



# **EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**

## **SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

### **14th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP MILTON KEYNES, ENGLAND**

**NOVEMBER 12th-14th, 2015**

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

August 2015

## Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE.....	3
1.1	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.2	<b>Format</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.2.1	<b>Qualifying Round Robin:</b> .....	3
1.2.2	<b>Semi-Final Stages (knockout)</b> .....	3
1.2.3	<b>Final Stages (knockout)</b> .....	4
1.3	<b>Draw</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.4	<b>Programme and Timetable</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2	PARTICIPATION.....	4
2.1	<b>Right to participate</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.2	<b>Entry fees</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.3	<b>Confirmation and Team Members</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.4	<b>Credentials Committee</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3	SYSTEMS .....	5
3.1	<b>Systems Policy</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.2	<b>Submission of Systems (in all Championships)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4	RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES .....	6
4.1	<b>Seating of teams – Round Robin</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.1.1	<i>Designation of teams</i> .....	6
4.1.2	<i>Line-up procedure</i> .....	6
4.2	<b>Seating of Teams – Knock out stages</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.2.1	<i>Designation of Teams</i> .....	6
4.2.2	<i>Seating Rights</i> .....	6
4.2.3	<i>Line-up Procedure</i> .....	6
4.3	<b>Period of Play and penalties for slow play.</b> .....	<b>7</b>
4.3.1	<i>Start of the round</i> .....	7
4.3.2	<i>End of the period of play</i> .....	7
4.3.3	<i>Penalty warning</i> .....	8
4.4	<b>Penalties</b> .....	<b>8</b>
4.5	<b>Playing Area</b> .....	<b>8</b>
4.6	<b>End of rounds, results</b> .....	<b>9</b>
4.6.1	<i>IMP scale</i> .....	9
4.6.2	<i>VP Scale</i> .....	9
4.7	<b>Protest time</b> .....	<b>9</b>

<b>4.8</b>	<b><i>Byes, Ranking and Ties</i></b> .....	<b>9</b>
4.8.1	<i>Byes</i> .....	9
4.8.2	<i>Ranking</i> .....	9
4.8.3	<i>Ties</i> .....	9
5	REVIEW PROCEDURE .....	10
<b>6.</b>	<b>DRESS CODE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
7.	AWARDS .....	10

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

### ***1.1 Introduction***

The 14th European Champions' Cup ("the Championship") is to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in Horwood House, near Milton Keynes, England commencing on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and ending on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The Championship will be governed by the Laws of Bridge 2007, 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 Championship can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

### ***1.2 Format***

The Championship consists of three stages.

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

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

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

At the end of the round robin the 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 of two stanzas of 16 boards each.

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

### **1.2.3 Final Stages (knockout)**

Each match in this stage consists of two stanzas of 16 boards each. The 2 winners in each group meet, and the 2 losers in each group meet. This allows a complete ranking from 1 to 12.

### **1.3 Draw**

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published in the programme and on the EBL website for the Championship.

Teams from the same country will be drawn to meet as soon as possible.

### **1.4 Programme and Timetable**

Opening	Thursday 12/11/15	09:50
Round Robin Rounds 1-2	Thursday 12/11/15	10:00 – 13:20
Lunch	Thursday 12/11/15	13:20 – 14:30
Round Robin Rounds 3 – 6	Thursday 12/11/15	14:30 – 21:30
Round Robin Rounds 7 – 8	Friday 13/11/15	10:00 – 13:20
Lunch	Friday 13/11/15	13:20 - 14:30
Round Robin Rounds 9 - 11	Friday 13/11/15	14:30 – 19:40
Semi Finals 1	Saturday 14/11/15	09:30 – 11:50
Semi Finals 2	Saturday 14/11/15	12:10 – 14:30
Lunch	Saturday 14/11/15	14:30 – 15:30
Finals 1	Saturday 14/11/15	15:30 – 17:50
Finals 2	Saturday 14/11/15	18:10 – 20:30
Closing Ceremony	Saturday 14/11/15	21:00

## **2 PARTICIPATION**

### **2.1 Right to participate**

The NBOs from the top ten ranked teams in the 52nd European Teams Championships (Opatija 2014) will be invited to send their most recent National Teams Champions to participate. In addition, the defending Champion from 2014 and a team from England (the host country) will also be invited.

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 will result in disqualification.

### **2.2 Entry fees**

There are no entry fees.

### **2.3 Confirmation and Team Members**

Invitees must confirm their acceptance by 25th September 2015 by sending an email to [secretariat@europeanbridge.org](mailto:secretariat@europeanbridge.org). This confirmation should include:

- (i) The name of the club to which the team belongs. If the team is composed of players from different clubs the team will be named with the name of the captain followed by <country name> National Champion.
- (ii) The names of the players (4-6) and Captain (and coach if applicable)
- (iii) The name and email address of the person authorized to receive further information.

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 11th ranked NBO in the Opatija 2014 Teams Championship. The same principle will be followed if there are further withdrawals.

