



# **PREMIER LEAGUE 2011**

## **CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

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# ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE 2011

## Conditions of Contest

### **1 Authority**

- 1.1 These Conditions of Contest are established by the Selection Committee of The English Bridge Union Ltd. References in these Conditions to “the EBU” or “the Union” mean The English Bridge Union Ltd., and references to “the Committee” mean the Selection Committee of the Union. The Committee acts on behalf of, and is responsible to, the Board of Directors of the English Bridge Union Ltd.
- 1.2 The decision of the Committee in relation to the interpretation of these Conditions of Contest shall be final.
- 1.3 The Committee reserves the right to determine a course of action at its discretion in the event of any matter arising which is not covered by these Conditions of Contest, or in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.
- 1.4 Subject to Condition 1.5, any decisions requiring to be made by the Committee under these Conditions of Contest may be made on the Committee’s behalf by the Chairman of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Committee. Alternatively, the Chairman may nominate another person or persons to make a decision on the Committee’s behalf. Such decisions shall have the full force of a decision by the Committee. Except as provided in Condition 1.5, a reference to a decision being made at the Committee’s absolute discretion does not prevent a decision being made on behalf of the Committee under this Condition.
- 1.5 Any decision to select, deselect or disqualify a player or official from representing England must be made by the Committee itself, notwithstanding Condition 1.4.
- 1.6 In the event that a decision under these Conditions of Contest is required during the course of play of the League, a decision may be made on the Committee’s behalf by the Tournament Director in Charge and/or by the On-site Referee.
- 1.7 This League is played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.
- 1.8 Any interpretations of Law and any regulations published or adopted by the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee or by the Union in general shall apply to this League unless they are in conflict with these Conditions of Contest, in which case these Conditions of Contest shall prevail.
- 1.9 The Committee reserves to itself the power, only to be exercised in exceptional circumstances, not to select a player who has qualified for selection or to withdraw an invitation already issued.
- 1.10 Selection for any event is conditional upon players demonstrating a satisfactory degree of commitment to whatever programme of training or preparation, if any, is put in place. Failure to do so may result in de-selection at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

### **2 Scope of the League**

- 2.1 The Premier League shall be a national league played under international championship conditions. The winners of the First Division in principle earn selection, on a part or wholly self-funded basis, to represent England in
- (a) at least one weekend of the 2012 Camrose Trophy series on 6 - 8<sup>th</sup> January in England, or on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March in Scotland; section 10.3 refers.
- (b) the European Bridge League Champions Cup, if England qualifies.

- 2.2 Based on divisions of approximately 8 teams each, the winners and runners-up of the Second Division shall earn promotion to the First Division. If an ineligible team (see Section 4.3 below) finishes in the top two places in the Second Division, promotion will pass automatically to the next placed eligible team, save that there will be no promotion for 5<sup>th</sup> place or below. The bottom two teams in the First Division shall be relegated to the Second Division. Lower divisions, if any, will function similarly. The Committee reserve the right to alter the number of teams promoted or relegated in the event that the size of the league is fewer or greater than eight teams. Notification of any such alteration will be given in advance of the commencement of the league.

### **3 Entries**

- 3.1 Entries from teams of four to six players should be sent to the Secretary of the Selection Committee, Mrs AJ Claridge, Tel. 01844 208629, email [claridge31@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:claridge31@tiscali.co.uk). The closing date for entries is 31st May 2011. Changes to the composition of a team will be subject to the Committee's discretion.
- 3.2 The Committee reserves the right to accept further entries at its absolute discretion.
- 3.3 All entries should be accompanied by the full entry fee. Entries are not confirmed until the entry fee has been paid.
- 3.4 The entry fee for both divisions is £720 per team [this is based on a 7-day, 420 board tournament].
- 3.5 Entry fees for English junior players will be reduced pro-rata in accordance with standard EBU competition policy viz. half-price for U22s, or U25s still in full-time education (this based on the age of the player on the first day of the tournament); free of charge entry for junior squad members playing together as a partnership and subject to the approval of the Committee Chairman.
- 3.6 Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility under Conditions 4 and 5.

### **4 Eligibility – general**

- 4.1 All players in the First Division must be members of the English Bridge Union in good standing, and qualify\* to represent England under the current international regulations of the World Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League and Bridge Great Britain. \*Players must be qualified by the time of the date of the first Camrose match.
- Any player unsure of his/her qualification should contact Max Bavin – [max@ebu.co.uk](mailto:max@ebu.co.uk).
- 4.2 If a player loses his good standing during the course of the season, then that player will be disqualified from further participation in the League and from ultimate selection to represent England. Continued participation of the team to which such a player belongs is subject to Condition 6.1.
- 4.3 Entries will be welcomed from teams containing players not qualifying to represent England as detailed in 4.1, but such teams will not be eligible to participate in the First Division. There will be no limit on the number of such players, but any team which contains one or more such players shall be ineligible for promotion to the First Division in the following season. This provision over-rides that contained in section 13.

### **5 Further conditions of entry**

- 5.1 It is a condition of entry that all players disclose to the Committee any limitation that would in any way restrict the freedom of the Committee to select a team to represent England.

5.2 It is a condition of entry that players entered in the League must not have a beneficial financial interest in the performance of any team in the League other than their own. This does not preclude relatives from playing in a different team.

5.3 Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules and may jeopardise participation in the League or selection to represent England in future years, in addition to other possible sanctions.

## **6 Registered players**

6.1 If a team loses one or more members as a result of death, serious incapacity or other exceptional circumstance, including the loss of good standing or eligibility (see Condition 4.2), then that team may apply for a permanent replacement player or pair.

6.2 A registered team of four or five may apply to add a player/players up to a maximum of six players in a team.

6.3 The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to such applications, and may grant it subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.

## **7 Substitutes**

7.1 A team which is unable to field four players may apply to the Committee for authorisation of a substitute. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to any such application, and in particular may attach such conditions as it thinks fit relating to the use of a substitute.

7.2 The Tournament Director in Charge may authorise an emergency substitution on the day itself, in which case a full report shall be made to the Committee. The Committee will have an absolute discretion to decide the extent (if any) to which the results of the match(es) affected should be allowed to stand and whether the team in question will be allowed to continue in the League.

## **8 Withdrawal**

8.1 Teams are required to participate in all three weekends, and to complete all their matches. Failure to comply with these requirements without reasonable excuse may constitute an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules and/or jeopardise participation in the League or selection to represent England in future years.

## **9 Consequences of withdrawal**

9.1 If a team does not complete the majority of its matches (i.e. at least 4 matches out of 7), then all results against that team will be expunged.

9.2 Otherwise, any unplayed matches will provisionally be scored 18-0 VPs in favour of the non-offending team, save that at the end of the season the average number of VPs scored per match actually played will be taken into account if this is for the benefit of the non-offending team (if not, then the 18-0 score will stand).

9.3 If the non-offending team have a match average which is more than 3 VPs better than the offending team (the 18 VPs provisionally awarded being 3 VPs more than average), then its score will be increased by the corresponding amount, up to a maximum score of 25-0.

Any fractions which are not an exact multiple of  $\frac{1}{2}$  VP will be rounded up to the next such multiple in favour of the non-offending team.

However, the IMP difference for both teams (should it be needed to resolve a tie) shall be deemed to be 0 IMPs regardless of the actual assigned VP score.

9.4 *Example: team 'A' (non-offending) has scored 103 VPs from 6 matches (average of just over 17). Team 'B' (offending) has scored 78 VPs from 6 matches (average of 13). The difference in average is just over 4 VPs, which is expressed as 4.5 VPs. The match is therefore rescored as 19.5-0.*

9.5 Boards played by the non-offending team in a match subsequently cancelled under section 9.1 shall still count for the purpose of assessing the playing requirements described in section 10.

In the case of an unplayed match or stanza, the non-offending team may nominate which of its players would have played in each such stanza in order to assess the playing requirements of section 10.

## **10 Playing requirements, Camrose Trophy and Champions Cup selection**

10.1 To be a qualified player for the title of Premier League or Division champion, the player must play at least 10 of the 21 stanzas (or 50%, rounded down in the case of a fraction, in the event that there are greater or fewer than 21 stanzas). There is no requirement that a player must play against every team. The same standard applies for the purpose of "Team Continuity" detailed below and for the purposes of eligibility for Camrose selection detailed below. An individual player failing to fulfil the playing requirement in 10.1 does not disqualify his team-mates.

10.2 Any player who fails to play the minimum number of stanzas is not eligible for selection for a Camrose match. Any pair from the winning team who fails to meet the minimum playing requirements is not eligible for automatic selection for the Camrose, even if both players have met the minimum playing requirements.

10.3 Selection for the Camrose series of Home Internationals will be made shortly after the conclusion of the final weekend of the League. Any pair of the team winning the First Division of the League who has met the playing requirements is guaranteed to be offered at least one Camrose match, with a player qualifying in two partnerships being required to nominate his preferred Camrose partnership. In this event the partnership not preferred has no such guarantee.

10.4 If the winning team contains two or three pairs who have all met the minimum playing requirements and who are available for both Camrose matches, these pairs will be selected together in the same team for at least one of the Camrose weekends. The remaining places (if any) in the England team for the two Camrose Trophy weekends will be selected from amongst the eligible pairs who have competed in the League and met the minimum playing requirements.

10.5 There are no playing requirements for the Champions Cup (when applicable).

## **11 Timetable, format and Gold Point Awards**

11.1 Divisions 1 and 2 in 2011 shall comprise eight teams playing a round-robin of 7 one-day matches of 60 boards, with screens.

Should a team withdraw from Division 1, the Selection Committee will determine the team to be promoted from Division 2.

**Weekend 1: 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Venue: Division 1, Young Chelsea Bridge Club  
Division 2, Richmond Bridge Club

**Weekend 2: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Venue: Manchester Bridge Club

**Weekend 3:** 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November

Venue: West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull

**Reserve weekend:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November

The format and playing schedule for each weekend is as follows:

**Weekends 1 & 2:** 2 x 60-board matches

**Saturday and Sunday:** 10.45 – 13.35; 14.00 – 16.50; 17.15 – 20.05

**Weekend 3:** 3 x 60-board matches

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday:** Timings as weekends 1 & 2.

- 11.2 Special circumstances may dictate that minor changes be made to the detailed timings shown.
- 11.3 Regulations concerning seating rights are contained in Appendix A.
- 11.4 Gold Points will be awarded as follows:

**Division 1 per win:** 1 Gold Point ( $\frac{1}{2}$  for a draw)

**Division 2 per win:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  Gold Point ( $\frac{1}{4}$  for a draw)

**Bonus awards:** Division 1: Top four teams: 4, 2, 1, &  $\frac{1}{2}$  respectively

Division 2: Top two teams: 1 &  $\frac{1}{2}$  respectively

[Division 2 awards assume an identical format to Division 1]

In order to be eligible for 'match winning awards' a player must have played at least one-third of the number of boards involved in the match in question.

In order to be eligible for 'bonus ranking awards' a player must have played at least one-third of the number of boards involved in the entire competition (i.e. at least 7 sets out of 21 sets).

## 12 Scoring

- 12.1 Scoring will be by IMPs, converted to Victory Points on a 25-0 VP scale (15-15 being a draw) as contained in Appendix H (60-board matches).

## 13 Composition of future divisions and team continuity

- 13.1 Promotion and relegation will be two up/two down [this based on divisions of approximately 8 teams]. The First Division in 2011 is therefore the top six teams in the 2010 League, plus the top two teams in the 2010 Second Division (but see also sections 2.2 and 4.3).
- 13.2 To maintain team continuity, any of the following is sufficient. A player is qualified if he satisfied the playing requirements for the previous season, and satisfies all the general conditions of section 4.1.
  - Three qualified players from a team of three, four or five qualified players
  - Four qualified players from a team of six qualified players

If a team has such a quorum it may add any further players it chooses to form its 2011 team without restriction, and the maximum total number of players on a team remains six. There is no absolute requirement for the core 2010 qualified players to play any minimum number of boards during the 2011 season.

- 13.3 Any remaining First Division places will be decided by the Selection Committee at its discretion, considering the number of qualified players on the teams, and the teams' bridge merit as judged by the Selection Committee. As a last resort, the seventh placed team in the previous First Division will tend to be reprieved from relegation in preference to promoting an additional team from the Second Division.

## **14 Systems and conventions**

- 14.1 Systems and conventions which are authorised at 'EBU Level 5' are permitted throughout, whether or not categorised by the WBF as 'Brown Sticker'.
- 14.2 Subject to Condition 14.3, Brown Sticker conventions which are not already authorised at EBU Level 5 are also permitted, subject to the disclosure requirements set out in Appendix B.
- 14.3 Psychic bids protected by system or required by system are not permitted.
- 14.4 HUM systems are permitted subject to the provisions of Appendix B regarding system disclosure and seating rights. Opponents of such methods should note that written defences are permitted and may be referred to at the table (see Appendix B for full details).
- 14.5 Copies of any systems incorporating either HUMs or Brown Stickers must be lodged with the Committee in advance. Please see Appendix B for full details.
- 14.6 Systems lodged in advance as above may only be changed with the prior approval of the Referee, which will normally be granted provided that the Referee is satisfied that neither the original submission nor the change is made to gain an unreasonable advantage, and that the change is made to a method in common use.

## **15 Miscellaneous conditions**

- 15.1 Bidding boxes and screens will be in use throughout. See Appendix C for regulations regarding the use of screens.
- 15.2 Ties will be split in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix E.
- 15.3 Penalties for late arrival will be assessed in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix F.
- 15.4 Details of the time allowed and of the penalties which will be assessed for slow play are set out in Appendix G.
- 15.5 Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area during a stanza in order to smoke or consume alcohol. There is an automatic penalty of 1 VP for a breach of this regulation.
- 15.6 Mobile telephones, pagers or similar electronic equipment may not be brought into the playing area, but may be left with the Tournament Director in charge. There is an automatic penalty of 1 VP for a breach of this regulation.

## **16 Notices and communications**

- 16.1 Any notices to be given to, or communications for the Committee should be in writing and sent to the Secretary to the Committee (Sandra Claridge) at the Union's Aylesbury offices, or to 31 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury HP18 9DG (email: claridge31@tiscali.co.uk.)
- 16.2 Email is an acceptable means of communication, but communications and attachments (notably systems) sent by email will not be taken to have been received by the

Committee until confirmation is available that they have been received and can be read and (if necessary) printed.

- 16.3 The Committee reserves the right to communicate with teams via the nominated team captain only. The exercise of any option available to a team under these Conditions, or the notification of any decision by a team in connection with the League shall be binding on the team if duly communicated to the Committee (or, if appropriate, during the course of a weekend, to the Tournament Director or Referee) by the nominated team captain.

## APPENDIX A

### Seating rights

#### 1 Seating rights

- (a) The tournament director will prepare a movement in which each team is at 'home' in approximately half of its matches.
- (b) The order of opponents and the choice of 'home' or 'away' will be pre-ordained by reference to team number.
- (c) In matches played in three stanzas, the home team has the right to seat its players after the away team has seated theirs in the first and third stanzas of the match. The away team has seating rights in the second stanza.
- (d) Separate regulations apply when HUM systems are in use (or may be in use) by one team only (see Appendix B).

## APPENDIX B

### System policy

#### 1 Convention cards

WBF or EBU style convention cards may be used. Failure to produce a properly completed convention card is liable to a procedural penalty in addition to an adjusted score(s) in respect of any consequential damage.

#### 2 Brown Sticker conventions

*for pairs employing 'Brown Sticker' conventions other than those already permitted at EBU Level 5*

Full system cards must be lodged with the Secretary of the Selection Committee by close of business on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011. There is a limitation of three such system cards per team. Submission of such a system card and subsequent attempt to withdraw it may be deemed to be a breach of the Proprieties (e.g. Law 74A2) and may be subject to penalty.

The system card will then be distributed to the other competitors. Failure of players using these methods to provide sufficient notice will mean that the special elements of the system involved cannot be played on the intended weekend.

All such special elements of system must be highlighted on the convention card as 'special bids that may require defence'. Full details must then be included on a supplementary sheet, including

development of the auction thereafter and any modifications which arise after interference by the opponents.

The opponents will be entitled to make separate notes of their defence to these special conventions, and may refer to these notes at the table. These defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' system.

### **3 'HUM' systems**

Full system cards must be lodged with the Secretary of the Selection Committee by close of business on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011. There is a limitation of three such systems per team.

The system card will then be distributed to the opponents.

Failure of players using these methods to provide sufficient notice will mean that the system cannot be played on the intended weekend. Submission of such a system card and subsequent attempt to withdraw it may be deemed to be a breach of the Proprieties (e.g. Law 74A2) and may be subject to penalty.

Once a team submits a HUM system for circulation to their opponents, the regulations below come into effect, regardless of whether the system is actually used in the match, and regardless of whether the pair involved subsequently seeks to withdraw the system.

(a) The pair(s) using a HUM system(s) must be available at least 20 minutes before the start of the match and at least 10 minutes before the start of each stanza in order to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by their opponents.

(b) When a team that includes a pair using a HUM system (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM system team will always line up first, i.e. the opponents of the HUM system have seating rights throughout the match. No special seating rights or line up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM systems (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.

(c) The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM system will submit two copies (clearly legible) of their defences (if any) to the HUM system in writing, at least 5 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the match. In preparing these defences, pairs not employing a HUM system of their own are allowed to change their systems, including opening calls. Pairs using HUM systems are not allowed to change their methods.

(d) The pair using a HUM system must inform the opponents in writing (hand written, two clearly legible copies) about their counter defence at the table, prior to the start of the stanza. In preparing their counter defence, the pair using the HUM system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

(e) Notes on the defence against HUM systems and on defence against the defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' systems and may be used by both pairs at the table.

(f) Pairs using a HUM system(s) and failing to meet any of these requirements will not be permitted to play their HUM(s).

### **4 Advance submission of systems**

(a) Systems as described in sections 2 & 3 will normally only be circulated to opponents in advance of the first weekend.

(b) The lodging of systems in advance does not relieve players of the responsibility to provide fully-completed system cards at the table in all stages of the event (see also section 1 of this appendix).

## APPENDIX C

### Screen regulations

#### 1 Description of the Operation

##### 1.1 Basic

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture.

##### 1.2 Sequence

North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

Players should refrain from touching any cards in the box until they have determined their call. However, any call selected and taken from the bidding box may be changed provided it has not been placed and released from the hand (but Law 73F may apply).

Note that when left-handed bidding boxes are in use the calls are placed in a row from right to left. After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes. A player who removes his bidding cards from the tray instead of passing will be deemed to have actually passed.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

#### 2 Changes to calls made

A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:

(a) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screen-mate is aware of this; or

(b) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognises his error.

#### 3 Alerts and Explanations

(a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Appendix D must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the

bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.

The WBF Alerting Policy (see Appendix D) shall apply with regard to which calls require an alert. There are no announcements behind screens

(b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen-mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.

(c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screen-mate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made

## **4 Modification of Rectifications**

### *4.1 Basic*

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 are in effect except as specified below..

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

(i) an inadmissible call – see Law 35 – must be corrected.

(ii) if a player infringes the law, and inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screen-mate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

(b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screen-mate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

(c) The screen-mate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:

(i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.

(ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.

(iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.

(iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.

(d) When an alertable call is made see section 3 above.

### *4.2 Spectators*

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

## **5 Tempo**

### *5.1 Variation in tempo*

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

### *5.2 Drawing attention to a variation in tempo*

When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screen-mate, however, shall not do so.

If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.

Failure to call the Director thus may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

### *5.3 "Hot seat" actions*

In the case of a player confronted with a wholly unanticipated situation or a high-level pre-empt a hesitation may be found not to suggest one action over another if the extra time taken may be occasioned by the need of the player to consider what options he has, added to any time he may then take in choosing among them.

### *5.4 Skip bid warnings*

These are not used with screens.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Alerting policy**

#### **WBF Alerting Policy as outlined below applies when playing with screens**

#### **Preamble**

**1** Full disclosure is vital. However, players who participate in WBF events are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter.

**2** The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players are, however, expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (NB where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction).

#### **Policy**

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- (i) Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
- (ii) Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a

special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organisation). See Law 40(b).

(iii) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

If screens are not in use, do NOT alert the following:

- (i) All doubles
- (ii) Any no-trump bid which suggests a balanced hand or semi-balanced hand, or suggests a no-trump contract.
- (iii) Any call at the four level or higher, with the exception of conventional calls on the first round of the auction.

Nevertheless, players must respect the spirit of the Policy as well as the letter.

## APPENDIX E

### Split tie procedures

1 A tie arising at the conclusion of the league will be split in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 inclusive of this Appendix.

2 Ties will be split where necessary in accordance with standard EBU procedures as described in the White Book 2010 (The EBU Tournament Directors Guide), save that neither paragraph 143.7.1 (e) ('point-a-board count back') nor paragraph 143.7.1 (f) ('random ballot') will apply. Full details are available on request and the full text of the White Book is available on the EBU web site ([www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)) in the 'Laws & Ethics' section.

3 A tie which cannot be resolved by these means will be deemed to be an unforeseen circumstance (in which case the Committee will determine a course of action).

## APPENDIX F

### Late arrival or fouled match/stanza

1 A team is late if one or more playing members of that team is not seated and ready to play at the advertised starting time. Warnings and penalties apply to the team as a whole rather than to any individual or to any partnership within a team.

2 The penalties described below apply to each separate match. Warnings and penalties issued during one match are not carried over to the next.

3 A team warned or penalised for late arrival retains the full time in which to play that stanza, i.e. the starting time for that table is officially delayed.

4 Penalties for late arrival are as follows (20-board stanzas):-

0+ - 12 minutes late: ½ VP penalty save that a warning will be issued in lieu of a penalty for the first offence of no more than 4 minutes of lateness.

Thereafter, for each portion of 8 minutes late or part thereof, up to 1 hour late, an additional ½ VP penalty and 1-board is removed from the match and scored as +/- 3 IMPs.

*Example: 53 minutes late would be a penalty of 3½ VPs and would cause 6 boards to be removed from the match (18 IMPs in total).*

If a team is more than 60 minutes late for a stanza, then that stanza will normally be abandoned and scored as +/- 20 IMPs (but see also sections 5 and 6 below). Additionally, the offending team will be penalised 4 VPs.

5 In the case of a 20-board stanza abandoned due to late arrival or other reason, the IMP score awarded in section 4 above will be increased pro rata if the non-offending team averages more than +1 IMP per board played in the remainder of the match (any fractions of an IMP will be rounded up to the next higher whole number in favour of the non-offending team).

*Example: the non-offending team gain 53 IMPs over the remaining 40 boards. The score for the abandoned stanza is modified to +/- 27 IMPs.*

6 If a late team arrive in time to play at least one-third of the boards scheduled for that stanza (i.e. at least 7-boards out of 20), then the non-offending team may elect to play those boards. The total score for the cancelled boards will still be 20 IMPs, and there will still be a 4 VP penalty. The score referred to in section 5 above would then be modified pro-rata.

*Example: if 10-boards only are cancelled, and scored as +/- 20 IMPs, then the section 5 adjustment would only apply if the non-offending team gained more than 2 IMPs per board over the remaining 50-boards (100 IMPs in total).*

7 If a second stanza in the same three stanza match is abandoned due to late arrival, then the entire match will be abandoned and provisionally scored as outlined in section 9 of the main conditions (i.e. as though the opposing team had withdrawn). See also section 8 below.

8 In the event of the abandonment of a match under paragraph 7, a full report will be made to the Committee. The Committee may take such action as it thinks fit. In particular it may adjust the provisional score of either or both teams, and may disqualify the offenders if it considers any impropriety to have taken place. The decision of the Committee under this paragraph shall be final.

9 The warnings and penalties contained in this Appendix may be expunged for cause either in part or in whole for late arrival for the start of a weekend. A team which feels that it can demonstrate good cause for late arrival for the start of a weekend may apply to the Chairman of Appeals for a waiver or relaxation of these penalties.

10 A stanza is fouled if teams sit in the same direction in both rooms and the error is not discovered until the end of the stanza (or near to the end of the stanza). Were this to arise, the stanza is abandoned and scored as 0 IMPs to both teams. Additionally, both teams shall be penalised 1½ VPs. Note: this is a relatively modest penalty, as it assumes a degree of responsibility on behalf of the organisation as well as on the players themselves. In aggravated circumstances this penalty may be increased at the sole discretion of the Committee.

## APPENDIX G

### Slow play

1 The time allowed for each stanza is as follows:-

Number of boards in stanza	Time allowed
20	Two hours & fifty minutes

2 In the event of stanzas of some other length being required, the time allowed (calculated on the basis of eight and a quarter minutes per board plus a further five minutes) will be announced prior to the commencement of play in the stage concerned.

3 Automatic penalties will apply to any table which runs over the allotted time. The penalty on the table involved will be 1 VP per five-minute delay or part thereof.

4 The tournament director will apportion the responsibility for the slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties separately to the teams involved on this basis. All penalties will be expressed in terms of  $\frac{1}{2}$  VP or multiples thereof.

*Example: a table is eight minutes late (2VP penalty). One pair is held to be approximately three-quarters responsible and the other approximately one-quarter responsible. The penalty is 1.5 VPs to the one team and 0.5 VPs to the other.*

5 If a suitable person is available to act as a time monitor, the tournament director may appoint such person to monitor the speed of play at any table (either at the request of one of the teams or on his own initiative). Otherwise the responsibility for monitoring the speed of play lies with the tournament director.

6 A team may be penalised at both tables in the same stanza.

7 In the event that a team is penalised more than once during the course of a single weekend by reason of slow play by the same pair, the penalty against that team shall be twice that calculated in accordance with paragraph 4 for a second offence, and three times for a third offence. Each weekend is treated separately for the purposes of this Appendix.

8 In the event that a team is penalised more than three times during the course of a single weekend by reason of slow play by the same pair, or in the event of excessively slow play, a more severe penalty may be imposed at the discretion of the tournament director, who shall in addition make a full report to the referee, who shall be empowered to impose further penalties at his discretion. The discretion of the tournament director and referee shall not extend to the compulsory withdrawal of an offending pair from any subsequent stanza.

9 In the event of penalties being imposed under paragraph 8, a full report shall be made to the Committee, which may take such further action (if any) as it thinks fit.

10 Approximately half way through each stanza and approximately ten minutes before the scheduled time for the completion of play, the tournament director shall notify each table of the time remaining. Although the tournament director will endeavour to warn a pair when they are in danger of a penalty being imposed, any failure to do so shall not preclude the imposition of a penalty.

11 The tournament directors have been instructed to apply the penalty provisions of this Appendix strictly, though discretion shall be used by the TD where a table has been delayed through no fault of its own (e.g. by 'Bridge Base Online' coverage).

## APPENDIX H

### Victory Point Scale

#### Matches of 60 boards

IMP difference		VPs
0 – 4		15 – 15
5 – 13		16 – 14
14 – 21		17 – 13
22 – 29		18 – 12
30 – 37		19 – 11
38 – 45		20 – 10
46 – 53		21 – 9
54 – 61		22 – 8
62 – 70		23 – 7
71 – 79		24 – 6
80 – 89		25 – 5
90 – 99		25 – 4
100 – 110		25 – 3
111 – 122		25 – 2
123 – 135		25 – 1
136 or more		25 – 0



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