

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR MATCHES PLAYED PRIVATELY**

### **SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN NOVEMBER 2017 EDITION**

A new version of the General Regulations for Matches Played Privately was issued in November 2017. This deals with all matters with the exception of Rulings and Appeals, where a revised version is still in the course of preparation.

The revision attempts to achieve a number of objectives:

- To reflect current practice in relation to draw procedure and other matters arising from the introduction of the EBU Knockout system.
- To address a number of gaps in the regulations and some areas in which Competitions Department practice has developed in ways which were not strictly covered by the previous regulations.
- To eliminate inconsistencies, both in terms of content and in relation to matters such as numbering and presentation.
- To improve clarity of language.
- To break up very long paragraphs.
- To arrange the regulations in a more logical order.

The following tables set out the principal changes. Table 1 indicates changes of substance; table 2 shows where various subjects are dealt with in the old and new regulations, respectively.

Feedback (preferably by email to [nick@ebu.co.uk](mailto:nick@ebu.co.uk)) is extremely welcome.

#### **TABLE 1 – MAIN CHANGES OF SUBSTANCE**

The numbering refers to the regulation numbers in the new version.

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1   | The regulations now set out draw policy in the light of the introduction of the EBU Knockout system.  |
| 1b  | When a competition has reached the stage where geographical considerations no longer apply, the remainder of the competition will now be pre-drawn.                                   |
| 2   | The regulations now set out the assumptions as to venues on which draws are based, and confirm that home captains may not use a venue significantly less convenient to the away team. |
| 3-5 | A number of matters are set out which arise from the introduction of the EBU Knockout system.   |
| 6a  | The definition of dilatory in terms of offering dates has been tightened – it is now 7 days rather than 10.   |
| 6b  | A time limit of 48 hours has been introduced for a home captain taking over the offering of dates once the away captain opts for an intermediate venue.                               |
| 7d  | At least two weekend dates must now be offered for a 48-board or longer match.  |

- 9a The default starting time for a 48-board midweek match has been brought forward from 6.30pm to 6.00pm.
- 9b-d Breaking an agreement as to starting time is no longer regarded as equivalent to breaking an agreement as to date, if the broken agreement can be dealt with under the late arrival provisions.
- 12b The regulations now make clear how the distance between two venues is to be calculated.
- 18 It has been made clear that the non-offending captain in a late arrival case must decide before play commences whether to enforce the removal of boards; and may enforce the removal of boards in part only.
- 22 The detailed arrangements for removal of boards in a late arrival case have been changed to eliminate an inconsistency.
- 29-30 The regulations now reflect the existing practice permitting de-registration of a player who has not played a match in the competition, and permitting such a player to be registered for another team subject to conditions.
- 34 Recommendations have been introduced concerning the amount of time for which the venue should be available.
- 35 Requirements concerning bridge equipment and stationery have been spelled out.
- 37 Minor adjustments have been made to the provisions regarding spectators.
- 38 A number of provisions have been introduced concerning captaincy, to cover some situations which have arisen and others which might arise.
- 40-41 Minor adjustments have been made to the regulations regarding mobile phones and smoking.
- 42 It has been made explicit that the EBU Competitions department may act on information coming to its attention, even if there is no dispute referred to it by the teams involved.
- 43 The exceptional circumstances provision now applies to all the regulations, not just to those concerning unplayed matches.

## TABLE 2

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Old regs</i>	<i>New regs</i>
Agreement of result	-	44
Availability of venue	-	34
Board dealing	19	36
Captains	-	38
De-registration of players	-	29-30
Disabled facilities	16	13

Disputes	11	42
Draws	1	1-5
Exceptional circumstances	11	43
Extensions of time	7	14, 15
Intermediate venues	6	12
Late arrival	8	17-22
Location of venues	-	2
Match facilities	-	35
Mobile phones	15	40
Number of players	12	27
Offering dates	4	6
Permanent replacement of players	13	28
Put-aside dates	5d	8
Refreshments	17	39
Removal of boards	8	20-22
Scoring	10	31
Seating rights	9	23-26
Smoking	14	41
Spectators	18	37
Starting times	9e	9
Submission of results	20	45
Tie-breaks	10	32-33
Unplayed matches	3	11
Valid offers of dates	5	7