



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

10th EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP and 8th EUROPEAN SENIORS' NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

HELD IN OSTEND, BELGIUM

JUNE 6th – JUNE 9th, 2018

Published by the European Bridge League
Maison du Sport International,
54 avenue de Rhodanie,
CH-1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

November 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE

1.1 Introduction

The 10th European Women's Pairs Championship ("the WP Championship") and the 1st European Seniors' Pairs Championship ("the SP Championship") are national pairs competitions and are to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in the Kursaal in Ostend, Belgium commencing on Wednesday 6th June 2018 and ending not later than Saturday 9th June 2018.

The Championships will be governed by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, 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 Championships can progress in a smooth, efficient and fair manner.

1.2 Format

1.2.1 General

It is anticipated that each Championship will consist of two stages: a Qualifying Stage, and a Final Stage (Final A and Final B). However, should the number of participants permit, there will be a one stage all-play-all (Endless Howell) competition. Details of the competitions in paragraphs 1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 may be changed according to the final registration of participants.

1.2.2 Qualifying Stage.

The format (movement, number of boards) of the Qualifying Stage for each Championship will be determined when the final number of participants is known. Scoring will be done "over the field". For each pair, the match-point score for each session is converted to a percentage. (If some sessions consist of a different number of boards, the percentage scores will be adjusted pro rata). If each pair does not play against most of the other pairs the field will be divided into sections, which may be seeded so as to achieve a reasonable balance.

The number of pairs qualifying for Final A in each Championship will be determined after final participant numbers are known, but it is anticipated that the top ranked 36 pairs will qualify. Pairs not qualifying will be able to participate in Final B.

For purposes of Law 12C2 only (awarding of Average+ and Average -), a session is defined as a stage, and contains all the sessions in that stage.

1.2.3 Final A Stage

There will be a carry-over score (see section 5.5) from the qualifying.

It is anticipated that the final in each Championship will consist of 70 boards, and will be played in a barometer Endless Howell movement. The final ranking will be based on the aggregate score of the carry-over and the score obtained in the final stage.

1.2.4 Final B Stage

This is a transnational event open to all players who played in the Qualifying Stage who did not qualify for the Final A. It is anticipated that the competition will be 60 boards. Scoring is match points calculated over the field. The final ranking will be based on the score obtained in this event. There is no carry-over from the Qualifying Stage.

1.3 Programme and Timetable

The starting times will be announced when final participation numbers are known. The provisional starting times are:

Qualifying	Wednesday	6 th June	10:00
Qualifying	Thursday	7 th June	10:00
Final A	Friday	8 th June	10:00
Final A	Saturday	9 th June	10:00
Final B	Friday	8 th June	10:00
Final B	Saturday	9 th June	10:00
Prize giving (and Teams Opening Ceremony)	Saturday	9 th June	19:30

2 ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

2.1 Conditions of Entry

2.1.1. Right of Entry

Except for Final B in both Competitions (see Sec 1.2.4) all pairs will comprise two players from the same NBO.

- (i) WP Championship: Women bridge players who are registered members of Zone 1 NBOs and in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.
- (ii) SP Championships: Senior bridge players, born in 1957 or earlier, who are registered members of Zone 1 NBOs and in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.

2.1.2 Registration

All entries must be submitted electronically on the website by 23 May 2018 using the link

db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/18Ostende/microsite/participants.asp

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval. Applications submitted after the deadline of 23 May 2018 will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be acknowledged by email to webmaster@europeanbridge.org by 28 May 2018 to qualify for the return of the entry fee.

Those who fail to notify withdrawals by this date may incur disciplinary sanctions.

Each participating pair must play against other participating pairs as determined by the draw.

2.1.3 Entry Fees

The entry fees are €300 for a pair.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 23 May 2018 to

Credit Suisse AG

Rue de Lion d'Or 5-7

CH-1002 Lausanne-Switzerland

Account: EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

IBAN: CH88 0483 5135 2558 8200 0

SWIFT/BIC: CRESCHZZ80A

2.1.4 Credentials Committee

The names of the pair 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.

2.1.5 Competitor's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form (see GCoC Appendix 2) before the start of the event.

3 SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

3.1 Systems Policy

All events at this championship are designated Category 3 events. Consequently, neither HUM Systems nor Brown Sticker conventions, as defined by the EBL Systems Policy as revised July 2015 (the "SYSTEMS POLICY"), are permitted at any time or in any event.

Psyching artificial opening bids is forbidden.

Both members of a partnership must agree to adopt the same meanings for calls in the auction and for defensive card play. This does not restrict the exercise of style and judgement.

