



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

**GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST
For all European Championships
and other Tournaments
held under the auspices
of the European Bridge League**

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

Updated: May 2024

Contents

Preamble.....	4
1. Definitions for the General Conditions of Contest (GCoC)	4
2. Conditions of Entry	7
3. Official Language.....	8
4. Ethics and Deportment	8
5. (Intentionally left blank).....	9
6. (Intentionally left blank).....	9
7. Restrictions and Security.....	9
8. Disqualification from any EBL Championship or Tournament	10
9. Vu - Graph & Broadcasting.....	11
10. Media Presentation – Registration – Publication	11
11. Completion of EBL System Card.....	11
12. Use of System Cards at the Table	14
13. Scoring of Events.....	14
14. Length of Matches and Rounds	15
15. Non - Playing Captains (NPCs).....	15
16. Substitutes in Team Tournaments.....	17
17. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments.....	17
18. Forfeits in Team Tournaments.....	17
19. Substitute Boards in Team Tournaments	18
20. Slow Play, Unplayed and Fouled boards.....	18
21. Penalties	22
22. Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screens	23
23. Verification of Scores.....	23
24. Regulations for Electronic Line - Ups	23
25. Play of the Cards	23
26. Duplicated Boards.....	24
27. Attendance in Playing Rooms	24
28. General Rules During Play.....	26
29. Prohibition on Leaving the Competition.....	27
30. Incorrect seating in a teams game.....	27
31. Rulings and Appeals.....	28
32. Tie - breaking Procedures	28 ¹
33. Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest.....	30

34. Eligibility for Awards	30
35. Play off Regulations for 3rd place	32
36. Policies, Codes and Regulations.....	32
37. Changes to the Conditions of Contest	32
38. Responsibility of the EBL.....	32
39. Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest	33
APPENDIX 1: CALCULATION OF RESULT WHEN A TEAM FORFEITS A MATCH.....	33
APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANT’S COMMITMENT.....	34
APPENDIX 3: MAIN CHANGES TO GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST	39

Preamble

These General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) are the standard regulations which apply to all European Bridge Championships and other Tournaments held under the auspices of the European Bridge League (EBL).

The EBL Eligibility Code, the EBL Disciplinary Code, the EBL Anti-Doping Regulations, the EBL Dress Code, the EBL Systems Policy, the EBL Alerting Policy, the EBL Policy on Psychic Bidding, the EBL Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations and the EBL Code of Practice are part of the Conditions of Contest for every European Bridge Championship and are annexed to GCoC.

The EBL also issues Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) further to regulate European Bridge Tournaments in accordance with their characteristics.

In the event of any inconsistency between these GCoC and the SCoC, the SCoC shall prevail.

Expressions used in these GCoC and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in duplicate bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Championship Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa.

1. Definitions for the General Conditions of Contest (GCoC)

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) shall have the following meanings:

Brown Sticker Announcement Form means the form designed for the announcement of Brown Sticker Conventions (bids, overcalls and subsequent auction) as defined in the EBL Systems Policy.

Championship Chairman and Operations Director mean the respective persons so designated by the EBL.

Championship Committee means the committee constituted either generally or for a European Bridge Championship pursuant to the Statutes and By-Laws of the EBL, and includes persons or entities designated by the committee for certain tasks.

Credentials Committee means the committee constituted either generally or for a European Bridge Championship pursuant to the Statutes and By-Laws of the EBL.

Disciplinary Commission means the commission in charge of all matters pertaining to ethics and behaviour etc. Their duties, powers and function are defined in the EBL Disciplinary Code.

EBL System Card or Convention Card means the System Card authorized by the EBL for the disclosure of Systems by contestants and includes Supplementary Sheets.

European Bridge Championship means any event so designated by the EBL from time to time and if the context permits, also means the totality of such events scheduled for play at a particular site.

Executive Committee means the Executive Committee of the EBL established under the Statutes and By-Laws of the EBL.

Head Tournament Director (Head TD) means the official defined in Law 81. Other designated Tournament Directors (TDs) are assistants as defined in Law 81D.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) mean any of the systemic agreements so described in the EBL Systems Policy.

Host NBO means the NBO which hosts a European Bridge Tournament.

HUM System means a System that utilizes Highly Unusual Methods, as defined in the EBL Systems Policy.

Laws

means the current version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. 'Law' means a law contained therein.

Line-Up Desk means the facility set up at the site of a tournament for the teams to register their Line-ups and for the provision of other services relating thereto.

Mixed Pair means a pair consisting of one female player and one male player.

NBO

means a National Bridge Organization that is a member of the EBL.

Participant

means all players, captains, coaches and other team officers.

Playing Area means the area defined by the EBL which may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the playing rooms which are designated for the use of the players, and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be defined in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest and will be identified to the participants at the tournament.

President means the President of the EBL.

Schedule of Play means the schedule for the play, either as contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest or as subsequently determined by the EBL.

Session means a segment of play (as prescribed by the Schedule of Play) after which scores are computed. May be further defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) means the additional Conditions of Contest issued from time to time by the EBL for the further regulation of a particular tournament.

Supplementary Sheets means such additional pages containing System details as are annexed to and form part of EBL System Cards in accordance with these and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

System means all agreements and understandings a pair has as to the meaning of any call or play as those respective expressions are defined in the Laws.

These Conditions of Contest means these General Conditions of Contest together with the regulations, codes and policies listed in the Preamble.

WBF means the World Bridge Federation, an International Sport Federation, recognized by the IOC and incorporated in Switzerland.

WBF Guide to Completion means the publication of that name issued by the WBF to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF System Cards for a World or European Bridge Championship, which can be found at <http://www.worldbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Guidetocompletion.pdf>

For the interpretation of these General Conditions any special partnership understanding is included in the terms “convention”, “conventional call”, “conventional play”, “conventional agreement” or the like.

World Standard Card means the System Card devised by the WBF for use in specific circumstances defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

2. Conditions of Entry

2.1 General

European Bridge Tournaments are conducted under the auspices of the EBL and all events designated as European Bridge Tournaments shall be played in accordance with the Laws. These Conditions of Contest, and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC), and regulations supplement the Laws as required.

2.2 Media

By participating in a European Bridge Championship, each NBO and its contestants agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the EBL.

