



ENGLAND

Trial for 2024 European Mixed 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 Mixed 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 mixed category of the 2024 European National Teams Championships, to be held in Herning, Denmark, on 24th June - 4th July 2024. The two pairs representing a team at any one time must always both be mixed pairs.
- 2.2. This trial is only for the 2024 European National Teams Championships Mixed Team, and not, for example, for the world championships. The overall winners of the trial will qualify to represent England at the European Championships.
- 2.3. If the winning team consists of 4 players, then the winning team will add a third pair from the teams that finished in the top four of the Round Robin stage. This pair will be added in consultation with the Selection Committee.

3. Entry Fee

- 3.1. The entry fee is £600.00 per team.

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.

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, at the West Midlands Bridge Club, the dates being
 - Friday 2nd – Saturday 3rd February 2024
 - Sunday 4th – Monday 5th February 2024
- 6.2. Stage 1 will consist of seven 16-board matches.
- 6.3. The movement will be determined in advance and arranged so that each team plays one 16-board match against each other team.

- 6.4. Matches will be played straight through without a change of opponents. The “home” team, whose number appears first in the draw, will have the right to seat their pairs after the “away” players have taken their seats.
- 6.5. Scoring will be by IMPs converted to Victory Points using the continuous scale.
- 6.6. The session times for Stage 1 will be:
 - Friday: 13:00 – 15:10; 15:40 – 17:50; 18:10- 20:20
 - Saturday: 10:30 – 12:40; 13:00 – 15:10; 15:40 – 17:50; 18:10- 20:20
- 6.7. The four leading teams in Stage 1 will qualify to stage 2. The team in first place will choose their opponents for the semi-final from the teams in third and fourth place, unless the team in second place elects to be included amongst those from which the team in first place is selecting.
- 6.8. Stage 2 will consist of a semi-final and a final, each of 64 boards. It is expected that tablets will be used for the bidding at this stage. Scoring will be by imps, with the team that finished the round robin in a higher position deemed to have a carry-over of 0.1 imps if this is needed to determine the winner of the match after 64 boards.
- 6.9. The session times for Stage 2 will be:
 - Sunday and Monday: 10:30 – 12:45; 13:00 – 15:15; 15:45 – 18:00; 18:15- 20:30
- 6.10. Seating rights for the semi-final and final will be determined by the toss of a coin, the winner choosing either the odd- or the even-numbered sets in which they have the right to seat players after their opponents.
- 6.11. 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 3 per pair may be used provided complete system cards detailing these methods are submitted to the Secretary of the Selection Committee by 4.00pm on Tuesday 30 January. 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. Any team containing a partnership using more than one Brown Sticker convention gives up seating rights to their opponents (unless the opposing team also contains a partnership using more than one Brown Sticker convention).
- 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. All players are required to play at least 50% of the boards in each stage (at least 3 of 7 matches in the Round Robin and at least 2 of the 4 sets in both the semi-final and final). Any unplayed sets in the semi-final or final if a team concedes may be counted for this purpose.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. 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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