



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

52nd EUROPEAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN OPATIJA

JUNE 21st – JULY 1st, 2014

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1 INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE

1.1 Introduction

The 52nd European Teams Championships ("the Championships") is to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in Sport Hall MARINO CVETKOVIĆ in Opatija, Croatia commencing on Saturday 21st June 2014 and ending not later than Tuesday 1st July 2014. The Championships consists of 3 Championships: Open Teams Championship, Women's Team Championship and Seniors' Teams Championship.

The Championship will be governed by the Laws of Bridge 2007, the EBL General Conditions of Contest ("the GCoC", as published on the EBL website) and these Supplementary Conditions of Contest ("the SCoC"). Unless otherwise stated, or illogical in context, the definitions used in the GCoC apply also to these SCoC.

These SCoC may be amended and/or augmented, at the discretion of the EBL, if circumstances so warrant in order to ensure that the Championship can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

1.2 Format

1.1.1 Open Championship

The Open Championship consists of two round-robins. In the first round-robin the teams are divided into two groups. The groups are composed considering the ranking of the three previous Open Team Championships (Pau 2008, Ostend 2010 and Dublin 2012), following the "Greek" formula. However, in exceptional cases and for teams that did not participate in all three previous championships, the Championship Committee may adjust the seeding to seek equity and fairness. Each team will play a 16 board match against each other team in its group.

At the end of the first round robin the 9 best ranked teams from each group will qualify for the second round robin. The other teams finish the championship at that stage.

These qualifying teams will play a 16 board match against each of the 9 qualifying teams from the other group, with the following carry overs.

- (a) The qualified teams will carry over all the VPs scored in the matches against the other qualified teams from their group.
- (b) In addition, in each group, the qualified teams will be ranked according to the points scored against the non-qualified teams only. The last ranked will carry over 0 VP, the second last will carry over 2 VP, the third last 4 VP and so forth, in increments of 2 VPs.

All penalties incurred in the first phase will be carried over in full.

1.1.2 Women Championship

The Women's Championship will be played as a single complete round robin. The matches will be of 16 boards.

- Up to 22 teams : the round-robin will be played over 7 days.
- 23 teams and more: the round robin will be played over 10 days.

1.1.3 Senior Championship

The Seniors Championship will be played during 7 days. All matches will be of 16 boards.

(a) Up to 22 teams : a single complete round-robin will be played.

(b) 23 teams and more: The Championship will be split into two phases.

- i) Qualifying phase: Swiss movement of 12 matches of 16 boards each. The top ranked 10 teams will qualify for Group A, the rest for Group B
- ii) Final phase: Group A will play a full round robin of 16 boards. The top ranked team from the qualifying phase will carry over 20.25 VPs, the second ranked team 18 VPs, and the teams thereafter will carry over 15.75, 13.5, 11.25, 9, 6.75, 4.5, 2.25, 0 VPs respectively.

Group B will play a Swiss, with the last placed team carrying over 0 VPs, the next last team 1 VP and so on in increments of 1 VP.

All penalties incurred in the qualifying phase will be carried over in full.

1.2 Draw

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published in the programme and on the EBL website for the Championship. 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 daily bulletin or if necessary at the captains' meeting.

1.3 Programme and Timetable

All Teams Registration	Saturday 21st June 10:00 – 18:00
Captains meeting	Saturday 21st June at 17:00
Opening Ceremony	Saturday 21st June at 19:30 (3 Championships)
Open Teams 1st round-robin	Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th June
Open Captains' Meeting	Saturday 28 th June 19:00
Open Teams 2nd round-robin	Sunday 29th – Tuesday 1st July
Women's Teams (up to 22 teams)	Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th June
Women's Teams (23+ teams)	Sunday 22nd – Tuesday 1st July
Seniors Teams	Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th June
1st Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony	Saturday 28th June 19:30 (Seniors & Women ≤22 teams)
EBL General Assembly	Sunday 29th June at 10:00
Final Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony	Tuesday 1st July at 20:30 (Open & Women >22 teams)

2 ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

2.1 Registration

2.1.1 Registration of Teams

Entries to the Championships must be submitted electronically via the EBL website(not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/14Opatija/microSite/Participants.asp>

Women – by 1st April 2014

Open and Seniors - by 15th May 2014

2.1.2 Registration of Players' Names

Registration of players and other team officials' names must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/14Opatija/microSite/Participants.asp>

by 15th May 2014.

2.2 Right to enter

Each member NBO is authorised to enter one team in each Championship. NBOs must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with the payment of dues (including 2014 dues) to the EBL before they can participate in the Championship.

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

To participate in the senior Championship a player must have been born **before the 1st January 1955**.

2.3 Entry fees

€ 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 (Pau 2008, Ostend 2010, Dublin 2012): for these teams the entry fees are € 2,500 both for the Open and Women and € 2,000 for the Senior Teams.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 15th May 2014 to

HSBC Bank

31 Chequer Street

St. Albans AL1 3YN

United Kingdom

Account: EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

IBAN: GB 82 MIDL 4005 1571 2825 45

SWIFT: MIDLGB22

2.4 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, subject to the approval of the NBO concerned, the Credentials Committee and the Championship Committee.

Except with the permission of the Head Tournament Director or Championship Manager, such substitute or added player must use one of the systems already filed in accordance with Section 3.2 below.

2.5 Credentials Committee

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as submitted to the EBL website in accordance with 2.1.2 above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration of approval of participation.

Only accredited people can enter the venue of the Championship.

3 SYSTEMS

3.1 Systems Policy

The European Bridge League's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised Sep.2013) apply to these Championships. Category 1 systems and conventions are permitted in the Open and Women's Championships. Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted in the Senior Championship.

Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

The systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the General Conditions of Contest.

3.2 Submission of Systems (in all Championships)

Systems in all the Championships have to be registered with the European Bridge League by 15th May 2014 by email to the Systems Administrator: anna@ecats.co.uk (See Section 11 of General Conditions of Contest). Minor changes to systems (which may be clarifications, amendments, minor additions and/or cosmetic revisions) will be accepted by 1st June 2014. Later changes will only be accepted at the discretion of the Head TD or Championship Manager, who may impose conditions for acceptance.

The maximum number of Supplementary Sheets is six.

Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Systems must use the special forms provided which can be found in Appendices I and II of the EBL Systems Policy

[.http://www.eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/regulations/EBLSystemsPolicy.pdf](http://www.eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/regulations/EBLSystemsPolicy.pdf)

The opponents' filed Systems will be made available on the Internet to all teams who have filed their Systems.

It is the obligation of each team to print and bring a sufficient number of copies of both opponents' and their own System Cards and Supplementary Sheets to the Championship. The EBL provides no facilities for teams to make copies at the venue.

4 RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

4.1 Composition and seating of teams

4.1.1 Designation of teams

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

4.1.2 Line-up procedure

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. 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 will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- 1st occasion a written (through the communication system) warning
- 2nd occasion ½ VP penalty
- Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

These penalties will be applied automatically by the scoring system and can only be waived by the Championship Manager in exceptional cases.

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

Where neither team contains any partnership that uses a HUM the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

4.1.4 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 such 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 through the Championship's Communication System.

4.1.5 Seating of Teams where 'Highly Unusual Methods' may be used by both teams

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

4.1.6 Seating of Teams where "Brown Stickers" may be in use

When a team contains any partnership that uses more than one "Brown Sticker" all the above mentioned rules adopted for HUM Systems will be applied.

4.2 Period of Play and penalties for slow play.

4.2.1 Start of the round

Playing time is 2 hours 20 minutes.

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure. 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. In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director has to be satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player and, if not, will take the necessary measures. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match and receives zero VPs.

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.

4.2.2 End of the period of play.

(a) If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them:

- from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
- from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
- from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs.
- from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs.
- from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs.
- for delays of more than 25 minutes the Championship 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 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.

4.2.3 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under Section 4.2.2 (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.

4.3 Penalties

If a player leaves the playing room during a match without the permission of a tournament director that player's team will be fined 2 VPs.

If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault that side shall be subject to a procedural penalty of 1 VP.

4.4 Playing Area

The Playing Area, as referred to in the General Conditions of Contest, means the rooms where play takes place, the corridors surrounding them and the toilets.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the Sport Hall Marino Cvetkovic building.

4.5 End of rounds, results

4.5.1 IMP scale

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

4.5.2 VP Scale

For each match there will be 20 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the VP scale published on the EBL site

4.6 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 but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony

The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends 30 minutes after the end of the round.

4.7 Publication of decisions

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted through the Championship’s Communication System. 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.

4.8 Byes, Ranking and Ties

4.8.1 Byes

In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 12 VPs.

4.8.2 Ranking

The teams will be ranked according to the total number of VPs each gains in the Championship. If a Championship has more than one phase then the teams in that Championship will be ranked according to the total number of VPs each gains in the final phase plus the VPs carried over from the first phase.

4.8.3 Ties

A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents 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 against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

5 REVIEW PROCEDURE

The Championship Committee shall appoint a Reviewer or Reviewers.

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review. See Section 4.6 for the time limit for seeking a review .

The Reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

6. DRESS CODE

The players must comply with the EBL Dress code but do not have to wear blazers, jackets, ties or neck scarves for the Opening Ceremony.

7. AWARDS

The Open Trophy, Women Trophy and Jean-Marc Roudinesco Trophy will be awarded to the NBOs winning respectively the Open, Women and Seniors Championships. 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, coach and members of the winning teams in each Championships. 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 and Seniors Championships will have the right to participate respectively in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl at the World Team Championship 2015.

The winning teams from the national team championships of the first 10 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will have the right to participate in the 2014 and 2015 European Champions Cups.