



ENGLAND

Trial for 2026 European Women's National Teams Championship

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

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1. Conditions of Contest

- 1.1. The Conditions of Contest for the trial for the 2026 European National Teams Championships England Women's 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.
- 1.3. By playing in the trial all players confirm that they accept the Special Conditions of Contest, the General Conditions of Contest and any other regulations referred to in either and will not subsequently raise any objection to their terms.

2. Scope of the Trial

- 2.1. The trial consists of one stage, played under international championship conditions, to select the team to represent England in the women's category of the 2026 European National Teams Championships, to be held in Riga, Latvia, on 1st July – 7th July 2026.
- 2.2. This trial is only for the 2026 European National Teams Championships Women's Team, and not, for example, for the world championships. The overall winners of the trial will qualify to represent England at this European Championship.

3. Entry Fee

- 3.1. The entry fee is £750.00 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. Subject to 4.1 above, the trial will be open to everyone who is eligible to play in the EBL 2026 European Women's National Teams Championship as set out in the EBL eligibility code: <https://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/other-codes-and-regulations/eligibility-code/>
- 4.3. Any player unsure of their eligibility should contact the Secretary of the Selection Committee – heather@ebu.co.uk
- 4.4. 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 one stage, the dates being
- Saturday 21st – Sunday 22nd February 2026 at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club
- 6.2. The trial will consist of a head-to-head match, with 96 boards to be played. The schedule of play will be as below (based on 16 board segments).

| Date | Segment | Start | Finish |
|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| 21 Feb | 1 | 11:00 | 13:10 |
| | 2 | 13:40 | 15:50 |
| | 3 | 16:10 | 18:20 |
| 22 Feb | 4 | 10:00 | 12:10 |
| | 5 | 12:40 | 14:50 |
| | 6 | 15:10 | 17:20 |

- 6.3. Scoring will be by total IMPs.
- 6.4. Seating rights will be determined by the toss of a coin which will take place in advance of the match, the winner choosing either the odd numbered segments or the even numbered segments. The team that did not win the coin toss will have seating rights in the unchosen segments.
- 6.5. In the event of a tie at the end of Segment 6, additional segments of 12 boards will be played to determine the winner with seating rights continuing to alternate such that the team with seating rights for the Segment 5 will have seating rights for the first additional segment and the team with seating rights for the Segment 6 will have seating rights for the second additional segment etc.
- 6.6. 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 three 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 17 February. 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 their team will be subjected to limitations in seating rights as regulated in the European Championship events.
- 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 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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