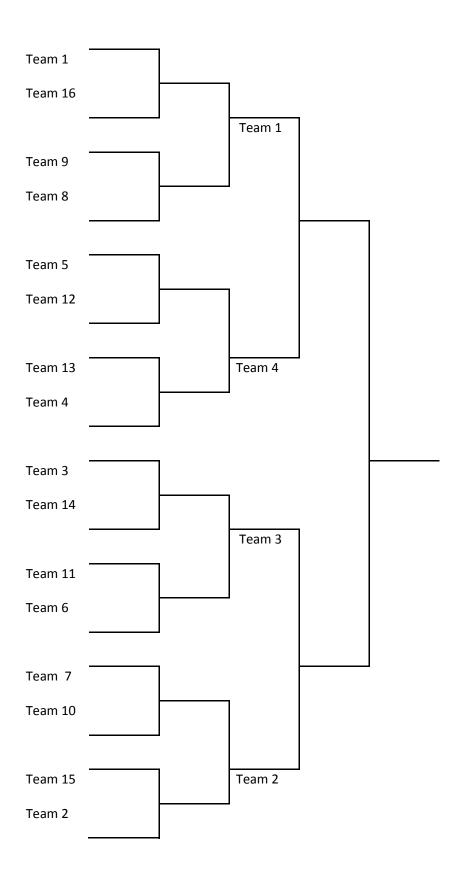
5.1 General

In the Qualifying stages the results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the new WBF IMP/VP scales.

In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match.

5.2 Open, Women and Seniors Teams

- i) The qualifying stage will be played in the form of a Swiss with 10 matches of 10 boards each. The top 16 teams in the Open, respectively the top 4 teams in the Women and Seniors, will advance to the knockout stage. There will be no carry-over from the Swiss to the knockout.
- ii) All knockout matches, including the finals and play-offs for bronze medals, will be played over 28 boards (2 halves of 14 boards).
- iii) For the knockout stage a fixed bracket (see below) 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 seed-number.
- iv) In the Open knockout, the teams placed 1st-4th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-4. They, in that order, get to choose their "round of 16" opponents from the teams placed 9th-16th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 16-13 respectively. The remaining seed nos. 5-12 are assigned according to the relative ranking in the Swiss of the remaining teams.
- v) In the Women and Seniors knockout, the teams placed 1st-2nd in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-2. The winner of the Swiss gets to choose its semi-final opponent from the teams placed 3rd-4th in the Swiss. Such chosen team is assigned seed no. 4.
- vi) If the final number of entries in the Women and/or Senior Teams competition is very different from the expectations the format may be changed, e.g. to that of the Mixed Teams (see 5.3 below) or by introducing some carry-over. This would be published in the Daily Bulletin prior to the start.
- vii) Players from teams not qualifying for the knockout stage have the right to enter one of the next day's side events free of charge.



5.3 Mixed Teams

- i) This will be played in its entirety in the form of a Swiss with 15 matches of 10 boards each.
- ii) After 13 matches the teams placed 1^{st} - 4^{th} will play knockout matches over 20 boards (2 halves of 10 boards) to decide the medals. No. 1 will play no. 2 for the gold (loser getting the silver) and no. 3 will play no. 4 for the bronze (loser placing 4^{th}).
- iii) The teams placed 5th and onwards will continue the Swiss for 2 more matches to determine the final rankings as of 5th place.

5.4. Tie Breaking

5.4.1 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.

5.4.2 Direct Knockout

All matches except the Finals:

If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, it will be resolved by playing one board ("sudden-death") matches.

Finals:

If a tie exists at the end of the Final knockout match it will be resolved by playing four additional boards (boards 1-4). If the tie still remains one board ("sudden death") matches will determine the winner.

6. PAIRS COMPETITIONS

6.1 General

Each stage of the Pairs competitions, except the Finals of the Mixed, Women and Seniors Pairs, will be split into sessions of 10 boards each, played in two-board rounds. Scoring will be done "over the field". For each pair, the match-point score for each session is converted to a percentage. (If some sessions consist of a different number of boards, the percentage scores will be adjusted pro rata). In any stage where each pair does not play against most of the other pairs the field will be divided into sections, which may be seeded so as to achieve a reasonable balance.

For purposes of Law 12C2 only (awarding of Average+ and Average -), a session is defined as a stage, and contains all the sessions in that stage.

6.2 Open Pairs

The competition consists of three stages; Qualifying, Semi-final and Final.

6.2.1 Qualifying

The qualification will consist of 100 boards. Depending on the number of entries and technical considerations approx. 80-120 pairs, including drop-ins (see section 4 above), will qualify for the semi-final.

Those pairs not qualifying have the right to enter one of next day's side events free of charge.

6.2.2 Semi-final

The semi-final will consist of 50 boards. It is foreseen that 46 pairs will qualify for the final.

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.6 below) from the qualification.

6.2.3 Final

The final will consist of 90 boards.

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.6 below) from the semi-finals.

6.3 Women and Seniors Pairs

The competition consists of two stages; Qualifying and Final. If the final number of entries is very different from the expectations, the format described below may be altered. Any such change would be published prior to the start of the respective competition.

6.3.1 Qualifying

The qualification will consist of 100 boards. It is foreseen that 22 pairs will qualify for the final.

Those pairs not qualifying have the right to enter next day's side event free of charge. Should for any reason the qualification be reduced to 50 boards (one day) only, non-qualifiers have the right to enter two days of side events free of charge.

6.3.2 Final

The final will consist of 42 boards.

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.6 below) from the qualification.

6.4 Mixed Pairs

The competition consists of two stages; Qualifying and Final.

6.4.1 Qualifying

The qualification will consist of 100 boards. It is foreseen that 52 pairs will qualify for the final.

6.4.2 Final

The final will consist of 102 boards.

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.6 below) from the qualification.

6.5 Tie Breaking

(For this section, "session" refers to the period of play in which 10 boards are played.)

Scores are tied only if they are identical. Except in the finals, if a tie needs to be broken, the winner is the pair with the highest score in its best session played at that stage. Further ties are broken likewise. If there is still a tie, the highest score in its two best sessions is decisive. In the finals the direct encounter(s) decides.

If a tie (or ties) still exists the remaining tie (or ties) shall be broken in favour of the pair who scored the most match points against the highest ranking pair or pairs that all the tied pairs played against. Should a tie still exist, the foregoing procedure shall be used with the next highest ranking pair or pairs and so on until the tie is broken.

6.6 Carry-overs

As mentioned above there will be carry-over scores between the various stages in the Pairs competitions. The exact amount of carry-over may vary from event to event, and will depend on the relative number of boards played at each stage as well as the percentage of pairs moving to the following stage. Once the number of entries is known and the final formats are set the exact amount of carry-over will be published, prior to the start of each event.

7. SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

7.1 Systems Policy

All events at these championships are designated Category 3 events. Consequently, neither HUM Systems nor Brown Sticker conventions, as defined by the EBL Systems Policy as revised August 2008 (the "SYSTEMS POLICY"), are permitted at any time or in any event.

Psyching artificial opening bids is forbidden.

Both members of a partnership must agree to adopt the same meanings for calls in the auction and for defensive card play. This does not restrict the exercise of style and judgement.

7.2 System (Convention) Cards

7.2.1 Teams Competitions

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.

7.2.2 Pairs Competitions

- 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 at the start of each round

7.2.3 Teams and Pairs Competitions

Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties.

In particular the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty (of 1 VP for Teams events and of 50% of the match-points available on a board for Pairs events) for each occasion an opponent is 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 Chief Tournament Director, who needs to approve such change.

8. TIME ALLOWED

8.1 Pairs events

Players are expected to complete each round in the allotted time.

The Chief Tournament Director may remove un-played or partly-played boards from pairs who are persistently slow.

8.1.1 If an un-played board is removed:

- i) The offending pair or pairs shall be awarded 40% of the match-point 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, subject to Law 12C2, 60% of the match-points available for the board.

8.1.2 If a partly-played board is removed:

Each pair shall be awarded the match-point score for the result on the board which the Chief Tournament Director deems to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed. If the Chief Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, he may apply Law 12 to assign scores.

8.2 Teams events

Players are expected to complete each 10 board Swiss Teams match in one hour thirty minutes; each 14 board session in knockout matches in two hours. The Chief Tournament Director may remove un-played boards from players if in his opinion the match would otherwise exceed the allotted time, but only if the board has not been played in the other room.

If any such un-played board is removed:

- i) the match will be scored on the results of the played boards, and
- ii) the Chief Tournament Director will award 3 IMPs for each such un-played board to the non-offending side (if any).
- iii) For otherwise cancelled boards the Chief Tournament Director will deal with them according to Law 86d and the WBFLC interpretation of it.

9. LINE-UPS AND SEATING IN TEAMS EVENTS

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

Each match will be divided into two halves of 14 boards each. The team with the lowest seed number will be the Home Team and have seating rights in the first half. The Visiting Team will have seating rights in the second half. In all cases, line-ups shall be submitted in accordance with section 9.1.4.

9.1.3 Direct Knockout: Tie-Breaking Matches

When a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, there shall be a coin toss to determine Home Team rights for the tie-breaking stage. The captain of the Visiting Team shall submit his line-up at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director, and the captain of the Home Team shall submit his line-up immediately thereafter.

9.1.4 Direct Knockout: Line-up Times

Line-ups for the knockout will be as instructed at the Captains' Meeting. The Visiting Team shall submit its line-up no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session, or at such other time as the Chief Tournament Director determines. The Home Team shall submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session: provided that 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.

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.

Pirst occasion – a written warning

☑ Second occasion – 1 IMP penalty

☑ Subsequently – 3 IMPs penalty for each occasion

9.2 Seating

9.2.1 Swiss

In the Swiss, the designated Home Team (see section 9.1.1) 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

In each half of a knockout match (see section 9.1.2) the Home Team sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room.

