



ENGLAND

Trial for 2026 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 2026 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 2026 European National Teams Championships, provisionally to be held in Riga, Latvia on 1st – 7th July 2026.
- 2.2. All pairs playing in a team must consist of one male and one female. Players should note the EBU [Eligibility of Transgender Players in Mixed or Women's Events](#) in this context.
- 2.3. This trial is only for the 2026 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.

3. Entry Fee

- 3.1. The entry fee is £560.00 per team for Stage 1 with a further £560 for those teams qualifying for Stage 2.

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

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.
- 6.2. Stage 1 will take place at the East Midlands Bridge Academy, Chapel St, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7JR on Saturday 3rd January 2026 – Sunday 4th January 2026. There will be no play on Friday 2nd January.
- 6.3. There are no exemptions directly to Stage 2 of the trial.
- 6.4. Stage 1 will consist of seven 16-board matches.
- 6.5. The movement will be determined in advance and arranged so that each team plays one 16-board match against each other team, with each team having a sit out.

- 6.6. 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.
- 6.7. Scoring will be by IMPs converted to Victory Points using the continuous scale.
- 6.8. The session times for Stage 1 will be:
- Saturday: 10:30 – 12:40; 13:10 – 15:20; 15:40 – 17:50; 18:10- 20:20
- Sunday: 10:00 – 12:10; 12:40 – 14:50; 15:10 – 17:20
- 6.9. The four leading teams in Stage 1 will qualify to stage 2.
- 6.10. Stage 2 will take place at the Young Chelseas Bridge Club, 21 Dalling Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 0JD on Friday 23rd January – Sunday 25th January 2026.
- 6.11. Stage 2 will consist of a triple round robin, 3 x 14 boards against each other team.
- 6.12. 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.
- 6.13. The final round robin will be seeded.
- 6.14. The session times for Stage 2 will be:
- Friday: 18:00 – 20:00, 20:20 – 22:20
- Saturday: 10:00 – 12:00, 12:30 – 14:30, 14:50 – 16:50, 17:10 – 19:10
- Sunday: 10:00 – 12:00, 12:30 – 14:30, 14:50 – 16:50
- 6.15. In the event of an exact tie (to 2 decimal places) the winner will be the team that finished higher in Stage 1 of the trial.
- 6.16. 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 Monday 15th December 2025. 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. “HUM” other than those allowed at EBU Level 5 are not permitted.
- 7.4. 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. Section 21.1 of the General Conditions of Contest does not apply to this trial.
- 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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