

CROCKFORDS CUP

(including CROCKFORDS PLATE)



REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Various general regulations and conditions of play apply to all English Bridge Union competitions which involve matches played privately. These are contained in a separate document, [EBU General Regulations](#), which should be read alongside this document which contains the regulations specific to this competition. In the event of a conflict between the regulations in this document and those in the General Regulations document, those in this document shall prevail.

All these regulations and conditions are supplementary to, and in certain cases a replacement of, general EBU regulations as contained in various EBU publications (e.g. [Blue Book](#), [White Book](#), diary, website). All such general EBU regulations continue to apply unless specifically stated otherwise.

Crockfords Cup knockout stage is a face-to-face competition but captains can agree to play matches online. In the group stage, teams who have indicated a willingness or preference for playing online will be drawn against each other and teams can insist on playing online at this stage. In the knockout stage, teams who have indicated a preference will be matched if possible, within the constraints of the draw, but any team may insist on playing face-to-face in all rounds of the knockout stage. The General Regulations, in particular the online match regulations (Section F), apply to matches played online.

Any correspondence or enquiries regarding this competition should initially be addressed to:

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SPECIAL CROCKFORDS CUP REGULATIONS

- 1 Entry is limited to EBU members. As the event is classified as a National Championship, the normal regulations concerning reciprocity with other NBOs are not applicable, and members of other NBOs must become EBU members for the subscription year in which the competition starts (or, if later, the subscription year in which they first intend to play) in order to be eligible to play.
- 2 Teams may consist of four, five or six players. Teams of fewer than six players may add additional players prior to playing their Round 4 match. Thereafter, players may only be added to a team provided that the Chief TD or Deputy Chief TD, or an officer of the Board acting on their behalf, is satisfied that the addition does not materially strengthen the team. In either case the maximum of six players per team still applies. No player may represent two different teams in one season.
- 3 The format of the competition is:
 - a. all unseeded teams will play three matches in a randomly drawn group of four teams, with teams that win at least two matches qualifying;
 - b. seeded teams and qualifiers from the group stage will play in the knockout stage, to reduce the field to eight teams;
 - c. these eight teams will play in the final of the Crockfords Cup, and the teams defeated in the last round of the knockout stage (the round of 16) will play in the Crockfords Plate final.

There will be an initial entry fee and a further entry fee for the finals.

- 4 Online and face-to-face preferences:
 - a. During the group stage teams will be drawn according to their preferences for online or face-to-face matches as far as possible. Teams can insist on playing online at this stage.
 - b. Online matches will be played on RealBridge unless both teams agree to play on a different platform. RealBridge matches can be played via the EBU: see [Play knockout teams matches on RealBridge](#) – this is free for Crockfords group-stage matches.
 - c. The default in the knockout stage will be face-to-face, though online matches will be allowed in any round if both teams agree. The draw will try to match teams according to preference as much as possible.
 - d. The finals will be face-to-face.

- 5 In the group stage and in the knockout stage, not including the last round, matches will be played over 32 boards unless both teams agree to shorten it to 24 boards. Matches in the last round (the round of 16) will be played over 48 boards unless both teams agree to shorten it to 32 boards. All matches will be played in eight-board stanzas.
- 6 The number of seeded teams will be between 8 and 11 to allow for all non-seeded teams to play in groups of four.
 - a. In principle, the seeded teams will include the teams finishing in the top four positions in the previous year's final. In order to be seeded on this basis the team must be substantially unchanged from the previous year. This means that at least three players must remain from a team which comprised four registered players in the previous year; and at least four players must remain from a team which comprised five or six registered players.
 - b. The remaining seeds (four, if the teams finishing in the top four positions in the previous year's final all qualify as having entered a substantially unchanged team; otherwise such number as may be required to bring the total number of seeds to eight) will be determined by Gold Points or similar, for which purpose (only) players whose Master Point record is primarily held abroad may be assigned a nominal Gold Point total.
 - c. Late entries, even if accepted (which shall be at the absolute discretion of the EBU Competitions Department), may not be considered for seeding.
- 7 Teams qualify from each group of four based on number of wins, teams who win two matches qualify for the knockout stage; except that no team that concedes a match without playing it may proceed to the knockout stage.

Matches in the group stage should play extra boards (as described in the General Regulations) if they end in a draw, in order to determine a winner.

There will be no need to split ties. If three teams win two matches each, all three teams will qualify; if three teams win one match each, only the team with three wins will qualify.
- 8 Eight teams will qualify for the Crockfords Cup final, which is a full round-robin competition, comprising seven matches of 16 boards per match (with a compulsory change of opponents after eight boards). Scoring in the final is by IMPs converted to Victory Points.

- 9 If a team declines to play in the Cup final, their place will be offered to the team they defeated in the round of 16 (who would otherwise play in the Plate final). Otherwise, a vacant place in either final will be offered to teams defeated by the teams in the round of 16 match which produced the vacancy: first to the team defeated by the Cup final qualifier in the previous round, and then the team defeated by the Plate final qualifier in the previous round. If a vacancy remains, other defeated teams may be offered a place.
- 10 Level 5 agreements are permitted throughout the competition.
- 11 The dates by which each round must be played will be found on the [main event](#) pages of the EBU website.
- 12 There are board requirements for the winners of Crockfords Cup and Crockfords Plate: a member of the winning team must play at least one-third of the boards scheduled for the final weekend, in order to be considered as a 'winner of the Crockfords Cup' (or 'winner of the Crockfords Plate') and to have their name on the trophy.
- 13 Master Points will be awarded in the form of Green Points for each match won and a bonus award for winning all three matches at the group stage, as follows:

| Group stage | Bonus for 3 wins | Knockout Round 1 | Knockout Round 2 | Round of sixteen |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Final: per match won: 1 (½ for a draw); for overall ranking:
 1st – 24; 2nd – 12; 3rd – 7; 4th – 3

All awards quoted are per player, subject to that player having played at least one-third of the total number of boards in the match concerned, and at least one third of the boards played in the final in order to qualify for bonus ranking awards. Master Points will be direct credited as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each round.

At the group stage, a team that wins two matches and is conceded their third by their opponents without playing it will get 1 Green Point for each of their two wins plus another 1 Green Point for being unbeaten. (Note that the unbeaten team are not allowed to concede the third match themselves without playing it.)

- 14 Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams in the final, as below. The amounts will be credited to the EBU accounts of the nominated team captains following the conclusion of the event.

Prizes for 2024/25: 1st £600, 2nd £240, 3rd £160, 4th £80.

SUPPLEMENTARY CROCKFORDS PLATE REGULATIONS

- 15 There will be no separate Crockfords Plate event until the final stages, when the eight losing teams from the round of 16 will qualify for the Crockfords Plate final. The qualifiers for one or other final will be known at the conclusion of the round before the round-of-16, before the end of July.
- 16 The format of the Crockfords Plate final will be the same as the Crockfords Cup final. Master point awards for the Crockfords Plate final will be 50% of the awards for the Crockfords Cup final.
- 17 Prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners-up:
Prizes for 2024/25: Winners £160 Runners-up £80.



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