



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**For all European Championships
and other Tournaments
held under the auspices
of the European Bridge League**

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Preamble

These Conditions of Contest are the standard regulations which apply to all European Bridge Championships.

The EBL Eligibility Code, the EBL Disciplinary Code, the EBL Anti-Doping Regulations, the EBL Dress Code, the EBL Systems Policy, the EBL Alerting Policy, the EBL Policy on Psychic Bidding and the EBL Code of Practice are part of the Conditions of Contest for every European Bridge Championship and are annexed to these General Conditions of Contest.

The EBL also issues Supplemental Conditions of Contest further to regulate any European Bridge Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

In the event of any inconsistency between these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, the Supplemental Conditions of Contest shall prevail.

Expressions used in these Conditions of Contest and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in duplicate bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Championship Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa and reference to one gender shall include the other.

1. Definitions for the General Conditions Of Contest

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these Conditions of Contest shall have the following meanings:

1.1 Appeals Form

means the form prescribed by the EBL for the lodging of appeals at a European Bridge Championship.

1.2 Approved Recorder

means:

- a) any person subject to approval of both teams and by the Head Tournament Director or his designee
- b) a person approved for the purpose by the Head Tournament Director or his designee
- c) either Captain of the playing teams, or
- d) the North or South player

1.3 Brown Sticker Announcement Form

Means the form designed for the announcement of Brown Sticker Conventions (bids, overcalls and subsequent auction) as referred to in the EBL Systems Policy

1.4 Championship Appeals Committee

For the purposes of Sections 33,34,35 of these Conditions of Contest:

“Committee” means the Championship Appeals Committee appointed for the European Bridge Championship by the President.

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, and also means, where applicable, the designated chairman referred to in Sections 33 and 35.1.

1.5 *Championship Committee, Tournament Appeals Committee and Credentials Committee*

mean the respective committees constituted either generally or for a European Bridge Championship pursuant to the By-Laws of the EBL.

1.6 *Championship Chairman and Championship Manager (Operations Director)*

mean the respective persons so designated by the EBL.

1.7 *Disciplinary Commission*

means the commission in charge of all matters pertaining to ethics and behaviour etc. Their duties, powers and function are defined in the EBL Disciplinary Code.

1.8 *Executive Committee*

means the Executive Committee of the EBL established under the Statutes of the EBL.

1.9 *Head Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Directors*

mean the Directors as defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 appointed by the EBL.

1.10 *Highly Unusual Methods (HUM)*

mean any of the systemic agreements so described in the EBL Systems Policy.

1.11 *Host NBO*

means the NBO which hosts a European Bridge Tournament.

1.12 *HUM System*

means a System that utilizes Highly Unusual Methods.

1.13 *Law*

means a Law contained in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007.

1.14 *Line-Up Desk*

means the facility set up at the site of a tournament for the teams to register their Line-ups and for the provision of other services relating thereto.

1.15 *NBO*

means a National Bridge Organisation that is a member of the EBL.

1.16 *Playing Area*

Means the area defined by the EBL which may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the

playing rooms which are designated for the use of the players and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be identified to the participants at the tournament

1.17 *President*

means the President of the EBL.

1.18 *Schedule of Play*

means the schedule for the play of a European Bridge Championship, either as contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest or as subsequently determined by the EBL.

1.19 *Session*

means a segment of play (as prescribed by the Schedule of Play) after which scores are computed. May be further defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

1.20 *Supplemental Conditions of Contest*

means the additional Conditions of Contest issued from time to time by the EBL for the further regulation of a particular tournament.

1.21 *Supplementary Sheets*

means such additional pages containing System details as are annexed to and form part of EBL System Cards in accordance with these and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

1.22 *System*

means all agreements and understandings a pair has as to the meaning of any call or play as those respective expressions are defined in the Laws.

1.23 *These Conditions of Contest*

means these General Conditions of Contest.

1.24 *WBF*

means the World Bridge Federation, an International Sport Federation, recognised by the IOC and incorporated in Switzerland.

1.25 *EBL Alerting Policy*

means the Policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that regulates the alerting procedure in a European Bridge Championship.

1.26 *EBL System Card or Convention Card*

means the System Card authorized by the EBL for the disclosure of Systems by contestants in a European Bridge Championship and includes Supplementary Sheets.

1.27 *WBF Guide to Completion*

means the publication of that name issued by the WBF to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF Convention Cards for a World or European Bridge Championship, copies of which may be obtained from the Systems Administrator whose address can be found in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. The Guide to Completion includes the information previously contained in the WBF Convention Booklet. For the interpretation of these General Conditions any special partnership understanding is included in the terms “convention”, “conventional call”, “conventional play”, “conventional agreement” or the like.

1.28 *EBL Policy on Psychic Bidding*

means the policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that specifies the EBL’s Policy with regard to Psychic Bidding

1.29 *EBL Systems Policy*

means the Policy, issued by the EBL from time to time, that regulates the use of Systems in a European Bridge Championship.

1.30 *European Bridge Championship*

means any event so designated by the EBL from time to time and if the context permits, also means the totality of such events scheduled for play at a particular site.

1.31 *World Standard Card*

means the System Card devised by the WBF for use in specific circumstances defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

2. Conditions of Entry

2.1 *General*

European Bridge Championships are conducted under the auspices of the EBL and all events designated as European Bridge Championships shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007. These Conditions of Contest, and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest, supplement the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 as required.

2.2 *Media*

By participating in a European Bridge Championship, each NBO and its contestants agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the EBL.

2.3 *Competition Requirement*

Each NBO agrees that in the interest of promoting goodwill in the world and for the proper conduct of a European Bridge Championship, it shall instruct its contestants that they must compete against all other contestants. Entry in a European Bridge Championship and subsequent refusal to play against any

other team or contestant as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification of any team, or of any contestant refusing to play. Such disqualification shall extend for the balance of the European Bridge Championship involved. Furthermore, the offending contestant(s) and their NBO shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.4 Political Statements

Each NBO further agrees that for the proper conduct of any European Bridge Championship it shall instruct its competitors that at no time during the course of or in relation to the event may they make any form of public political statement or comment. Any contestant(s) making such a statement may be disqualified from the event or events in which they participated or intend to participate and shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the EBL, for such period as the EBL in its discretion shall determine.

2.5 Invitation to Participate

Participation in a European Bridge Championship is subject to nomination by a player's NBO and approval/invitation by the EBL.

2.6 General

To be eligible for participation in the European Bridge Championships a competitor must comply with the EBL Eligibility Code.

2.7 Credentials Committee

Pursuant to the Statutes of the EBL, the Executive Committee has appointed a Credentials Committee, whose functions shall be

- a) to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players and non-playing captains whose names have been submitted by an NBO for invitation to compete in a European Bridge Championship. These names must be transmitted to the President, or his designee, in writing, as prescribed by the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest;
- b) in its discretion, to refuse to invite any player or non-playing captain whose name has been submitted for invitation by an NBO, as aforesaid, to participate in a European Bridge Championship. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.

3. Official Language

English is the official language of a European Bridge Championship.

At the table the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English.

The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities. No appeal due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

4. Ethics and Deportment

4.1 *Player's obligations*

The privilege of representing one's country as a player, non-playing captain, coach or other team official in the European Bridge Championships is not an inalienable right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. The EBL expects all teams and partnerships to play to win.

In the absence of penalties expressed in IMPs or VPs, given that participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standards becomes the more imperative.

Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. It is expected that Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officers and Teams will receive all decisions of the Director, the Appeals Committee and the Disciplinary Commission in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political, religious and/or racial statement (see also section 2.4).

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

4.2 *Looking at partner*

Players are requested not to look at their partner during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.

4.3 *Discussions*

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match to avoid discussions with partner or argument with opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to the Tournament Director or, subject to the limitations in Section 15.2, to the Captain of the team.

4.4 *Partnership understandings*

Under the Laws of Bridge a player is not allowed to make a call or play based on a partnership understanding unless the opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning or unless the use of such a call or play has been fully disclosed on the Official System Card. Psychic actions are permissible, but at all times should have the same potential to surprise partner as to surprise the opponents; they may not be the subject of undisclosed partnership understandings.

