



NORDIC BRIDGE UNION

Conditions of Contest

**For all Nordic Bridge Championships held
under the auspices of the Nordic Bridge Union**

29-05-2019

§ 101. Nordic Bridge Championships

Nordic Bridge Championships are conducted under the auspices of the NBU (Nordic Bridge Union), and all events designated as Nordic Bridge Championships shall be played in accordance with the current edition of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. These Conditions of Contest supplement the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as required.

The Conditions of Contest are designed to be as similar to those of a major WBF or EBL event as possible, while taking into account special considerations relevant for a Nordic Bridge Championship.

The NBU schedules a Nordic Bridge Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the NBU makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair, or person, that any particular Nordic Bridge Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

A. Media

By participating in a Nordic Bridge Championship, each NBO and its contestants agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the NBU.

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews, etc., arranged by the NBU, including video, internet, TV, radio, or any other media presentation.

NBOs and their representatives at the Championships directly authorise the NBU to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of the Championships. They further give their consent to the NBU using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information are exclusive property of the NBU and cannot be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent.

B. Competition Requirement

Each NBO agrees that it shall instruct its contestants that they must compete against all other contestants. Entry in a Nordic Bridge Championship and subsequent refusal to play against any other team or contestant as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification of any team, or of any contestant refusing to play.

Such disqualification shall extend for the balance of the Nordic Bridge Championship involved.

Furthermore, the offending contestant(s) and their NBO shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the NBU for such period as the NBU in its discretion shall determine.

C. Organiser of Championship

The NBU appoints the Organiser for each Championship. The Organiser is a NBO which is a member of the NBU.

§ 102. Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in the Nordic Bridge Championships, a competitor must be entered by his NBO, with whom he should be a member in good standing. He must notably respect the spirit of fair play and ethics, and behave accordingly.

A. Eligibility Requirements

Each event may specify requirements on the players' nationality, age, and/or gender.

1. No player shall be a playing member of, or a substitute player in, a team or pair if he/she does not fulfil the eligibility requirements pertaining to the event.
2. In a mixed event, each pair shall at any time consist of one male player and one female player.

B. Eligibility for National Teams

In an event for national teams, any competitor must be a member of the NBO which he represents during the event. If a competitor is a member of two or more NBOs at the same time, he may represent either of them, as he may elect.

C. Eligibility for Youth Players

1. Championships are held in the following classes: Juniors (U25), Youngsters (U20), and Girls (U25).
2. To be eligible to play in a U25 or U20 event, the player must not have achieved his 25th or 20th birthday, respectively, by December 31 of the year prior to the year of the Championship (i.e., in a championship held in 2012, a U25 player must be born in 1987 or later, and a U20 player must be born in 1992 or later).

D. Eligibility for Senior Players

To be eligible to play in a Senior event, the player must be at least 60 years of age or attain the age of 60 during the calendar year of the Championship (i.e., in a championship held in 2012, a Senior player must be born in 1952 or earlier).

E. Emergency Substitutes

The Chief Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made.

A substitute need not be a member of the NBO represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player from another team and must fulfil any restrictions in gender and/or age that apply for the event in question.

§ 103. Conditions of Entry

A. Registration

1. Players are required to register their entry to their own NBO.
2. The NBOs report their entries to the Organiser.
3. The Organiser publishes relevant addresses and deadlines for registration.

B. Disqualification

Should a team, pair, or individual player be disqualified as a result of a decision made by a Tournament Director or a Tournament Appeals Committee, no refund of the entry fees, either in part or in whole, will be made.

§ 104. Awards

1. The best placed contestant in each event is the Nordic Champion.
2. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the top three contestants of each event.
3. Each NBO issues master points to their players according to their national master point regulations.

§ 105. Official Language

English is the official language of a Nordic Bridge Championship. During a match the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English.

The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities. No appeal due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

§ 106. Ethics and Deportment

All contestants in Nordic Bridge Championships are required to conform at all times to the highest standards of ethics and deportment, according to the Code of Discipline of the WBF.

A. Playing to Win

The NBU expects all teams and partnerships to play to win at all times and in all circumstances.

While a team may rest its players and make other decisions for strategic reasons, it is not permissible for a partnership to play by design to obtain a score inferior to that of its opponents. An Appeals Committee shall have the authority to determine on such evidence as it considers sufficient whether a partnership has done so. Any such finding will constitute grounds for such penalties as may be imposed by the Committee, which shall also be empowered to recommend that the offending contestant be disqualified or suspended.

B. Accepting Decisions

All contestants (including non-playing captains) are also expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Appeals Committee and Disciplinary Commission in a sportsmanlike manner.

C. Looking at Partner

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

D. Discussions

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match to avoid discussions with partner or argument with opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to the Tournament Director or to the Captain of the team.

E. Anti-Betting Regulation

It shall be a violation for any player, team captain or official, or any other persons associated with or related to a player, team captain or official participating in any NBU event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof.

§ 107. Smoking and Alcohol

Smoking in the building is prohibited, except for such areas designated by the Organiser for smoking. However, no player may leave the playing area in order to smoke until his partnership has finished the current session.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the building is prohibited, except for the area where such beverages are sold. However, no player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol until he has finished play for that day.

Violation of the above will result in a penalty of 25% of the match-points available on the board (pairs) or 2 VPs (teams) or 6 imps (knockout match). Repeated violation may result in the player being prohibited from playing.

§ 108. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices brought into the playing area and toilets must be turned off at any time during a session. The Chief Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player, captain, or coach from bringing such devices into the playing area and toilets.

Any player, captain, or coach bringing a mobile phone or electronic device into the playing area or toilet without it being turned off will result in a penalty of 25% of the match-points available on the (pairs) or 2 VPs (teams) or 6 imps (knockout match).

§ 109. Vu-Graph

All contestants are required to play on on-line Vu-Graph (internet broadcasting) whenever assigned to do so.

§ 110. Duplicated Boards

Wherever possible, duplicated boards will be used throughout all Nordic Bridge Championships.

§ 111. Attendance in Playing Rooms

1. Spectators are allowed in pairs events and in the open room of a teams match. A spectator may not watch more than one table during any one round. When screens are used, a spectator must remain on the same side of the screen throughout the round.
2. A journalist can be granted access as a spectator to the closed room of a teams match by the Chief Tournament Director, provided that he enters the room before the session begins, remains on the same side of the screen throughout the session, and, should he leave before the end of the session, does not re-enter any playing room during that session.
3. Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing.

§ 112. General Rules during Play in Team Events

A. Leaving the Playing Room

No player may leave the playing room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. In case a player does, that player's team will be fined 2 VPs (or 6 imps in a knockout match).

At each table, when play has finished, the players should agree the score, ensure that all results have been entered into the BridgeMates, and then leave the room as quickly and quietly as possible.

§ 113. Time Procedures in Teams Matches

A. Start of the Round

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 (3 imps in a knockout match) and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1 VP. 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. See § 114 for scoring.

A. Time Allowed

For teams matches using screens, the following time is allocated to a session: 1 hour 30 minutes for 10 boards, 1 hour 45 minutes for 12 boards, 2 hours for 14 boards, 2 hours 20 minutes for 16 boards, 2 hours 35 minutes for 18 boards, 2 hours 50 minutes for 20 boards. For shorter or longer sessions the allowed time is based on approximately 8 minutes 45 seconds per board.

Additional time will not be granted for Vu-Graph, bidding boxes, screens, system discussions or similar reasons.

B. Slow Play Penalty

If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed on the table. VP penalties are eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them.

The penalty imposed on the table is: 1 VP for a delay of 0-5 minutes, 2 VP for 5-10 minutes, 4 VP for 10-15 minutes, 6 VP for 15-20 minutes, 10 VP for 20-25 minutes. For delays of more than 25 minutes the Tournament Director may impose a more severe penalty.

C. Slow Play

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 § 113B will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

§ 114. Forfeits and Walkover

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Tournament Appeals Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The team at fault will score zero VP. Its opponents will receive the best score between: (a) 13 VP, (b) the team's average, (c) the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault, whichever is greater. If it becomes necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the winning team shall be credited with the IMP difference closest to the assigned VP score.

§ 121. Systems

The EBL Systems Policy (<http://www.eurobridge.org/departments/systems/policy.html>) applies.

In pairs events, psyching conventional or artificial opening bids is forbidden.

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

In teams tournaments, convention cards and supplementary sheets must be submitted to the Organiser no later than 28 days before the first day of the Event.

§ 122. Convention Cards

A. Full Written Disclosure

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System by the completion in due form of the EBL Official Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets as required.

1. The type of System and its appropriate colour must be duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Convention Card.
2. All sections of the Convention Card must be accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the WBF Guide to Completion.
3. The Convention Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems. The relationship of

material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Convention Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Convention Card and the Supplementary Sheet.

4. The Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets must contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings. It is accepted that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction may be omitted from the Convention Card.

B. Use of Convention Cards at the Table

1. Each member of a pair must hand to one of his opponents at the table at the start of each round his duly completed Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the round.
2. After withdrawing his cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, a player may not consult his own Convention Card or Supplementary Sheets. However, he may consult written defences against Brown Sticker Conventions (in this regard, Multi is considered Brown Sticker) and HUM aspects in his opponents' system.

C. Full Disclosure at the Table

1. Contestants are required to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent.
2. If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his Convention Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage. The procedural penalty will normally be 50% of the match-points available on the board (pairs), 1 VP (teams) or 3 imps (knockout match).
3. The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Appeals Committee will give the benefit of the doubt to the opponents.

§ 123. Bidding Boxes

Unless screens are in use, the following apply.

A. Bidding

Starting with the dealer, players place the bidding cards on the table in front of them, from the left and neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner; players should refrain from touching any bidding cards until they have determined their call. A call is considered to have been made when the bidding card is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent (but Law 25 may apply and if a player's mind was elsewhere as he makes an unintended call the "pause for thought" should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error).

B. The Stop Card

A player "announces" a skip bid by placing the Stop card in front of him, then placing his bid card as usual, and eventually removing the Stop card. His LHO should not call until the Stop card has been removed. (If the Stop card has been removed hastily or has not been used, an opponent may pause as though the Stop card has been used correctly.)

C. Alerts

The EBL Alerting Policy (<http://www.eurobridge.org/departments/systems/alerts.html>) applies.

Unless screens are in use: The partner of a player who has made an alertable call must immediately alert his opponents. No explanation of the meaning of the alertable call should be made unless requested by an opponent.

It is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that his opponents are aware of the Alert.

D. Review of the Auction

Until they are removed from the table, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting the bidding cards. When such inspection is not feasible, a player may obtain a review of the auction at his first turn to play to trick one. If a player whose pass will conclude the auction removes his bidding cards from the table, he is deemed to have passed.

§ 124. Play of the Cards

During the course of play, each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time so that it can be seen by all players at the table.

Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping with tricks won pointing towards partner and tricks lost pointing towards the opponents.

§ 125. Fouled Boards

A board is considered fouled if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

A. Pairs Tournaments

When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. If guilt can be determined, a penalty of 50% of the match-points available on the board during the session is imposed on any guilty pair.

B. Teams Tournaments

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, a fouled board should be replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties may apply. replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. That match is scored as though the board has never been played, e.g., if one board is removed from a 16-board match, it is scored by means of the VP scale for 15-board matches.

