



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**3RD EUROPEAN WINTER
TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
HELD IN PRAGUE- CZECH REPUBLIC
10th - 19th FEBRUARY 2026**

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EBL SCoC Prague 2026

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Preamble

The 3rd European Winter Transnational Championships (EWTC) will be hosted at Top Congress Hotel Prague, Blažimská 1781, 14900 Praha 4-Chodov – Czech Republic.

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

The EWTC will consist of a 8-day Main Open Team event (The European Winter Open Teams Championship), as well as a 5-day Side Open Team event (Swiss Cup), a 3-day Side Open Team event (Open BAM), a 5-day Main Mixed Team event (The European Winter Mixed Teams Championship), two 3-day Pair events (Open Pairs and Mixed Pairs). All events will be transnational and there will be no restriction on the number of entries per NBO.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1.1 Right of Entry

Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.

All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Teams will be issued to teams of four, five or six.

1.2 Participant's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC: "... Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams events are required to have signed the EBL Participant's Commitment Form".

1.3 Registration

All entries to the events must be submitted electronically using the following website link: <http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/26Prague/microsite/participants.htm> by February 3rd 2026.

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to its approval. Applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if space allows and if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be sent by email to secretariat@europeanbridge.org by February 3rd 2026 to qualify for return of the entry fee. Further information is available at <https://championships.eurobridge.org/european-winter-transnational-championships-2026>

2. ENTRY FEES

All information concerning entry fees and method of payment is available at:

<https://championships.eurobridge.org/european-winter-transnational-championships-2026/entries-entry-fees>

All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Pair events will be issued to 2 players and invitations for Team events will be issued to teams of four, five or six (comprising at least two men and two women in the Mixed event).

3. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF PLAY (see sections 5,6,7,8,9)

3. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF PLAY (see sections 5,6,7,8,9)		
Tuesday 10/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Qualifying rounds 1-4 Swiss
Wednesday 11/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Qualifying rounds 5-8 Swiss
Thursday 12/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Qualifying rounds 9-12 Swiss
Friday 13/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Round of 32 Swiss Cup Qualification
Saturday 14/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Round of 16 Swiss Cup Qualification
Sunday 15/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Quarter-Finals Swiss Cup Semifinals A&B Open BAM Qualification Transnational Mixed Teams Qualification Open Pairs Qualification
Monday 16/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Semifinals Swiss Cup Semifinals A&B Open BAM Semifinals A&B Transnational Mixed Teams Qualification Open Pairs Semifinals A&B
Tuesday 17/02/26	10:00	Transnational Open Teams Final Swiss Cup Final A&B Open BAM Final A&B Transnational Mixed Teams Semifinals A&B Open Pairs Finals A&B Mixed Pairs Qualification
Wednesday 18/02/26	10:00	 Transnational Mixed Teams Semifinals A&B Mixed Pairs Semifinals A&B
Thursday 19/02/26	09:00	 Transnational Mixed Teams Final Mixed BAM Cup Mixed Pairs Finals A&B

The above schedule of play is provisional and may be changed if circumstances warrant.

Refer to:

<https://championships.eurobridge.org/european-winter-transnational-championships-2026>

for any updated information.

4. DROP-INS

4.1 Teams eliminated from the knockout of the Transnational Open Teams can drop in according to the following table:

Elimination stage	Open Teams Swiss Cup	Open Pairs	Open BAM
Round of 32	Qualification – Day 2		
Round of 16	Semifinal A – Day 1	Qualification	Qualification
Quarter-Finals	Semifinal A – Day 2	Semifinal A	Semifinal A
Semifinals	Final	Final	Final

Additionally, Mixed Teams can drop in:

Elimination stage	Mixed Teams	Mixed Pairs
Round of 16	Qualification – Day 1	
Quarter-Finals	Qualification – Day 2	
Semifinals	Semifinal A – Day 1	Qualification
Final	Semifinal A – Day 2	Semifinal A

However:

- a) To be eligible to drop in, whether teams or pairs must register before the start of the event they intend to drop into.
- b) One team can drop in only one team (e.g. it cannot split into two teams, adding players who have not played before). If so, they can only start a different event from its day one.
- c) A team with four players may contribute a maximum of two, and a team with five/six players a maximum of three, drop-in pairs, each of them containing at least one of its original members.
- d) Once a team, or pair, has dropped in an event, they cannot change to another one anymore, unless starting it from its day one.

4.2 *After day 9 Mixed Teams not qualified to the final can play the Mixed BAM*

Teams willing to drop out and join the Mixed Pairs can do it but only into the « B » stage of that event.

4.3 All drop-in teams and pairs will be receiving a carry-over, to be calculated and announced once all numbers – entries and potential drop-ins – will be finalised.

5. TRANSNATIONAL WINTER OPEN TEAMS

5.1 Qualifying Stage of Transnational Open Teams

The qualification stage will be played over three days depending on entries, whilst the knockout stage will start from the round of 32.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match. When there is an odd number of teams the bye team will receive 12 VPs.

5.2 Knockout Stage of Transnational Open Teams

This section is provisional and may be subject to changes according to the final number of participants.

- i) The top 32 from the Swiss qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage. There will be no carry-over from the Swiss to the knockout (but see section 5.3.2).
- ii) Each knockout stage will be played over 56 boards, 4 segments of 14 boards each.
- iii) A fixed bracket (see Appendix 1) will be created, thus there is no re-seeding between rounds and a lower ranked team that beats a higher ranked team takes over that higher ranked team's seed number.
- iv) The teams placed 1st-8th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-8. They, in that order, get to choose their opponents from the teams placed 17th – 32nd in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 32-17 respectively. The remaining seed numbers 9-16 are assigned according to the original seeding (based on EBL and WBF Master Points) made before the start and published as soon as the participating teams are known. This section may be modified on site according to the number of participants.

5.3 Tie Breaking

5.3.1 Swiss

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated and the team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.
- ii) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

5.3.2 Direct Knockout

If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, the team better placed in the Swiss will be declared the winner. If the tie remains, the team winning the direct match – if any – in the Swiss qualifying stage will be declared the winner. If the direct match in the Swiss were a draw or if there were no direct match in the Swiss, then the team with the best Swiss point ratio will be declared the winner.

6. EUROPEAN WINTER SWISS CUP

The format of the Swiss Cup will be finalized when the number of entries will be known. However, It is anticipated that there will be a qualification stage followed by a semifinal stage and Final A and B. Swiss movement at all stages. The event starts on February 13th.

7. EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN BAM

The format of the BAM Trophy will be Board-A-Match. It is anticipated that there will be a qualification stage followed by a Final A and Final B. Depending on the number of participants there may be a Semifinal stage. All details will be published before the start of the event. The event starts on February 15th.

8. EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN PAIRS AND EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED PAIRS

8.1 PAIRS COMPETITIONS

Details in this section are based on the anticipated numbers of participants, and subject to change once the exact numbers are known. The number of days allocated to an event will not be changed.

It is expected to play between 48 to 54 boards per day in all pair events and stages.

The competition consists of three stages : qualifying, semifinal and final.

It is anticipated that the format of the qualifying and semifinal stages will be Mitchell Movements with two-board rounds. Scoring will be done “over the field”. For each pair, the match-point score for each session is converted to a percentage. (If some sessions consist of a different number of boards, the percentage scores will be adjusted pro rata.) In any stage where each pair does not play against most of the other pairs the field will be divided into sections, which may be seeded so as to achieve a reasonable balance.

(If the format requires less than 24 board Mitchell movements then for purposes of Law 12C2 only (awarding of Average+ and Average-), a session is defined as a stage, and contains all the sessions in that stage.

8.1.1 Qualifying

Depending on the number of entries and technical considerations approx. 1/3 of the pairs playing the qualification, plus drop-ins (see section 4 above), will qualify for the semifinal A, and the rest for the semifinal B.

8.1.2 Semifinal A and Semifinal B

There may be a carry-over score (see section 4.3 above) from the qualification to semifinal A.

8.1.3 Final

There may be a carry-over score (see section 4.3 above) from the semifinals. The final will be played as a barometer Endless Howell movement.

9. EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED TEAMS

9.1 Format

The event will be played using a Swiss movement format throughout, with qualification and subsequent cut(s). The exact format is dependent on participation numbers.

9.2 Tie Breaking

9.2.1 Swiss

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated and the team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.
- ii) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

10. SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

10.1 Systems Policy

All events are designated Category 3 events, i.e. neither "HUM" systems nor "Brown Sticker" conventions are allowed.

Psyching artificial opening bids is forbidden.

11. TIME ALLOWED

11.1 Qualifying stage

Players are expected to complete each 14 board Swiss Teams match in 2 hours. If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the penalties outlined in section 20.1.2 of the GCoC will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them

Unplayed board/s will be dealt in accordance with section 20.1 of the GCoC.

The match will be scored in accordance with section 20.1 of the GCoC

For otherwise cancelled boards the Head Tournament Director will deal with them according to Law 86B.

11.2 Knockout stage

Players are expected to complete each 14-board segment in 2 hours. For late play and unplayed boards see section 20.1.3 of the GCoC.

11.3 Late arrival

All participants should be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time. Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time will receive a warning for a first offence during that phase of the event for being up to 5 minutes late. Late arrivals of more than 5

minutes, or further late arrivals, will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Head Tournament Director. The penalty will range from half the standard penalty to the standard penalty (see section 21.2 of the GCOC). Furthermore, such team will be considered as the offending side for purposes of section 11.1 and 11.2 above for at least the number of minutes by which it arrived late.

12. LINE-UPS AND SEATING

12.1 *Line-Ups*

12.1.1 *Swiss*

In each match of the Swiss, the first named team will be the Home Team and there is no requirement to submit line-ups in advance.

12.1.2 *Direct Knockout*

Direct Knockout Line-ups for the knockout stage will be explained on site, including the time for the first lineup to be submitted. However: from the second segment of the KO stage onward, the Team without seating rights shall submit its line-up no later than 10 minutes **after** the scheduled **ending time of the previous** session, or at such other time as the Operations Director determines. The Team with seating rights shall submit its line-up no later than **15 minutes after** the scheduled **ending time of the previous** session: provided that if the team required to submit its lineup first is late, the other team shall be allowed 5 minutes from the time of such late submission in which to submit its line-up. Violation of these time schedules will be subject to IMP penalties according to the following scale, and the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until 10 minutes before start of play.]

- (i) first occasion – a written warning
- (ii) second occasion – 1 IMP penalty
- (iii) subsequently – 3 IMPs penalty for each occasion
- (iv) penalties are cumulative

12.2 *Seating*

12.2.1 *Swiss*

In the Swiss, the designated Home Team sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match. The Home Team has the right to seat its players after the Visiting Team has done so.

12.2.2 *Direct Knockout*

The scoring system will automatically assign seating rights for each stanza (set of 14 boards) using a random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

- A. Each team will have seating rights in two stanzas.
- B. The four stanzas are divided into portions of two each: 1-2, 3-4; when a team is assigned seating rights in one stanza, the other team automatically gets seating rights the other stanza of that portion.
- C. If a team gets seating rights in stanza four, the other will get seating rights in stanza one.

12.2.3 *Open and Closed Rooms*

In all stanzas of a match the lower seed number will sit North-South in the room designated as “Open” regardless of whether it has seating rights for that stanza. The rooms respectively referred to as the “Open” and the “Closed” rooms shall be so designated in each match (or session) by the Operations Director or his designee.

13. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any team may cease participation in the competition after the last session of a stage provided it so notifies the Head Tournament Director in writing no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No team may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Head Tournament Director or the Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the team can show good cause.

14. SCORING AND BIDDING AT THE TABLE

Electronic or Digital devices will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

Tablets will be used for bidding and entering results.

Each table will have four tablets allocated to each player.

Each player uses the tablet for bidding and scoring the result. See Regulations for Tablet Bidding on the EBL Site.

15. SCORE CORRECTIONS

12.1 Correction Period

The Correction Period normally expires 30 minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on a day if the stage ends on that day or at the start of play the following day if the stage continues.

Thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- a) Awaiting a decision of the Reviewer on a requested review.
- b) Completion of play or replay boards where the Championship Committee or the Head Tournament Director has directed such replay.

12.2 Incorrect Scores

Requests to correct manifestly incorrect scores (e.g. four spades scored as played by West, but in fact played by North) entered at any time during a stage may be requested until 30 minutes after the end of that stage.

Otherwise, a request to change a score that was agreed upon at the table may be submitted only until the end of the Correction Period, and the score will be changed only once it is proven erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Head Tournament Director.

However, no correction may be requested more than 30 minutes after the scores are posted for the final round of a stage. This includes the Direct Knockout stages, where every round is a stage.

In respect of the final stage's play protest time ends two hours after the official finishing time of that stage but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Prize-giving Ceremony or Closing Ceremony.

16. APPEALS: REVIEW PROCEDURE

See section 31 of the GCoC.

17. SECURITY

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

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18. AWARDS & PRIZES

18.1 Titles and Awards

18.1.1 Medals

EBL Medals will be awarded to the first three or four (in KO events with no play-off for bronze) ranked teams in the Transnational Teams events. The winning Open team will be awarded the title of European Winter Transnational Open Team Champion and the winning Mixed team will be awarded the title of European Winter Transnational Mixed Team Champion.

For the Open Pairs and the Mixed Pairs : EBL Medals will be awarded for the first three Pairs and the winning Open Pair will be awarded the title of European Winter Transnational Open Pair Champion and the winning Mixed Pair will be awarded the title of European Winter Transnational Mixed Pair Champion.

For the Swiss Cup and the BAM : EBL Medals and Master Points will be awarded

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme, provided that the player has played at least half of the boards played by his team in the Swiss stage and at least half the boards played by his team in the last KO match won by his team. The relevant EMP scales are available on the EBL website.

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

19. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

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

20. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In case of a conflict between these Regulations and the General Conditions of Contest, these Regulations shall prevail.

Matters not regulated here are governed by the General Conditions of Contest and the Laws of Contract Bridge.

21. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

The following can be found on the EBL website at www.eurobridge.org

The EBL systems policy : <https://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>

The EBL Disciplinary Code : <https://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/other-codes-and-regulations/the-code-of-discipline/>

The EBL Alert Procedure

EBL Regulations for Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates, and Screens : https://www.eurobridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/EBL_BB-BM-SCR-Regulations-oct-2019-1.pdf

EBL Regulations for Bidding with Tablets :

<https://db.eurobridge.org/Repository/documents/TabletBidding2022.pdf>

The EBL Master Point Plan

EBL SCoC Prague 2026

APPENDIX 1: Fixed Bracket for 32 teams

