



EBU Congress and Event Terms and Conditions

(For knock-out events, and overseas congresses, also see the document relevant to that competition)

By entering or competing in an EBU Congress or Event you agree to the follow terms and conditions. Please note that each individual competition may have its own regulations and you should refer to the website, or contact the EBU competition staff, to establish these prior to participation.

The EBU's [Privacy Policy](#) applies to all its activities, and should be read in conjunction with these Terms & Conditions.

Eligibility for entering an EBU Competition

You are eligible to play in an EBU congress if you are a member of the EBU or any other National Bridge Organisation. EBU congresses are those that run over several days and have different events on different days. They include the Eastbourne Summer Meeting, the Spring Foursomes and any individual event called "congress" or "festival".

If you are entering a Knockout competition or any other championship event such as the Portland Pairs, you will need to be a member of the EBU. You will also need to be eligible to represent England in order to play in the first division of the Premier League.

For the National Teams League, the captain and at least half of the team must be EBU members. Our daily online [Social Bridge](#) games on RealBridge and the daily EBU 12-board BBO games are open to all.

Entering an EBU Competition

Before you enter, please make sure that your EBU membership is up to date. You can enter an EBU competition by sending an entry form with payment to the EBU; calling us and making a card payment; emailing your entry (deducting credit if applicable) and sending a BACS payment to Sort code: 20-03-18 Account number: 70357200 or by entering online through the members area, [My EBU](#). **Note: Do not send credit/debit card details by email as this is insecure.**

You can enter some events online through your [My EBU account](#). You can also contact our Competitions Department on 01296 317 203 or via email comps@ebu.co.uk.

Post:

Competitions Department,
EBU,
Broadfields,
Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

When entering an EBU competition, always quote your **EBU membership number** and if possible, the membership numbers of your partner and other players. This helps us to ensure that any Master Points awarded are correctly registered and any change to your NGS grade correctly calculated.

Any member who wishes to play in our events may not be "anonymous"; they must supply their real full name, address, telephone number and EBU number. They may, however, choose not to have their NGS grade made public (however some events may be organised based on NGS grade, so an approximate NGS grade may be inferred from the player's group/starting position/etc).

You must give the full name and postcode of any player whose membership number you do not know. In the case of knock-out events, please also quote the first part of the post code (e.g., HP19) where you will normally play your home matches so that, when the draw is made, the need for players to travel long distances can be avoided. The default home venue of each side will be taken as the home address of the nominated captain unless otherwise stated. Home venues must be an English address.

Entry conditions

All EBU competitions are played according to Blue Book regulations ([available as a pdf download](#)), and in accordance with other conditions as contained on our website.

You may not play in more than one team in a team's event or partnership in a pairs event and you may not play in more than one heat of a competition, except when otherwise stated in the specific regulations for each tournament (an example is the Garden Cities Trophy).

In teams-of-four events, your team may consist of four, five or six players unless the regulations for the event specify a different number, and their names must be given to the Competitions Department or the TD in charge before you play. For some events you can add extra players at certain stages, and this is explained in the description of events on this website, and/or in the conditions of contest issued to team captains. In exceptional circumstances we may allow a substitution after the stated stage if your team has been reduced to fewer than four players.

Closing dates for entries

Each event has a closing date, although we may have to close the event earlier than this where the venue has space restrictions. While we prefer that you enter by this date, and after this date we cannot guarantee your entry will be accepted, we can usually accommodate late entries for most of our events. Such entrants may not, however, be eligible for seeding in seeded events, and for some events a surcharge may be applicable for late entries. Please check with the competitions staff on 01296 317203 if you would like to play in something but fear you may be too late to enter.

Regulations

EBU competitions are played under the current Laws of Duplicate Bridge and any relevant Bye-Laws, regulations or directives made by EBU or its Committees, and you will be bound by these even if they come into force after you enter.

You are free to make a bet with another competitor on your relative performances in a competition, but you are not permitted to take part in any organised gambling in connection with an EBU event. It is unacceptable for a player or member of an appeals committee to have a financial interest in the success of another player.

It is essential for us to maintain good relationships with the hotels and other venues where we run events. If you have failed to pay your debts at a competition venue, we have the right under the EBU Bye-Laws to settle the amount ourselves and claim it back from you.

Fee refunds, reductions, and surcharges

If you have to withdraw your entry, we will refund your fees in full provided we received them before the closing date. If we received them after the closing date, and prior to the last working day before the event, there may be a 20% deduction (£10 maximum). A refund for any cancellations made after close of business on the final working day prior to the start of the event may not be refunded.

The EBU reserves the right to levy a £5 surcharge on: entries which are not made prior to the day of the event; players who sit down to play without notifying the tournament director or host of their intention to take part; entry fees which are not paid prior to the event; entry fees which are not paid within three working days of the event ending.

All the fees quoted on the website, or in EBU advertisements, are per player, except where otherwise stated. They include VAT at the current rate.

Junior Entry Fees

All Juniors who are members of the EBU, or other Home Unions, may enter any English event (except Junior Trials, Overseas Congresses or Simultaneous Pairs Events) at half price provided: their date of birth is registered with the EBU; they are under 26 years of age on 31st December of the year in which the congress takes place, or the year in which the knockout competition begins; they enter in advance (any players turning up at an event without due notification will not be entitled to a half price entry)

In addition, this offer applies at the Summer Meeting for Juniors from any other country. BGB also offer juniors half price entry to the Gold Cup.

Furthermore, some EBU junior squad members may be offered free entry – for more information please see <http://www.ebu.co.uk/youth/entry-fees>

Playing Conditions

All players will abide by the EBU 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' guidelines

You are not permitted to bring refreshments into a playing room or public room at any venue. If you do, the Director in charge of the event has discretion to take appropriate action, including disqualifying you from the event.

No animals other than 'service' dogs may be brought into the playing area.

Smoking inside any public building is prohibited. In private matches, the standard arrangement is that smoking (including electronic cigarettes) is prohibited in all playing rooms throughout the match. However, the match host may designate an area where smoking is permitted during scoring breaks. Team captains should discuss smoking provision when arranging matches and agree how this should be managed.

Competitors at EBU events are expected to dress properly and appropriately – shorts should be of the 'tailored' variety, and sleeveless shirts are not permitted.

Publicity

The EBU reserves the right to use in a report or promotional context: your name or congress result; a description of your play at the congress/event; any photograph or video of you taken at the congress/event. This may include, but is not limited to, the EBU website (and the EBU's social media accounts) and English Bridge magazine. The EBU reserves the right to share the results of the congress/event, and any photographs and descriptions of the play, with other companies including, but not limited to, media outlets and other bridge unions. Your personal information will not be shared with a third party.

If you do not wish for your name or photograph/video to appear online or in print, then please inform us **in writing** by contacting us on comps@ebu.co.uk prior to the congress/event. Where possible we will accommodate your request, however this will not always be practical.

Venues

Whilst the EBU tries to ensure that all venues are of an acceptably high standard, and that the accommodation on offer (if appropriate) is of good quality, the EBU is not responsible for the facilities provided to guests by the venue. If bookings are made directly between the member and the hotel, and the EBU are not part of this arrangement, the EBU would be in no position to intervene in disputes between members and the venue, nor can it issue refunds for any accommodation costs for any reason. Bookings made using the [EBU Event Accommodation Booking Service](#) are arranged by Leger Shearings (First for Bridge) and are covered by the agreement between them and the member.