9.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms

The rooms respectively referred to as the "Open" and the "Closed" rooms shall be so designated in each match (or session) by the Operation Director or his designee.

10. ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITION IN PAIRS EVENTS

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, as far as is practicable, that pairs from the same NBO do not play against each other in the later sessions of a stage.

Pairs will be seeded so as to, as far as possible, create balanced sections.

Subject to the above the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Championships Committee.

11. PARTNERSHIPS FOR MIXED EVENTS

Each partnership must at all times consist of a man and a woman.

12. MANDATORY PENALTIES IN PAIRS EVENTS

Fouling a board results in a penalty of 50% of the match-points available on the board during the session.

13. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE

Leaving the table needlessly before the round is finished is a breach of the Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to 50% of the match-points available on the board during the session in Pairs events and 2 VPs (or 6 IMPs) in Teams events.

14. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the last session of each stage provided it so notifies the Chief 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 pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director and the Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

As a team ceasing to participate in the Championship will create a bye, and consequently cause inconvenience to other competitors, the rule is that all teams are expected to participate until the end of the Championship. Any team failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined. If a team believes it cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason it should seek permission to withdraw from the Chief Tournament Director and the Operations Director.

15. SUBSTITUTE CAPTAINS

The Captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. Such an appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.

16. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY IN TEAM EVENTS

16.1 Non-playing Pairs

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing.

16.2 Leaving the Playing Room

No player may leave the playing room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. In case a player does, that player's team will be fined 2 VPs in the Swiss and 6 IMPs in a knockout match.

This penalty may not be waived.

16.3 Finish of Play

At each table, when play has finished, the players should agree the score and then leave the room as quickly and quietly as possible.

17. SCORING AT THE TABLE

Bridgemates will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

18. SCORE CORRECTIONS

The correction period in Law 79C expires at the time specified; and thereafter, the result will be final, with the following exceptions:

- i) Awaiting decision of the Reviewer on a filed appeal;
- ii) Completion of play of replay boards where such replay has been ordered by the Chief Tournament Director, the Reviewer or their designee.
- iii) An agreed-upon score that is proven to be erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director, may be corrected up to thirty minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

19. APPEALS COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

In reference to sections 33-35 of EBL:s General Conditions of Contest, and pursuant to Laws 81B2(k) and 93C3(b), the appeals procedure at these Championships will be different. Instead of a classic Appeals Committee hearing, appeals will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the EBL Appeals Committee.

The Reviewer will not engage in a re-evaluation of facts already known to the Tournament Directors at the time of their ruling. The review will be limited to (1) verifying that correct procedures and laws were followed, and/or (2) judging whether new facts presented may reasonably have affected the original ruling. An appeal lodged without new facts, or with no reasonable claim of a flaw in procedures or application of the Laws, will be considered without merit.

The detailed procedure for lodging appeals will be published at the latest in the first Daily Bulletin.

20. 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.

21. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

21.1 Journalists

All journalists are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, to which they are subject.

21.1.2 Accreditation

All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL 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 EBL and the IBPA, the view of the EBL shall prevail.

21.2 Spectators

All Spectators are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, and the laws of the game, to which they are subject.

21.2.2 Watching at the 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 number of spectators watching at the table will be permitted, subject to the following:

Except with the permission of the Chief Tournament Director no more than four spectators (including journalists) – two on each side of the screen - shall be permitted at any one table.

Spectators must be seated at the start of the session. If they leave the table before the end of the session they must leave the playing room and may not return during that session.

Spectators must remain at one table during a session. 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 (or it's designee) may be subjected to greater penalties.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players, talking, or otherwise distracting their attention.

Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident no special interest may be shown.

Sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.

Spectators may not bring mobile phones or electronic devices capable of communication into the playing area and toilets.

Until it is too late for the players to obtain a ruling, spectators have a responsibility not to call attention to any error or irregularity they believe they may have observed.

22. SECURITY

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

23. AWARDS & PRIZES

23.1 Titles and Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded in each medal competition, in both Teams and Pairs. Winners will receive the title of European Open Champion.

Awards will be given to leading European Pairs (both players being members of an EBL NBO).

In Open Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded the "Giorgio Belladonna Trophy", with replicas going to the top three European Pairs.

In Women's Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded with the "Annamaria Torlontano Trophy", with replicas going to the top three European Pairs.

In Senior Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded with the "European Senior Trophy", with replicas going to the top three European Pairs.

23.2 Master Points

EBL Master Points will be awarded in all events.

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

23.3 Champions' Prizes

The Teams and Pairs winning the European title will be hosted by the EBL at the 7th European Open Championship in 2015 for one week (the winners in mixed events will be invited to the mixed playing week, the O/W/S winners will be invited to the O/W/S playing week) with free entry and B&B hotel accommodation in double rooms.

Gifts may be awarded depending on sponsorship obtained.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations