



**ENGLAND EUROPEAN
SENIORS TRIALS
2011/12**

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

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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 absolute 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 of the Committee, if any. 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 a weekend of these Trials, 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 These Trials are played under the 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 these Trials 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 is put in place. Failure to do so may result in de-selection at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 To select a team to represent England in the 2012 European Seniors Championships (date and venue to be announced).

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- 2.2 Subject to the requirements and conditions set out in these Conditions of Contest, the winning team from these trials shall be entitled as of right to be selected for the European Seniors Championship. In the event that the full team, i.e. all players on the winning team who have satisfied the board requirement (see 3.1), is unavailable, the Selection Committee will select a team. If a team of four wins, a third pair or fifth player may be chosen from trials participants by the Selection Committee, in consultation with the winners. If a team of five wins, it will be permitted to continue with five players, or choose a sixth player from trials participants in consultation with the Selection Committee.

Non-playing captains may be selected by the Selection Committee, in consultation with the winners.

It should be noted that the team winning the trial will not receive any funding from the English Bridge Union for participation in the 2012 Seniors European Championship save for provision of the entry fee and such team uniform as is considered appropriate for the event.

- 2.3 Entries have been invited from eligible teams of four to six players (see Condition 4).

3 Summary of format

- 3.1 A 96-board Trial, in 8-board stanzas, will be played on 19th & 20th November 2011 at Richmond Bridge Club, London.

The winners of the Trial will play a 96-board challenge match (also in 8-board stanzas) against a team captained by Paul Hackett on a date to be arranged in January 2012, and the team winning the Challenge will compete in the European Seniors Championship on a self-funding basis.

To be eligible for automatic selection a player must play at least one-third of the boards in the Trial and the Challenge match.

- 3.2 Regulations concerning seating rights are contained in Appendix B.

4 Eligibility – general

- 4.1 All players must be members of the Union in good standing.

- 4.2 All players must have been born during or before 1952.

- 4.3 All players must be eligible to represent England.

- 4.4 If a player loses either his good standing or eligibility during the course of the season, then that player will be disqualified from further participation in these Trials and from ultimate selection to represent England. Continued participation of the team to which such a player belongs is subject to Condition 6.2.

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 Trials must not have a beneficial financial interest in the performance of any team in the Trials other than their own. This does not preclude relatives from playing in a different team.

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

6 Registered players

- 6.1 Teams comprise a maximum of six players.
- 6.2 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 4.4), then that team may apply for a permanent replacement player or pair. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to such application, 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 Trials.

8 Withdrawal

- 8.1 In the case of a Trial containing three or more teams, if a team withdraws during the course of the weekend, then a full report will be made to the Committee, whose arbitration of the result from the weekend will be final (which may include expunging the results of the withdrawn team, assigning adjusted scores for sessions not actually played, or ordering a play-off or a re-match with or without penalty for the offenders). A team that withdraws without reasonable excuse as determined by the Committee may constitute an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules and/or jeopardise participation in future Trials or selection to represent England in future years.

9 Entries

- 9.1 Entries were received by the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs AJ Claridge, 31 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury HP18 9DG (email: claridge31@tiscali.co.uk) by the published closing date i.e. 30th September 2011.
- 9.2 The Committee reserves the right to accept late entries at its absolute discretion.
- 9.3 The identity of all players and of the partnerships within each team must be specified at the time of entry. Any change, prior to the commencement of play, to the composition of a team, or any change to the line-up of a team, will be treated as a fresh entry (and its acceptance will therefore be subject to the Committee's discretion if it occurs after the closing date for entries).

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- 9.4 All entries must be accompanied by the full entry fee of £300 per team. Entries are not confirmed until the entry fee has been paid.
- 9.5 Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility under Conditions 4 and 5.

10 Scoring

- 10.1 Scoring in the Trial and the Challenge will be by IMPs, aggregated over 96 boards.
- 10.2 The “standard amount” as referred to in Appendix F, is 3 IMPs.
- 10.3 In the event of a stanza being fouled in a Trial involving three or more teams, (such as by being played by both teams in the same orientation), the same provisions for allocating a provisional score (except for the penalty element) shall be applied as if the match had been abandoned due to late arrival (see Appendix F). In a two team head-on match, the stanza will be replayed.

11 Systems and conventions

- 11.1 Systems and conventions which are authorised at ‘EBU Level 5’ are permitted whether or not categorised by the WBF as ‘Brown Sticker’. HUM systems and other Brown Sticker methods are not permitted.

12 Miscellaneous conditions

- 12.1 Bidding boxes and screens will be in use throughout. See Appendix C for regulations regarding the use of screens.
- 12.2 Ties will be split in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix E.
- 12.3 Penalties for late arrival will be assessed in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix F.
- 12.4 Details of the time allowed and of the penalties which will be assessed for slow play are set out in Appendix G.
- 12.5 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 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.
- 12.6 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 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.

13 Notices and communications

- 13.1 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) to 31 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury HP18 9DG (email: claridge31@tiscali.co.uk.)
- 13.2 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

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

- 13.3 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 trials 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 Detailed timetable

Venue: Richmond Bridge Club, London. The times of play each day will be as follows:

Saturday 19th November

11.30 – 15.15: 3 rounds

15.45 – 19.30: 3 rounds

Sunday 20th November

10.30 – 14.15 3 rounds

14.45 – 18.30 3 rounds

The precise starting time of the 4th round on each day may be varied slightly by mutual agreement, and may in any case need to be varied slightly by the Tournament Director, to take account of the actual speed of play in the first three rounds.

APPENDIX B Seating rights

Seating rights will be determined by the toss of a coin. The captain winning the toss may elect to have seating rights in either the odd-numbered or the even-numbered segments. The other captain then has seating rights in the remaining segments.

APPENDIX C Screen regulations

1 Description of the Operation

a. 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.

b. 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.

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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 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).

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- (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 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 2004 (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) 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

- 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 A team advised, 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.
- 3 For the purposes of paragraph 4 of this Appendix, a single offence is anything from 0+ to 5 minutes late. Thus, for example, a first offence of eight minutes late would constitute two offences, and would receive an official warning.
- 4 Penalties for late arrival are as follows:-
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| First offence | no penalty (but the TD shall advise the team that it is late) |
| Second offence | official warning |
| Third offence | penalty of the standard amount |
| Fourth and subsequent offences | a further penalty of the standard amount, and see |

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also paragraphs 5 and 6 regarding the removal of boards

- 5 In the event of a fourth or subsequent offence, then in addition to the penalty provisions of paragraph 4, the tournament director will remove one board from the match after more than 15 minutes of lateness, and further boards at the rate of one board every five minutes thereafter. Each board so removed will be scored as +/- 3 IMPs.
- Example: for a first offence of 22 minutes late, two boards would be removed from the match and scored as +/- 3 IMPs per board. There would also be an additional fixed penalty of the standard amount for the offending team. Note that a team which has already received an official warning, but which is no more than 15 minutes late, does not have boards removed but does receive a penalty of the standard amount for each delay of five minutes or part thereof.*
- 6 However, there is a limitation on the number of boards which may be removed before the segment is abandoned. No segment will take place once half of the boards scheduled to be played have been removed owing to late arrival. So, if a team is more than 50 minutes late for a 16-board segment, then that segment will be abandoned.
- 7 The provisional score to be allocated for an abandoned or fouled segment shall be +/- 1½ IMPs per board as per section 6 above, in addition to any of the fixed penalty provisions of section 4. However, 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.
- 8 The penalties and warnings contained in this Appendix may be expunged for cause either in part or in whole for late arrival for the start of the weekend. A team which feels that it can demonstrate good cause for late arrival for the start of the weekend may apply to the Chairman of Appeals for a waiver or relaxation of these penalties.

APPENDIX G Slow play

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

| Number of boards in stanza | Time allowed |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 | One hour & fifteen minutes |

- 2 In the event of stanzas of some other length being required, the time allowed (calculated on the basis of eight and a half 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 4 IMPs 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 a whole number of IMPs.

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Example: a table is six minutes late (8 IMP penalty). One pair is held to be approximately three-quarters responsible and the other approximately one-quarter responsible. The penalty is 6 IMPs to the one team and 2 IMPs to the other (thus making a difference of 4 IMPs to the knock-out match score).

- 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.
- 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.



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