



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

50TH EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

22nd June – 3rd July 2010

Rules & Regulations

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A. INTRODUCTION, NATURE AND TIMETABLE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A.1 Introduction

The 50th European Bridge Teams Championship ("the Championship") is to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in Ostend, Belgium commencing on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 and ending not later than Saturday 3rd July 2010. The Championship consist of 3 Series: Open Series, Women Series and Senior Series.

A.2 Nature

The Open Series consists of two complete round-robins. In the first round-robin the teams are divided into two groups according to the ranking of the preceding 3 European Bridge Teams Championship (Malmö 2004, Warsaw 2006, Pau 2008). At the end of the first round-robin the 9 best ranked teams from each group are qualified for the second round robin. The other teams finish the championship at that stage. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards. Each team qualified for the second (final) round robin will carry forward 100% of the IMPs and VPs achieved against the other 8 qualified teams from the first round robin and will play a 20 board match against each of the 9 teams from the other group.

The Women's Series consists of a complete round-robin with all teams playing each other. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards.

The Senior Series will consist of a complete round-robin if the number of participating countries is sufficient. It is anticipated that matches will be of 16 or 20 boards, depending on the number of matches played in this championship.

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

The Championship is played under the Laws of Bridge 2007 and the present Rules and Regulations, whose special provisions for this Championship supplement those Laws.

A.3 Timetable

Opening Ceremony

- Open Teams 1st Round-Robin
- Open Teams Final Round-Robin
- Women Teams
- Senior Teams Welcome
- Senior Teams
- Closing Ceremony

Tuesday 22nd June

Wednesday 23rd – Wednesday 30th June
Wednesday 30th June – Saturday 3rd July
Wednesday 23rd June – Saturday 3rd July
Friday 25th June
Saturday 26th June – Saturday 3rd July
Saturday 3rd July

B. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

B.1 Registration

B.1.1 Registration of Teams

All entries to the Championships tournaments must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at <http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/Information.htm>

by **1st April 2010**. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

B.1.2 Registration of Players' Names

Registration of members of the teams and NBO Delegation members' names must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/Information.htm>

by **15th April 2010**. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

B.2 Right to enter, and entry fees

Each member country, being up to date with the payment of its dues (including the 2010 dues) to the EBL is authorised to enter one team in the Open Series, one team in the Women's Series and one team in the Senior Series of the Championship. 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 Championship.

The entry fees are € 3,500 for the Open and Women's Teams and € 3,250 for the Senior Teams. A discount will be given to countries who did not participate in the last three EBL Bridge Teams Championships (held in Malmö 2004, Warsaw 2006 and Pau 2008): for these teams the entry fees are € 2,500 both for the Open and Women and € 2,000 for the Senior Teams.

A discount of € 500 will also be given to countries who will accommodate all their players at the Thermae Palace Hotel or make their reservation through the Ostend Tourist Office and arrange accommodation for all their players in the hotels recommended.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 15th April 2010 to

BANQUE PARIBAS (Suisse)

2, Place de Hollande, CH-1211 Geneva 11 – Suisse

Account EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE Number 3097300

(IBAN) CH 46 0868 6309 7300 04978 – (SWIFT) BPPBCHGG (to be mentioned)

No team will be permitted to refuse to play against any other team and such refusal to play will result in disqualification.

B.3 Team Members

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach or team-manager, 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 play of the Championship.

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 but only during the first day and only with permission of the Appeals Committee.

B.4 Credentials Committee

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as well as the names of Chief Delegation, Team Manager, Medical Doctor, Journalists and members of the NBO's Official Delegation must be sent for approval to the EBL President via the EBL website (not by e-mail) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/Information.htm>

by **15th April 2008**.

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

- a) he/she is nominated by the NBO of the country of his/her birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, 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; or
- b) he/she is nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence 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/she was born **before the 1st January 1951**.

In any case only accredited people can enter the venue of the Championship.

B.5 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 number 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.

B.6 Systems

B.6.1 Systems Policy

- a) The European Bridge League's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy 2007 ("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) Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

B.6.2 Written explanations of systems

Every participating partnership in the Championships must complete, accurately and legibly, an EBL 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 occurring

B.6.3 Submission of Systems (in all series)

Systems in all the series have to be registered with the European Bridge League **by 10th May 2010** by email to: anna@ecats.co.uk

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 € 340 for the late filing of Systems.

B.6.4 Changes in lodged systems

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

C. RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

C.1 Composition and seating of teams

C.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.

C.1.2 Line-up procedure

Since teams meet each other only once there will be no seating rights when teams without 'Highly Unusual Methods' play each other. Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. The line-up will be made by computer.

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 infringe this regulation may be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- Ø 1st occasion a written warning
- Ø 2nd occasion ½ VP penalty
- Ø Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

C.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.

C.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 a pair playing a 'Highly Unusual Method' has an obligation to be seated at the playing table 15 minutes before the start of the round when requested by their opponents. Notification of the request shall be given at the line-up desk when submitting the line-up.

C.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 C.1.2, C.1.3 and C.1.4 above.

Pairs playing 'Highly Unusual Methods' from both teams need to be seated 15 minutes in advance if either opponent so require.

C.1.6 Seating of Teams where "Brown Stickers" may be in use

When a team contains any partnership that uses more than 1 brown sticker all the above mentioned rules adopted for HUM Systems will be applied.

C.1.7 Substitutes

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Head 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 Series must be female. A substitute in the Senior Series must be a Senior B.3 section c). 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 Head 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.

C.2 Time procedure and penalties for slow play.

C.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 20 minutes and for a twenty board match this will be 2 hours and 50 minutes.

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. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match and receives zero Victory Points For the score of the opposing team see C.5.2.

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.

C.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:
 - Ø 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.
 - Ø from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs imposed on the table, shared likewise equally 1 VP each
 - Ø from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs likewise
 - Ø from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs likewise
 - Ø from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs likewise.
 - Ø 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, at 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 an absence of warning does not diminish the responsibility of the players or their liability to be fined.

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:
- i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.

C.2.3 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under C.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.

C.3 General rules during play

C.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 unless both teams agree to speak another language.

C.3.2 Dealing

The boards will have been pre-dealt and duplicated.

C.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.
- b) When it is not possible for the boards to be duplicated the following provisions will apply:
 - i) 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).
 - ii) 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:

- i) The players should check that the boards bear labels which correspond to the table at which they are playing
- ii) North and East should check the curtain card completed by their respective opponents in the same seats in the other room.

C.3.4 Non-playing players

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

C.3.5 Finish of play

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

C.3.6 Leaving the table and playing rooms

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

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

No recorder - see C.3.9 b) below - may leave the table during a match unless authorized by the Tournament Director. If a recorder leaves the table during a match without permission of the Tournament Director the team responsible for the recorder may be fined 2 VPs.

No recorder - see C.3.9 b) below - may leave the playing room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If a recorder leaves the playing room during a match without permission of the Tournament Director the team responsible for the recorder may be fined 2 VPs.

C.3.7 Authorised persons in the playing rooms

Authorised persons who may enter the playing rooms (except by special permission of the Chairman of the Tournament Committee) are: --

- Ø the staff on duty
- Ø the Chairman of the Appeals Committee and the members of the Appeals Committee on duty
- Ø the President of the E.B.L.
- Ø the Chairman of the Tournament Committee
- Ø the captains or coaches (or their respective duly approved designates) are allowed in the Open Room, except the Open Vugraph room, where they are not allowed. In the Closed Room the captain of the Away Team or his designated is allowed but only for the purpose of recording; see C.3.9 b) below.
- Ø except in the Open VG room, where they are not allowed, two duly accredited journalists plus one representative of the Bulletin, all of whom must remain for the entire round in the rooms. Each of them must watch at only one table..

Ø Hotel staff for the provision of refreshments.

C.3.8 Scoring at the table

Scoring at the table is done by the use of the Bridgmates (see D.1.3).

C.3.9 Recording the matches

- a) In the Open Room, the Captain of the Home Team (or his designate to be approved by the Chief Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, the play and the result on the Bridgmate provided at the table.
- b) In the Closed Room, the Captain of the Away Team (or his designate to be approved by the Chief Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, the play and the result on the Bridgmate provided at the table.
- c) If a scorer is not available North is responsible to entering the scores. North and East need to agree with the score as entered.
- d) The Championship Committee provides the service of scoring and recording when the matches are broadcast (Vugraph and or Internet).

C.3.10 Use of the systems

Players may only look at their own system as Law 40B2(b) allows

(allows the declaring side, only, to look at its own system card during the Correction Period – see Law 22B1. This assists the correction of any mis-explanation during the auction.) 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.

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". It is worth noting that for the purpose of this paragraph only, a "Multi" 2♠/ is considered to be a Brown Sticker Convention.

For regulations applying when a Highly Unusual Method is in use, and particularly those governing defence against a Yellow (HUM) system see the EBL Systems Policy

C.4 End of rounds, results

C.4.1 IMP scale

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

C.4.2 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 board matches

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

20 board matches:

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

C.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.

C.4.4 Protest time

In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day 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.

The protest time concerning rulings by the TD ends 30 minutes after the round.

C.4.5 Carry-over (Open Series)

Each team qualified for the second (final) round robin will carry forward 100% of the IMPs and VPs achieved against the other 8 qualified teams from the first round robin.

C.4.6 The Draw

The draw will be publicised to all NBOs as soon as all the teams are known and the final draw has been made. It will also be published on the official EBL website.

The two groups of the Qualification's Round Robin in the Open Series are composed considering the ranking of the three previous Teams Championship (Malmo 2004, Warsaw 2006, Pau 2008) and following the "greek" criteria. The teams of Great Britain and the teams of the enclaves are divided in the two groups. The teams of the countries which did not participate in the previous three Teams Championships will be ranked in the last position.

C.4.7 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 Head Tournament Director, from the Tournament Committee, or from the Tournament Appeals Committee.

C.4.8 Publication of decisions

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted in the Captain's pigeonhole or electronically through the Championship Website. 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.

C.5 Byes, Ranking and Ties

C.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, by its own fault, it is not able to play against another team. Its opponents will receive the best score between:

- a) 18 VPs
- b) That team's average
- c) The average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault

Whichever is greater

C.5.2 Ranking

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

C.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. 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.

D. REGULATIONS SUPPLEMENTING THE LAWS

D.1 Bidding Boxes, Screens, Bridgemates and International Code

D.1.1 Bidding Boxes

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory throughout.

D.1.2 Screens

The use of screens is mandatory throughout and the following rules will be applied:

I) Description of the operations

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

II) Changes to Bids Made

A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:

- a) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screenmate is aware of this; or
- b) If it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected or
- c) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error.

III) Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call must alert his screen mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made 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. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen mate then provides a written answer.
- b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screenmate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made.

IV) Modification of Rectifications

- a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:
 - i) an inadmissible call see Law 35 must be corrected
 - ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.
- b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen. No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.
- c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:
 - i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 - ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.
 - iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
 - iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- d) When an alertable call is made see D.1.2 III) above.
- e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- f) If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

D.1.3 Bridgemates

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

D.1.4 International Code

The Laws of Bridge 2007 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 the bidding cards. 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 D.1.2 III above).

E. ETHICS

E.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 familiarise 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.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political or religious statement or object which might cause offence to others.

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

E.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.

E.3 Discussions

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players during the match should 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.

E.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 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.

F. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS

F.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, but only after the play of a board has been completed, 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, when and if allowed as recorder, 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.

F.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.

F.3 Substitute captains

The captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. If it is the coach they don't need to ask permission. Such an appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match. The permission of the Chief Tournament Director shall be required if the person appointed is not the team's designated coach or team manager.

G. VIEWGRAPH & BROADCASTED MATCHES

G.1 Obligation to play

When Viewgraph is in use and or the match is broadcasted, any team must play in the appointed rooms, as often as required.

G.2 Access to Viewgraph Room

Access to the Viewgraph Room is limited to the four players and the championship's staff on duty.

G.3 Playing time

The time for playing in the Viewgraph is the same as for the usual competition.

H. APPEALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

H.1 Appeals

H.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 and if there is no TD available it has to be given to the scoring room.

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 € 100,00. 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 themselves at the hearing of the appeal. If no-one from the team appealing presents themselves at the hearing, the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeit. The non-appealing team is entitled to attend, to make statements and to answer questions; failure to attend may cause difficulties for the Appeals Committee to explore the facts and may therefore disadvantage that team's 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).

H.1.2 Practices in the Appeals Committee

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form as provided in Rule H.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, subject to the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 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 H.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.

H.2 Appeals Committee

H.2.1 Composition of the Appeals Committee

Each appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee constituted from members appointed by the President of the EBL to the Tournament Appeals Committee. The person appointed as Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, during the tournament, appoint additional members for inclusion on an Appeals Committee.

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 any part in the appeals process.

H.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.

