



GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**FOR TRIALS AND OTHER EVENTS
ORGANISED BY THE EBU SELECTION
COMMITTEE**

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1. Definitions

- 1.1. The Conditions of Contest for an event comprise these General Conditions of Contest, and the Specific Conditions of Contest for the event.
- 1.2. References in the Conditions of Contest to “the EBU” or “the Union” mean The English Bridge Union Ltd.
- 1.3. References to “the Committee” mean the Selection Committee of the Union.
- 1.4. References to a "contestant" mean a team in a teams event, and a pair in a pairs event.

2. Authority

- 2.1. The Conditions of Contest are established by the Committee. The Committee acts on behalf of, and is responsible to, the Board of Directors of the EBU.
- 2.2. Any decision of the Committee about the interpretation of the Conditions of Contest shall be final.
- 2.3. 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 the Conditions of Contest, or in the event of any unforeseen circumstances.
- 2.4. Subject to 2.10, any decisions that, under the Conditions of Contest, are the responsibility of the Committee 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. 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.
- 2.5. Subject to 2.10, the Committee may delegate its responsibilities under the Conditions of Contest.
- 2.6. In the event that a decision under the Conditions of Contest is required during the course of play of an event, a decision may be made on the Committee’s behalf by the Tournament Director in Charge.
- 2.7. Events are played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.
- 2.8. In the event of any conflict between the General Conditions of Contest and the Specific Conditions of Contest for an event, the Specific Conditions of Contest shall prevail.
- 2.9. 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 the event, unless they conflict with the Conditions of Contest, in which case the Conditions of Contest shall prevail.
- 2.10. Any decision to select, deselect or exclude a player or official from representing England must be made by the Committee itself, notwithstanding Conditions 2.4 and 2.5.
- 2.11. The Committee reserves the right, only to be exercised in exceptional circumstances, not to select a player who has qualified for selection or to withdraw an invitation already issued.
- 2.12. Selection for any event is conditional upon players demonstrating a satisfactory degree of commitment to any programme of training or preparation that is put in place. Failure to do so may result in deselection at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

- 2.13. A wilful breach of the Conditions of Contest will jeopardise participation in future events and selection to represent England in future years. It is also an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules.

3. Entries

- 3.1. Entries should have been sent to the Secretary of the Selection Committee, Dawn Mertens, Tel. 01296 317219, email dawn@ebu.co.uk before the published closing date.
- 3.2. The Committee reserves the right to reject entries at its absolute discretion.
- 3.3. The Committee reserves the right to accept late entries at its absolute discretion.
- 3.4. All entries should be accompanied by the full entry fee. Entries are not confirmed until the entry fee has been paid.
- 3.5. Entry fees for English junior players will be reduced pro-rata in accordance with standard EBU competition policy: half-price for U22s, or U25s still in full-time education (based on the age of the player on the first day of the event); free of charge entry for junior squad members playing together as a partnership or with the squad leader, or other partners with the agreement of the Committee, subject to the approval of the Committee Chairman, and subject to the other published conditions of the EBU's free-entry policy.
- 3.6. Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility under Condition 4 and under the Specific Conditions of Contest.

4. Eligibility and allegiance

- 4.1. All players must be members of the English Bridge Union in good standing.
- 4.2. To participate in a trial that leads to selection for England in a representative event, a player must:
- Be eligible to play in the representative event.
 - At the time of the representative event, be qualified for England under the regulations of all three of Bridge Great Britain ("BGB"), the European Bridge League ("EBL") and the World Bridge Federation ("WBF") (or, in the opinion of the Committee, would be qualified if an application were made).
- 4.3. To participate in a trial that leads to selection for England in a representative event, a player must agree to:
- Meet any additional conditions of entry for the representative event.
 - Be available to play in the representative event
 - In the entire calendar year of the representative event, be unavailable for selection as a player or captain by any other country in BGB, EBL or WBF events. For example, to participate in a trial held in 2017 for a representative event in 2018, a player must be not be available for selection by another country between January 2018 and December 2018.
- 4.4. By entering a trial, a player confirms that he meets the conditions of 4.2, and agrees to the conditions of 4.3.
- 4.5. A player whose eligibility to represent England may be subject to a decision about eligibility by the WBF, EBL, BGB or other similar body must notify the Committee of this at the time of application to play in the trial.

- 4.6. If, during an event, a player ceases to meet any condition of eligibility or allegiance, that player will be disqualified from further participation in the trial and from selection to represent England.
- 4.7. If, during or after an event, a player ceases to meet any condition of eligibility or allegiance, the Committee will decide how this affects the eligibility of his teammates for selection, continued participation in the event, promotion, team continuity, or any other matter which is dependent on these conditions.

5. Further conditions of entry

- 5.1. All players must 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. Players entered in an event must not have a beneficial financial interest in the performance of any contestant in the event other than their own. This does not preclude relatives playing in different teams or pairs.

6. Registered players

- 6.1. The Committee must be notified of any proposed change to the membership of a contestant after the closing date for applications, and such changes are subject to the approval of the Committee.
- 6.2. Any change to the membership of a team is subject to the same eligibility rules, and the same limit on the number of players, as the initial application.
- 6.3. If a contestant loses one or more members as a result of death, serious incapacity or other exceptional circumstance, including the loss of good standing or eligibility, then that contestant may apply for a permanent replacement player or pair.
- 6.4. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to such applications, and may grant an application subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.

7. Substitutes

- 7.1. A contestant that is unable to field sufficient 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 absolute discretion to decide the extent to which the results of the match(es) affected will be allowed to stand and whether the contestant in question will be allowed to continue in the event.

8. Withdrawal and unplayed matches

- 8.1. Unless otherwise permitted by the Specific Conditions of Contest, contestants are required to participate in all the scheduled matches of each round for which they have qualified.
- 8.2. Contestants are required to complete all of their matches, except that concession is permitted part way through a knockout match.
- 8.3. Should any contestant nonetheless withdraw or fail to play a particular match, the Committee may impose sanctions and may also refer the matter to the EBU's disciplinary committee.
- 8.4. If a contestant has completed fewer than half the scheduled matches, the results of all such matches will be expunged.

- 8.5. If such a contestant has played at least half the matches, all results will stand. The unplayed matches will be scored using the formula in Appendix C

9. Miscellaneous conditions

- 9.1. Bidding boxes and screens will normally be used.
- 9.2. Players must obtain the Tournament Director's permission before leaving the playing area during a stanza.
- 9.3. Matches may be shown on Vugraph or otherwise broadcast. Players are required to cooperate with the organisers and operators of such broadcasts.
- 9.4. Smoking, the consumption of alcohol, and the use of electronic cigarettes in the playing area are prohibited. No player may leave the playing area during a match for any of these purposes. There is an automatic penalty of at least 1 VP or 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.
- 9.5. Mobile phones and other electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and must be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the table prior to completion of the session must leave his mobile phone and electronic devices at the table. There is an automatic penalty of at least 1 VP or 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.
- 9.6. The Tournament Director in Charge may, at his discretion, prohibit a player or spectator from bringing other equipment into the playing area.
- 9.7. Appeals will be heard by a Committee if practicable. If an appeal is heard by a referee, he will normally consult with others before ruling.

10. Notices and communications

- 10.1. Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be in writing and sent to the Secretary to the Committee (Dawn Mertens) at the Union's Aylesbury offices: Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ – email dawn@ebu.co.uk.
- 10.2. Email is the preferred 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.
- 10.3. The Committee reserves the right to communicate with contestants via the nominated captain only.
- 10.4. Announcements regarding the format, timings and other Conditions of Contest may be made either by email or via the EBU website.
- 10.5. The exercise of any option available to a contestant under the Conditions of Contest, or the notification of any decision by a contestant in connection with and event shall be binding on the contestant if duly communicated to the Committee (or, if appropriate, during the course of an event, to the Tournament Director in Charge) by the nominated captain.

11. Seating rights

- 11.1. Where the contestants in a match are defined as "home" and "away", the home contestant has the right to seat its players after the away contestant has seated theirs.
- 11.2. Separate regulations apply when HUM systems are (or may be) in use (see Section 12).
- 11.3. For pairs trials, players are required to state in which direction each of them will sit when NS and which when EW; they must then maintain those directions throughout.

12. System policy

System cards

- 12.1. WBF or EBU 20B system cards may be used.
- 12.2. Failure to provide two properly completed system cards will lead to a procedural penalty in addition to any adjusted score(s) in respect of consequential damage.

HUMs and Brown Sticker conventions

- 12.3. The Specific Conditions of Contest may allow the use of HUMs.
- 12.4. The Specific Conditions of Contest may allow the use of Brown Sticker conventions, in addition to those already permitted at EBU Level 5.
- 12.5. A partnership playing a HUM system or Brown Sticker convention is responsible for identifying it as such. Advice may be obtained from Gordon Rainsford - gordon@ebu.co.uk - if required.
- 12.6. For a pair employing either HUMs or 'Brown Sticker' conventions (other than those already permitted at EBU Level 5), a full WBF system card must be lodged with the Secretary of the Selection Committee by the deadline specified in the Specific Conditions of Contest. This system card will then be distributed to the other contestants.
- 12.7. In teams events, there is a limit of three such system cards per team.
- 12.8. Submission of such a system card and subsequent attempt to withdraw it may be subject to penalty.
- 12.9. A system lodged in advance may only be changed with the prior approval of the Tournament Director in Charge, which will normally be granted provided that he is satisfied that neither the original submission nor the change is likely or intended to gain an unreasonable advantage, and that the change is made to a method in common use.
- 12.10. A pair which submits a system card after the deadline may be allowed to play the methods in later parts of the event, subject to the Committee's decision as to whether sufficient notice has been provided.
- 12.11. All such methods must be shown 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.
- 12.12. 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 written defences are deemed to be part of the system card of the pair playing the HUM or Brown Sticker convention.
- 12.13. The lodging of systems in advance does not relieve players of the responsibility to provide fully-completed system cards at the table.

Additional regulations applying to HUMs

- 12.14. Once a contestant 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.
- 12.15. A pair using a HUM must be available at least 20 minutes before the start of the match to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by their opponents.

- 12.16. When a contestant that includes a pair using a HUM (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a contestant that has no such pair, the HUM contestant will always line up first, i.e. the opponents of the HUM system have seating rights. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two contestants containing pairs using HUMs (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.
- 12.17. The opponents of a contestant that includes one or more pairs using a HUM will submit two copies (clearly legible) of their defences (if any) to the HUM in writing, at least 5 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the match. In preparing these defences, a pair not employing a HUM of their own is allowed to change its methods, including opening calls. A pair using a HUM is not allowed to change its methods.
- 12.18. The pair using a HUM must inform the opponents in writing (two clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table, prior to the start of the match. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using the HUM is not permitted to change any of the highly unusual aspects of its system.
- 12.19. Notes on defence against the HUM 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.
- 12.20. A pair using a HUM and failing to meet any of these requirements will not be permitted to play its HUM.
- 12.21. The Tournament Director in Charge may publish interpretations of, or additions to, these HUM regulations.

13. Screen regulations

- 13.1. When screens are in use, the WBF Screen Regulations will apply (see Appendix A).
- 13.2. As stated in the regulations, questions and explanations should be given in writing. Other methods of requesting and receiving explanations will not automatically lead to a penalty, but note that:
- If an opponent attempts to give a verbal explanation, a player should ask that it be written down.
 - If a player accepts a non-written explanation and this leads to a misunderstanding, it will generally be assumed that he is at fault. It will be treated as his own misunderstanding under Law 21A, and he will not be entitled to redress.
 - If a spoken question or answer creates unauthorised information on the other side of the screen, or at another table, the offender may receive a procedural penalty.

14. Alerting regulations

- 14.1. The WBF Alerting Policy will apply (see Appendix B).
- 14.2. For the purpose of the alerting regulations only, a "special partnership understanding" is one which may be unexpected to the opponents.
- 14.3. The regulation that "non-conventional calls should not [be alerted]" is subordinate to the other rules of the alerting policy.

15. Correction periods for scoring errors

- 15.1. The standard period for corrections to the official score is 30 minutes after the end of play on the day in question.
- 15.2. If the event continues on the following day and the scheduled movement is part-completed, the correction period for the final stanza of the day extends until the start of the first stanza on the following day.

- 15.3. After the end of the correction period, no scoring corrections will be allowed except for those where the Tournament Director or another official bears some responsibility.
- 15.4. It is the players' responsibility to check the scores that are entered for each board, to take advantage of the facility to review all the scores on the Bridgemate at the end of each stanza or round, and to check the published official score.
- 15.5. At the end of each weekend, each captain or a member of the team or pair should confirm the results with the Tournament Director before leaving the venue.

16. Split tie procedures

- 16.1. Ties will be split where necessary in accordance with standard EBU procedures as described in the White Book 2013 (Technical Matters), save that neither paragraph 3.2.5.3 ('point-a-board count back') nor paragraph 3.2.7.1 (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.
- 16.2. 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 A: World Bridge Federation Screen Regulations

1.1 Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray after which 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. A player who removes one or more of his bidding cards from the tray in an apparent attempt to "pass" is indeed deemed to have "passed".

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. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

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.

At this point Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table and puts the board back in the centre of the table.

When the tray is removed from the table this must be done by either Dummy or Declarer and only Dummy or Declarer may put the board back in the centre of the table.

The opening lead must be made before the Screen aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened.

At the end of play the tray is replaced on the table.

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. However, if a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

Cards must always be placed on the table in the same way, vertically or horizontally and at an equal distance from the previous card. Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalties.

1.2 Alerts and Explanations

a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Appendix B 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.

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 screenmate 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. Therefore the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

1.3 **Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.**

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 72c (2017) may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate 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 screenmate 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 screenmate 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 72c (2017) 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 1.2 above.

e) 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 screenmate, however, shall not do so.

f) 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.

g) Failure to do as (f) provides 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.

h) However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 3.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

Appendix B: World Bridge Federation Alerting Policy

(Adopted July 1997, revised August 2002)

Preamble

1. The objective is to have a uniform WBF policy which is applied to all WBF events.
2. It is not intended that this should over-ride Alerting Policies developed by the Zone or NBOs.
3. 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.
4. The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players are, however, expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (N.B. 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:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
2. 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 organization). See Law 40(b).
3. 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.

Appendix C: Calculation of results for unplayed or forfeited matches

Matches scored with a 20-0 VP scale

The non-offending side receive the higher of 13 VPs or the result of this formula.

$$15 * \frac{(x / (20-x))}{(x / (20 - x)) + (y / (20 - y))} + 5$$

where

x = Non-offending side's average result in VPs

y = Offending side's average result in VPs

Matches scored with capped cross-IMPs

The non-offending side receive the higher of 0.3z IMPs or the result of this formula.

$$1.5 z * \frac{((x + z) / (z - x))}{((x + z)/(z - x)) + ((y + z)/(z - y))} - 0.5z$$

where

x = Non-offending side's average result in cross-IMPs (ie average board result multiplied by the number of boards in the match)

y = Offending side's average result in cross-IMPs

z = 15 * sqrt((boards * results) / (2 * comparisons))

Matches scored by other methods or using other VP scales

The method of calculation and any formulae will be determined by the Tournament Director in charge.