4.5 Anti-Betting Regulation

It shall be a violation for any player, team captain or official, or any other persons associated with or related to a player, team captain or official participating in any EBL event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof.

Any violation will be subject to charges to be presented to a hearing before the EBL Disciplinary Commission.

5. Anti-Doping Regulations

It is mandatory for all participants to follow the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations.

6. Dress Code

The participants to a EBL Championship must comply with the EBL Dress Code.

7. Restrictions and Security

The following restrictions apply to the playing areas (see definition of these areas in Section 1.16)

7.1 Smoking and Alcohol

7.1.1 Smoking

Smoking in the building is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke.

Any player smoking in the building will cause his team to be fined 2 VP (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus a fine of €100. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

7.1.2 Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and the toilet area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol.

Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or the toilet area will result in his team being fined 2 VP (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus a fine of €100.

Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation of this regulation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices (including electronic cigarettes) must be switched off in the playing area and toilets.

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device that is not switched off into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus in all cases a fine of €100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the EBL for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Section 30.3 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there. Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director in consultation with the Championship Committee shall decide.

7.3 Pets

Pets are not allowed in the playing area.

7.4 Security

For security reasons all people at the Championship Venue must wear their official identification badge.

8. Disqualification from any EBL championship or tournament

Should a team, pair or individual player be disqualified as a result of a decision made by a Tournament Director, Tournament Appeals Committee, Disciplinary Commission or the Executive Committee, no refund of the entry fees, either in part or in whole, will be made.

9. Vu-Graph & Broadcasting

9.1 Obligation to play

All contestants are required to play on Vu-Graph, on-line Vu-Graph (internet broadcasting), Card Reader Registration Systems and Television whenever assigned to do so by the President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee. In the absence of any contrary stipulation, the room from which play is broadcast to the Vu-Graph audience shall be the Open Room.

9.2 Access to the Vu-Graph Room

Access to the Vu-Graph rooms is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty and TDs.

10. Media Presentation – Registration – Publication

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews etc. arranged by the EBL, including video, Internet, TV, radio or any other media presentation.

NBOs and their representatives at a tournament authorise the EBL to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of that tournament. They further give their consent to the EBL using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information are the exclusive property of the EBL and may not be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent.

11. Completion of EBL System Card

11.1 Publication of Systems

Registration of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets with the EBL gives the EBL the right to publish such System Cards via Internet or to any parties at the Championship in such form as it sees fit. When full systems are registered on site, for the purposes of providing additional information, these will not be published by the EBL to persons other than those requiring them for the purpose of running the Tournament

11.2 Requirements

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and also to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The Supplemental Conditions of Contest will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, in accordance with the EBL Systems Policy and in addition to rules established in these Conditions of Contest.

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the EBL System Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their System Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purposes of this section unless:

- a) all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the Guide to Completion, these Conditions of Contest, and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest;
- b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the EBL that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction,

may be omitted. The classification of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card.

11.3 Supplementary Sheets

- a) The EBL System Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet.
- b) The number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of System Cards will be set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

11.4 Approved Convention Card Editors

System (Convention) Cards may be prepared using any of the following programs

the **WBF Convention Card Editor** (Windows Version), which is available for free download from the [WBF Website](#) or the [ECatsBridge Website](#),

the Convention Card Editor written by Lee Edwards

Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel.

The cards may also be provided in Acrobat PDF format, but in this case the file size should not exceed 150k; however because of problems converting the symbol fonts to pdf players are advised that they should submit the original files at the same time.

PLEASE NOTE that image files of any type are not acceptable (i.e. files in formats such as .jpg, .tif or .bmp.), nor are .pdf files created from scanned documents or images.

These cards will be converted by the Systems Administrator to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com.

11.5 Distribution of Systems

Following registration of the systems for all pairs in a team, the systems will be displayed on a web site designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) sent by email to the captain of the team making the registration and, if email addresses are provided for the team members, also to them individually. If captains have queries concerning the systems of other teams, they should email the Systems Administrator who will pass the query on to the team concerned.

The EBL deems the publication of the URL of the web site to the Captains of all teams submitting systems in accordance with the regulation detailed above to constitute distribution of systems. All teams should make every effort to download and print sufficient copies of their opponents' systems for their own use. Should there be any changes to systems uploaded, the EBL Systems Administrator will email details to all captains / players on the email list so that they are aware of them as soon as possible. No changes will be made to any systems on the web site after a date to be set in the Supplemental Conditions of

Contest, except in cases of emergency, in which event full notification will be sent to all other captains.

11.6 General

- a) If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage.
- b) The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Appeals Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

12. Use of System Cards at the Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, each member of a pair must hand to one of his opponents at the table at the start of each session of an event his duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for a specific European Bridge Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the session.

After withdrawing his cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, a player may not consult his own Card or Supplementary Sheets. He may consult the WBF Guide to Completion in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner, or one made or contemplated by himself, and he may consult written defences against Brown sticker conventions and HUM-aspects in his opponents system.

13. Alerts and Explanations

The Alerting Policy of the EBL applies.

14. Length of Matches

10 board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes

12 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes

14 board matches: 2 hours

16 board matches: 2 hours 20 minutes

20 board matches: 2 hours 50 minutes

Teams judged guilty of slow play will be subject to penalty. Additional time will not be allowed for teams playing on Vu-Graph; neither will extra time be granted because of the use of bidding boxes, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons. Vu-Graph presentation of any match or session will not start until the Tournament Director notifies the Chief Commentator or his designee.

For shorter or longer matches the allowed time will be based on approximately 8 minutes and 45 seconds per board.

15. Non-Playing Captains

15.1 *General*

A non-playing captain (NPC) may observe his team during play subject to the rules set forth in this Section and to any supplementary regulation made from time to time by the EBL before a European Bridge Championship begins. The NPC must enter the room before play begins at the start of a session, and if the NPCs of both teams are in the room, they shall sit on the same side of the screen. In case of dispute the "Home Team" captain shall decide on which side of the screen they will sit. An NPC may observe play in the Closed Room at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director.

15.2 *Rights of a Non-Playing Captain*

In the Open Room a non-playing captain may act in order:

- a) to protect the rights of his team if he believed that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- b) to curtail unnecessary discussion;
- c) to forbid a member of his team to make a protest;
- d) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his team;
- e) to require, but only after the play of a board has been completed, that a tournament director be called at the table;
- f) to make known his own intention of making a protest or an appeal on behalf of his team in reference to any matter in respect of which his players have not done so;
- g) to ensure that a pair not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch its team mates.

15.3 *Procedure during Matches*

- a) An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that session. Exceptionally, if the NPC is requested to leave the playing room by a Tournament Director, the President, the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, or the Championship Chairman, he may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- b) An NPC is bound by the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76), except that he may intervene to restrain misbehaviour or curtail unnecessary discussion on the part of his team members, and may with the concurrence of the Tournament Director speak to questions of fact or law, after the Tournament Director has been called to the table, but may not call the Tournament Director.
- c) During the time allowed for a session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, an NPC should only address members of his team at the table in the English language or in a language understood by the opponents. If

it is desired to use a language other than English the permission of the opponents should be sought and, where reasonably possible, should be given. If difficulty arises, an NPC wishing to speak to his team in a language not known to the opponents should do so through an interpreter or team member who can translate for the benefit of the opponents.

- d) At any time when a comparison of scores is allowed a non-playing Captain may draw his players' attention to his observation of an infraction but he is bound as a spectator by Law 76B until that time.

15.4 Delegation of Responsibility by the NPC

NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. While the EBL recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach, etc.), it is only when they are officially registered as members of the team and have been invited to participate in the relevant European Bridge Championship by the EBL, that they may perform certain of the official functions assigned to the NPC. Such additional team officials may not enter the playing rooms unless they obtain the permission of the Championship Committee (or its designee) which may impose conditions on such entrance in its discretion.

16. Substitutes in Team Tournaments

If, for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a session or because of an emergency that develops during the session, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute need not be a member of the NBO represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player from another team and must fulfil any restrictions in gender and/or age that apply for the event in question.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Appeals Committee or his designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Tournament Appeals Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skills were considerably greater than those of the player replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

The Championship Committee or its designee shall have authority to determine whether, and to what extent, a substitute may become a permanent replacement.

17. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments

The Chief Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made. The same restrictions as in 16 above apply to the substitute.

18. Forfeits in Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Tournament Appeals Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The result of the match shall be determined in accordance with Section 19 below. A second walk-over by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team. If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the winning team shall be credited with the IMP difference closest to the assigned Victory Points score.

19. Walkover

If a team, by its own fault, is unable to play against another team, it will score zero VP. Its opponents will receive the best score between: (a) 13 VP, (b) the team's average (c) the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault, whichever is greater. A second walk-over by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team.

20. Substitute Boards in Team Tournaments

A "substitute board" is one introduced into play in a session or a match, to replace a board already played at one or both tables. Depending upon the decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee, the results of a substitute board may, or may not, be counted as part of the session or match. Substitute boards are put into play by the Tournament Director either on his own volition or by direction of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

21. Fouled Boards

A board is considered "fouled" if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

21.1 Fouled Boards in Team Tournaments

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, a fouled board should be replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. That match is scored as though the board had never been played *.

The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Tournament Appeals Committee. When the Tournament Director has reason to believe the Tournament Appeals Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final session of a match, he should have a provisional board played during the

session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The Tournament Director, on his own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

***Example:** if the 7th board in a 16-board match is fouled and the error is discovered when the contestants are computing the result of the match, the board is disregarded and the match is scored as though it consisted of only 15 boards.

21.2 *Fouled Boards in Pair Tournaments*

When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. If guilt can be determined, penalties should be assessed in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. Procedures for scoring fouled boards are contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

21.3 *Penalties for fouled boards in Teams or Pairs Tournaments*

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault, that side shall be subject to procedural penalty in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

22. Penalties

Penalties and Fines will be applied according to the Supplemental Conditions of Contest

23. Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and other Devices

23.1 *Bidding boxes*

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory. The Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply.

23.2 *Bridgemates and other Devices used for the recording of matches.*

Electronic or other devices may be used in the European Bridge Championships to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, to send the collected data to any control centre, etc. The Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply.

24. Verification of Scores

The correction period in Law 79C expires upon the commencement of the next match or segment, or – in respect of the final match or segment of any phase of the event only (each KO match being a phase in its own right for this purpose) – 30 minutes after the final result has been posted and thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- awaiting the decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee on a filed appeal;
- completion of play or replay boards where such replay has been directed by the Tournament Appeals Committee.

24.1 Score Corrections

Score corrections may be made as sanctioned in Laws 69, 71 and 79.

An agreed-upon score that is proven to be erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director and the Appeals Committee, may be corrected up to thirty minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

25. Regulations for Electronic Line-Ups

The line-ups must be submitted electronically in accordance with the details below. Failure of a captain to submit his line-up in a timely fashion shall result in fines in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

The line-ups during the round robin must for both teams be submitted no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous round; teams will not know the line-up of their opponents. The line-up for the first round must be given in accordance with the decision taken in the Captains Meeting.

In the KO phase the team to line-up first must submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous session. The second team must then submit its line-up no later than 20 minutes after the end of the previous session or no later than 5 minutes after the submission of the first line-up, whichever is latest.

Line-ups are to be submitted in a dedicated area, with computers as designated by the Operations Director. However, each team will have its own password protected page on the EBL's wireless LAN enabling team captains with their own laptops to use them. All information for team captains will be relayed to them via these pages and **captains are expected to check at least twice daily for messages.**

The time of the line-up will be recorded automatically by the system, and penalties for late line-ups will be mandatory. An official clock will be set for the purpose of showing the official time.

If a partnership that has not registered a specific System Card is to play, they should indicate on the line-up form which of the registered System Cards will be used.

26. Play of the Cards

During the course of play, each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time so that it can be seen by all players at the table.

Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping with tricks won pointing towards partner and tricks lost pointing towards the opponents.

27. Screens

Screens will be used whenever possible in a European Bridge Tournament. The Bidding Box, Bridgemate and Screen Regulations of the EBL shall apply.

28. Duplicated Boards

Whenever possible duplicated boards will be used throughout all European Bridge Championships.