3.2 System (Convention) Cards

- i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the EBL's Official System Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.
- ii) Each pair is required to hand two copies of its system card to the opponents at the start of each round.
- iii) Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties.
In particular the Head Tournament Director may impose a procedural penalty (25% of the match-points available on a board) for each occasion on which he considers that an opponent has been severely inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate System Card. The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score that a Tournament Director deems appropriate because of damage caused to the opponent.
- iv) Changes in system cards are normally not allowed. If a pair nevertheless wants to change a system card it must obtain the approval of the Head Tournament Director.

4 ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITION

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, as far as is practicable, that pairs from the same NBO do not play against each other in the later sessions of a stage.

Pairs will be seeded so as to, as far as possible, create balanced sections.

Subject to the above the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Championships Committee.

5. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY

5.1 *Playing Area*

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

Smoking is prohibited throughout the Kursaal building.

5.2 *Allotted Time*

The time allotted for each 2-board round is 17 minutes, or 25 minutes for each 3-board round.

Players are expected to complete each round in the allotted time.

The Head Tournament Director may remove un-played or partly-played boards.

5.2.1 *If an un-played board is removed:*

i) The offending pair or pairs shall be awarded 40% of the match-point available for the board, and

ii) If the Head Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, the non-offending pair shall be awarded, subject to Law 12C2, 60% of the match-points available for the board.

5.2.2 *If a partly-played board is removed:*

Each pair shall be awarded the match-point score for the result on the board which the Head Tournament Director deems to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed. If the Head Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, he may apply Law 12 to assign scores.

5.2.3 *Late arrival in pairs events*

All participants should be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time of the session. Should either member of a partnership not be seated at the starting time, the pair will receive a warning for a first offence during that stage of the event for being up to 5 minutes late. A late arrival of more than 5 minutes, or further late arrivals will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Head TD ranging from 10% of a top up to the standard penalty (see Section 21.2 of GCoC). These penalties are in addition to any boards removed and scored as 40%

5.3 *Protest time*

i) In respect of scores the protest time of all boards played in a day is as follows:

(a) If the day includes a change of stage, protest time ends 30 minutes after the posting of scores of the last round of the stage.

- (b) If the day does not include a change of stage, or if the protest is in respect of a round after the change of stage, protest time ends 30 minutes after the end of the stage.
- (c) In respect of the final stage's play protest time ends two hours after the official finishing time of that stage but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Prize-giving ceremony or Closing Ceremony.

ii) 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 session.

5.4 Tie Breaking

(For this section, "session" refers to the period of play between assignments of starting position).

Scores are tied only if they are identical. Except in the finals, if a tie needs to be broken, the winner is the pair with the highest score in its best session played at that stage. Further ties are broken likewise. If there is still a tie, the highest score in its two best sessions is decisive. In the finals the direct encounter(s) decides.

If a tie (or ties) still exists the remaining tie (or ties) shall be broken in favour of the pair who scored the most match points against the highest ranking pair or pairs that all the tied pairs played against. Should a tie still exist, the foregoing procedure shall be used with the next highest ranking pair or pairs and so on until the tie is broken.

5.5 Carry-overs

There will be carry-over scores between the Qualifying and Final A Stages. The exact amount of carry-over will depend on the relative number of boards played at each stage as well as the percentage of pairs moving to the following stage. Once the number of entries is known and the final formats are set the exact amount of carry-over will be published at, or close to, the start of the qualifying stage.

There is no carry-over from the Qualifying to Final B

6. MANDATORY PENALTIES IN PAIRS EVENTS

Fouling a board results in a penalty of 25% of the match-points available on the board.

7. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE

Leaving the table needlessly before the round or session is finished is a breach of the Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to the standard penalty (Sec. 21.2 in GCoC).

8. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the last session of the qualifying stage provided it so notifies the Head Tournament Director or Operations Director no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session. No pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Head

Tournament Director or Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

Any pair failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined. If a pair believes it cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason it should seek permission to withdraw from the Head Tournament Director and the Operations Director.

9. RULINGS AND APPEALS

The review procedure outlined in Section 31 of the GCoC shall apply.

10. SECURITY

An identification tag will be issued for entrance to the venue and/or playing area.

No player or team official or non-participant is allowed at the Championship playing areas without displaying the personal tag.

11. AWARDS & PRIZES

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded to the players of the three highest ranked pairs in Final A in each Championship. The winners will receive the title of European Women Pairs Champion or European Seniors' Pairs Champion, respectively.

Master points will be awarded in both Final A and Final B in accordance with the EBL Master Point Scheme.

12. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These 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 Championship.

13. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In case of a conflict between these Regulations and the General Conditions of Contest, these Regulations shall prevail.

Matters not regulated here are governed by the General Conditions of Contest and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

14. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

The following can be found on the EBL website at www.eurobridge.org

The EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Alert Procedure

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations