



# EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE REGULATIONS

## for TABLET BIDDING

January 2025

### 1. Entering Bids and Scores

- 1.1 This regulation applies to the use of tablets in European Bridge Championships for bidding, entering results, controlling the time of the play and sending collected data to a Tournament Director and any control centre.
- 1.2 Before play starts players will be able to set certain preferences on the tablet.
- 1.3 Players are required to enter all bids and scores in a timely, accurate manner. The result is entered the moment the outcome of the board is agreed by both sides. In the case where a ruling is called for, unless unable to determine the outcome of a board, players are required to enter the table result awaiting the final ruling. Failure to enter the score before leaving the playing room is subject to a standard penalty.
- 1.4 The official score will be that keyed in by declarer and agreed by both defenders. Players are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores.
- 1.5 Repeated violations of correct entering procedures are subject to penalty.

### 2. Screens

- 2.1 The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. Players remove their cards from the board and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period).
- 2.2 Calls are made by pressing the appropriate keys on the tablet display. Each player selects a call, which will be visible only on the player's side of the display. A player may change the bid within the time allowed (by the preference set) by pressing the 'cancel' key. The call is considered 'made' and is visible to the screenmate when this allowed time is over.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, the calls will be visible on the displays on the other side of the screen. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

- 2.3 After the opening lead is made, the aperture is opened by declarer or dummy to permit all players to see dummy's cards and 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.
- 2.4 When leading or following suit, players must take care to always play cards in the same way, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card. Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalty.
- 2.5 When, playing behind screens and bidding with tablets, a board is found placed upside down (by 180°) and :

- a- When no call is made and no player has seen "his" cards, all cards are put back in the board, if taken from it, and the board is put back, correctly orientated, on the table.
- b- When no call is made but at least one player has seen "his" cards, the TD ensures that
  - for that board only - the players exchange the tablets (North <-> South and East <-> West) and all four players bid and play the board normally.
- c- When a call is made (by either North or South), the screenmate has seen that call but it was not visible on the other side of the screen. The TD cancels that call and then ensures that
  - for that board only - the players exchange the tablets (North <-> South and East <-> West) and all four players bid and play the board normally. The information of that first call is authorized for the screenmate that saw it (North/South being responsible for the placement of the board).
- d- When a call is made (by either East or West), that call is visible for all 4 players as it is "pushed" through the screen by the system automatically. In that case the board is deemed to have started with an opening call out of rotation, accepted by the opponent as Law 53A permits. The bidding and play continue with no further rectification.
- e- When more than one call is made before the wrong placement is discovered or if it not discovered at all before the play ends, item (d) above applies.

### **3. Alerts and Explanations**

3.1 A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the EBL Alert Procedures must alert the screenmate and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding is visible. The alert must be made either by pressing the 'alert' key before the bid is made or by clicking on the bid itself. The fact of the alert and the time it is made is recorded and available to the TDs.

At any time during the auction a player may write to the screenmate requesting a full explanation of an opponent's call. The screenmate will reply in writing. Note pads will be provided for this.

3.2 At all times from the commencement of the auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from the 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 given. Therefore, the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

### **4. Modification of Rectifications**

- 4.1 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:
- (a) 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.
  - (b) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer (see Laws 54B1, 54B2). Law 72C may apply.
  - (c) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
  - (d) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.

- 4.2 When a player takes more than a normal time to make a call, it is not an infraction if that player draws attention to the break in tempo. The screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- 4.3 Only the player on the side of the screen receiving the display of calls of the other side who considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. This may be done at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened. The time taken for each call is recorded and available to the TDs.
- 4.4 Failure to do as 4.3 provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo, and may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information.

## **5. Laws Interpretations and Options**

Words and phrases in the Laws and GCoC applicable to face-to-face bridge, and not specifically defined in the appropriate SCoC, shall be interpreted *mutatis mutandis* to an online bidding environment.