



**Systems Regulations for the
2002 European Teams Championships
(Open and Ladies)
15 - 29 June 2002**

1. Disclosure Of Systems And Conventions

1.1 EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Systems Policy forms part of these Conditions of Contest (see Appendix A). The European Teams Championships (Open and Ladies) are Category 1 events. In Category 1 events all Systems are allowed.

During the Round Robin Stage if a pair is found to have used a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of up to two VPs deducted from the team's score. In addition any favourable result arising from the use may be cancelled. The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director. If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event.

1.2 Submission of Systems

Each team captain is responsible for sending the convention cards by email or on a 3 ½" PC diskette to:

Mrs. Anna Gudge
EBL Systems Administrator
The Old Railway Station
Long Melford
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9HN
England

e-mail: systems@ecats.co.uk

as soon as possible, but in any event before 10 May 2002, for every partnership that will play in these Championships, their Systems described on the official WBF Convention Card, completed in accordance with the Guide to Completion, plus Supplementary Sheets as necessary to describe conventional sequences in detail. Penalties for failure to submit Convention Cards and Supplementary in time are (in addition to Section 1.2.1 below) specified in Section 3. A list of the players' names and, wherever possible, their email addresses should also be provided to Mrs Gudge.

The 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 www.bridge.gr or <http://www.ecatsbridge.com>; the **Convention Card Editor** written by Lee Edwards, available for download from www.acbl.org; the **DOS Convention Card Editor** provided free of charge by the WBF; **Microsoft Word**; **Microsoft Excel** or **Adobe PageMaker for the PC**. Where possible 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.

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) will be 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.

Following the event, the EBL reserves the right to display the Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets (but not the email addresses) in a public area for interested parties to see them. If a full system is submitted, this will not be included on such pages of the site.

1.3 Convention Cards not received in due time

Any partnership whose duly completed original Card and Supplementary Sheets have not reached the EBL Systems Administrator in accordance with these Conditions of Contest shall (in addition to the penalties referred to in Section 3) be required by the Tournament Appeals Committee (unless it rules otherwise) to use the system described on the World Standard Card for not less than the first two days of play. Furthermore, no HUM or Brown Sticker Conventions will be permitted for the duration of the Championship. The World Standard Card can be obtained from www.ecatsbridge.com where it can be found in the Documents section (Systems Directory).

1.4 Approval of Systems

The fact that Cards and Supplementary Sheets are made available to other NBOs by the EBL (see 1.2) does not mean that the EBL has considered such Cards as being officially approved; systems although acceptable, may require amendments after being circulated.

1.5 Supplementary Sheets

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the WBF Convention Card, a reference number should be placed prominently at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number, and containing the complete explanation must be submitted along with the Card.

1.6 Changes to Cards/Supplementary Sheets

- a) Any changes to the duly submitted (as per section 1.2) Card and/or Supplementary Sheets must be submitted in official form (see (d) below) as early as possible for everyone's benefit, but in any event no later than 25 May 2002. These changes (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions, and/or cosmetic revisions) must be first approved by the EBL. (See address in section 1.2).
- b) On site, changes to systems will be approved or required by the Chairman of the EBL Systems Committee or his nominee(s).
- c) In order for a change to be implemented, it must be duly approved, signed, and dated, and then circulated to all relevant teams in timely fashion. Such circulation may be done by mailing by the EBL, by manual distribution on site at the Captains' Meeting, or through Captain's mailboxes on site.
- d) Approval for a change may be given or refused in whole or part by the EBL and may be given subject to conditions. One such condition will usually be that any such change cannot be implemented in the course of a particular round robin or in the course of a particular stage of the event, with possible prejudice to unprepared opponents being a particularly important negative factor. Clarifications and improvements to presentation will not be considered as substantives changes.
- e) Official format for changes:

- (i) A new page of the Convention Card/ Supplementary Sheet that reflects the proposed change.
- (ii) A separate text document describing completely the proposed change and referring to the place(s) on the new pages where they can be found and any cross-references to Supplementary Sheet notes.
- (iii) Two email addresses for communication should this be necessary; (phone numbers only for emergencies).

1.7 Special Responsibility for HUM, RED and BROWN STICKER

With regard to HUM, RED and BROWN STICKER systems / conventions, there is a special responsibility for users to explain their methods in sufficient detail (as per the Guide to Completion and the CCE), the *first time* that Cards are submitted for the 2002 European Championships. If these submissions are inadequate, the pair may be barred from using those inadequately described methods for at least the first six matches. These penalties are quite severe, but with the duly executed distribution of these Conditions and all significant materials by the EBL, no pair will be permitted to claim ignorance of this special responsibility. The NBO, the Captains and the players are jointly responsible for contacting the EBL should there be any problems in obtaining the necessary tournament information in timely fashion. If these materials are received late, it is the responsibility of both parties concerned to so inform the EBL Systems Administrator as soon as possible.

1.8 Contact Information

Captains who wish to query any systems filed on the website may email the EBL Systems Administrator who will (if possible) forward any such emails to the parties concerned.

1.9 Addresses required

In order to facilitate the communications between the EBL and the teams regarding systems, each team's system submission shall include as many contact email addresses as are available within that team or its officials.

2. Special Regulations For Teams Using Hum Systems

2.1 Highly Unusual Methods

Highly Unusual Methods are utilised in any System which exhibits one or more of the following features as a matter of partnership agreement:

- a) A Pass in the opening position may have the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, and the player who passes may hold values a queen or more above the strength of an average hand (an average hand contains 10 HCP)
- b) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
- c) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with values a king or more below average strength.
- d) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows (a) either length or shortage in a specified suit or (b) either length in one suit or length in another

2.2 Submission of HUM Systems

The team captain of any team containing one or more pairs intending to use a HUM System shall send a full copy of any HUM System in English, together with the Convention Card and

Supplementary Sheets, to the EBL Systems Administrator by 10 May 2002. Failure to comply with this regulation or poor presentation of the System may result in such pair or pairs not being permitted to use HUM System, as the Tournament Appeals Committee shall in its discretion determine. In making any such determination, the Tournament Appeals Committee may apply Section 3. It is obligatory that a full copy of a HUM System, in English, also be filed at the Convention Card Desk, at the Championship site, by the time of the Captains' meeting.

2.3 Regulations for Pairs using Brown Sticker Conventions

Brown Sticker Conventions must be listed on a separate sheet, with continuations.

2.4 Regulations for Pairs using HUM Systems

If a team includes any pair using a HUM System, it will be subject to the following regulations:

- The pairs using HUM Systems should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of matches or sessions, to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by the opponents.
- When a team that includes a pair using a HUM System (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM System team will always be the Visiting Team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM Systems (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.
- The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM System will submit three copies (clearly legible) of their defences (if any) to the HUM System in writing, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled line-up time for the match; these defences shall be filed at the Convention Card Desk and supplied by the captain to the captain of the opposing team. In preparing these defences pairs using Green, Blue or Red Systems are allowed to change their systems including opening calls. Pairs using HUM Systems are not allowed to change their opening calls.
- The pair using a HUM System must inform the opponents in writing (hand-written, 2 clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using the HUM System is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

2.5 Written Defences

Notes on the defence against HUM Systems and on defence against the defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems (See Law 40 footnote) and may be used by both pairs at the table, during the period when the aperture of the screen is closed and, also, for the purpose only of responding to a question, when the screen is open. See also Section 10 of the General Conditions of Contest for World Bridge Championships.

A pair may prepare written defences against the artificial elements of the Brown Sticker elements of any system (See the EBL Systems Policy 2000). Also these defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems.

3. Failure to File Systems in a Timely Fashion

Any team containing a partnership that, for any reason, has failed to comply with the time requirements of Section 1.2 shall (in addition to the requirements of Section 1.3):

- a) not be provided with URL of the web pages containing the Systems of opposing teams unless and until either the President or the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee has been provided with the systems for that team. The Systems will be provided on a CD to the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee for distribution on site.
- b) be subject to a decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee who may forbid the team to use specific conventional understandings not submitted in accordance with these Conditions of Contest. If a disallowed convention is used, the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose penalties at its discretion; and
- c) be fined SFr 200 to be paid prior to the commencement of the Tournament. In its discretion the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose a great financial penalty if it is considered appropriate.

Appendix A
EBL SYSTEMS POLICY 2000
(Adopted December 1994;
amended October 1996
and January 2000)

1. Objectives

The objectives are to ensure that EBL Championships can be properly operated and adequately administered, with a fair and equal chance for all competitors, while at the same time affording proper consideration to progress and innovation; to ensure that players are in no doubt as to what is expected of them with regard to preparation and filing of systems material for EBL Championships.

Additions or amendments to this policy will normally be put into effect only after four months' notice.

2. Definitions

Average Hand	a hand containing one card of each rank
Weak	high card strength below that of an average hand
Strong	high card strength a king or more greater than that of an average hand
Natural	a call or play that is not a convention (as defined in the Laws)
Length	three cards or more
Shortage	two cards or less
Long Match	a match of 17 or more deals
Short Match	a match of less than 17 deals

For the purpose of this Policy, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that exhibits one or more of the following features, as a matter of partnership agreement:

- e) A Pass in the opening position may have the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, and the player who passes may hold values a queen or more above the strength of an average hand (an average hand contains 10 HCP)
- f) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
- g) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with values a king or more below average strength.
- h) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows (a) either length or shortage in a specified suit or (b) either length in one suit or length in another

2.1 Classification of Systems

In order to facilitate recognition and handling, systems material will be identified by one or more of the following:

- (i) a EBL coloured sticker;
- (ii) the appropriate name (hand printed or typed) colour;
- (iii) a check mark on a convention card next to the appropriate colour - in keeping with the following descriptions:

- Green** Natural
- Blue** Strong Club/Strong Diamond, where one club/one diamond is always strong
- Red** Artificial: this category includes all artificial systems that do not fall under the definition of Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) systems [see definition below], other than Strong Club/Strong Diamond systems (see 'Blue').
- Examples would be a system where one club shows one of three types - a natural club suit, a balanced hand of a specific range, or a Strong Club opener; or a system in which the basic methods (other than the no trump range) vary according to position, vulnerability and the like; or a system that uses conventional 'weak' or 'multi-meaning' bids (with or without some weak option) in potentially contestable auctions, other than those described in the main part of the EBL Convention Booklet
- Yellow** Highly Unusual Methods ('HUM') as defined above.

2.2 **Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments**

The following conventions or treatments are categorised as 'Brown Sticker':

- a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
 - (i) could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) AND
 - (ii) does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a Brown Sticker Convention.)
 - (iii) A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types, as described in the EBL Conventions Booklet.
- b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: A natural overcall in no trumps.
- c) Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
- d) Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
- e) None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions.

Additional to the classification of systems in 2.1 above, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must indicate this alongside its system classification.

2.3 **Encrypted Signals**

Additional to the restrictions on bidding methods and conventions above, players may not use signalling methods by which the message or messages

conveyed by the signals are hidden from the declarer because of some key available only to the defenders (i.e. encrypted signals are not allowed)

3. Systems allowed at EBL Championships

In relation to the aspect of Systems to be allowed at EBL Championships, the events will be divided into three categories:

Category 1: Open Teams Championships & Ladies Team Championships

For such events all classifications of systems will be permitted, subject to adequate disclosure, but teams using HUM systems must submit their Convention Cards in advance in accordance with the Conditions of Contest and will be subject to a reduction of seating rights, as follows:

Whenever a team with one or more pairs using a HUM system opposes a team that has no such pair, the HUM systems team will be the 'Away' team, and lines up first throughout.

No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing HUM systems pairs (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.

Category 2: No events

The use of HUM systems is prohibited.

'Brown Sticker' conventions will be permitted, subject to adequate disclosure, but players using them must submit their Convention Cards in advance in accordance with the Conditions of Contest.

Category 3: All Pairs Championships, Junior Team Championships, Senior Team Championships and Mixed Team Championships

The use of both HUM systems and 'Brown Sticker' conventions is prohibited.

In WBF events the Category definitions are as follows:

Category 1: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup

Category 2: Knock-out matches of the Olympiad, : of the Rosenblum Cup and of the McConnell Cup and other Teams Championships as decided by the WBF Rules and Regulations Committee:

Category 3: Olympiad (Round-Robin), all Pairs Championships. Junior Teams Championships. Rosenblum Cup and McConnell Cup (short matches), at Transnational events and the IOC Grand Prix

4. Systems Material

For all Category 1 Teams events, where Yellow (HUM) systems are permitted, any pair using a HUM system is required (in addition to the normal timely filing of the Convention card and Supplementary Sheets) to submit **the full system** in English at the beginning of the Championship.

Pairs using Green, Blue or Red systems are encouraged to submit their full system in English at the beginning of any EBL Championship.

In decisions taken by Tournament Directors and by the Appeals Committee, pairs who have submitted their full system will be given the benefit of any support this provides for an explanation given at the table, as far as this goes.

5. Convention Cards/Supplementary Sheets

The principle of adequate disclosure requires that competitors fully disclose **all conventions and treatments requiring defensive preparation**. In addition to the Convention cards, pairs will use Supplementary Sheets to achieve this objective.

The use of Supplementary Sheets is not strictly limited for all events, provided that the entries are properly numbered to correspond to appropriately cross-referenced numbers on the Convention card itself. The sheets must readily legible and the numbered entries must be separated by discernible heavy lines. While brevity is encouraged, particularly for Category 2 and Category 3 events, full disclosure must not be prejudiced in any way as a result.

All conventions and treatments requiring defensive preparation must be listed on the front right part of the EBL Card. They must be explained and fully developed (including competitive agreements) either in the appropriate section on the outside or inside of the card, or, where there is inadequate space there, in the first numbered entries on the Supplementary Sheets.

The front right part of the Convention Card must include:

- (i) All artificial openings (except strong one club/two club openings)
- (ii) Response to natural openings which are weak and conventional

All conventional defensive bids used over natural openings of one of a suit (making sure that all two suited intervention is detailed precisely; the best way to do this is to write: 'Two Suiters' and include a reference number to an early Supplementary Sheet entry, which will provide the particulars).

If a pair uses any bid which should have been listed here, but which has been left out, and their opponents do not get to their best contract, there will be a strong presumption that the opponents have been damaged by not being able to prepare a defence. The offending pair may also be liable to incur a procedural penalty.

Any pair playing a HUM system or 'Brown Sticker' convention has a special obligation to present a complete description of both their bids and subsequent developments (especially competitive developments). If a pair uses an auction that is not fully described, then the same presumption of lack of advance notice (with adjustments and penalties as described in the preceding paragraph) shall apply.

For each tournament, the Conditions of Contest will state the date by which, and the address at which, systems material and Convention Cards (together with telephone and fax number or email addresses of the individuals best equipped to deal with queries regarding the system) must be received. The onus is jointly on the pair, the non-playing captain (where relevant), the NCBO and the Zonal Organisation to obtain the information required to meet this deadline. Failure to meet this deadline will result in automatic penalties, which will be fully described in the Conditions of Contest. Problems with systems should be referred to the Chairman of the Systems Committee or his nominee in accordance with details given in the Conditions of Contest.

After the closing date for submission of systems, the following will be the policy governing any changes to the Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets:

- a) Deletion of an item or a statement will be permitted upon application to the Chairman of the Systems Committee or his nominee
- b) A change replacing an agreement with another or to introduce a fresh agreement, where the new material is not Brown Sticker, will normally be permitted. The permission to use the new agreement will operate at the discretion of the Chairman, but will normally be from the morning of the second day after notification of the change is issued to other contestants
- c) Neither the replacement of a Brown Sticker convention with another Brown Sticker convention, nor the introduction of a new Brown Sticker convention will be permitted

It is strongly emphasised, and all contestants must note, that the policy stated above will be rigorously applied.

6. Defence against Yellow (HUM) Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions

For Team events in Category 1, the following regulations will apply to defensive measures against HUM systems.

- (i) A pair opposing a HUM system pair will submit two (clearly legible) copies of their defence to the HUM system at an appropriate time and place prior to the start of that segment, to be specified in the Conditions of Contest. Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.
- (ii) In preparing the defence against a HUM system, pairs using Green, Blue or Red systems are allowed to change their systems, including opening calls. Pairs using a HUM system are not allowed to change their opening calls.
- (iii) The pair using a HUM system must inform the opponents in writing (two clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using a HUM system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

For Teams events in Category 1 and Category 2, the following regulations will apply in relation to defensive measures against Brown Sticker Conventions:

A pair may prepare written defences against the 'Brown Sticker' elements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) at an appropriate time and place prior to the start of that segment, to be specified in the Conditions of Contest. Written defences against Brown Sticker conventions are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.

7. Number of systems allowed per team

For Category 1 events, a maximum number of four Red or Yellow Systems, of which only three may be Yellow, will be permitted for each participating team. A System, for the purpose of this section, may include different methods for different vulnerabilities.

Both members of the partnership must use the same methods.

8. Additional Regulation for EBL Pairs Championships

In the EBL Pairs Championships, psychic conventional opening bids are prohibited.