H.2.3 Judgment

As Law 93C3(a) allows, the Appeals Committee has the power to deal finally with any appeal and all parties are bound by its decisions. An 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, an Appeals Committee and/or the Tournament 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.

I. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

I.1 Journalists

All Journalists are invitees of the EBL. 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.

All Journalists present at the Championships must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL 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 EBL. and the IBPA, the view of the EBL shall prevail.

I.2 Spectators

All Spectators are invitees of the EBL. Their presence at the Championships is subject to behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and requires their conformity with these Rules and Regulations to which they are subject and with the instructions of the Tournament Director.

Spectators are admitted in the Open Room at the discretion of the Championship Committee. In case of admission the following rules have to be observed:

- Ø No more than four spectators (including non-playing captains and accredited journalists) shall be permitted at any table.
- Ø Spectators may only spectate at one table during any session of play and must be seated. The observance of this regulation is particularly important when pre-duplicated boards are in play.
- Ø Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention. Mobile phones and all other electronic devices are not allowed to be used within the playing area and must be switched off.

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

Violation of the above mentioned rules result in spectator being required to leave the Open Room for the remainder of the session and in the discretion of the Championship Committee may be subject to other penalties.

J. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

J.1 General duties of Tournament Directors

The Tournament Directors' responsibilities are in the main covered by Law 81. All Tournament Directors will follow the WBF Code of Practice wherever its recommendations are relevant. A Co-Chief Tournament Director may act with the powers of and in place of the Chief Tournament Director in any matter.

Tournament Directors will seek to ensure the correct position and polarity of players at the table. The responsibility for correct position and polarity remains with the players.

Tournament Directors are required to complete a form for each round when there are late starts, slow play or any other incidents.

Each Tournament Director shall notify the Chief Tournament Director of all penalties which have been applied under mandate of the Laws or these Rules and Regulations.

Prior to the commencement of the following round all important incidents must be reported by the Chief Tournament Director to the Tournament Committee and any penalties or changes in scores must be notified in addition to the Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

K. NON-SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND MOBILE PHONES

K.1 Non-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 1 VP, plus a fine of € 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.

K.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 1 VP, plus a fine of € 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.

K.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 VPs, plus a fine of €100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Chief 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:

- Ø before the start of play, will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there;
- Ø after the start of play, will bar his team from playing the current match, which will be then be considered lost according to the Rules and Regulations (see the Regulations also for the opposing team's score).

L. DRESS CODE

In the European Open, Women and Seniors Team Championship it is obligatory for all teams to adopt the following dress code:

L.1 Formal Occasions

The EBL has a policy which seeks to encourage Federations to provide Teams, which participate in European Championships, to be dressed in appropriate uniforms which incorporate a badge or emblem identifying the country which those players represent.

L.2 Playing rooms

Everyone entering the playing rooms is obliged to wear the official identification badge provided by the organisation. In case of loss the organisation will provide a duplicate badge at a cost of € 5,00

All players, captains and coaches of participating teams are required to wear T-shirts, polo shirts, shirts or blouses that are of the same colour and contain the Federation's logo.

Team members must be supplied with sufficient changes of clothing to ensure that they look smart and presentable at all times.

If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they must be of the same colour and carry the Federation's logo.

All players are expected to be respectably dressed and are also required to follow the instructions given by the TD.

Any player, captain or coach not respecting the dress code into the playing area will receive a warning on the first occasion and a subsequent breach will result in that team being fined 2 VP, plus a fine of € 100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in that person being prohibited from entering the playing area.

L.3 Publicity

The team uniform must contain its Federation logo and may contain discreet sponsor logos.

M. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

The procedures provided by the WBF Anti-doping Regulations adopted by the EBL will be followed and enforced. Accordingly all players are required to submit themselves to the anti-doping test on request.

N. SECURITY

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

O. REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION

NBOs and their representatives at the Championships directly authorise the EBL to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of these championships. They further give their consent to the EBL using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge.

P. AWARDS

The Societé Generale 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, the coach and other members of the winning teams. The trophies are challenge trophies and will only be definitively awarded to an NBO which wins the championship three times.

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

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least one third of the boards played by his team.

The teams of the first 6 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open, Women's and Senior Series will achieve the right to participate respectively in the 2011 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior World Championship.

The winning teams from the national championships of the first 10 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will achieve the right to participate in the 2010 and 2011 European Champions Cups.

Q. CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

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