

OPEN PAIRS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The PROKOM SOFTWARE 10th European Pairs Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the League"). The Championship will be played under the International Code - Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 1997 and these Regulations whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the International Code as required.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

(a) Participation in the Championship is by invitation by the League. Subject to the unfettered discretion of the League's Credentials Committee, invitations will be issued to pairs, each of whom is a member of good standing of the NBO nominating the pair and

(i) was nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra zonal competition;

or

(ii) was nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra zonal competition.

(b) whose nominating NBO is of good standing with the League and has paid its 1998 and all previous years dues.

(c) who are nominated on or before the 8th February 1999 to the President of European Bridge League:

Mr Bill Pencharz,
President
European Bridge League
8 Bell Yard
London WC2A 2JU, Great Britain
Telephone no 44-171-242 3001
Fax no 44-171-242 3002

2. ENTRY FEES

(a) Amount

The entry fee is 400 Swiss Francs per pair.

(b) Payment

- (i) The entry fee of pairs nominated by NBOs who have made financial arrangements acceptable to the League (notably resulting from the absence of restrictions on currency movements) shall be invoiced direct to the NBOs after the Championship.
- (ii) All other NBOs shall be responsible for settling the entry fee of pairs nominated by the NBO by appointing a representative who will settle the amount in cash in Swiss Francs, Deutsche Marks or US Dollars by 14.30h on 15th March 1999 at the tournament reception desk. In this case, the NBO shall advise the Acting Treasurer by 1st March 1999 of the name of its representative.

NBOs will be advised specifically on the applicable payment procedure by the Acting Treasurer.

3. NATURE OF COMPETITION, SESSIONS, ETC.

(1) The PROKOM SOFTWARE 10th European Pairs Championships is a match pointed pairs tournament and shall consist of three qualifying, three semi-final and three final Sessions. Qualifying and Semi-Final Sessions will be of 24 or 26 boards played in 12 or 13 two-board rounds. The Final Sessions will be of 26, 28 or 30 boards played in 13, 14 or 15 two-board rounds. For each pair, their matchpoint score for each Session is converted to a percentage score. If different Sessions are of different numbers of boards the percentage scores will be adjusted by applying an appropriate coefficient.

(2) Qualifying Sessions

(i) Scoring in the Qualifying Sessions shall be "over the field" in matchpoints converted to percentages.

(ii) Depending upon a total entries and technical requirements 108 (or 116) pairs will qualify for Semi-Final "A". These pairs will be the "Exempt Grand Masters" (see below) plus the appropriate number of leading pairs from the Qualifying Sessions.

("Exempt Grand Masters" are pairs comprising two players from the same NBO who are both European Grand Masters at the start of the Championship. Exempt Grand Masters are exempted from the Qualifying Sessions.)

(3) Semi-final "A"

(i) The qualifying pairs (see paragraph 3 (2) (ii) above) shall play Semi-final "A".

(ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from the Qualifying Sessions.

(iii) Scoring in Semi-final "A" shall be "over the field" in matchpoints converted to percentages.

- (iv) Depending upon to total entries and technical requirements the leading 40 (or 54) pairs will qualify for Final "A".

(4) Semi-final "B"

- (i) The remaining pairs from the Qualifying Sessions shall play Semi-final "B".
- (ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from the Qualifying Sessions.
- (iii) Scoring in Semi-final "B" shall be "over the field" in matchpoints converted to percentages.
- (iv) Depending upon to total entries and technical requirements the leading 4 (or 6) pairs will qualify for Final "A" and the next 92 (or 106) will qualify for Final "B".

(5) Final "A"

- (i) The qualifying pairs (see paragraph 3 (3) (iv) and 3 (4) (iv) above) shall play in Final "A".
- (ii) There shall be a carry-forward score from the Semi-finals:
 - (a) for each pair who qualified from Semi-final "A": one half of their total percentage in the Semi-final
 - (b) for the pairs who qualified from Semi-final "B":
 - 1st in the "B" - same score as pair 37 (49) in the "A"
 - 2nd in the "B" - same score as pair 38 (50) in the "A" - and so on.
- (iii) Scoring in Final "A" shall be the total "over the field" in matchpoints converted to percentages plus the carry-forward score.

(6) Final "B"

- (i) The qualifying pairs from the Semi-final "B" (see paragraph 3 (4) (iv) above) shall play in Final "B".
- (ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from Semi-final "B".

- (iii) Scoring in Final "B" shall be "over the field" in matchpoints converted to percentages.

(7) Consolation

All pairs who fail to qualify for the final Sessions of the Pairs Championship shall have the right to play in the Consolation Events. There will be two sessions. Pairs may play in either or both sessions.

(8) Timetable

Subject to adjustments to take account of the number of entries and technical requirements, the starting of sessions are as follows:

<u>Date</u>		<u>Time</u>
Monday 15th March 1999	Registration	11.00 - 14.30
	1st qualifying session	16.00 - 20.00
Tuesday 16th March 1999	2nd qualifying session	10.30 - 14.30
	3rd qualifying session	16.00 - 20.00
Wednesday 17th March 1999	1st semi-final "A" and "B" session 14.30 - 18.30	
Thursday 18th March 1999	2nd semi-final "A" and "B" session	10.00 - 14.30
	3rd semi-final "A" and "B" session	16.00 - 20.00
Friday 19th March 1999	1st final "A" and "B" session	10.00 - 14.30
	1st Consolation Session	10.00 - 14.30
	2nd final "A" and "B" session	16.00 - 20.30
	2nd Consolation Session	16.00 - 20.30
Saturday 20th March 1999	3rd final "A" and "B" session	10.00 - 14.00
	Closing ceremony	16.00

4. TABLE OF PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in cash in accordance with the following tables:

<u>10th European Pairs Championship</u>	<u>Swiss Francs</u>	Prizes in
Final "A"		
1st prize		10,000 per pair
2nd prize		8,000 per pair
3rd prize		6,000 per pair
4th prize		5,000 per pair
5th prize		4,000 per pair
6th prize		3,000 per pair
7th prize		2,500 per pair
8th prize		2,000 per pair
9th prize		1,750 per pair
10th prize		1,500 per pair
11th - 15th prize		1,200 per pair
16th - 20th prize		1,000 per pair
21st - 30th prize		750 per pair
31st - 44th prize		500 per pair
Final "B"		
1st prize		3,250 per pair
2nd prize		2,250 per pair
3rd prize		1,500 per pair
4th - 5th prize	1,000 per pair	
6th - 15th prize		600 per pair
16th - 30th prize		400 per pair
31st - 50th prize		300 per pair
Consolation		
Session Winner		300 per pair
Session Runner-up		200 per pair
Overall ranking (total of both Sessions):		
1st prize		500 per pair
2nd prize		300 per pair
3rd prize		200 per pair
Special Prizes (depending on entry - maximum amounts):		
Leading Ladies pair		700 per pair
Leading Junior pair		700 per pair

5. PERMITTED SYSTEMS

- (a) The European Bridge League's Systems Policy of March 1996 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") applies to the Championships.

Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted.

- (b) Psychic conventional opening bids are prohibited.
- (c) Both members of the partnership must play the same systems of bidding and card play.

6. CONVENTION CARD

- (a) Each pair must complete legibly and accurately in English four copies of the League's Official Convention Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.

Two copies must be handed to the Tournament Organizers at least 30 minutes before the start of the Championships. One copy of the Convention Card must be handed to each opponent before the start of each round of two boards.

- (b)
 - (i) Failure to complete the Convention Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may give rise to the imposition of procedural penalties.
 - (ii) In particular the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty of 50% of the matchpoints available on a board for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate Convention Card. (The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score which the Chief Tournament Director deems appropriate because of the damage caused to the opponent.)

7. TIME ALLOWED

Players are expected to complete each two-board round in seventeen minutes. The

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

- (a) If an unplayed board is removed:
 - (i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded 40% of the matchpoints 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 60% of the matchpoints available for the board.

- (b) If a partly played board is removed:
 - (i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded the lesser of 40% of the matchpoints available for the board and the matchpoint score for the result on the board which the Chief Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed, 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 the greater of 60% of the matchpoints available for the board and the matchpoint score for the result the Chief Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

8. SCREENS, BIDDING BOXES

- (a) Bidding boxes will be used throughout and their use is mandatory. Calls are made by the player placing his selected call in front of him. A player's first call should be to his left with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Once the auction has been completed and all four players have had an

opportunity to review the auction the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

- (b) Screens will be used throughout, their use is mandatory and the following shall apply.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screenmates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.

Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but Law 25 may apply). North and South pass the tray under the screen after their screenmate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screenmate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards.

The International Code of Duplicate Laws is in effect except as specified below:

LAW 9A2(b)(1); LAW 42b(3); law 43A(1)(b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed.

LAW 13:

The artificial adjusted score and penalty prescribed in the first paragraph apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.

LAW 20:

Review of the Auction:

Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screenmate.

Explanation of Calls:

1. During the Auction:

At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.

2. During the Play Period:

Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed.

The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.

LAWS 26 THROUGH 32; LAWS 36 THROUGH 39:

For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not Passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The Director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.

B. Both Sides at Fault:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.

C. Only One Side at Fault:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction - East or West - also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

D. Irregularity not Noticed:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

E. Information - Authorized or not:

Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity. If the Director determines that the unauthorized information from withdrawn calls precludes normal bidding, he shall award an artificial adjusted score.

LAW 33:

The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.

LAW 40:

Alerts:

When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screenmate. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call.

LAW 41A:

Opening Lead out of Turn:

The offender's screenmate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side:

- a) and the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.
- b) and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card.

When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

LAW 73D:

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on the tray) or by waiting before passing

the tray.

LAW 76:

Spectators:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.

9. ALERTING

Any call which:

- (i) has a special or artificial meaning, or
- (ii) whose partnership meaning may not be understood by the opponents is a "conventional call" which must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the "alert procedure".

The "alert procedure" is as follows:

A player who makes a "conventional call" alerts his screenmate by placing the alert card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the alert card to his opponent.

When the bidding tray is returned to their side of the screen both players are obliged, before either has made a further call, to alert their screen-mate if partner's call is a "conventional call"; using the "alert procedure".

It is the obligation of the player making an "alert" to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an "alert" has been made.

10. ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITIONS

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, so far as is practicable, that

pairs from the same NBO do not play against each other in the third, sixth and ninth sessions.

Subject to the above the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director.

11. MANDATORY PENALTIES

The following penalties are automatic:

- (a) Failing to duplicate a board accurately - 50% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session;
- (b) Failing to notice the misduplication of a board at the first opportunity - 25% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session;
- (c) Fouling a board - 50% of the matchpoints available on the board during the session.

12. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT TABLE

Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called is a breach of the Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to 50% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session.

13. LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the end of the third or the sixth session provided they so notify the Chief Tournament Director in writing not later than one hour 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; which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

14. ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT

Participation in the PROKOM SOFTWARE 10th European Pairs Championship is by invitation of the League. The privilege of representing one's own country as a participant in the Championship is not an inalienable right; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in matchpoints or monetary fines, and because participants appear as public representatives rather than as private individuals, observance of the highest standards is imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. Each player is reminded that it is a breach of ethics to break a law or regulation deliberately even if willing to accept a prescribed penalty.

Players are required to accept all decisions of the Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner.

15. APPEALS COMMITTEE

All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Appeals Committee. This Committee shall consist of the Chairman or the Vice chairman of the League's Appeals Committee (who shall be its Chairman) and not less than two persons nominated by the Chairman of the League's Appeal Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

The Appeals Committee, also acting as the national authority under law 93C, shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of law whether under the Laws or these Regulations, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

16. LODGING OF APPEALS

- (a) An appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director must:
 - (i) be in writing on the special appeal form;
 - (ii) be lodged (by handing to the Chief Tournament Director) within 30 minutes after the end of the session during which the ruling was made;
 - (iii) be accompanied by a deposit of 200 Polish Zloty.
- (b) An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a pair must:
 - (i) be made within 1 hour before the start of play for the next session, and in the final session within 1 hour of the publication of the final ranking list;
 - (ii) be accompanied by a deposit of 100 Polish Zloty.
- (c) Deposits will be refunded if the appellant's case is judged to be well founded, even if rejected.

17. 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.

18. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

(a) Journalists

(i) Application of these Rules and Regulations.

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

(ii) Accreditation.

All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the League and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Publishers Association (the IBPA). In the event of a disagreement over accreditation between the League and the IBPA, the view of the League shall prevail.

(b) Spectators

(i) Application of these Rules and Regulations.

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

(ii) Watching at 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 amount of watching at table by spectators will be permitted. In which event the following shall generally apply, subject to the right reserved to

the Chief Tournament Director to prescribe more restrictive regulations.

No more than four spectators (including journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where "pits" are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)

Spectators must remain at one table. 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 may be subjected to greater penalties.

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

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

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

19. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

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