



48th PROKOM EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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48th PROKOM EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION, NATURE AND TIMETABLE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 48th European Bridge Championships ("the Championships") are to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in Warsaw, Poland commencing on Saturday 12th August 2006 and ending not later than Saturday 26th August 2006. The Championships consist of 3 Series: Open Series, Women's Series and Senior Series. Each Series consists of a complete "round-robin", with teams playing against all other teams in the same Series. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards in both the Open Series and the Women's Series and of 16 boards in the Senior Series. The results of the matches are expressed in victory points and at the completion of the "round-robin" the teams will be ranked according to the numbers of Victory Points gained from the Winner (with the highest number) downwards.

The Championships are played under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the present Rules and Regulations, whose special provisions for these Championships supplement the said Laws.

The Timetable of the Championship will be as per following:

- Opening Ceremony Saturday 12th August
- Open Teams Sunday 13th – Saturday 26th August
- Women & Senior Welcome Wednesday 16th August
- Women & Senior Teams Thursday 17th – Saturday 26th August
- Closing Ceremony Saturday 26th August



A ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

1. Right to enter, and entry fees

Each member country, being up to date with the payment of its dues (including the 2006 dues) to the E.B.L. is authorized to enter one team in the Open Series, one team in the Women's Series and one team in the Senior Series of the Championships. Countries must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with the payment of dues to the EBL before they can participate in the Championships.

The entry fees are Euro 3,000 per Open and 2,500 both per Open and Senior Team.

Entry Fees must be paid by bank transfer before 30th April 2004 to **European Bridge League - Marc De Pauw - Treasurer - BANQUE PARIBAS (Suisse) 2, Place de Hollande CH-1211 Geneve 11 – Suisse - Account name : EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE - Account number : 3097300 - IBAN code: 46 0868 6309 7300 04978 - Swift code BPPBCHGG (to be mentioned)**

Each participating member country must play against all other participating member countries. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

2. Team Members

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach, each team is entitled to have six members. Subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee the members of any team may be changed up to the time of commencement of the Championship for which it is entered, on the first day of the Championships, but not thereafter.

If a country has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added after the commencement of play on the first day only with permission of the Appeals Committee.



3. Credentials Committee

The names of the Captain and members of each team must be sent for approval to:

Mr. Gianarrigo Rona
President, European Bridge League
For the EBL Credentials Committee,
Via Ciro Menotti 11/C
20129 Milano, Italy.
Tel: 39-02 7000 0022
Fax 39-02 7000 1398
E-mail ebl@federbridge.it

by 30th June 2006.

Every proposed player must, along with other criteria, satisfy the Credentials Committee that:

- a. he is nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; or
- b. he is nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition
- c. for the Senior Series he **was born in or before 1949**

4. Draw for numbers

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and will be published in the programme. In the event of a variation in the numbers of teams participating adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be notified in the programme, or if necessary at the Captains meeting.

5. Number of boards

Each team in the Open, Women's and Senior Series will play one match against each other team. Matches of 20 boards in both the Open and Women's Series and Of 16 boards in the Senior Series will each be played in a single session without seating change.. Changes in the number of boards to be played in the Championship will be notified in the programme.



6. Systems

6.1 Systems Policy

(a) The European Bridge League's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy 2000 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") apply to these Championships. Category 1 systems and conventions are permitted in the Open and Women's Series. Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted in the Senior Series.

(b) Each player must agree with partner to use the same methods in the auction and also in the card play.

6.2 Written explanations of systems

Every participating partnership in the Championships must complete, accurately and legibly, an E.B.L. Convention Card (with supplementary sheets as appropriate) in accordance with "the SYSTEMS POLICY" and the Systems Regulations published separately to the NBOs and included on the EBL Website at www.eurobridge.org and on www.ecatsbridge.com.

A partnership may lodge a comprehensive statement of its methods (which may be of any length but must be in English) prior to the commencement of the Championship at the Systems Desk for the attention of the Appeals Committee. Any statement so lodged may be used by the Director and the Appeals Committee (and may be used by the partnership in argument before the Appeals Committee) to assist in determining whether or not full, proper and timely information was given to the opponents as to the meaning of calls made in the auction by the partnership and of any related partnership understanding.

No prior agreement is permitted by which a varied meaning of a call or play applies only after a question asked, a reply given, or an irregularity.

6.3 Submission of Systems (**only for Open and Women's Series**)

Strict compliance with Section 1.2 of the Systems Regulations is required.

Copies of opponents' filed Systems will be made available by e-mail and on the Internet to all teams who have filed their Systems.

Failure to lodge Systems as required by this rule may result in prohibition of a System. In addition the Appeals Committee may impose a financial penalty of up to Euro 340 for the late filing of Systems.



6.4 Convention Cards with Supplementary Sheets (**only for Senior Series**)

In respect of every partnership one copy of the Convention Card with supplementary sheets must be handed to the Tournament Organizers at least two hours before the start of the Championship. Possession by the Organizers of such copy does not signify that its contents have been examined and found acceptable. A further copy of the Convention Card and supplemental sheets must be handed to each opponent before the start of the match.

6.5 Changes in lodged systems

Team Captains must give careful attention to the requirements in Section 1.6 of the Systems Regulations.

B. RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

1. Composition and seating of teams

1.1 Designation of teams

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team. Its opponent is the Away Team.

1.2 Line-up procedure

Since teams meet each other only once there will be no seating rights when teams without HUM-systems play each other. Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line up of their opponents.

Line ups for a round have to be submitted within 15 minutes after the previous round has ended. For the first round the details will be announced at the captains meeting.



Teams who repeatedly infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

1st occasion a written warning

2nd occasion ½ VP penalty

Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

Furthermore the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until 10 minutes before start of play.

1.3 Seating of Teams where no 'Highly Unusual Method' may be in use.

Where neither team contains any partnership that uses a "Highly Unusual Method" the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The teams meet according to the schedule printed in the programme. The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

1.4 Seating of Teams where a "Highly Unusual Method" may be in use by one team.

Where one team contains any partnership that uses a "Highly Unusual Method" the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The team that does not contain any partnership that uses a "Highly Unusual Method", will always be the "Home Team" and gets seating rights. It gets an additional 5 minutes to submit the line up knowing the line up of its opponent. Furthermore has a pair playing HUM the obligation to be seated at the playing table 15 minutes before the start of the round in case their opponents request so. Notification shall be given on the line up form.

1.5 Seating of Teams where "Highly Unusual Methods" may be used by both teams

The line up procedure and seating arrangements are as set out in 1.2 and 1.3 above.

Pairs playing HUM from both teams need to be seated 15 minutes in advance if the opponent so wishes.



1.6 Substitutes

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute so designated need not be a national of the country in whose team he or she substitutes. A substitute cannot be a player of another team. A substitute in the Women's Championship must be female. The decision as to whether the result shall stand of a match in which a substitute has played for some or all of the boards, and what, if any, penalties shall be imposed, shall rest with the Appeals Committee, which will adjudicate upon every instance in which a substitute plays.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform a member of the Appeals Committee on duty as soon as possible and furnish the Appeals Committee with a written report.

2. Time procedure and penalties for slow play.

2.1 Start of the round

At the beginning of each round the Tournament Director on duty will announce the time by which the round must be completed. For a sixteen board match this will be 2 hours and 10 minutes and for a twenty board match this will be 2 hours and 50 minutes after the start of a round.

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure. Play in the Open Room between two opposing teams may start only when the players of the same teams are seated in the Closed Room. Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be fined 1 VP and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play.

If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a round the fines for slow play in the same round will be based on the time at which all players were seated at the table and ready to play.

2.2 End of the period of play.

a. If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed fines will be imposed as follows:

from 0 to 5 minutes late: a fine of 1 VP will be imposed on the table and shared 0.5 VP to each team if they are considered to bear equal responsibility for overrunning.

from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs imposed on the table, shared likewise equally 1 VP each



from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs likewise

from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs likewise

from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs likewise.

for delays of more than 25 minutes the Appeals Committee may impose a more severe penalty.

b. If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in his opinion, including in his discretion the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

The Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play, but his failure to do so does not diminish the responsibility of the players.

If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty in (a) will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

c. It is a serious breach of propriety deliberately to break a Law or Rule even if one is willing to accept the prescribed penalty. Accordingly, over and above the prescribed penalties, the Tournament Director may impose an additional penalty in cases where he is of the opinion that players are indulging deliberately in unnecessarily slow play. The following regulations will be observed in putting this rule into effect:

1. No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.

2. Such a penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which a verbal warning has been given.

3. The penalty may, in the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other to reflect the measure of each team's responsibility for the occurrence.

4. The penalty imposed will take the form of $\frac{1}{2}$ (or more) VPs to be deducted from an offending team's score.



2.3 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under 2.2.c above all penalties for violations of time procedure and slow play are mandatory and require no previous warning to the players that penalties will be applied.

3. General rules during play

3.1 Language

All players are reminded that the official language of the Championships is English and during a match the players are expected to converse in this language only.

3.2 Dealing

The boards will have been pre-dealt and duplicated.

3.3 Duplication and movement of boards

(a) Wherever possible boards will be duplicated more than once so that boards are not transferred from the Open Room to the Closed Room or vice-versa. (See also Rule C3 – Fouled Boards.)

(b) When it is not possible for the boards to be twice duplicated the following provisions will apply:

The tables will be numbered in a logical manner so that it is easy to identify corresponding tables in the Open and Closed Rooms. Similarly the boards will be clearly labelled so that they correspond to a particular pair of tables (one in the Open Room and one in the Closed Room).

The North and East players at every table are required, at the beginning of each match, to complete curtain cards by writing the names of their respective countries thereon, and then to place such curtain card in the pocket of the first board played corresponding to his position.

In due course the boards will be passed by the board movers between the Open and the Closed Rooms.

The players are required to check that the boards given to them by the board movers are the correct boards, and that they are played in the correct polarity.



To do this:

(1) The players should check that the boards bear labels, which correspond to the table at which they are playing

(2) North and East should check the curtain card completed by their respective opponents in the same seats in the other room.

3.4 Non-playing pairs

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing (except in the Viewgraph theatre).

3.5 Finish of play

At each table when play has finished the players should agree the score and then leave the Room (Open or Closed) as quickly as possible.

3.6 Leaving the Closed Room

No player may leave the Closed Room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If any player leaves the Closed Room during a match without permission of the Tournament Director, that player's team will be fined 2 VPs.

No recorder - see B.3.9.b below - may leave the Closed Room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If a recorder leaves the Closed Room during a match without permission of the Tournament Director the Away Team of the match in which the recorder was acting will be fined 2 VPs.

These penalties may not be waived.

3.7 Authorized persons in the Closed Room

Authorized persons who may enter the Closed Room (except by special permission of the Chairman of the Tournament Committee) are: --

- the Officer in Charge

- the Tournament Director, scorers, recorders and board movers on duty in the Closed Room



- the Chairman of the Appeals Committee and the members of the Appeals Committee on duty
- the President of the E.B.L.
- the Chairman of the Tournament Committee
- the captains of the away teams (or their respective duly approved designates) but only for the purpose of recording; see B.3.9.b below.
- two duly accredited journalists plus one representative of the Bulletin, all of whom must remain for the entire round in the Closed Room; the names of these must be notified to the Chairman of the Tournament Committee and each of them must watch at only one table.
- Hotel staff for the provision of refreshments.

3.8 Scoring at the table

At each table North is responsible for completing the official score-card, which will be collected at the end of each match. If matches are being fully recorded by official scorers North's responsibility for scoring the official score-card remains.

At the end of each match North and East at each table must agree on the scores on the official table score-card and confirm this by initialing the card.

3.9 Recording the matches

a. In the Open Room, the Captain of the Home Team (or his designate to be approved by the Captain of the Away Team and the Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, lead to the first three tricks and the result on the "Recording Form" provided at the table.

b. In the Closed Room, the Captain of the Away Team (or his designate to be approved by the Captain of the Home Team and the Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, lead to the first three tricks and the result on the "Recording Form" provided at the table.



3.10 Use of the systems

- a. Players are not authorized to look at their own system during the auction or the play. Players may look at the system of their opponents at any time during the bidding but during the play only when it is their turn to play.
- b. In accordance with the EBL Systems Policy players may consult their written defences to "Brown Sticker Conventions" during the auction and also their written "defence against the defence".
- c. For regulations applying when a HUM system is in use, and particularly those governing defence against a Yellow (HUM) system see the EBL Systems Policy.

4. End of rounds, results

4.1 IMP scale

In all matches the difference in the total point scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (IMPs).

4.2 VP scale

VP scale For each match there will be between 25 and 30 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the following scale:

16 boards matches

IMPs diff.	VPs	IMPs diff.	VPs	IMPs diff.	VPs
0 - 2	15 - 15	20 - 23	20 - 10	42 - 46	25 - 5
3 - 7	16 - 14	24 - 27	21 - 9	47 - 52	25 - 4
8 - 11	17 - 13	28 - 31	22 - 8	53 - 58	25 - 3
12 - 15	18 - 12	32 - 36	23 - 7	59 - 64	25 - 2
16 - 19	19 - 11	37 - 41	24 - 6	65 - 71	25 - 1
				72 and more	25 - 0



20 boards matches:

IMPs diff.	VPs	IMPs diff.	VPs	IMPs diff.	VPs
0-2	15-15	27-31	21-9	54-59	25-4
3-8	16-14	32-36	22-8	60-65	25-3
9-12	17-13	37-41	23-7	66-72	25-2
13-16	18-12	42-47	24-6	73-79	25-1
17-21	19-11	48-53	25-5	80 and more	25-0
22-26	20-10				

4.3 Effect of penalty points

In no case will a VP penalty imposed under these Rules benefit the score of the non-offending side.

4.4 Scoring of results

Both teams are required to score the results at the end of each match. Both teams will be supplied with an official "Result Card". If possible the captains of the respective teams should agree the score and sign the "Result Card". In any event both captains must hand the Result Card (if possible signed by both captains) to the official on duty at the results board within 10 minutes of the end of the round.

4.5 Protest time

In respect of scores and results protest time ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day's play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match.

4.6 Official results

If at the end of protest time no protest has been lodged, the posted result shall become the official result of the match with the exception of:



- a. any adjustment arising from the hearing of an appeal;
- b. adjustment in respect of any fines to which either team is liable;
- c. completion of scores following the replay of one or more boards where such a replay has been ordered.

An official result may be altered only by written notice from the Chief Tournament Director, from the Tournament Committee, or from the Tournament Appeals Committee.

4.7 Publication of decisions

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted in the Captain's pigeonhole. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it does not nullify the penalty.

5. Byes, Ranking and Ties

5.1 Byes

In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 18 VPs. A team must play against each other team against which it is drawn. A team will score zero if for extraneous reasons it is not able to play against another team. Its opponents will receive a figure arrived at by taking the average score obtained against the defaulting team by the eight teams nearest to themselves in the ranking list at the end of the Championship or 18 VPs, whichever is the greater.

5.2 Ranking

The teams will be ranked according to the total number of VPs each gains in the Championship.



5.3 Ties

A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. Where that match has resulted in a tie in VPs, any difference in IMPs will decide. When there is no difference in IMPs scored, the tie will be broken by total points scored in that match. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie. Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained.

The other tied teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist then the IMP quotient of all matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

C. REGULATIONS SUPPLEMENTING THE LAWS

1. Screens, Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and International Code

1.1 The use of bidding boxes is mandatory throughout.

Calls are made by the player placing his selected call in front of him. A player's first call should be to the left with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. When the auction has been completed the players shall replace their bidding cards in the respective pockets of the bidding box..

1.2 The use of screens is mandatory throughout and the following shall apply.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screen-mates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.



Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but, subject to provisions elsewhere in these rules and regulations, Law 25 may apply).

North and South pass the tray under the screen after their screen-mate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards as provided elsewhere in these rules and regulations.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screen-mate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards.

1.3 Bridgemates

An electronic device called the Bridgemate, will be used throughout the championships to enter the results on the boards played. It is North's responsibility to enter those results and east has the obligation to check this input and to give his/her OK. Repeated violation of punctual entering may be subject to penalties

1.4 The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 apply except as specified below:

LAW 9A2(b)(1); LAW 42b(3); LAW 43A(1)(b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed by his screen-mate. But he should try to avoid exposure of a premature opening lead and to delay opening the screen.

LAW 20:

Review of the Auction:

Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screen-mate (see 2 below).



Explanation of calls:

1. During the Auction: At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screen-mate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.
2. During the Play Period: Questions during the play should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.
3. At no time prior to completion of the hand may there be communication between a player on one side of the screen and a player on the other side of the screen concerning the auction or explanations given and received.

LAWS 25 THROUGH 32; LAWS 36 THROUGH 39:

The principle in the WBF Code of Practice applies. When it is possible to pass only the calls in the legal auction through the screen (after any rectification) there are no penalties and players on the other side of the screen are not informed of any occurrence. For infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not Passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screen-mate, or the offender himself, shall call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The Director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and any irregularity is also to be rectified.

B. Both Sides at Fault:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.



C. Only One Side at Fault:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction - East or West - also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

D. Irregularity not Noticed:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

E. Information - Authorized or not:

(i) Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a partnership that has committed no irregularity. If the Director determines that unauthorized information from withdrawn calls precludes normal bidding, he shall award an artificial adjusted score.

(ii) If a player sees a call on the tray that he has not previously observed because the tray did not pass fully under the screen, the information is authorized and may be used until LHO has called.

LAW 33:

The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.

LAW 40:

Alerts:

When an alertable call is made the caller alerts his screen-mate. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call.



LAW 41A:

Opening Lead out of Turn:

The offender's screen-mate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A face down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side:

- a) and the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.
- b) and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card.

When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

LAW 73D:

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray.

A delay of the bidding tray on one side of the screen of up to 20 seconds (at any time during the auction and whether or not out of tempo) shall not give rise to any inference of unauthorized information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses up to 20 seconds (or perhaps longer in unexpected situations) may be considered not to convey information.

LAW 76:

Spectators:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.



2. Alerting

The EBL "Alerting Policy" applies. Any call which:

- (i) has a special or artificial meaning, or
- (ii) which has a partnership meaning that may not be understood by the opponents,

is a call that must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the "alert procedure".

The "alert procedure" is as follows:

A player who makes an alertable call alerts his screen-mate by placing the alert card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the alert card to his opponent.

When the bidding tray is returned to their side of the screen both players are obliged, before either has made a further call, to alert their screen-mate if partner's call is alertable, using the "alert procedure".

It is the obligation of the player making an "alert" to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an "alert" has been made.

A player can ask for an explanation of an opponent's call. He does so by a written question to the opponent sitting on the same side of the screen. The opponent gives a written answer, regardless of which member of the partnership has made the call (see Section 1.4 re Law 20).

3. Fouled boards (twice duplicated)

3.1 Twice Duplicated Boards

Where the boards have been duplicated so as to provide one set for the Open Room and a second set for the Closed Room - this Regulation C.3 shall apply.



3.2 Incorrect number of cards

All players must count their cards before looking at them. If a hand does not consist of 13 cards the Tournament Director must be called immediately who will correct the mis-duplication.

3.3 Penalty for miscounting

If any player looks at his cards before counting and has 14 or more cards the board is "fouled". The offending side will be penalized $\frac{1}{2}$ VP for each occasion

3.4 Replay of fouled board

If a board is "fouled" under Rule 3.3 the Tournament Director shall see if he can apply Law 13 to allow play to continue. If he cannot allow play to continue he will normally exercise his Law 6 authority to order the board to be re-dealt and re-played.

3.5 Misduplication

After the play each player is required to return his or her hand of 13 cards to the correct quarter of the board. If after the round a team alleges a board has been misduplicated (so that the hand is different in the Open Room from the Closed Room) the respective boards in the Open Room and the Closed Room will be checked. If it is ascertained, on the basis of cogent evidence, that a board has been misduplicated the result on that board will be cancelled. No re-dealt board will be played.

4. Fouled boards (once duplicated)

4.1 Once duplicated boards

Where the one set of boards has been shared by the tables of a match in both the Open Room and the Closed Room - this regulation C.4 shall apply.



4.2 Replay of boards

a. The Tournament Director shall not order a fouled board to be replayed when the final result of the match without that board could be known to a contestant. In that case, where appropriate, the penalties in VPs set out in Rule 4.3 below shall be applied and the Tournament Director shall not award an adjusted score (unless Rule 4.3.e(ii) applies).

b. Where Rule 4.2.a. above does not apply the Tournament Director shall if at all possible exercise his Law 6 authority to order the board to be re-dealt and replayed unless Rule 4.3.e.(ii) applies.

In addition to the board being re-dealt, where appropriate, the penalties in VPs set out in Rule 4.3 below shall be applied.

The time required to play the re-dealt board shall not result in an extension in time for the purpose of Rule B.2 unless in the opinion of the Tournament Director some special circumstances warrant an extension for a specified period.

4.3 Penalties for fouled board

If whilst or after a board is played for the second time:

a. A player finds that he has an incorrect number of cards in his hand and neither he nor any other player with more than 13 cards has seen his hand, then the board will be corrected by the Tournament Director before play and no penalty will be imposed;

b. Any player looks at his cards before counting them and has 14 or more cards, the board is to be considered "fouled". The offending side's team will be penalized $\frac{1}{2}$ VP for the first offence. This penalty will be increased for a further offence committed by any player of the same team;

c. The cards are found to have been placed in the board at right angles (90 °): Since the North player in the first room is responsible, his team will be penalized $\frac{1}{2}$ VP. North's responsibility does not relieve the other players of their duty to ensure the correct return of the cards to the board;



d. It is found that a board has been placed at right angles in the second room and any player has seen a wrong hand: Since the North player in the second room is responsible, it being North's responsibility to place the board on the table correctly, his team will be penalized $\frac{1}{2}$ VP. If the board has been substantially correctly tabled and East or West takes out the North or South hand and looks at it, the action is not to be considered accidental; the Director refers to Laws 7B2, 12A1 and 90B5.

e. One or more cards are found to have been exchanged in the hand of each of two partners (the opponents' cards being correct), either:

(i) the board shall be cancelled and the offending team, whose players in the first room held hands found to be mis-boarded on arrival in the second room, shall be fined 1 VP; unless proven to have no responsibility for the infraction.

or

(ii) if in the opinion of the Tournament Director a result significantly superior to what he considers normal on the hand was obtained by a non-offending side in the first room, he may award an adjusted score, allowing those non-offenders the benefit of their superior score. In this event there is no further penalty. The other side in the first room, if offending, is awarded the reciprocal score.

f. A card or more than one card is found to have been exchanged with a card or cards in an opponent's hand, the board will be cancelled and there will be no penalty imposed.

g. If any of the above circumstances is deemed by the Director to have resulted from a player's violation of Law 7B2 the Director shall penalize the offender and adjust the scores equitably in accordance with the foregoing principles.

These penalties are mandatory and may not be waived.

D. ETHICS

1. Player's obligations

The privilege of representing one's country as a player 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.



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 and Teams will receive all decisions of the Director and of the Appeals Committee in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

2. Looking at partner

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

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 E1, to the Captain of the team.

4. Partnership understandings

Under the Laws of Duplicate 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 Convention 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.



E. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS

1. 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 believes that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- b. to curtail unnecessary discussions;
- 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 that a Tournament Director be called to the table;
- f. to intimate 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 in play.

In the Closed Room a non-playing captain has no rights and must not communicate with anyone at the table nor draw attention to any irregularity. A matter that may require the Director's attention may be raised with the players when meeting them after the session and, if desired, protested to the Director within 30 minutes of conclusion of the match.

2. Conversation at the table

During the course of a round of play, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, a non-playing captain should avoid addressing members of his team at the table in any but the English language; if he wishes to converse in any language other than English, he must first seek the consent of the opponents, which should be given where reasonably possible. If any difficulty arises, the non-playing captain should speak only through a member of his team who is able to translate for the benefit of the opponents. A non-playing captain may not converse with the members of his team (or their opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table and until all the hands have been replaced in the board, except for the abovementioned purposes.



2. Substitute captains

The captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. Such an appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.

F. VIEWGRAPH

1. Obligation to play

When Viewgraph is in use, any team must play in the Viewgraph Room, when and as often as required.

2. Dealing of cards

The boards will have been pre-dealt and duplicated by the Organizers.

3. Access to Viewgraph Room

Access to the Viewgraph Room is limited to the four players, the Viewgraph operators on duty and those persons (except non-playing captains of away teams, journalists and Bulletin representative) authorized to be in the Closed Room (see Rule B.3.7).

4. Playing time

a. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (see B.2) will apply to the Closed Room of the Viewgraph.

b. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (see B.2) will apply to the Open Room of the Viewgraph with the following variations:

- The time allowed is calculated by the Tournament Director from the time the first board is made available for play at the table.

- The Tournament Director may add such further time as in his opinion is clearly attributable to delay in delivery of hands to the room or to the operation of Viewgraph.



G. APPEALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. Appeals

1.1 Procedure

A team, through its captain, may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match. Notification of intention to appeal must be given to a Tournament Director.

In the first instance such notification need not be in writing, but it should be committed to the official Appeals form as soon as it is practicable with the help of the Tournament Director who made the ruling and the form when completed should be given to the Tournament Director who will hand it to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty.

The Appeals form should be completed correctly.

The Tournament Director states the facts (board identification and as relevant the auction and/or play), what happened at the table, the ruling and who made the appeal. Each team by its captain may add its remarks to the statement of the Tournament Director and may state whether they wish to make an oral statement to the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals form must be signed by the Tournament Director and the captains of both teams involved.

After signing no alterations are allowed.

Once lodged, an appeal may be withdrawn only by the captain of the appellant team.

A deposit must accompany each appeal. The amount of the deposit will be Euro 60. If the appeal is rejected this deposit will be returned if the appeal is judged to be well founded, but not otherwise.



One or more of the team appealing (players or captain) must present himself at the hearing of the appeal. If no-one from the team appealing presents himself at the hearing the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeit. The other side involved is entitled to attend, to make statements and to answer questions; failure to appear can sometimes make it difficult for the Appeals Committee to explore the facts and may therefore disadvantage its case (a player whose actions the committee may wish to explore should not assume that the committee will readily accept explanations by captain or partner in relation to thought processes, state of mind, or the like).

1.2 Practices in the Appeals Committee

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form as provided in Rule G.1.1. the Tournament Director will as soon as possible inform any member of the Appeals Committee on duty, who will advise the Tournament Director at what time the Appeals Committee will convene to hear the appeal.

The Appeals Committee will be entitled to interview and to take into account the statement or representations of any person and any documentary matter that it considers may assist the Committee to reach a decision. The WBF Code of Practice has been adopted by the EBL and applies in the procedures and decisions of the Appeals Committee unless directly in conflict with a specific statement in these Rules and Regulations (see particularly 2.1 following).

The decisions of the Appeals Committee will be written on the Appeals form and handed to the Tournament Director for him to notify the teams concerned.

2. Appeals Committee

2.1 Composition of the Appeals Committee

Each appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee appointed by the President of the E.B.L. and the chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee. The chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, before the commencement of or during the tournament, appoint additional members of the Appeals Committee who shall have full voting powers.



The President of the E.B.L. is automatically a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee. Three members of an Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Tournament Appeals Committee whose national team is concerned shall abstain from taking part.

2.2 Investigations

The Tournament Appeals Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws, the Proprieties or these Rules and Regulations, which may arise during the course of the Championship irrespective of the way in which such a matter has been brought to its attention either by way of an appeal against a Tournament Director's ruling or on its own initiative or otherwise howsoever.

2.3 Judgment

The Tournament Appeals Committee, also designated the national authority as meant in Law 93.c., shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of law, whether under the Laws, the Proprieties or these Rules and Regulations, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final. The Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse, vary or modify the findings or decisions of a Tournament Director (except as provided in Law 93.B.3.) and remove, increase or vary any penalty which may have been imposed, or substitute a different class of penalty or an adjusted score.

On an investigation made from reasons other than of an appeal the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose such penalty on any party or direct that such an adjusted score be entered for any board(s) as it shall deem proper.

In any case whether on an appeal or otherwise, where circumstances are considered by the Committee to justify or require it, the Appeals Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee to suspend a player or players for one or more sessions or for the remainder of the current Championship or disqualify a team. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to the Chief Tournament Director under the Laws.



H. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

1. Journalists

1.1 Application of these Rules and Regulations

All Journalists are invitees of the E.B.L. and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their conformance with those Rules and Regulations to which they are subject.

1.2 Accreditation

All Journalists present at the Championships must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the E.B.L. and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Press Association (the IBPA). In the event of a disagreement over accreditation between the E.B.L. and the IBPA, the view of the E.B.L. shall prevail.

2. Spectators

2.1 Application of these Rules and Regulations

All Spectators are invitees of the E.B.L. and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their conformance with those Rules and Regulations to which they are subject and with the instructions of the Tournament Director.

2.2 Watching at Table

No more than eight spectators (including non-playing captains and journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where "pits" are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The Chief Tournament Director shall determine the number permitted.)

Spectators may watch at only one table and shall be seated. The observance of this regulation is particularly important when pre-duplicated boards are in play. Any spectator who attempts to watch at a second table will be required to leave the Open Room for the remainder of the Session and in the discretion of the Appeals Committee may be subject to other penalties.



Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.

A spectator is forbidden to sit in a position from which both sides of the screen may be seen.

I. OFFICIALS IN CHARGE

1. Officer-in-Charge

1.1 Identification

The Officer-in-Charge, whether a member of the Executive, the Appeals or the Tournament Committee, is appointed by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee to assist the Tournament Directors with advice regarding the observance of the Rules and to act as a representative of the E.B.L. He is therefore a member of the Tournament Committee for the period of his appointment.

The officer-in-Charge has the following functions:

To verify all important decisions involving fines and report them to the Tournament Committee.

To ensure that only authorized persons are permitted to enter the Closed Room.

2. Tournament Directors

2.1 General duties of Tournament Directors

The Tournament Director's responsibilities are in the main covered by Law 81. The Director will follow the WBF Code of Practice wherever its recommendations are relevant, and he enjoys the delegation of 12C3 powers from the Appeals Committee. A Co-Chief Tournament Director may act with the powers of and in place of the Chief Tournament Director in any matter.

The Tournament Director is required to complete a form for each round for each room showing starting times and finishing times at all tables and noting late starts and finishes and all other incidents.



Before the beginning of the following round all important incidents must be reported by the Tournament Director to the Tournament Committee and any penalties or changes in scores must be notified in addition to the Officer-in-Charge.

Each Tournament Director shall verify with the Chief Tournament Director all penalties which have been applied under mandate of the Laws or these Rules and Regulations before advising the Officer-in-Charge.

2.2 Adjusted score

The Tournament Director's attention is drawn in particular to Law 12.A.1 which states: "The Director may award an assigned adjusted score when he judges that these Laws do not provide indemnity to the non-offending contestant for the particular type of violation of law committed by an opponent."

The Appeals Committee in Oslo ruled that not only is it the law that the Director "may assign", but this should be interpreted in practice to mean "should assign" an adjusted score.

2.3 Slow play penalty

As soon as practicable after imposing or waiving a penalty under Rule B.2 the Tournament Director must inform a member of the Appeals Committee and prepare a written memorandum setting out the relevant facts and circumstances giving rise to his decision to invoke the rule and the penalties which he has imposed. The Tournament Director is to verify with the Chief Tournament Director all penalties, which have been applied under the mandate of the Laws or Rules and Regulations before advising the Officer-in-Charge.

The memorandum must be given by the Tournament Director to a member of the Appeals Committee on duty at the first opportunity.



2.4 Significant Rules and Laws

The attention of the Tournament Director is drawn to articles C.5 and B.2.2 of the present Rules. The Tournament Directors are particularly requested to enforce Laws 7, 9, 43 and 65 and the attention of all players has been drawn to the special rules relating to slow play (see Rule B.2.2). The attention of the Tournament Directors is drawn to the fact that a declarer who exposes his hand and/or makes a claim or concession in relation to the remaining tricks is required forthwith to make an adequate statement of his intended line of play. This statement should clarify beyond doubt the development of any winning tricks that are not superficially evident.

The Tournament Directors are requested to ensure that a declarer does not derive benefit from any inference which, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the declarer might have drawn from the fact that a claim is contested.

2.5 Infringement of Proprieties

In a case of any alleged infringement of the Proprieties any Director who has been summoned to adjudicate may, if he sees fit, direct that the hand be played out without further ruling by him on the merits of the case and refer the question of whether such an infringement did or did not take place and of the penalty (if any) to be imposed to the Appeals Committee for decision.

2.6 Appeal procedure

No appeal will be considered by the Appeals Committee unless presented by a Tournament Director in the form as described in Rule G.1.1.

J. NON SMOKING, ALCOHOL and MOBILE PHONES

1. Non Smoking

Smoking in the playing area and toilets is prohibited.

No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke.



Any player smoking during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 1 VP, plus a fine of Euro 60. 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.

2. Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and toilets 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 toilets will result in his team being fined 1 VP, plus a fine of Euro 60. 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.

3. Mobile phones and electronic devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be brought into the playing area and toilets.

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VP, plus a fine of Euro 100. This penalty is mandatory. For failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

Before the start of each match the Chief Tournament Director will provide to control randomly the players, captains and coaches. Refusal to submit to the control will bar the individual from entry to the playing area and toilets, or from remaining there.

K. IOC CONFORMANCE

1. Dress Code

In the European Open and Woman Teams Championships to be held in Salsomaggiore in June 2002 it is obligatory for all teams to adopt the following dress code.



General Policy

The whole team, including the Captain and Coach and NBOs Officers must wear the same uniform. Thus trousers (and skirts) and tops must be of the same colour and general design.

Formal Occasions

Uniform consisting of: blazer and tie (or neck scarf) all of the same colour with logo indicating the country, and trousers (or skirts) all of the same colour.

During Play

T-shirts, polo, shirts and blouses all of the same colour with the team's logo indicating the country, and trousers or skirts all of the same colour.

Team members must be supplied with changes of clothing so that they look smart at all times. Women may wear skirts or trousers.

If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they must be of the same colour and carry the team logo. Team members are not permitted to wear shorts or open-toed sandals..

Publicity

The team uniform must contain the logo of the country and may contain discreet sponsor logos.

2. Antidoping regulation

The procedures provided by the Antidoping Policy of the International Olympic Committee will be followed and enforced. Accordingly all players are required to submit themselves to the antidoping test on request. If a player takes substances that might result in a positive result when tested, he (or she) is required to hand in the respective prescription or doctor's certificate in a sealed envelope on registration. This envelope will be opened only if the player concerned is drawn for the antidoping test. Otherwise, at the end of the Championships, the sealed envelope may be collected from the organizers or may be destroyed unopened. Refusal to subject to the test or non-appearance will attract automatic penalties according to the IOC Policy.



L. SECURITY

For security reasons no-one is allowed at the Championship Venue without displaying his personal badge.

M. REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION

Both the NBO and the participants, with the subscription to the Championship, directly authorize the EBL to take pictures and film the participants during the championships, registrations of the previous mentioned with technological equipment, and authorize the EBL to utilize, publicize and to divulgate, also to commerce, all or part of the material obtained, renouncing expressly to any request or pretence, of any nature or type, with reference to it.

N. AWARDS

The Prokom Trophy, Annaclaudia Rona Trophy and Jean-Marc Roudinesco Trophy will be awarded to the NBOs winning respectively the Open, Women's and Senior Series. Replicas will be awarded to the captain and members of the winning teams. The trophies are challenge and will be definitively awarded to the NBO which wins the championship three times.

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded to the captain and members of the winning teams in each competition. Winners will receive the title of European Champion.

The teams of the first 6 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open, Women's and Senior will achieve the right to participate respectively in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior World Championship.

The winner teams of the national championships of the first 10 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will achieve the right to participate in the 2006 European Champions Cup.

O. CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

These Rules and Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the E.B.L. if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth efficient and enjoyable running of the Championships.