



ENGLAND

Trial for 2024 European Seniors' National Teams Championship SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

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1. Definitions

- 1.1. The Conditions of Contest for the trial for the 2024 European National Teams Championships England Seniors' Team comprise the General Conditions of Contest and these Specific Conditions of Contest. This document should be read in conjunction with the General Conditions of Contest.
- 1.2. Where the General Conditions of Contest and these Specific Conditions of Contest are in conflict, the Specific Conditions of Contest will take precedence.

2. Scope of the Trial

- 2.1. The trial consists of two stages, played under international championship conditions, to select the team to represent England in the Seniors' category of the 2024 European National Teams Championships, to be held in Herning, Denmark, on 24th June - 4th July 2024. [The Seniors' event might not start until 28th]
- 2.2. This trial is only for the 2024 European National Teams Championships Seniors' Team, and not, for example, for the world championships. The overall winners of the trial will qualify to represent England at this European Championship.
- 2.3. The winning team will consist of 4 players; a third pair will be added from the pairs that finished in the top five of the first stage. The choice of pair will be made by the Selection Committee taking into account the views of the winning team.

3. Entry Fee

- 3.1. The entry fee is £175.00 per player.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. All players must meet the eligibility conditions as laid down in Section 5 of the General Conditions of Contest.
- 4.2. Any player unsure of their eligibility should contact Gordon Rainsford – gordon@ebu.co.uk
- 4.3. If a player loses either their good standing or their eligibility during the course of the season, then that player will be disqualified from further participation in the event and from ultimate selection to represent England.
- 4.4. All players must meet the EBL's minimum age requirements for Seniors' events. Specifically, they must be at least 64 by the end of 2024.

5. Registered players and substitutes

- 5.1. Sections 7 and 8 of the General Conditions of Contest shall apply to this event in their entirety.

6. Timetable and format

- 6.1. The trial will consist of two stages, the dates being
- Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March 2024 at West Midlands Bridge Club
 - Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th April 2024 at TGR's Bridge Club
- 6.2. Stage One will consist of a round-robin of matches, with 144 boards to be played. With 10 pairs participating in Stage One, the schedule of play will be as below (based on 16 board matches).

Date	Match	Start	Finish
8 Mar	1	1500	1715
	2	1730	1945
9 Mar	3	1030	1245
	4	1315	1530
	5	1545	1800
	6	1815	2030
10 Mar	7	1030	1245
	8	1315	1530
	9	1545	1800

- 6.3. The movement will be determined in advance and arranged so that each pair plays an equal length match against each other pair, and it will be as balanced as can be.
- 6.4. Matches will be played straight through. Scoring will be by cross-IMPs divided by the number of comparisons.
- 6.5. After Stage One, the leading two pairs will be guaranteed a place in Stage Two. The winners of Stage One may pick their teammates for Stage Two from any of the top five finishers in Stage One. After that the second-place finishers (or third-place if second-place have already been chosen) will select their teammates from the same group. In Stage Two, these two teams will play a 112-board match played in 14-board segments. If both teams playing in Stage two agree, this match can be shortened to 98 boards.
- 6.6. The session times for Stage Two will be:
 Saturday: 11:30 – 13:30; 14:00 – 16:00; 16:15 – 18:15; 18:30-20:30
 Sunday: 10:30 – 12:30; 13:00 – 15:00; 15:15 – 17:15; 17:30-19:30
- 6.7. Seating rights for Stage Two will be determined by the toss of a coin, the winner choosing the first line-up, and the line-ups changing every stanza thereafter.

- 6.8. In either stage, the Director of the trial may bring forward starting times of sessions with the agreement of the players, or may delay starting times of sessions for appropriate reasons (for example, if a ruling is required before a session starts).

7. Systems and partnership understandings

- 7.1. Systems and conventions which are authorised at 'EBU Level 5' are permitted throughout, whether or not categorised by the WBF as 'Brown Sticker' or 'HUM'. Other Brown Sticker methods up to a total of 1 per pair may be used in Stage One provided complete system cards detailing these methods are submitted to the Secretary of the Selection Committee by 4.00pm on Tuesday 5th March. These will be circulated to other participants in the trial, who will be allowed to bring written defences to these Brown Sticker methods to the table.
- 7.2. A pair may use up to 3 Brown Sticker methods in Stage Two, but if playing more than one their team will be subjected to limitations in seating rights as regulated in the European Championship events.
- 7.3. WBF convention cards must be used by all participants.

8. Late arrival, withdrawal, or slow play

- 8.1. Sections 9, 10, and 11 of the General Conditions of Contest shall apply in their entirety to this trial.

9. Selection

- 9.1. Subject to the requirements and conditions set out in these Conditions of Contest, the winning team from the final of the trial will be guaranteed selection.
- 9.2. Selection for the team is on a self-funded basis, except that the EBU will pay entry fees, uniforms and the expenses of a non-playing captain.



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