29. Curtain Cards

When Curtain Cards are in use, at the start of each match, or session of a match, which is played with the same set of boards in both rooms, each player is required to write the name of his NBO on a Curtain Card. At the conclusion of play of the first board, in each room of a match, each player should place the Curtain Card on top of the bridge hand so that it may be read after playing cards have been returned to the duplicate board. After the boards are moved to the other table in the match, each player shall examine the Curtain Card in the pocket of the designated position. If the Curtain Card names the NBO of the opponents the play proceeds. If the Curtain Card names the player's own NBO or an NBO other than that of the opponents, the Tournament Director must be summoned forthwith, before the playing cards are removed from the duplicate board. Failure to follow this procedure will result in penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

30. Attendance in Playing Rooms

30.1 General

Subject to any supplementary regulations made by the Executive Committee or its designee or special permission of the President, only the following are permitted to enter the playing rooms:

- a) Participants assigned to play in that room;
- b) Tournament Directors;
- c) Personnel needed to operate these Championships, including, but not limited to, assigned recorders, scorers, timers, caddies and Vu-Graph personnel;
- d) The EBL President and members of the Championship Committee;
- e) The Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee and Disciplinary Commission;
- f) Members of the Tournament Appeals Committee and Disciplinary Commission who are on duty;
- g) Staff personnel for provision of refreshment and room cleaning, if necessary;
- h) "Officials on duty" appointed for a specific session or sessions by the EBL President;
- i) Members of the Daily Bulletin staff to be named by its Editor;
- j) Approved journalists who have been accredited by the President (or his designee) of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) and ratified by the EBL President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee,;

The assignments of places in the playing rooms to those in categories (i) and (j) shall be made by the Editor of the Daily Bulletin subject to the following rules: (The EBL President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee, before the

start of the session, may limit the number of individuals who represent categories (i) and (j) For purposes of the following, those individuals are considered a single group and members of it are referred to as “representatives”.)

Except by permission of the President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee, not more than one “representative” shall be at any table at the same time; preference will be given to category (i).

The “representative” must enter the room before the session begins, must remain on the same side of the screen throughout the session and, should he leave before the end of the session, may not re-enter any playing rooms.

“Representatives” may be assigned to Open and Closed Rooms.

“Representatives” shall be excluded from both playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-graph and/or broadcast via internet.

30.2 Spectators

Subject to conditions of play the President or the Chairman of the Championship Committee may permit spectators to watch in the Open Room. A spectator should be seated so as to see only one side of the screen and no more than six spectators may watch at any one table. Spectators may watch one table only. Non-playing players from a team are not permitted to watch their own team’s match.

If matches are designated as “Pit Matches” additional spectators, at the discretion of the Head Tournament Director will be permitted.

No spectators can be admitted in the playing rooms of matches presented in Vu-Graph or broadcast via internet.

An individual who observes an irregularity when a spectator is subject to Law 76B until a ruling on the board may no longer be sought.

For the purposes of this section “representatives” and all other non-participants are considered spectators.

30.3 Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the playing areas (see definition of these areas in Section 1.16)

Spectators are not permitted to smoke or consume any alcoholic drinks in these areas, nor may they bring mobile telephones, pagers or any other electronic devices into these areas. Spectators contravening any of these regulations will be required to leave the playing area immediately and will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the Championship without specific permission from the Chairman of the Championship Committee or in his absence the Head Tournament Director.

The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a spectator from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the EBL for the detection of such electronic devices.

31. Pit Matches

The EBL may allow the Open Room segment of selected matches to be played in special areas (Pits) designed for spectators to observe the play. Such matches are referred to in these Conditions as “Designated Pit Matches” and may be subject to supplementary regulations issued by the EBL after the date of these Conditions of Contest. However, spectators at any Designated Pit Match shall not include non-playing team members from either of the competing teams.

32. Rulings and Appeals

The Tournament Director shall be summoned to a table as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. After the Director has given the ruling, any appeal against such ruling must be lodged in accordance with Section 34.

33. Championship Appeals Committee

(see definition in Section 1.4)

33.1 General

All appeals of rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Committee (but see 33.3 below). The Chairman or his designee shall convene the Committee at the conclusion of sessions or at any other time he deems appropriate, and shall divide the Committee into smaller committees each having neither fewer than three nor more than five members. Each such committee shall have all the powers of the Committee for the purpose of deciding the matter in question. The Chairman or his designee will nominate a member of each such smaller committee to be its chairman.