2.3 Competition Requirement

Each NBO agrees that in the interest of promoting goodwill in the world and for the proper conduct of a European Bridge Championship, it shall instruct its contestants that they must compete against all other contestants. Entry in a European Bridge Championship and subsequent refusal to play against any other team or contestant as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification of any team, or of any contestant refusing to play. Such disqualification shall extend for the balance of the European Bridge Championship involved. Furthermore, the offending contestant(s) and their NBO shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.4 Political Statements

Each NBO further agrees that for the proper conduct of any European Bridge Championship it shall instruct its participants that at no time during the course of or in relation to the event may they make any form of public political statement or comment. Any contestant(s) making such a statement may be disqualified from the event or events in which they participated or intend to participate and shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL, for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.5 Invitation to Participate

Participation is subject to nomination by a player's NBO and invitation by the EBL.

2.6 General

To be eligible for participation a competitor must comply with the EBL Eligibility Code.

2.7 Credentials Committee

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the EBL, the Executive Committee has appointed a Credentials Committee, whose functions shall be

(a) to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players and other team members whose names have been submitted by an NBO for invitation to compete. These names must be transmitted to the President, or designee, in writing, as prescribed by the relevant SCoC;

(b) at its discretion, to refuse to invite any player or other team member whose name has been submitted for invitation by an NBO, as aforesaid, to participate. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.

2.8 Participant's Commitment

Players in Pairs events and Participants in Teams events are required to have signed the EBL Participant's Commitment Form (see Appendix 2). The Participant's Commitment is binding and the absence of such a signed form renders the participant ineligible to participate in the event. The NBOs are directly responsible for the fulfilment of the above mentioned mandatory requirement. Participants as defined above who have not previously signed a Participant's Commitment Form will need to provide a signed copy of this form when they register on site at the event.

3. Official Language

English is the official language.

At the table the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English. No appeal due to misunderstanding in a language other than English or the agreed language will be heard.

The Laws printed in English will be used by the TDs to adjudicate irregularities. No appeal due to misunderstanding by or of a TD in a language other than English will be allowed.

4. Ethics and Deportment

4.1 Player's obligations

The privilege of representing one's country as a participant is not an inalienable right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. The EBL expects all teams and partnerships to play to win.

In the absence of penalties expressed in MPs, IMPs or VPs, given that participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standards becomes the more imperative.

Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. It is expected that all participants will receive all decisions of the Director, the Committees and the Disciplinary Commission in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political, religious and/or racial statement (see also section 2.4).

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

4.2 *Discussions*

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match to avoid discussions or arguments with partner or opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to the TD or, subject to the limitations in Section 15, to the Captain of the team.

4.3 *Anti-Betting Regulation*

It shall be a violation for any participant associated with or related to participant in any EBL event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof.

Any violation will be subject to charges to be presented to a hearing before the EBL Disciplinary Commission.

5. (Intentionally left blank)

6. (Intentionally left blank)

7. Restrictions and Security

The following restrictions apply to the playing areas:

7.1 *Smoking and Alcohol*

7.1.1 *Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes)*

Smoking in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke.

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

7.1.2 *Alcohol*

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to consume alcohol.

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

7.2 *Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices*

Mobile phones, smartwatches and other electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times.

Any player, captain or coach bringing such a device that is not switched off into the playing area will cause their team, or pair in a pairs event, to be subject to a standard penalty (see 21.2).

At the discretion of either the Operations Director or the Head TD a player may be prohibited from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

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.

See also Sections 27.2 and 27.3 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

As instructed by the Operations Director the Head TD will arrange for random checks of participants to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area, or from remaining there, for the duration of the current session. The Championship Committee may extend the duration of the non-admission of the individual concerned to include further sessions.

7.3 *Pets*

Pets are not allowed in the playing area.

7.4 *Security*

For security reasons all people at the Championship Venue must visibly wear the official identification badge.

7.5 *Medical Needs*

Players with special needs must timely advise the EBL Secretariat. The EBL may add extra security checks and may request suitable medical documentation.

8. *Disqualification from any EBL Championship or Tournament*

Should a team, pair or individual player be disqualified as a result of a decision made by the Championship Committee, Disciplinary Commission or the Executive Committee (whether following a one round disqualification by a TD or not), no refund of the entry fees or other costs, either in part or in whole, will be made. (See also Section 34.4).

9. Vu-Graph & Broadcasting

9.1 *Obligation to play*

All contestants are required to participate in any form of broadcasting of the play whenever so required by the organizers.

9.2 *Access to the Vu-Graph Room*

Access to the Vu-Graph area and other areas used for the broadcast or live transmission of play is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty, TDs and non-playing captains or coaches (subject to space available and approval by the Operations Director, and subject to the restrictions of Section 15.4).

10. Media Presentation – Registration – Publication

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews etc. arranged by the EBL, including video, Internet, TV, radio or any other media presentation.

NBOs and their representatives at a tournament authorize the EBL to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of that tournament. They further give their consent to the EBL using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information are the exclusive property of the EBL and may not be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent.

11. Completion of EBL System Card

11.1 *Publication of Systems*

Registration of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets with the EBL gives the EBL the right to publish such System Cards via Internet or to any parties at the Championship in such form as it sees fit. When full systems are registered for the purposes of providing additional information, these will not be published by the EBL to persons other than those requiring them for the purpose of running the Tournament.

11.2 *Requirements*

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and also to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The SCoC will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, in accordance with the EBL Systems Policy and in addition to rules established in these Conditions of Contest, which may include provision for the electronic submission of System Cards prior to the start of the Tournaments (see Section 11.5).

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the EBL System Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their System Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with the SCoC.

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purposes of this section unless:

- (a) all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the WBF Guide to Completion, these Conditions of Contest, and the SCoC;
- (b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the EBL that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction, may be omitted. The classification of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card.
- (c) In team events a team is limited to the use of a maximum of three Systems.

11.3 Penalties for Inadequate System Card

Failure to complete a card as regulated above in Section 11.2 may lead to a warning (for first occurrence) or standard penalty for each match or session, and in addition the pair may be subject to further restrictions, including on bidding and play agreements, at the discretion of the Head TD.

11.4 Supplementary Sheets

- (a) The EBL System Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet.
- (b) The number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of System Cards will be set forth in the SCoC.

11.5 Approved System Card Editors

System (Convention) Cards may be prepared using Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel – templates for either of these programs can be found on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org or by emailing the Systems Administrator, Anna Gudge: (anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com).

The WBF CCE or the Lee Edwards program may also be used, but their use is strongly discouraged. Players are advised that these programs may not work well on the latest computer software and they may find it preferable to use

either Word or Excel. They do not convert readily to PDF and for this reason the original files must be provided if they are used.

The cards may also be provided in Acrobat PDF format, but in this case the file size should not exceed 150k; however, because of problems converting the symbol fonts to pdf players are advised that they should submit the original files at the same time.

When using Word or Excel, players must ensure that the information on the card prints on two pages, and that the font size is not too small. If the information does not fit within the two pages, then cross-referenced supplementary sheets, in English, should also be provided (see Section 11.3 b).

PLEASE NOTE that image files of any type are not acceptable (i.e. files in formats such as .jpg, .tif or .bmp), nor are .pdf files created from scanned documents or images.

These cards will be converted by the Systems Administrator to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com.

11.6 *Electronic Distribution of Systems*

If electronic submission/registration of System Cards prior to the start of the Tournaments is required by the SCoC, the systems will be displayed on a web site designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) sent by email to the captain of the team making the registration and, if email addresses are provided for the team members, also to them individually.

In order to facilitate communications, each team's system submission should include as many contact email addresses as are available within that team or its officials. If captains have queries concerning the systems of other teams, they should email the Systems Administrator who will pass the query on to the team concerned.

Pairs are responsible for checking their own system cards on line to ensure that the card displayed is complete, correct and has any supplementary notes that are required.

Competitors should make use of the Guide to Completion of WBF System Cards when completing their system cards.

The EBL deems the publication of the URL of the web site to the Captains of all teams submitting systems in accordance with the regulation detailed above to constitute distribution of systems. All teams should make every effort to download and print sufficient copies of their opponents' systems for their own use. The website will clearly display the date stamp of registration and any revised systems will be marked rev1 or rev2 and so forth, so captains should

check regularly for updates. No changes will be made to any systems on the web site after a date to be set in the SCoC, except in cases of emergency, in which event email notification will be sent to all other captains.

Failure to submit a System Card in accordance with this regulation and the relevant regulation and time set forth in the SCoC will result in a penalty of 1 VP for a delay up to one week, 2 VP for a delay of up to two weeks and 3 VPs for a delay exceeding 2 weeks; and in addition the team may be subject to further restrictions, including on bidding and play agreements, at the discretion of the Championship Committee or its designee.

11.7 General

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on the Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage.

12. Use of System Cards at the Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the SCoC, each member of a pair must hand to one of the opponents at the table at the start of each session of an event the duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the SCoC for a specific European Bridge Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the session.

After a player withdraws cards from the board and until the cards are restored at the conclusion of the play, the player's System Card or Supplementary Sheets may not be consulted except as provided in Law 40 B2(b). The player may consult the WBF Guide to Completion in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by partner, or one made or contemplated by the player.

Notes on the defence against HUM systems and on defence against the defences, and against the artificial elements of the brown sticker elements of any system, are deemed to be part of the opponents' system and may be used by both pairs at the table.

13. Scoring of Events

Events are normally scored using either match points (MP) or International Match Points (IMP). See Law 78. The SCoC for an event may stipulate other scoring methods, for example Victory Points (VP).

When IMPs are converted to VPs the appropriate continuous WBF IMP/VP scale as published on the WBF and EBL sites is applied. These scales are defined for

integer IMP values. When an adjustment of a result on a board or boards leads to IMPs with decimal places then every such board is calculated and the sum of all these boards for each side is rounded to an integer IMP value (0.5 is rounded up).

14. Length of Matches and Rounds

The time allowed for completion of matches or rounds are specified below, but may be modified in the SCoC.

For less or more boards the allowed time will be based on approximately 8 minutes and 30 seconds per board.

Teams and pairs judged guilty of slow play will be subject to penalty (see Section 20). Additional time will not be allowed for teams playing on VuGraph; neither will extra time be granted because of the use of bidding boxes, digital devices, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons. Vu-Graph presentation of any match or session will not start until the TD notifies the Chief Commentator or designee.

14.1 Matches (*IMPs*)

10 board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes

12 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes

14 board matches: 2 hours

16 board matches: 2 hours 15minutes

20 board matches: 2 hours 50 minutes

14.2 Pair Rounds (*MPs*)

2 boards: 17 minutes

3 boards: 25 minutes

15. Non-Playing Captains (NPCs)

15.1 *General*

A non-playing captain (NPC) may observe their team either in the Open Room or in the Closed Room during play subject to the rules set forth in this Section and to any supplementary regulation made from time to time by the EBL before an event begins. The NPC must enter the room before play begins at the start of a session.

15.2 *Rights of Non-Playing Captains*

NPCs may act in order:

- (a) to protect the rights of their team if they believed that they have been jeopardized in any way;

- (b) to curtail unnecessary discussion;
- (c) to forbid a member of their team to make a protest;
- (d) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of their team;
- (e) to require, but only after the play of a board has been completed, that a TD be called at the table;
- (f) to make known their own intention of making a protest or an appeal on behalf of their team in reference to any matter in respect of which their players have not done so;
- (g) to ensure that a player not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch their team mates.

15.3 Procedure during Matches

An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that session. Exceptionally, an NPC requested to leave the playing room by a TD, the President, the Championship Chairman or Operations Director, may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the TD.

- (a) Except as provided for in Section 15.2 above, NPCs are bound by the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76).
- (b) During the time allowed for a session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, NPCs should only address members of their team at the table in the English language or in a language understood by an opponent or opposing NPC. If it is desired to use a language other than English the permission of the opponents should be sought and, where reasonably possible, should be given. If difficulty arises, NPCs wishing to speak to their team in a language not known to the opponents should do so through an interpreter or team member who can translate for the benefit of the opponents.
- (c) At any time when a comparison of scores is allowed NPCs may draw their players' attention to their observation of an infraction but they are bound as a spectator by Law 76B until that time.

15.4 Delegation of Responsibility by the NPC

NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC. While the EBL recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach etc.), it is only when they are officially registered as members of the team and have been invited to participate in the relevant event by the EBL, that they may perform certain of the official functions assigned to the NPC (if delegated to do so by the NPC).

Such additional team officials may not be present in any of the playing rooms if the NPC is present in one of the playing rooms except as a spectator at a neutral table, and must obtain the permission of the Operations Director or Head TD who may impose further conditions on such entrance at discretion.