### **2.4 Credentials Committee**

The names of members of each team (and captain and/or coach if applicable) as submitted to the EBL secretariat in accordance with 2.3 above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration of approval of participation.

## **3 SYSTEMS**

### **3.1 Systems Policy**

The EBL's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised July 2015) apply to this Championship which is a Category 3 event.

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

The systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the General Conditions of Contest.

### **3.2 Submission of Systems (in all Championships)**

Systems used in the Championship have to be registered with the EBL by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 by email to the Systems Administrator: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) (See Section 11 of General Conditions of Contest). Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted by November 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. Later changes will only be accepted at the discretion of the Head TD or Championship Manager, who may impose conditions for acceptance.

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.

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.

## 4 RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

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

#### 4.1.1 *Designation of teams*

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches printed in the programme 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.

#### 4.1.2 *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 within 15 minutes after the end of the previous round.

For the first round the details will be announced at the captains' meeting.

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

- 1st occasion a written (through the communication system) 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 Manager in exceptional cases.

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

#### 4.2.1 *Designation of Teams*

In the semi-finals the higher ranked teams in 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 *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.

#### 4.2.3 *Line-up Procedure*

The team without seating rights submits its line-up within 10 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 30 minutes for 10 boards, and 2 hours 20 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. 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 1 VP (3 IMPS in KO play) and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP (3IMPS in KO play). In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director has to be satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player and, if not, will take the necessary measures. Any team not seated within half an hour 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.**

- (a) If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them:
- (i) Round Robin Stage:
- from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
  - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
  - After 10 minutes: 2 VPs, removal of unplayed boards and a 3 IMP penalty for each unplayed board for each team.
- (ii) Knock out stages:
- from 0 to 5 minutes late: 3 IMPS.
  - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 6 IMPS.
  - From 11-15 minutes late: 9 IMPS
  - After 15 minutes: 9 IMPS, removal of unplayed boards and a 3 IMP penalty for each unplayed board for each team.
- (b) If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in his opinion, including, at his discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

The Tournament Director 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 or their liability to be fined.

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) It is a serious breach of propriety deliberately to break a Law or Rule even if one is willing to accept the prescribed penalty. Accordingly, over and above the prescribed penalties, the Tournament Director may impose an additional penalty in cases where he is of the opinion that players are indulging deliberately in unnecessarily slow play.

The following regulations will be observed in putting this rule into effect:

- (i) No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.
- (ii) Such a penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which a verbal warning has been given.
- (iii) The penalty may, in the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other to reflect the measure of each team's responsibility for the occurrence.

#### **4.3.3 Penalty warning**

Except for a penalty under Section 4.3.2 (c) above 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.)

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault that side shall be subject to a procedural penalty of 1 VP (3 IMPS in KO play).

#### **4.5 Playing Area**

The Playing Area, as referred to in the General Conditions of Contest, means the rooms where play takes place, the corridors surrounding them and the toilets.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the Horwood House building.



#### **4.6 End of rounds, results**

##### **4.6.1 IMP scale**

In the Round Robin stage the difference in the total point scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (“IMPs”)

##### **4.6.2 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 VP scale published on the EBL site.

##### **4.7 Protest time**

In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played on the first day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, in respect of the second day’s play one hour after the official finishing time of the Round 11 match.

In the case of the knock out stages: 30 minutes after the official finishing time for that stage.

The time for a request for a TD ruling ends 15 minutes after the end of the round.

The time for a request for a review of a TD ruling already received (see Sec. 5) ends 15 minutes after the end of the round or 15 minutes after the ruling in the event of the ruling being given after the end of a round.

#### **4.8 Byes, Ranking and Ties**

##### **4.8.1 Byes**

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

##### **4.8.2 Ranking**

The teams will be ranked from 1 – 12 in accordance with section 1.2

##### **4.8.3 Ties**

(i) Round Robin stage

In order to determine their grouping for the knockout stages, 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 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 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.

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

matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

(ii) Knockout Stages

A tie in the knockout stage will be resolved by playing one additional board at a time until the tie is broken. ("sudden death")

## 5 REVIEW PROCEDURE

The Championship Committee shall appoint a Reviewer or Reviewers.

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review and of the possible grounds for seeking such a review. See Section 4.7 for the time limit for seeking a review .

The Reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

## 6. DRESS CODE

The players must be dressed appropriately. Appropriate dress 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.

## 7. AWARDS

1 <sup>st</sup> Team:	€5,000	-	EBL Gold Medal	Trophy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Team:	€3,000	-	EBL Silver Medal	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Team; :	€2,000	-	EBL Bronze Medal	
4 <sup>th</sup> Team:	€1,500			
5 <sup>th</sup> Team:	€1,000			
9 <sup>th</sup> Team:	€600			

The winning team will receive the title of European Champion Club and be invited to participate in the next edition of the Champions' Cup.

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least one third of the boards played by his team and at least half the boards played by his team in the last KO match won by his team.