The Code of Practice for Appeals Committees will apply. Players should note the procedures which the Code calls upon them to adopt (as, for example, that they should randomize and make unpredictable the tempo of passing the tray).

The EBL Code of Practice is utilized by the EBL Tournament Directors before any rulings are given, and such rulings are made in consultation with other Directors, senior players and other personnel as appropriate.

33.2 Authority

During the course of any European Bridge Championship the Committee may in its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007, or these Conditions of Contest, or the Supplemental Conditions of Contest however that matter may have come to the attention of the Committee; and the decision of the Committee in respect of any such matter shall be arrived at in the manner referred to in Section 35.1, and shall, subject only to Section 35.1 of these Conditions, be final in all cases. (but see Interpretation 33.3 below).

33.3 Interpretation

In the event that the decision of an Appeal depends on the interpretation either of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge or of the Conditions of Contest, the

Appeals Committee will request and apply any ruling given by the specific Committee as indicated in Section 0.

34. Lodging of Appeals

A request for, or appeal of, a Tournament Director's ruling must be lodged within 30 minutes of the first posting of the official score for the session in which the board that is the subject of the ruling was played.

All appeals must be lodged by the team's Captain or his designee, or by one member of the pair in the Pairs events.

An appeal may take one of two forms:

- i) It may be an appeal of the Director's ruling as to an infraction or otherwise, and any consequent decisions. This would be heard in accordance with Section 35 following, or
- ii) It may be a request for review of the score adjustment where the appellant does not wish to challenge the finding of an infraction. The Tournament Appeals Committee would normally give a decision on this on the basis of the documentation alone.

34.2 Deposit for Appeals or Requests for Review

When lodging an appeal or a Request for Review the appellant must deposit EUR 100 with the Tournament Director. This deposit will be refunded unless the Committee determines that the appeal was without merit. An alternate or complementary penalty may be imposed by the Committee.

35. Hearing of Appeals

35.1 General

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals Form the Tournament Director shall, as soon as possible, inform the Chairman or his designee. The Chairman shall schedule the time and place for the hearing of the appeal and shall so advise the Tournament Director, who in turn shall advise all parties involved of such time and place.

Guidelines for the hearing of appeals and other proceedings of the Committee are set out in the Code of Practice. Failure to observe such guidelines shall not in and of itself invalidate any decision of the Committee. However, if in the opinion of the President or the Chairman there may have been non-observance of the guidelines capable of seriously prejudicing the rights of any party appearing before the Committee, then the President or the Chairman may, in his discretion, direct that the proceedings in question be reheard, in which case the decision of the Committee on the rehearing shall replace the decision on the first hearing.

On an investigation made otherwise than on appeal, the Committee may impose such penalty on any party, or direct that an adjusted score be entered for any boards, as it shall deem proper. In any case in which it considers the circumstances to justify or require it, the Committee may (in addition to any

other penalty imposed) recommend to the Executive Committee the suspension of any player for one or more sessions of the event, the forfeiture of a match, or the disqualification of a pair or team.

The Appeals Committee will observe the EBL Code of Practice, which is an integral part of these Conditions of Contest.

35.2 Failure to attend

If any party to an appeal or other proceeding of the Committee, or any other person whose attendance is required by the Chairman, having been given notice of the time and place of the hearing, fails to appear, the Chairman may:

- a) Re-schedule the hearing;
- b) Proceed to a decision of the Committee in the absence of the party who failed to appear;
- c) Dismiss the appeal without a hearing, and confirm the ruling of the Tournament Director, if the party failing to appear is the appellant.
- d) Penalize such party failing to appear.

All four players at the table shall consider themselves called to the hearing unless prior consent to the absence of a player or players is obtained through the Tournament Director

In addition to the powers conferred by these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, the Committee has those powers assigned to it in the Laws.

The interpretation of the Bridge Laws is a matter to be referred to the WBF Laws Committee. The decisions reached shall be final.

36. Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest

The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest or any Supplemental Conditions of Contest is a matter to be referred to the EBL Rules & Regulation Committee composed of the Championship Chairman, who will chair it, and two other members appointed by the President. The decisions reached shall be final.

37. Eligibility for Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will normally be awarded for EBL Championships.

In all teams events, the winning team in the final will be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy. The losing finalists will be awarded the Silver Medal. For the play off regulations to determine the Bronze Medallists, see Section 38 below.

In all pairs events, the winning pair shall be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy or prize, the second placed pair shall be awarded the Silver Medal and the third placed pair the Bronze Medal.

37.1 Master Points Awards

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points plan, details of which can be found at www.eurobridge.org/Repository/master-points.aspx

Special Conditions

In team events, in order to qualify for MPs won by the team, a player must have played a certain minimum number of boards of the total number of boards played by his team.

- a) Tournament consisting only of a Round-Robin or of a Swiss without any KO phase: a player must have played at least one third of the hands played by his team.
- b) Tournament consisting of a Round-Robin or Swiss followed by a KO phase: the player must have played at least one third of the hands played by the team in the Round-Robin or Swiss. In addition:
 - 1) Tournaments in which the KO phase consists of semi-finals and final:
 - For first place: at least one third of the total number of hands in the final and one third of the total number of hands in the semi-final.
 - For second place: at least one third of the hands in the semi-final.
 - For third place: at least one third of the hands in the semi-final and in the play-off (if there is a play-off).
 - 2) Tournaments in which the KO phase consists of quarter-finals, semi-finals and final
 - For the first place: at least one third of the total number hands in the final, semi-final and quarter-final combined, but at least one third of the hands in the final.
 - For the second place: at least one third of the hands in the quarter-final and semi-final combined but at least one third of the hands in the semi-final.
 - For third place: at least one third of the hands in the play-off semi-final and quarter-final combined.
 - For the fourth place: at least one third of the hands of the quarter-final, semi-final and play-off (if there is one) combined.
 - 3) Tournaments in which the KO phase consists of eighth-finals (round of 16), quarter-finals, semi-finals and final.
 - For the first place: at least one third of the total number hands in the final, semi-final, quarter-final and eighth-final combined, but at least one third of the hands in the final.
 - For the second place: at least one third of the hands in the eighth-final, quarter-final and semi-final combined but at least one third of the hands in the semi-final.
 - For third place: at least one third of the hands in the play-off semi-final, quarter-final and eighth-final combined.
 - For the fourth place: at least one third of the hands of the eighth-final, quarter-final, semi-final and play-off (if there is one) combined.
- c) All the other positions of the teams involved in the KO phase will be according to the EBL Master Point plan and/or the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.
- d) It is acceptable for a player to play less than one third of the boards in one match if he or she attains one third played over all matches required to be "combined".

- e) In order to qualify for the title of European Champion the conditions are the same as those needed to qualify for the MPs for the Championship.
- f) In team events, in the case of a team conceding: if we assume team A is playing team B and team B concedes, then the one third rule will not apply to team A and all players are deemed to have played the correct number of boards for that round.
- g) For events in which the above rules cannot be applied, the Supplemental Conditions of Contest will have provisions determining such conditions.
- h) The EBL Executive Committee may still award MPs and title to a player who genuinely participated in many boards in all the matches but could not completely comply with the above mentioned conditions because of illness or cause of force majeure.

38. Play off Regulations for 3rd place

The detailed play off Regulations for bronze medals or 3rd place as appropriate will be contained within the Supplemental Regulations for each EBL Championship.

39. Changes to the Conditions of Contest

The EBL Executive Committee, or the Championship Committee by its delegation, reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, at any time after its publication and before the beginning of the Championships. After the start of the Championships only on the initiative of the Head Tournament Director may changes be proposed to the Championship Committee, which will then decide whether or not to implement such amendments.

40. Responsibility of the EBL

The EBL schedules a European Bridge Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the EBL makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person, that any particular European Bridge Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

41. Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest

Entering or being accredited to attend a European championship or tournament means that everybody concerned with such entry or accrediting (Organisations, Teams and Individuals) knows and agrees to abide by these General Conditions of Contest and the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest.