



GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**FOR TRIALS ORGANISED BY THE
EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Revised January 2024

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1. Definitions

- 1.1. The Conditions of Contest for an event comprise these General Conditions of Contest, and the event's Specific Conditions of Contest.
- 1.2. References 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 trial, and a pair in a pairs trial.
- 1.5. References to "the Secretary" mean the Secretary of the Selection Committee, who at the time of writing is Louise Crisp, email louise@ebu.co.uk.
- 1.6. References to an "event" refer to a representative competition including, but not limited to, those run by the WBF, EBL and BGB.
- 1.7. References to a "trial" refer to a competition set up by the Selection Committee to assist in picking representative teams for events run by the WBF, EBL, BGB and others. For this purpose, Division 1 of the Premier League is considered a trial and this document in its entirety applies to Division 1 of the Premier League. For all other divisions of the Premier League this document applies with the exception of those conditions relating to eligibility to play for England. In particular, paragraphs 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5 – 5.10 inclusive, 5.13 and 5.14 do not apply to divisions of the Premier League other than Division 1.

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. Any decision of the Committee about the interpretation of the Conditions of Contest shall be final.
- 2.2. The Committee has the right to determine a course of action in the event of any matter arising which is not covered by the Conditions of Contest, or in the event of any unforeseen circumstances.
- 2.3. The Committee has the right not to select a player who has qualified for selection or to withdraw an invitation already issued. Any decision to select, deselect or exclude a player or official from representing England must be made by a quorum of the Committee. This provision will not be overruled by anything in the General or Specific Conditions of Contest.
- 2.4. Subject to 2.3, any decisions that, under the Conditions of Contest, are the responsibility of the Committee may be made on the Committee's behalf by the Chair of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chair, by the Vice-Chair of the Committee. Alternatively, the Chair may nominate another person or persons to make a decision on the Committee's behalf. Such decisions shall have the force of a decision by the Committee.
- 2.5. Subject to 2.3, the Committee may delegate its responsibilities under the Conditions of Contest.
- 2.6. When 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 modifications approved by the World Bridge Federation.
- 2.8. Other than in 2.3 above, 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. 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.
- 2.11. A wilful breach of the Conditions of Contest will jeopardise participation in future events and selection to represent England in future. It is also an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules.

3. Entries

- 3.1. Entries should be sent by email to the Secretary before the published closing date and time. Each entry will be acknowledged by the Secretary, including a statement of whether it was received in time if it is close to the deadline. It is the players' responsibility to check that they have received this acknowledgement, which is the only proof of entry which will be accepted.
- 3.2. The Committee has the right to reject entries.
- 3.3. The Committee has the right to accept late entries.
- 3.4. Entry fees become due within seven days of the Committee accepting an entry. Entries are not confirmed until the entry fee has been paid.
- 3.5. Entry fees for English junior players will be reduced or waived in accordance with EBU policy, which at the time of writing can be found at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/youth/entry-fees>.
- 3.6. Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility under Section 4 below and under the Specific Conditions of Contest.

4. Notices and communications

- 4.1. Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be in writing and sent to the Secretary.
- 4.2. Email is the preferred means of communication. Attachments, notably systems, sent by email must be in a suitable format for reading and, where appropriate, printing. Communications and attachments sent by email will be deemed to have been received by the Committee only when their receipt in an acceptable format has been confirmed by the Secretary.
- 4.3. A player applying for selection to a trial or team may choose to assist the Committee by giving it permission to examine non-public performance data held by the EBU.
- 4.4. The Committee has the right to communicate with contestants via the nominated captain only.
- 4.5. Announcements regarding the format, timings and other Conditions of Contest may be made either by email or via the EBU website.
- 4.6. 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 an 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.

5. Eligibility and allegiance

- 5.1. To participate in any trial or to be selected to play for England a player must fulfil all of the following criteria:
- Be a member of the English Bridge Union in good standing.
 - Not be under a ban from the Disciplinary Committee from playing for England either at the time of the trial or at the time of the event.
 - Not to have been issued with a charge letter on or before 23rd November 2020 for an allegation of illicit or unethical behaviour which is aimed at improperly affecting, or otherwise likely to improperly affect, the outcome of any match or event
 - Not to be under an Interim Playing Suspension from the English Bridge Union, either at the time of the trial or of the event.
- 5.2. Subject to paragraph 5.1 above and any additional criteria in the Specific Conditions of Contest, a trial will be open to all members of the English Bridge Union.
- 5.3. 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 and, if selected, undertake not to play in a trial that would lead to selection for a contemporaneous representative event.
- 5.4. If a player or team informs the Selection Committee that they may not be able to play in the representative event and/or may not be able to play in all sections of the trial then the Committee, at its absolute discretion, may choose to allow the player and/or team to play in the trial. The Committee may impose such further conditions on the player/team as it sees fit. Any player or team failing to disclose to the Committee that there is a reasonable possibility that they would not be able to play in the representative event and/or play in all sections of the trial will be regarded as a wilful breach of these Conditions of Contest and the sanctions as listed under paragraph 2.11 may be applied.
- 5.5. For a trial leading to representation in EBL or WBF event, a player must be eligible to represent England at the time of the trial and at the time of the event.
- 5.6. For a trial leading to representation in a Home International event a player must be eligible to represent England at the time of the event.
- 5.7. The eligibility and bona fide residency regulations can be found at¹:
- For BGB events: <http://bridgegreatbritain.org/>
 - For EBL events: <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/>
 - For WBL events: <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/eligibility-regulations/>
- 5.8. There follows a summary of the regulations, at the time of writing, for convenience only. This is a summary, not a complete description. In the event of any conflict, it is the regulations linked to which have standing.
- WBF/EBL: you must be a British National or Bona Fide Resident of England. You must not have represented another country for two full calendar years. But these restrictions do not apply to Youth or Transnational events.
 - BGB: you must have been born in England or have a parent (by birth or legal adoption) born in England, or be a Bona Fide resident of England, or have previously represented England and not have subsequently represented another home country. You must not have represented another Home Country for two full

¹ These are the links to the documents at the time of writing. However, players should always check the latest regulations themselves and ensure they comply with them. Neither the Selection Committee nor the EBU can be held responsible if players rely on out-of-date regulations or links.

competition years. A Youth player may change country based on place of education: in this case the two-year interval does not apply.

Representing another home nation in the Home Internationals does not, in itself, preclude a player from representing England in EBL or WBF events. Similarly, representing another country in EBL or WBF events does not, in itself, preclude a player representing England in the Home Internationals.

- 5.9. A player seeking to represent England through the bona fide residence criteria must supply to the EBU the relevant documentation to prove such eligibility before the start of the trial. Failure to provide such documentation will result in the player being unable to participate in the trial. The documentation requirements are set out in the relevant regulations of BGB, the EBL, or the WBF as appropriate.
- 5.10. 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, and provide the necessary evidence of their eligibility to play for England before the trial begins.
- 5.11. The regulations concerning eligibility for anyone who has previously represented another country and/or anyone claiming eligibility under the bona fide residency regulations are complex, and all of BGB, the EBL and the WBF differ slightly in the requirements. Thus, anyone unsure of their eligibility for any event should contact Gordon Rainsford (gordon@ebu.co.uk) for advice.
- 5.12. By entering a trial, players confirm that they meet the conditions of 5.1 to 5.10 inclusive.
- 5.13. If during a trial 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.
- 5.14. If during or after a trial 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.
- 5.15. In the specific case of loss of good standing of one or more members during or after the trial then:
- (a) if the trial is or was a pairs trial then that pair is disqualified from further participation in the trial and may not be selected for England for that event.
 - (b) if the trial is or was a teams trial then the team may continue in the trial if it has sufficient members to do so unless the loss of good standing was for any infraction that impacts on the team's performance (for example cheating) in which case the entire team will be disqualified from further participation in the trial and from selection to represent England in the event. If the team has been selected to represent England and one or more members loses good standing after the trial for any infractions that does not impact on the team's performance in the trial (eg cheating) then the remainder of the team will still be available to represent England provided that suitable partnerships can be formed. The Selection Committee will consult with the remainder of the team on suitable partnerships and additional players, but its decision is final.

6. Further Conditions of entry

- 6.1. A member of a pair or team must not have a beneficial financial interest in the performance of any other contestant in the trial. This does not preclude relatives playing in different teams or pairs.

7. Registered players

- 7.1. The Committee must be notified, by email to the Secretary, of any proposed change to the composition of a contestant after the closing date for applications, and such a request for a change will be deemed to have arrived at the time it is acknowledged by the Secretary. It is the player's responsibility to check that they have received such an acknowledgement. Any such changes are subject to the approval of the Committee. Contestants requesting changes to their composition for trials taking place over multiple weekends, including the Premier League, must follow the same procedure, and must also comply with the regulations listed under paragraphs 7.2 and 7.3
- 7.2. Any change to the composition of a contestant is subject to the same eligibility rules, and the same limit on the number of players, as the initial application. Specifically, the following conditions must be fulfilled:
- 7.2.1 If a team in a trial has fewer players than the maximum permitted by the Conditions of Contest, the team may apply to the Committee to add additional players up to the maximum. For example, a team with four or five players in a trial that allows up to six players may apply to increase the number up to a maximum of six players. This application may be made at any time before the start of play in the trial, but teams should be aware that applications received less than 72 hours before the start of play may not be approved due to time constraints.
- 7.2.2 If a contestant has the maximum number of players permitted by the regulations of the trial (e.g. two in a pairs trial, four in a teams trial that specifies only four players, six in a teams trial that allows up to six players), the contestant may apply to the Committee for one or more permanent replacements. The application must specify which player(s) are being replaced. Any replacement is permanent and the original player(s) will not be allowed to re-join the team during the trial. This application may be made at any time before the start of play in the event, but teams should be aware that applications received less than 72 hours before the start of play may not be approved due to time constraints.
- 7.3. For trials held over multiple weekends (e.g. the Premier League, Senior trials and Mixed Team trials), teams may apply to the Committee between weekends to add players in the following circumstances:
- 7.3.1. No changes may be made in pairs trials or in teams trials limited to teams of four. If, in a multiple weekend pairs trial, or a teams trial limited to teams of four, a contestant cannot play in the latter weekend(s) they are withdrawn from the trial.
- 7.3.2. If a team has fewer players than permitted by the regulations of the trial, the team may apply to the Committee to add additional players up to the maximum allowed by the specific Conditions of Contest for the event. For example, a team with four or five players in an event that allows up to six players may apply to increase the numbers up to a maximum of six players. This application may be made at any time before the start of play of the next weekend, but teams should be aware that applications received less than 72 hours before the start of play may not be approved due to time constraints.
- 7.3.3. If a team has the maximum number of players permitted by the regulations of the teams trial which allows more than four players, the team may apply to the Committee for one or more permanent replacements to the team for any player(s) that have not yet played in the trial. The application must specify which player(s) who have yet to play in the trial are being replaced. Any replacement(s) is permanent, and the original player(s) will not be allowed to re-join the team during the trial. This application may be made at any time before the start of play in the relevant weekend, but teams should be aware that applications received less than 72 hours before the start of play may not be approved due to time constraints.
- 7.3.4 If a team has the maximum number of players permitted by the regulations of the

trial, and all players have already played, then no replacements will be allowed. If such a team cannot field four players in latter weekends of the trial, then the team is withdrawn.

- 7.4. Notwithstanding condition 7.3 above, 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, that contestant may apply for a permanent replacement player or pair.

8. Substitutes

- 8.1. Once play has started in any weekend of any event, no substitutes will be allowed in any circumstances, up to and including death or serious incapacity of a member of the contestant. If a contestant is unable to field enough players, boards will be removed with the standard penalties until the match is defaulted. The penalties and defaults will accord with those specified in sections 8 and 9 below.

9. Late arrival

- 9.1. A pair is late if one or more playing members of that pair is not seated and ready to play at the advertised starting time. Warnings and penalties apply to the pair as a whole rather than to any individual.

- 9.2. If no boards are removed, a pair warned or penalised for late arrival retains the full time in which to play that round, i.e. the starting time for that table is officially delayed. Penalties for late arrival are as follows (assuming eight-board rounds):

0 - 12 minutes late: 2 IMPs penalty save that a warning will be issued in lieu of a penalty for the first offence in the weekend of no more than 4 minutes of lateness.

Thereafter, for each portion of 8 minutes late or part thereof, up to 35 minutes late, an additional 2 IMPs penalty and 1 board is removed from the match and scored as +/- 2 IMPs.

Example: 22 minutes late would be a penalty of 6 IMPs and would cause 2 boards to be removed from the match (scored as +/- 4 IMPs in total).

If a pair is more than 35 minutes late for an eight-board round, that round will normally be abandoned and provisionally scored as +/- 6 IMPs. At the end of the event, this provisional score will be subject to adjustment according to the unplayed matches formula in the General Conditions of Contest. Additionally, the offending pair will be penalised 8 IMPs.

- 9.3. In the event of the abandonment of a match under 9.2, a full report will be made to the Committee. The Committee may take such action as it thinks fit. In particular it may adjust the provisional score of either or both pairs, and may disqualify the offenders if it considers any impropriety to have taken place. The decision of the Committee under this paragraph shall be final.
- 9.4. The warnings and penalties described in this section may be expunged for cause either in part or in whole for late arrival for the start of the event. A pair which feels that it can demonstrate good cause for late arrival for the start of the event may apply to the Committee for a waiver or relaxation of these penalties.

10. Withdrawal and unplayed matches

- 10.1. 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 are eligible.
- 10.2. Contestants are required to complete all matches, except that concession is permitted part way through a knockout match.

- 10.3. Should any contestant 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.
- 10.4. If a contestant has completed fewer than half the scheduled matches, the results of all its matches will be expunged.
- 10.5. If a contestant has completed half the scheduled matches, all its results will stand. The unplayed matches will be scored using the formula in Appendix C

11. Slow Play

- 11.1. The playing time allowed for each match will be approximately 8 minutes per board, rounded up to the nearest five minutes (eg 65 minutes for eight-board matches), with at least 10 minutes allowed for moving between each round.
- 11.2. Automatic penalties will apply at any table which runs over the allotted time. For trials scored by VPs, the penalty for the table will be 0.2 VP per minute delay; for those not scored by VPs the penalty will be 4 IMPs per five-minute delay or part thereof.
- 11.3. The Tournament Director will apportion the responsibility for the slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties separately to the pairs involved on this basis. In trials scored by IMPs, all penalties will be expressed in terms of whole numbers of IMPs only.

Example: a table is 3 minutes late. One pair is held to be approximately three-quarters responsible and the other approximately one-quarter responsible. The penalty is 3 IMPs to the one pair and 1 IMP to the other. If scored by VPs the penalty would be 0.45 VPs to the one pair and 0.15 VPs to the other.

- 11.4. If a suitable person is available to act as a time monitor, the Tournament Director may appoint such a person to monitor the speed of play at any table (either at the request of one of the pairs or on his own initiative). Otherwise the responsibility for monitoring the speed of play lies with the Tournament Director.
- 11.5. Approximately half way through each match and approximately 10 minutes before the scheduled time for the completion of play, the Tournament Director shall notify each table of the time remaining. Although the Tournament Director will endeavour to warn a pair when they are in danger of a penalty being imposed, any failure to do so shall not preclude the imposition of a penalty.
- 11.6. The Tournament Directors have been instructed to apply the penalty provisions strictly, though discretion shall be used by the TD where a table has been delayed through no fault of its own.

12. Seating rights

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. Separate regulations apply when HUM systems are (or may be) in use (see Section 12).
- 12.3. 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.

13. Miscellaneous conditions

- 13.1. Bidding boxes and screens will normally be used.
- 13.2. Players must obtain the Tournament Director's permission before leaving the playing

area during a stanza.

- 13.3. Matches may be broadcast. Players are required to cooperate with the organisers and operators of such broadcasts.
- 13.4. 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.
- 13.5. 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 such electronic devices at the table. There is an automatic penalty of at least 1 VP or 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation. Spectators are permitted if space permits and with the Director's permission. They must comply with Law 76. A spectator must be seated before the start of play in each session and may not leave then re-enter the playing area during a session unless given express permission by the Director. Players who are sitting out may not watch their own teams.
- 13.6. The Tournament Director in Charge may prohibit a player or spectator from bringing other equipment into the playing area.
- 13.7. In a pairs trial, a pair sitting in the wrong polarity (ie North-South rather than East-West or vice versa) will be warned on the first occurrence, be fined 2 XIMPs or 0.5 VPs on the second occurrence and fined 4 XIMPs or 1VP on the third or subsequent occurrence. These fines are automatic and can be imposed up until the end of the later scoring correction period specified in paragraph 18.3 below.
- 13.8. In a teams trials, pairs sitting in the wrong polarity will be dealt with as specified in the [White Book](#) section 3.3.6.
- 13.9. Appeals will be heard by a Committee if practicable. An appeal heard by a referee will normally involve consultation with others before ruling.

14. System policy

System cards

- 14.1. WBF system cards are to be used throughout.
- 14.2. Failure to provide two properly completed system cards will lead to a procedural penalty in addition to any adjusted score(s) in respect of damage.

HUMs and Brown Sticker conventions

- 14.3. The Specific Conditions of Contest may allow the use of HUMs.
- 14.4. The Specific Conditions of Contest may allow the use of Brown Sticker conventions, in addition to those already permitted at EBU Level 5. The following regulations regarding Brown Sticker conventions apply only to conventions not permitted at EBU Level 5,
- 14.5. 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.
- 14.6. For a pair employing either HUMs or 'Brown Sticker' conventions, 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.
- 14.7. In teams events, there is a limit of three such system cards per team.
- 14.8. Submission of such a system card and subsequent attempt to withdraw it may be subject to penalty.
- 14.9. 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 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.

- 14.10. 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.
- 14.11. All such methods must be shown on the system 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.
- 14.12. 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.
- 14.13. 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

- 14.14. 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.
- 14.15. 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.
- 14.16. 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.
- 14.17. 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 30 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.
- 14.18. 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.
- 14.19. 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.
- 14.20. A pair using a HUM and failing to meet any of these requirements will not be permitted to play its HUM.
- 14.21. The Tournament Director in Charge may publish interpretations of, or additions to, these HUM regulations.

15. Screen regulations

- 15.1. When screens are in use, the WBF Screen Regulations will apply (see Appendix A).
- 15.2. 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.

A player who accepts a non-written explanation will generally be assumed to be at fault if this leads to a misunderstanding. It will be treated as the player's own misunderstanding under Law 21A, and there will be no entitlement 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.

16. Alerting regulations

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

17. Requests for rulings and appeals

- 17.1. The time limit for requesting a ruling or appeal follows the EBU regulations as contained in the current White Book.
- 17.2. Where matches consist of one stanza, the time limit for requesting a ruling is 20 minutes of non-playing time after the stanza finishes, and the time limit for requesting an appeal is 20 minutes of non-playing time after the ruling is given.
- 17.3. Appeals are subject to the EBU regulations regarding financial deposits and scoring sanctions if deemed to be without merit.

18. Correction periods for scoring errors

- 18.1. The standard period for corrections to the official score is 30 minutes after the end of play on the day in question.
- 18.2. If the event is part-completed and continues on subsequent days, the correction period for the final stanza of the day extends until the start of the next stanza.
- 18.3. After the end of the correction period, scoring corrections will be allowed only where the correct score can be established beyond reasonable doubt. Requests for these later scoring corrections will only be allowed until midday on the second day after the end of the trial, or the current stage of the trial. After that time the results are final, and no corrections will be made under any circumstances.
- 18.4. 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 Bridgmate at the end of each stanza or round, and to check the published official score.
- 18.5. 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.

19. Teams Trials with a Round Robin(s) Followed by Knockout Match(s)

- 19.1. In a teams trial which consists of a Round Robin(s) followed by one or more knockout matches then the following will apply:

There will be no carry over in any knockout match.

The winner of the Round Robin(s) will have choice (if any) of opponents from the other qualifying teams. If any further choices exist, then the second placed team will have choice of the remaining qualifying teams and so on.

The higher placed team in the Round Robin(s) in any knockout match can choose whether to have choice of opponents in odd or even numbered sets.

If the match ends in a tie, then the higher placed team in the Round

Robin(s) is deemed to have won the match.

In any further knockout matches the team placed higher in the Round Robin(s) has the same privileges as above.

20. Split tie procedures

- 20.1. Ties, other than split as in Section 19 above, will be split where necessary in accordance with standard EBU procedures as described in the current White Book (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.
- 20.2. 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).

21. Playing Requirements

- 21.1. For any teams trial where more than four players are allowed under the Conditions of Contest, for the purposes of:

receiving the title of winner of the teams trial and

earning automatic selection to the team for the event

a player must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Play at least 50% of the boards in the entire trial except stages from which the team is exempt.

Play at least 50% of the stanzas in each stage of the trial (Round Robin(s) and any knockout matches) except stages from which the team is exempt, in all cases rounded down.

Play all of the boards in all of the knockout matches.

Any further criteria as specified in the Specific Conditions of Contest for the Trial

A player can be deemed to have played any boards in sets unplayed because of a concession in a knockout match.

- 21.2. If any player(s) in the winning team does not meet the playing requirements, the Committee will decide whether to select that player(s), and its decision is final.

22. Selection of the Team

- 22.1. The Committee will select the team for the event by the following criteria:

In a Pairs trial:

Pairs guaranteed selection by virtue of finishing position as specified in the Specific Conditions of Contest for the trial will be selected

If the Specific Conditions of Contest charge the Committee with selecting one or more pairs (for example "The leading two pairs in the trial will be guaranteed selection together with another pair to be selected") then the Committee will select such pair(s) exclusively from those that played in the trial. Only if no pairs who played in the trial are available to play in the team will the Committee select from pairs who did not play in the trial, and in that exceptional circumstance the Committee will select such pair(s) as it sees fit.

In a teams trial:

All players in the winning team who have met the playing requirements will be selected unless that is completely unviable.

If the winning team has fewer than six players who have met the playing requirements then the Committee will consult with the team about adding any pairs or players, but its decision is final.

- 22.2 If, after having selected a team and all members of the team accepted then a player withdraws from the team for whatever reason, then the Committee reserves the right to select the remaining player with another partner. If the Committee does not do this, then it will replace the pair with a pair chosen as in paragraph 22.1 above.
- 22.3 The Selection Committee may add officials such as an NPC or coach to the team. If so, the Committee will consult the team on who these might be but will appoint the officials at its sole discretion.
- 22.4 In the case of teams for unfunded events, the team may apply to the Committee to take, at its own expense, any officials. The Committee will normally approve such officials, but its decision is final. The Committee may decide that it wishes an unfunded team(s) to take officials. It will consult with the team on these officials, but its decision is final. In this circumstance the team will not be liable for the officials expenses.

Appendix A: World Bridge Federation Screen Regulations

Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period). The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on 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 the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. 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 calls made 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 entire bidding tray under the centre of the screen so that it is visible only to the players on the other side who 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.

It is the responsibility of both sides to make sure that the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right to have the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards neatly in their respective bidding boxes.

At this point presumed Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the 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 put back on the table.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened to permit all players to see dummy's cards and cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

When leading or following suit, players must take care to always play cards in the same way, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalty. Penalties are detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

1.2 Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert the screenmate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives. The alert must be made by placing the alert card in a position clearly visible to the screen mate. It is the responsibility of the player that alerts to make sure that the screenmate sees the alert. It is good practice for an opponent to acknowledge the alert in some way.
- b) At any time during the auction a player may write to the screenmate requesting a full explanation of an opponent's call. The screenmate will reply in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the auction to the completion of play, each player receives information only from the 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 given. 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) If an irregularity occurs before the tray 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 (b)(ii) below); 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 Regulations for Bidding and Entering Scores screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.
- b) 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 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.
- 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 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 2.3 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 their own 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 that it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so, the Director 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 normally regarded as significant.
- h) However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 2.2, 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 & August 2022)**

1. Preamble

- 1.1. The objective is to have a uniform WBF policy which is applied to all WBF events.
- 1.2. It is not intended that this should over-ride Alerting Policies developed by the Zone or NBOs.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. 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.)

2. Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- i Artificial bids should be alerted, natural bids should not.
- ii Those calls (i.e., bids, passes, doubles or redoubles) 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 Regulating Authority). See also Law 40B.
- iii 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.

Players must also respect the spirit of the Policy as well as the letter.

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.