



## **EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

### **54th EUROPEAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN OSTEND**

**JUNE 6th – JUNE 16th, 2018**

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

### **1.1 Introduction**

The 54th European Team Championships ("the Championships") are to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in the Kursaal in Ostend, Belgium commencing on Wednesday 6th June 2018 and ending not later than Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The Championships consist of 3 Teams Championships: Open Teams Championship, Women's Team Championship and Seniors' Teams Championship.

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 Championship can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

### **1.2 Format**

All 3 Championships will be played as a single complete round robin. The number of boards played in each match will be determined and published when the number of participants is known.

The Open Championship will be played over 11 days, and the Women's Championship and Seniors Championship will be played over 7 days.

### **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 Championships. In the event of a variation in the number of teams participating, adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be notified in the daily bulletin or, if necessary, at the captains' meeting.

### **1.4 Provisional Programme and Timetable**

|                          |                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Open Teams Registration  | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2018                                |
| Open Captains meeting    | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June                                     |
| (Women's National Pairs  | Wednesday June 6 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday June 9 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| (Seniors' National Pairs | Wednesday June 6 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday June 9 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| Opening Ceremony         | Saturday June 9 <sup>th</sup> (3 Championships) 19:30            |
| Open Teams               | Wednesday June 6 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday June 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Women's Teams            | Sunday June 10 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday June 16 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Seniors' Teams           | Sunday June 10 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday June 16 <sup>th</sup>   |
| EBL General Assembly     | Saturday June 9 <sup>th</sup> 10:00                              |
| Prize-Giving & Closing   | Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 19:00                             |

## 2 ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

### 2.1 Registration

#### 2.1.1 Registration of Teams and Players' Names

Registration to the Championships of teams, players and team officials must be submitted electronically via the EBL website (not by email) at

**[db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/18Ostend/microsite/participants.asp](http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/18Ostend/microsite/participants.asp)**

by latest 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

#### 2.1.2 Right to enter

Each member NBO is authorised to enter one team in each Championship. NBOs must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with the payment of annual dues (including 2018 dues) to the EBL before they can participate in the Championship.

Each participating NBO must play against all other participating NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

To participate in the Senior Championship a player must have been born **before the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1958**.

#### 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 Championships 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

€ 3,500 for the Open Teams and € 3,250 for the Women and Seniors Teams. A discount will be given to NBOs that did not participate in any of the last three EBL Bridge Teams Championships (Dublin 2012, Opatija 2014, Budapest 2016): for these teams the entry fees are € 2,500 for the Open and € 2,000 for the Seniors and Women Teams.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 2nd May 2018 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

### 2.3 Team Members

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach or team-manager, each team is entitled to have six members. Subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee the members of any team may be changed up to the time of commencement of play of the Championship.

If a country has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added after the commencement of play, subject to the approval of the NBO concerned, the Credentials Committee and the Championship Committee.

Except with the permission of the Head Tournament Director or Operations Director, 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 Championship.

#### **2.4 Credentials Committee**

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as submitted to the EBL website in accordance with 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 Championship.

### **3. SYSTEMS**

#### **3.1 Systems Policy**

The EBL's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised September.2013) apply to these Championships. Category 1 systems and conventions are permitted in the Open and Women's Championships. Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted in the Seniors' Championship.

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 GCoC.

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

Systems in all the Championships have to be registered with the European Bridge League by 13th May 2018 by email to the Systems Administrator: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) (See Section 11 of GCoC). Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted up to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. 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.

Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Systems 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/>

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](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.

### **3.3 Format of Cards for submission**

Cards must be in the correct format and blank cards 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 if possible.

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

## **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 printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team.

#### **4.1.2 Line-up procedure**

There will be no seating rights when teams without 'Highly Unusual Methods' play each other. 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 previous round has ended.

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 Operations Director in exceptional cases.

#### **4.1.3 Seating of Teams where no 'Highly Unusual Method' may be in use.**

Where neither team contains any partnership that uses a HUM the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

#### **4.1.4 Seating and Line-up of Teams where a 'Highly Unusual Method' may be in use by one team.**

Where one team contains any partnership that uses a HUM the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The team that does not contain any such partnership will always be the Home Team and gets seating rights. It gets an additional 5 minutes to submit the line-up knowing the line-up of its opponent. Furthermore a pair using a HUM has an obligation to be seated at the playing table

15 minutes before the start of the round when requested by their opponents. Notification of the request shall be given through the Championship's Communication System.

**4.1.5 Seating of Teams where 'Highly Unusual Methods' may be used by both teams**

Pairs from both teams using HUM need to be seated 15 minutes in advance if either opponent so requires.

**4.1.6 Seating of Teams where "Brown Stickers" may be in use**

When a team contains any partnership that uses more than one "Brown Sticker" convention all the above mentioned rules adopted for HUM Systems will be applied.

**4.2 Period of Play and penalties for slow play.**

**4.2.1 Start of the round**

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure. Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be fined 1 VP and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Head TD 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 and receives zero VPs.

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 following penalties 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):
- from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
  - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
  - from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs.
  - from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs.
  - from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs.
  - for delays of more than 25 minutes the Championship Committee may impose a more severe penalty.
- (b) If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a 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) The Head Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards from players if in his opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition, but only if the board has not been played in the other room. The match will be scored in accordance with Section 20 of the GCoC.

### **4.3 Playing Area**

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

Smoking is prohibited throughout the Kursaal building.

### **4.4 End of rounds, results**

#### **4.4.1 IMP scale**

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

#### **4.4.2 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

### **4.5 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, and in respect of the final day's play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony.

In respect of scores which are manifestly incorrect, protest time ends prior to the start of the penultimate round.

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

### **4.6 Publication of decisions**

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted through the Championship's Communication System. 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.

### **4.7 Byes, Ranking and Ties**

#### **4.7.1 Byes**

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

#### **4.7.2 Ranking**

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

#### **4.7.3 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 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.

### **5. RULINGS AND APPEALS**

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

### **6. SECURITY**

An identification tag will be issued for entrance to the venue and/or playing area.

No player or team official or non-participant is allowed at the Championship playing areas without displaying the personal tag.

### **7. DRESS CODE**

The players must comply with the EBL Dress code.

### **8. AWARDS**

The Open Trophy, Women's Trophy and Seniors' Trophy will be awarded to the NBOs winning respectively the Open, Women and Seniors Championships. Replicas will be awarded to the captain, the coach and other members of the winning teams. The trophies are challenge trophies and will only be definitively awarded to an NBO which wins the championship three times.

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded to the captain, coach and members of the winning top three teams in each Championship. Winners will receive the title of European Champion.

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.

The first 8 NBOs in the final rankings of the Open, Women and Senior Championships, respectively, will have the right to participate in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl at the World Team Championships 2019. These numbers are subject to change by the WBF.

The winning teams from the national team championships of the first 10 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will have the right to participate in the 2018 and 2019 European Champions Cups.

#### **9. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS**

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

#### **10. 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 and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

#### **11. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS**

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

The EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Alert Procedure

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations