

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

(INCLUDING THE HUBERT PHILLIPS 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, [General Regulations for EBU Knockout Competitions](#), 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.

The Hubert Philips Bowl and Plate is by default a face-to-face competition but captains can agree to play matches online. In the first two rounds (both Bowl and Plate), teams who have indicated a willingness or preference for playing online will be drawn against each other – thereafter they will be matched if possible within the constraints of the draw, but any team may insist on playing face-to-face from round 3 onwards (in both Bowl and Plate). 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 HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL 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 The competition is for mixed teams and is played on the full pivot principle throughout (see Regulations 4 -5).
- 3 Teams may consist of four to six players (but see Regulation 6). Teams of fewer than six players may add additional players prior to playing their quarter-final 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 still applies. No player may represent two different teams in one season.
- 4 At all times the four players actually playing for a team must include at least one male and at least one female player.
- 5 Each member of a team must play one stanza in partnership with each other member of the team.
- 6 In matches up to and including the quarter-finals of the Bowl [and up to and including the semi-finals of the Plate] only four players shall represent the team in any one match.
- 7 Matches up to and including the quarter-finals of the Bowl [and up to and including the semi-finals of the Plate] will normally be played over 30 boards. Alternatively, only in Rounds 1-3 of the Bowl, the two captains may agree in advance to play a 24 or 27 board match.
- 8 Regardless of the number of players in the teams:
 - A The semi-finals of the Bowl [and the final of the Plate] shall be played over 48 boards, and shall be played in two distinct halves, of 24 boards each;
 - B The final of the Bowl shall be played over 60 boards, and shall be played in two distinct halves, of 30 boards each.
- 9 Matches up to and including the quarter-finals of the Bowl [and up to and including the semi-finals of the Plate] shall be played in three stanzas of 10 boards each (or eight or nine boards, respectively, in a 24- or 27- board match).

- 10 Seating rights as set out in the [General Regulations](#) do not apply to this competition. Team captains (or their nominated deputy) must compete throughout against each other in the 'open room'. The home captain (or deputy) shall occupy the North position; the away captain (or deputy) shall occupy the East position.
- 11 Limited seating rights apply subject to the provisions of Regulations 5 and 10. Seating rights confer the right to position your players after the opponents have positioned theirs. Captains shall toss a coin to determine seating rights. The winner of the toss may opt for seating rights in stanzas 1 & 3 or in stanza 2. However, the provisions of Regulations 5 and 10 mean that in stanza 3 the exact composition of the open room has already been predetermined, as have the four players due to compete in the closed room.
- 12 For the semi-finals of the Bowl [and the final of the Plate] and the final of the Bowl, Regulations 5 and 11 are modified as follows to take account shall of the match being played in two half-matches.
- A Each half-match shall involve four players only from each team, and be played in stanzas of eight or ten boards, respectively.
 - B Teams of five or six may change the composition of the team only at the half-way point.
 - C Regulations 4-5 continue to apply, so that each team must include at least one male and at least one female player at all times, and there shall be a full pivot during each half-match.
 - D Teams are specifically authorised to vary the sequence of partnerships from one half-match to the other.
 - E The captain who wins the toss may elect to have seating rights in stanzas 1 and 3 of the first half-match and stanza 2 of the second half-match; or in stanza 2 of the first half-match and stanzas 1 and 3 of the second half-match (which amounts to a choice between the odd or even-numbered stanzas of the whole match).
- 13 Scoring is by total aggregate, honours counting. Honours involve a bonus of 100 points being awarded if any one hand holds any four of the five honours (ace, king, queen, jack or ten) in the trump suit, and a bonus of 150 points if any one hand holds all five honours in the trump suit, or all four aces in a notrump contract.
- If playing online, teams will need to score manually, unless the platforms supports aggregate scoring *with honours counting*.
- 14 Honours should normally be claimed at the end of the hand, but failure to do so can be rectified before the end of the correction period, namely twenty minutes after the end of the match.

- 15 In the event of any match other than the Final of the Bowl finishing in a tie, an additional six boards shall be played, in three mini-stanzas of two boards, with changes of partnership after each mini-stanza.
- 16 In the case of a tie in the Final of the Bowl only, an additional nine boards shall be played in three mini-stanzas of three boards, with changes of partnership after each mini-stanza.
- 17 There are no seating rights during additional boards played to break a tie, but the two captains must continue to play against each other and only four players from each team may be involved in any group of three mini-stanzas. Teams should submit written line-ups before commencing each mini-stanza.
- 18 If the match remains tied after extra boards have been played, the process must be repeated as often as may be necessary until the tie is broken.
- 19 Eight teams will be seeded. In principle, these will include the teams reaching the semi-finals of the previous year's competition, if known in time. 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.
- 20 The remaining seeds (four, if the teams reaching the semi-finals of the previous year's competition are known in time and 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.
- 21 Late entries, even if accepted (which shall be at the absolute discretion of the EBU Competitions Department), may not be considered for seeding.
- 22 Seeded teams will be exempted until the round of 64 (which this year will be Round 2). Any team defeating a seed shall acquire the status of that seed for themselves. Seeds will not be drawn against one another until the quarter-finals.
- 23 Non-seeded teams only will play in Round 1. There will be no byes in Round 1, except in the event of an odd number of entries, or to accommodate late entries. In order to reduce the field to 32 teams for Round 3, byes will be allocated in Round 2. These will be allocated at random amongst the non-seeded teams, except that a team which received a bye in Round 1 will neither receive a bye nor be drawn against a seed in Round 2.
- 24 The draw for Rounds 1-4 will be regionalised as far as possible consistent with the provisions of Regulations 22-23 relating to seeding, which take

precedence over geographical considerations. The draw for the quarter-finals onwards will be random.

- 25 Level 4 agreements are permitted throughout the competition.
- 26 The dates by which each round must be played will be found on the [main event](#) and [2025-26 results](#) pages of the EBU website. The date and venue of the final should be decided by the team captains by mutual agreement. No play-by date is published for the final, and the rules for offering dates set out in Regulations 6-8 and 11 of the [General Regulations](#) do not apply to the final. However, captains are expected to use their best endeavours to find a mutually acceptable date within a reasonable time of the identity of the finalists becoming known, and if the final is unduly delayed a ruling may be given under Regulation 42 of the [General Regulations](#).
- 27 Master Points will be awarded in the form of Green Points for each round won as follows:

R1/2	R3/4	Quarter- finals	Semi- finals	Final
2	3	4	6	8

All awards quoted are per player, subject to that player having played in the match concerned. Master Points will be direct-credited as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each round.

- 28 Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams as below. The amounts will be credited to the EBU accounts of the nominated team captains following the conclusion of the event. Prizes to be determined when entries are known.

2025-26 prizes:	Winners £240	Runners-up £120
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SUPPLEMENTARY HUBERT PHILLIPS PLATE REGULATIONS

- 29 The Hubert Phillips Plate competition is open to all unseeded teams who are defeated in their first match of the main event, whether this is in Round 1, or following a Round 1 bye, in Round 2. There is no additional entry fee for the Plate, and it will be assumed that all eligible teams will wish to enter the Plate unless the EBU Competitions Department is advised to the contrary.
- 30 Regulations 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28 shall apply to the Plate as they do to the Hubert Phillips Bowl, subject to the amendments in Regulations 31-34 and 38-39.
- 31 For the purposes of Regulation 3, the maximum of six players per team applies taking the Bowl and the Plate together. The deadline for the

registration of additional players without special permission is prior to playing the team's quarter-final match in the Plate.

32 Matches up to and including the semi-finals in the Plate, will normal be played over 30 boards: Regulations 6, 7 and 9 apply.

Regulation 7 for the captains to agree to play a 24 or 27 board match applies only in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Plate.

33 The final shall be played over 48 boards, and Regulations 8A and 12 apply in exactly the same way as they do to the semi-final of the Bowl.

34 Regulation 15 (rather than Regulation 16) applies to the final of the Plate.

35 There will be no seeds in the Plate.

36 There will be no byes in Round 1 of the Plate, except in the event of an odd number of entries, or to accommodate a team which received a bye in Round 1 of the main event. In order to reduce the field to 16 teams for Round 3, byes will be allocated in Round 2, at random, except that a team which received a bye in Round 1 will not receive a bye in Round 2.

37 The draw will be regionalised as far as possible up to the quarter-finals, and the draw for the semi-finals will be random.

38 Green Points will be awarded as follows:

R1/2	R3	Quarter- finals	Semi- finals	Final
1	1.5	2	3	4

39 A prize will be awarded to the winners: amount to be determined when entries are known. (2025-26 prize: Winners £120.)



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