16. Substitutes in Team Tournaments

If, for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a session or because of an emergency that develops during the session, the TD, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute need not be a member of the NBO represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player or registered official from another team playing in the same competition and must fulfil any restrictions in gender and/or age that apply for the event in question.

The TD, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Championship Committee or designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Championship Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skills were considerably greater than those of the player replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Championship Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

The Championship Committee shall have authority to determine whether, and to what extent, a substitute may become a permanent replacement.

17. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments

The Head TD may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made. The same restrictions as in Section 16 above apply to the substitute.

18. Forfeits in Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Championship Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The result of the match shall be determined in accordance with Appendix 1 (Scores in Forfeited Matches). If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the non-offending team shall be credited with the IMP difference closest to the assigned Victory Points score.

A second forfeit by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further penalties including disqualification of the team.

19. Substitute Boards in Team Tournaments

A “substitute board” is one introduced into play in a session or a match, to replace a board already played at one or both tables. Depending upon the decision of the Championship Committee the results of a substitute board may, or may not, be counted as part of the session or match. Substitute boards are put into play by the TD either on their own volition or by direction of the Championship Committee.

20. Slow Play, Unplayed and Fouled boards

20.1 Unplayed Boards in Teams Tournaments

(a) The Head TD may remove unplayed boards if in their opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition. An assigned adjusted score in accordance with Law 86B1 (exercising the option given in Law 86B3), is awarded to each board that has already been played in the other room.

If any removed board has not been played in the other room the match is scored as though the board/s had never been played*.

(b) In addition, the standard penalty per board (for the first 3 boards) will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them. If more than 3 boards are removed the Championship Committee may impose a more severe penalty.

(c) The above penalty and number of allowed removed boards may be varied in the SCoC.

*Example: if the 7th board in a 16-board match is fouled and the error is discovered when the contestants are computing the result of the match, the board is disregarded and the match is scored using the VP scale for 15 boards.

20.1.1 Slow Play in Round Robin Teams

(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 Section 20.1.1 (c) below):

- from 0 to 5 minutes late: 0.1 of the standard penalty for every minute or part thereof.
- 5:01 to 10 minutes late: in addition, 0.2 of the standard penalty for every minute or part thereof.
- from 10:01 to 15 minutes late: a total of 3 standard penalties.

- for delays of more than 15 minutes the Championship Committee may impose a more severe penalty.

See GCoC Section 21.2 for standard penalties.

(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. The TD will take any corrective measures that are necessary in their opinion, including, at their discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as they consider desirable.

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 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 TD may remove unplayed boards if in their opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition – see Section 20.1 above.

20.1.2 Slow Play in Swiss Teams Play

If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed players may finish playing the current board and 0.1 of a standard penalty for every minute or part thereof will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them. Players may not start playing any further board.

Unplayed board/s will be dealt with in accordance with Section 20.1 above.

20.1.3 Slow Play in Knockout Teams

Note: When team play consists of 2 or more stanzas, the procedures below apply to each stanza separately.

When a table falls behind what is considered normal rhythm of play the TD should assess with the players which team is responsible for the delay. (The TD may also use available evidence, such as videos.) If the teams disagree or agree to be equally culpable the TD may use video or a monitor or other evidence to apportion the blame from that moment on.

If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed players may finish playing the current board and 0.1 of a standard penalty for every minute

or portion thereof will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them.

The unplayed board/s will be dealt with in accordance with GCoC Section 20.1.

When, in the opinion of the TD, taking into account the number of boards to play and the time left in the session, a given match has a serious chance of finishing more than 5 minutes late, the TD should temporarily hold one or more of the boards yet to play. If and as the late table recovers the TD can put one or more of the held boards in play (as long as in their opinion the table will have a reasonable chance to finish within at most 5 minutes from the official end of time for the match).

Boards that are held by the TD and not returned to the table to play before the end of the official time for the match will not be played.

If one or more held boards were played in the other room by the same teams, the TD will act in accordance with GCoC Section 20.1.

20.1.4 Slow Play in Pairs Events

Bridge is a timed event and TDs are instructed to actively ensure that a round finishes within the allotted time. Special attention should be paid to players who finish late time and time again. After a late finish the TD will allow a round to get back on schedule. A late finisher will be given a warning for the first offence and penalized half a standard penalty for subsequent occurrences in addition to adjusted scores as detailed in (i) – (iii) below.

Possible actions by the TD to avoid delays include removing a board, or removing a board in the next round (for example from a table that has been held up by a previous delay). In these cases artificial adjusted scores should be awarded as detailed in (i) and (ii) below. TDs should be careful in removing a board that has been started.

Penalties for slow play are disciplinary and only appealable, under special circumstances, to the Championship Committee under Law 93B3.

(i) If an unplayed board is removed the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded Average minus for the board, and if the TD determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play the non-offending pair shall be awarded Average plus.

(ii) If the two pairs at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed adjustments will be divided between the two pairs proportionately to the extent to which each pair is deemed to have contributed to the slow play.

(iii) If a partly-played board is removed each pair shall be awarded the match-point score for the result on the board which the Head TD deems to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

20.2 Fouled Boards

A board is considered “fouled” if the TD determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison could not or did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

20.2.1 Board not played at the other table in Teams Tournament

If a board has not been played at the other table it should be played or replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (in accordance with the SCoC). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants (see Law 86A). That match is scored as though the board had never been played.

The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Championship Committee. When the TD has reason to believe the Championship Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final session of a match, they should have a provisional board played during the session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The TD, on their own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

20.2.2 Result or results obtained at the other table in Teams Tournament

When teams have played one or more non-comparable boards or cannot play a board played by the other table, then Law 86 applies.

20.2.3 Referral to Championship Committee

Notwithstanding Section 20.2.2 above, when in the opinion of the Head TD there is a potential problem due to the number of boards involved the matter should be referred to the Championship Committee for resolution.

20.3 Fouled Boards in Pair Tournaments

When a board has been fouled, the TD shall determine where the foul occurred. Procedures for scoring fouled boards are contained in the SCoC.

20.4 Penalties for Fouled Boards in Teams or Pairs Tournaments

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault, that side shall be subject to procedural penalty equal to half a standard penalty (see Section 21.2). in accordance with the SCoC.

21. Penalties

21.1 Penalties

Penalties and fines will be applied according to these Conditions and the SCoC. Unless specified otherwise, all penalties are mandatory.

21.1.1 Unnecessarily Slow Play

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 TD may impose an additional penalty in cases where they are 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 TD has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of 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) In the discretion of the TD, the penalty may be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or 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.

21.1.2 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under Section 21.1.1 above all penalties for violations of time procedure and slow play are mandatory and require no previous warning to the players that penalties will be applied.

21.2 Standard Penalty

The standard penalty for a team is 2 VP (see Section 21.3 for a knockout match) or ½ board in a point-a-board ('BAM') match, or, in the case of pairs events, 50% of the match points available on a board during the session. Repeated violation of the relevant regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing.

21.3 Knockout play

(i) When the TD gives an IMP procedural or disciplinary penalty to a team in knockout play, that penalty relates to the match score. For example, if the match score is 40 IMPs - 38 IMPs in favour of Team A, and if Team A is penalised 3 IMPs then the match score becomes 37-38.

(ii) The standard IMP penalty shall be equal to the square root of the number of boards in the stanza or segment (or match when there are no segments or stanzas) where the infraction took place, with any fractions rounded up. (For example, for a 28 board segment the penalty will be 6 IMPs.)

22. Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screens

The Bidding Box, Bridgemate, Bidding Tablets and Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply, where necessary.

22.1 Bidding boxes

The SCoC will determine whether bidding boxes or alternate methods of bidding such as bidding tablets or any other digital device are mandatory.

22.2 Devices used for the recording of matches.

Electronic, digital, or other devices may be used to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, to send the collected data to any control centre, etc.

22.3 Screens

Screens will be used whenever possible.

23. Verification of Scores

The correction period and the protest period are determined by relevant sections in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest.

24. Regulations for Electronic Line-Ups

The line-ups must be submitted in accordance with the details in the SCOC. Failure of a captain to submit the line-up in a timely fashion shall result in penalties in accordance with the SCoC.

25. Play of the Cards

During the course of play, each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time so that it can be seen by all players at the table.

Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.

Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping with tricks won pointing towards partner and tricks lost pointing towards the opponents.

26. Duplicated Boards

Whenever possible duplicated boards will be used throughout.

27. Attendance in Playing Rooms

27.1 General

Subject to any supplementary regulations made by the Executive Committee or its designee or special permission of the President, only the following are permitted to enter the playing rooms:

- (a) Participants assigned to play in that room;
- (b) Tournament Directors;
- (c) Personnel needed to operate these Tournaments, including, but not limited to, scorers, timers, caddies and Vu-Graph personnel;
- (d) The EBL President and members of the Championship Committee;
- (e) The Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission;
- (f) Staff personnel for provision of refreshment and room cleaning, if necessary;
- (g) "Officials on duty" appointed for a specific session or sessions by the EBL President;
- (h) Non-playing captains in accordance with Section 15;
- (i) Members of the Daily Bulletin staff to be named by its Editor;
- (j) Approved journalists who have been accredited by the President (or designee) of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) and ratified by the EBL President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee.

(The Operations Director or Head TD, before the start of the session, may limit the number of individuals who represent categories (i) and (j). For purposes of the following, those individuals are considered a single group and members of it are referred to as "representatives".)

The assignments of places in the playing rooms to representatives in categories (i) and (j) shall be made by the Editor of the Daily Bulletin subject to the following rules:

Except by permission of the Operations Director or Head TD, no more than one "representative" shall be at any table at the same time; preference will be given to category (i).

The “representative” must enter the room before the session begins, must remain on the same side of the screen throughout the session and may not re-enter any playing rooms if leaving before the end of the session. “Representatives” will normally not be allowed in both playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-graph and/or broadcast via internet, unless space is available as determined by the Operations Director.

27.2 Spectators

All Spectators are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Tournaments 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. Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players, talking, or otherwise distracting their attention.

Supplementary regulations may require a special identification tag or badge issued on the instructions of the Championship Committee for entrance to the venue and/or playing area.

Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Operations Director (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) a limited number of spectators watching at the table (in Team competitions Open room only) will be permitted, subject to the Conditions and Restrictions below.

27.3 Conditions and Restrictions

For the purposes of this section representatives [Section 27.1 (j)], participants (with the exception of players designated to play) and non-participants (except TDs on duty) are considered spectators.

- (a) Spectators are not permitted to smoke or consume any alcoholic drinks in these areas, nor may they bring mobile telephones, pagers or any other electronic devices into these areas. Spectators contravening any of these regulations will be required to leave the playing area immediately and will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the Championship without specific permission from the Chairman of the Championship Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, specific permission may be given by the Head TD.

The Head TD may, at their discretion, prohibit a spectator from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

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

- (b) No more than six spectators (including journalists) – three on each side of the screen – shall be permitted at any one table.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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 Championship Committee may be subjected to greater penalties.
- (e) Looking at two hands or sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.
- (f) Non-playing players from a team are not permitted to watch their own team's match.
- (g) No spectators can be admitted in the playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-Graph or broadcast via internet.
- (h) 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. (But see Section 15 concerning NPCs).
- (i) If matches are designated as "Pit Matches" additional spectators, at the discretion of the Head TD will be permitted.

It is the TDs' responsibility to ensure that the above conditions are enforced.

28. General Rules During Play

28.1 *Obligation to remain at the Table*

Leaving the table needlessly before a round, session or match is finished, or leaving the playing room during a match or session without permission from a TD, are breaches of the proprieties. Players guilty may be liable to a penalty of up to the standard penalty (Section 21.2)

28.2 *Finish of Play*

In Team matches, at each table when play has finished, the players should agree the score and then leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible.

28.3 *Watching another table*

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

After the end of a round, session or match players are strictly forbidden to watch play at any table.

29. Prohibition on Leaving the Competition

29.1 *Leaving the Competition*

Any pair or team may cease participation in an event after the last session of each stage provided it so notifies the Head TD, Operations Director or designee no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question.

29.2 *Force Majeure*

If a contestant believes they cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason they should seek permission from the Head TD or the Operations Director to withdraw. Withdrawing without such permission is subject to disciplinary action.

29.3 *Specific Regulations for Events*

There are circumstances when early withdrawal, or concession of a match, does not adversely affect other contestants. Regulations covering situations likely to occur at a specific event will be covered in the SCoC. Such regulations may be amended and/or enhanced closer to the start of the event and published prior to the start. Any matter not specifically covered will be dealt with by the Championship Committee (see also Section 35, and Section 34 for regulations concerning medal and master point awards).

30. Incorrect seating in a teams game

If the teams sit incorrectly, such that an entire round or match between the two teams is void, then:

30.1 *If time permits a replay* the round or match must be replayed at the earliest convenient time as determined by the Operations Director, in which case neither team is penalised.

30.2 *If time does not permit a replay of the round/match*

- (a) in a knockout tournament, it is scored as the equivalent of a draw;
- (b) in a tournament scored by Victory Points: both teams score 40% of the VPs;
- (c) if a TD or organization is solely responsible for the incorrect seating of the teams, then both teams will be considered non-offending and will score in accordance with Appendix 1 (Result when a team forfeits a match).

30.3 More severe penalty

In aggravated circumstances, the Head TD (after consultation with the Championship Committee) may impose a more severe penalty. (An example of such a circumstance would be if a side apparently guaranteed themselves qualification by fouling the match in the last round of a Swiss – a score of 0 VPs would then be normal.)

31. Rulings and Appeals

The TD shall be summoned to a table as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. After the Director has given the ruling, any appeal against such ruling will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Review Regulation. In cases when the interpretation of the Laws is unclear the Head TD should consult the WBF Laws Committee and follow its interpretation. The decisions so reached shall be final.

31.1 Review Procedure

Appeals will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the Championship Committee in accordance with Law 80B2(k), and the EBL Review Procedure.

32. Tie-breaking Procedures

If no specific tie-breaking procedures are provided in the SCoC of a competition the following procedures will apply:

32.1 Swiss Teams

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 the direct match/es between them if such match/es took place.

(iii) If a tie still exists, the ranking will be determined by the higher IMP quotients of the tied team/s.

32.2 Direct Knockout

32.2.1 All matches except the semi-finals and finals:

(i) If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, the team ranking higher in the Qualifying stage will be declared winner.

(ii) If there were no Qualifying stage one board matches ("sudden death") will determine the winner.

32.2.2 Semi-finals and finals:

- (i) If a tie exists at the end of a semi-final or final knockout match it will be resolved by playing four additional boards.
- (ii) If the tie still remains one board (“sudden death”) matches will determine the winner.

32.2.3 Extra Board/s

Pre-duplicated consecutive boards are played (see Sections 13.2.1 and 13.2.2 above) and the line up and table positions of the players are kept as for the last round/stanza played.

32.3 Round Robin Teams

- (i) A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.

32.4 Match-pointed Pairs

(For this section, “session” refers to the period of play between assignments of starting position.)

Scores are tied only if they are identical.

- (i) 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.
- (ii) In the finals the direct encounter(s) decides.
- (iii) 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.

32.5 Board a Match Teams (BAM)

32.5.1 Round Robin

- (i) A tie between teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match/es between those teams.

- (ii) If a tie still exists the team with most wins will be declared winner.
- (iii) If a tie still exists the tie will be broken by the result of each team against the team rank first (or highest). If a tie still exists then the tie will be broken by the result against the second highest ranked team, and so on.

32.5.2 Swiss, Mirror Mitchell type or other

- (i) The tie will be broken by Swiss Points (see Section 13.1 (i)).
- (ii) If a tie still exists their rankings will be determined by the number of wins obtained by each team.
- (iii) If a tie still exists the result of the direct match (if any) between them will determine the winner.
- (iv) If a tie still exists the result will be determined by a coin toss.

32.6 Board a Match Pairs

- (i) The tie will be broken by Swiss Points taking into account all the sessions.
- (ii) If a tie still exists their rankings will be determined by the number of wins obtained by each pair.
- (iii) If a tie still exists, then the result of the meeting/s between the pairs will determine the winner.
- (iv) If a tie still exists the winner will be determined by the number of boards played where a result above average was obtained.

33. Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest

The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest or any SCoC is a matter to be referred to a committee composed of the Championship Committee Chairman, who will chair it, and members of the EBL Rules and Regulations Committee present. The decisions reached shall be final.

34. Eligibility for Awards

34.1 Medals

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will normally be awarded for EBL Championships.

In all team events, the winning team in the final will be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy. The losing finalists will be awarded the Silver Medal. For the play off regulations to determine the Bronze Medalists, see Section 35 below.

In all pair events, the winning pair shall be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy or prize, the second placed pair shall be awarded the Silver Medal and the third placed pair the Bronze Medal.

34.2 Master Points Awards

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points plan, details of which can be found at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/european-master-points/new-european-master-points-system/>

34.2.1 Conditions

To be eligible for titles, Master Points, and Placing Points, a player must have played at least one-half of his team's sessions in each stage of each event. Each qualification phase of an event is considered one stage. In a Knockout phase, every match is considered a stage for this purpose. It is not possible to "make up" for missing sessions in one stage by playing more sessions in another.

The foregoing notwithstanding, players will not be required to play more than 50% of the sessions in a stage. If the format of an event makes it impossible to play exactly 50% of the sessions in any stage, the requirement is reduced to the number of sessions that comes closest to 50% for that stage.

There is no minimum required to continue playing until the end of an event. The Championship Committee may waive a player's requirement for a stage in the case of *force majeure*. In such a case, the player need not make up the missing sessions in a subsequent stage. Medals will be awarded to all the players of a team that places first, second, or third in each event, and to its NPC. Neither coaches nor other team officials are awarded medals.

34.2.2 Special Events

For events in which the above rules cannot be applied, the SCoC will have provisions determining such conditions.

34.2.3 Force Majeure

The EBL Executive Committee may still award MPs and title to a player who genuinely participated in many boards in all the matches but could not completely comply with the above mentioned conditions because of illness or force majeure.

34.3 European Champion Title

In order to qualify for the title of European Champion the conditions are the same as those needed to qualify for the MPs for the Championship.

34.4 Pairs or Teams Disqualified after final results are known

See also Section 8 for contestants disqualified before or during an event.

34.4.1 Team KO Events

The disqualified teams are removed from the final rankings and their positions remain vacant. (If both finalists are disqualified then the playoff - for 3,4 places - winner and loser will be ranked first and second respectively. Third place will remain vacant.)

34.4.2 Non-KO Team Events (single or multiple stages) and Pairs Events

All contestants finishing below the disqualified contestant(s) move up to fill the vacant spaces, and the relative ranking is not affected. Awards (medals, prizes, master points etc.) are conferred according to the new ranking.

34.4.3 Forfeiture of Prize Money

Where applicable, prize money earned by a disqualified contestant must be returned to the EBL.

35. Play off Regulations for 3rd place

The detailed play off regulations for Bronze Medals or 3rd place as appropriate will be contained within the SCoC for each EBL Championship.

36. Policies, Codes and Regulations

The following will be in effect at all European Bridge Tournaments. Details can be accessed on the EBL site (<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/>)

i.Alert Regulations / ii. Bidding Box, Bridgemates, Tablets and Screen Regulations / iii. Review Regulation/ iv. Master Points Regulations / v. Systems Policy / vi. Psychic Bidding / vii. WBF Guide to Completion of WBF System Cards / viii. Dress Code/ ix.Anti-Doping Regulations /x. Eligibility Code/ xi. Disciplinary Code

37. Changes to the Conditions of Contest

The EBL Executive Committee, or the Championship Committee by its delegation, reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC, at any time after its publication and before the beginning of the event. After the start of the event only on the initiative of the Head TD or Operations Director may changes be proposed to the Championship Committee, which will then decide whether or not to implement such amendments.

38. Responsibility of the EBL

The EBL schedules an event to occur at a particular time and place. However, the EBL makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person, that

any particular event will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

39. Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest

Entering or being accredited to attend a European Championship or Tournament means that everybody concerned with such entry or accrediting (Organisations, Teams and Individuals) knows and agrees to abide by these General Conditions of Contest and the relevant SCoC.

APPENDIX 1: CALCULATION OF RESULT WHEN A TEAM FORFEITS A MATCH

A: ROUND ROBIN TEAMS The non-offending team

will get the higher of 13 VP or the result of this formula:

$$\frac{3}{4} \times 20 \frac{\frac{20-x}{x} + \frac{y}{20-y}}{+5}$$

where

x non-offending team average result in VPs

y offending (forfeiting) team average result in VPs

The forfeiting team

will get the reciprocal of the non-offending team result (that is a maximum of 7 VPs.) Depending on circumstances, this result may be reduced by the Championship Committee.

B: SWISS TEAMS

The non-offending team will receive 13 VPs.

The forfeiting team will get a maximum of 7 VPs. Depending on circumstances, this result may be reduced by the Championship Committee.

APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANT'S COMMITMENT



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

A ZONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

PARTICIPANT'S COMMITMENT

All participants in European Bridge League events, including Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials are required to read, complete and sign this form. A real signature is required, not a typed name, although a certified digital signature will be accepted

First Name: _____

Family name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

NBO and EBL Code No: _____

Gender: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I wish to play in European Bridge League ("EBL") events

If a minor, name and address of the legal guardian(s) and date of birth:

1. I agree and commit myself to participate in such EBL events that I apply to play in and/or that I am nominated by others to play in and to compete with respect for the EBL rules and fair play.
2. I am aware that the EBL events are governed by the Laws of Bridge, the Conditions of Contest, the EBL Disciplinary Code and all other Rules & Regulations of the EBL and I undertake to comply with such rules, all of which are fully known to me, and/or any amendment of, or addition to, the same that is published on the official website of the EBL.
3. I therefore agree to be submitted to such rules, regulations, and procedures to the jurisdiction of the bodies and persons that are in charge of applying them. After the exhaustion of internal remedies within the EBL system, I acknowledge that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Lausanne, Switzerland) has ultimate jurisdiction for all disputes in connection with the EBL events and agree that recourse to the ordinary courts of law is prohibited.
4. I undertake to behave properly under all circumstances and contribute in all aspects to the good image of the EBL events and of the hosts of such events.
5. Through my participation in the EBL events I commit to promote the celebration of bridge in an international community with respect for cultures and customs from all over the world.
6. I agree that I will abstain from all public display of political actions, statements or comments within any EBL event and acknowledge that the EBL will not, without limitation, be responsible for any political, financial or other sanctions that any local or national authorities may impose on me.
7. I accept that EBL has the final authority to exclude me from its events in cases of non-compliance with this commitment (including any applicable EBL rules and regulations) or in cases of misconduct, the meaning of which shall take into account local customs and traditions.
8. I confirm that I have not received any information including, without limitation, advice by a physician or another person that my health might be negatively affected or that my level of fitness may not be sufficient to participate in any EBL event.

9. I agree that I will be personally responsible for any damage that I may cause to persons or property and that I will be liable for indemnifying such damage. Therefore, I accept that EBL (including its members, directors, officers, employers, staff operators, volunteers, contractors or agents) shall not be liable under any circumstances in connection with any damage that I may cause during any EBL event.
10. I accept and agree that if I participate in any EBL event it shall be at my own expense except for such costs as EBL, the Host City, and/or any other party explicitly accepts to bear.
11. In particular and without limitation to the foregoing, I accept that all the expenses concerning the travel to the Host City and back and all the costs of my stay, including accommodation, meals, transfers etc. are not in the responsibility or at charge of EBL or the host.
12. I agree to follow the regulation in the General Conditions of Contest or Supplemental Conditions of Contest for each particular event in which I participate concerning the use and possession in the playing area of electronic devices (for example mobile phones, pagers, smart phones, pocket computers etc.). I accept and agree to be inspected in order to ensure compliance with the present clause.
13. I accept and agree not to smoke or to consume alcoholic beverages at the competition venue, except in such areas where smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages might be explicitly allowed and in such case only after the end of the segment, match or game in which I am participating.
14. I accept to be subject to the anti-doping rules of the WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION (WBF). In particular I accept to submit to doping control by or at the request of WBF or EBL and I accept consequences and sanctions as well as the jurisdiction of WBF and EBL and of the Court of Arbitration for Sports as provided for in the anti-doping rules of WBF which I can consult on www.worldbridge.org
15. I agree to be photographed, filmed, identified and otherwise recorded during any EBL event, both during and outside the competitions. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be published and broadcast worldwide by any means (TV, internet etc.) and may be used by EBL and the host for non-commercial promotion purposes at no cost to EBL or the host. I agree that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may be used for any investigatory and evidential purposes in connection with any disciplinary enquiries.
16. I accept that such photos, films, footage and other recordings may also be used by EBL post-event for promotional and editorial purposes related to future EBL events.
17. I will not participate in, nor support betting related to EBL events and understand that all forms of promotion of betting related to such events are prohibited.

18. I agree that any dispute not to be adjudicated in application of specific procedures provided for by EBL but which arise between myself and EBL and/or Host Member Federation and/or the Championship Organising Committee and/or their respective members, directors, officers, staff operators, employees and volunteers, including but not limited to claims for damages of either party against the other arising out of occurrences (acts or omissions) linked with my participation to a EBL event shall be governed by Swiss Law and exclusively settled by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, in accordance with the CAS rules then in effect.

19. I am aware and I agree that my participation in any EBL event is conditional upon my valid acceptance of and my compliance with each and all the provisions of this document. I acknowledge that if there is from time to time any contradiction or inconsistency between this declaration (on the one hand) and the EBL Statutes and Rules and Regulations (on the other), the latter will prevail.

20. In addition, I accept the conditions of the WADA Athlete Consent form detailed below or any changes that may subsequently be made to the ADA Athlete Consent form which will be detailed on the WBF Website:

As a member of the EBL and/or a participant in an event authorized or recognized by the EBL, I hereby declare as follows:

(a) I acknowledge that I am bound by, and confirm that I shall comply with, all of the provisions of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time), the World Anti-Doping Code (the “**Code**”) and the *International Standards* issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”), as amended from time to time, and published on WADA’s website.

(b) I consent and agree to the creation of my profile in the WADA Doping Control Clearing House (“**ADAMS**”), as requested under the *Code* to which WBF is a *Signatory*, and/or any other authorized *National Anti-Doping Organization’s* similar system for the sharing of information, and to the entry on my *Doping Control, Whereabouts and Therapeutic Use Exemptions* related data in such systems.

(c) I acknowledge the authority of EBL under the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to enforce, to manage results under, and to impose sanctions in accordance with the WBF Anti-Doping Rules.

(d) I acknowledge and agree that any dispute arising out of a decision made pursuant to the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, after exhaustion of the process expressly provided for in the WBF Anti-Doping Rules, may be appealed exclusively as provided in Article 13 of the WBF Anti-Doping Rules to an appellate body for final and binding arbitration, which in the case of *International-Level Athletes* is the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

(e) I acknowledge and agree that the decisions of the arbitral appellate body referenced above shall be final and enforceable, and that I will not bring any claim, arbitration, lawsuit or litigation in any other court or tribunal.

21. I have read and understand the present declaration and wish to be bound by its contents.

Date

Signature (or, if a minor, signature of legal guardian and minor)

APPENDIX 3: MAIN CHANGES TO GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Recent Main Changes to the General Conditions of Contest

- **September 2016:**

Amendment of Player's Commitment Form (Appendix 2) from event specific to applicable to all events; and corresponding change in §2.8

- **October 2016:**

- Addition of second paragraph in §25 relating to varying the orientation of a played card.

- **December 2016:**

- Definitions: Link added to WBF Guide to Completion
- §11.5 Example added of sanctions pertaining to late filing of system card
- §33.4 New §33.4 added, dealing with procedure for revised ranking following disqualification of a competitor. Reference to §33.4 added to §8

- **February 2017:**

- Definitions: Head TD changed
- §11.4, §11.5 Revision of approved System Card Editors, and changes in display of System Cards on the web.
- §27.2 Provision for requirement of ID to enter venue
- §31.1 Additional instructions on filling in the review form

- **September 2017**

- Some non-significant wording changes
- References to 'Statutes' changed to 'Statutes and By-Laws'
- Links added to documents referenced
- The person termed 'Championship Manager' or 'Operations Manager' or 'Operations Director' is consistently replaced by the term 'Operations Director'
- §11.5 Recommendation to use the 'Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card' added.
- §27.1 'Members of the Championship Committee on duty' removed (redundant)

- §27.1 'Non-playing captains in accordance with Section 15' added
- §31.1 The default deposit required is €100 but can be varied
- §31.1 The sanction for an insufficient basis for requesting a review can be either monetary fine or point deduction or both.
- §31.1 The decision of the Reviewer is final but Law 93C2 may apply.

▪ **December 2017**

- §20 has been expanded and renumbered to include unplayed boards as well as fouled boards, and boards in team matches with non-comparable results. The scoring of truncated matches is also addressed.
- §29 has been rewritten and expanded to provide for circumstances when withdrawal or concession may be allowed.
- §30 The previous §30 dealing with pit matches has been deleted. The new §30 regulates team matches where there has been incorrect seating rendering comparison of scores impossible.

▪ **September 2018**

- Table of Contents shows only 1st level headings (previously 3 levels)
- Definitions: "Mixed Pair" added
- New §35 added, listing regulations, policies and codes in use at EBL events.
- Definitions: Definitions dealing with the items in §35 deleted.
- Sections dealing with the items in §35 deleted.
- §3 reworded to clarify language misunderstandings
- §4.2 'looking at partner' deleted (appears in the Laws)
- New §7.5 dealing with reporting of special needs added.
- §9.2 now covers all areas used for broadcasting and live transmissions, and gives coaches access to these areas subject to the restrictions of §15.4
- §15.4 slightly reworded
- §21.3 "match" replaced by "segment or stanza" and wording change.
- New §28.3 added "Watching another table"
- §31 now includes possibility of consultation with WBF Laws Committee
- § 31.1 Details of the Appeal Procedure deleted. (Replaced by the Appeal Regulation – see new §35 iii)

▪

March 2019

- §20.1 (dealing with late finishes) has been revised and subsections added. Note: Some sections previously appearing in the SCoC's of the various events have now been placed in the GCoC.

▪ **October 2020**

- Gender Neutral: The whole document has been rewritten in Gender Neutral style. "Their, they, them", in context, are used as singular pronouns.
- Definitions: "participant" added, and consequent rewording of introduction to §27.3
- The word "Tournaments" has been substituted for "Championships" where necessary.
- §11.3 Addition of sanctions for inadequate system card
- §13 New section on scoring methods (replaces previous blank section)
- §14 "Length of Matches" restructured and reworded, and §14.2 length of pairs events added.
- §21.1.3 removed (covered by §28.1)
- §21.1.4 addition of section dealing with slow play in pairs events
- §28.3 Addition of restriction on watching team mates play
- §29.1, §29.2 "Leaving the Competition" reworded and restructured.
- §32 has is now renumbered to be §33.
- The new §32 deals with tie-breaking procedures
- The previous §§32 – 38 are now renumbered as §§33 – 39, and appropriate references to these sections in the document have been updated.

▪ **November 2021**

- §11 (c) is added: In team events a team is limited to the use of a maximum of three Systems.

▪ **November 2022**

- §2
- §4
- §7
- §14
- §22
- §34

▪ **May 2024**

- §34.2