The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Tournament Appeals Committee. When the Tournament Director has reason to believe the Tournament Appeals Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final session of a match, he should have a provisional board played during the session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The Tournament Director, on his own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

§ 126. Scoring at the Table and Score Corrections

A. Scoring at the Table

BridgeMates will be used for the official scoring. North or South at each table is responsible for entering the score after each board is completed; then, East or West verifies the score entered.

B. Score Corrections

An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a pair must be made not later than 30 minutes after the publication of the scores at the end of each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

C. Use of Ineligible Players

Within the calendar year of the tournament, whenever the NBU, the Organiser, or the Tournament Director becomes aware of a contestant using one or more players ineligible for the tournament in question, such contestant is immediately disqualified.

1. If the fact becomes known within the score correction period above, all results of the contestant that day are cancelled. The score of opponent is changed to the score which is assigned in case of a bye.
2. If the fact becomes known after the score correction period, the score stands.
3. In any case, the contestant is removed from the final score of the tournament, and the contestant is expected to return any medal or trophy received in the tournament with good grace.

§ 127. Tie-Breaking

A. Pairs Tournaments

Whenever two or more contestants have obtained identical final scores, their relative ranks are determined by the aggregated results in head-to-head meetings, provided that such results form a round-robin between the contestants to be compared.

If the tie is not resolved, and the head-to-head meetings do not form a round-robin, the ranks are determined by the sum of the final scores of the opponents.

If the tie is still not resolved, the relative ranks are determined by drawing of lots.

B. Teams Tournaments

Whenever two or more teams have obtained identical final scores, their relative rank is determined by the total of VPs scored in matches between those two teams. If this does not resolve the tie, the relative ranks are determined by drawing of lots.

In case of a playoff match, additional sessions of four boards are played until the match is decided.

§ 128. Appeals

A. Lodging of Appeals

1. All appeals must be lodged by the team's Captain or his designee, or by one member of the pair in the Pairs events.
2. Appeals against a Tournament Director's Ruling must:
 - a. be in writing on the special appeal form, and
 - b. be handed to the Director within thirty minutes of the end of the session during which the ruling was made, or in the case of a ruling given after the end of the session, within ten minutes of receiving the ruling or 30 minutes of the end of the session, whichever is the later, and
 - c. be accompanied by a deposit of 500 SEK (100 SEK for Youth events) or the equivalent in the local currency. This deposit will be refunded if the appellant's case is judged to have merit, even if rejected.

B. Tournament Appeals Committee

1. All appeals of rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Committee. For each appeal, the committee deciding the matter in question shall consist of 3-5 members, none of which should be a co-national of any player directly involved in the appeal.
2. On each occasion, the Chief Tournament Director appoints the Committee members among players, NPCs, officials, guests or any other deemed to be qualified by the Chief Tournament Director.
3. The WBF Code of Practice (<http://worldbridge.org/departments/appeals/codeofpractice.asp>) applies.

C. Authority of the Committee

1. During the course of any Nordic Bridge Championship, the Committee may in its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge or these Conditions of Contest, however that matter may have come to the attention of the Committee.
2. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

§ 131. Youth Pairs Championships

The Nordic Youth Pairs Championship takes place biannually (in even numbered years). The Championship comprises three classes: Juniors (U25), Youngsters (U20), and Girls (U25).

A. Participants

1. Players from all NBOs under the WBF are invited to participate.
2. There is no requirement that both members of a pair represent the same country.
3. Each NBO can send as many pairs as they like in each class.

B. Format

1. If possible, the tournaments are to be played “all against all”. If there are too many pairs for this, a Swiss movement is used.
2. The tournament should comprise at least 100 boards, played in two days.
3. Each class plays its own tournament (but see below).

C. Merging of Classes

1. Two classes (or all) can be merged into one tournament if one of them contains a low number of entries.
2. The possible merged classes are U25+U20, U25+Girls, and U25+U20+Girls.
3. Awards are given to each class separately according to the relative ranks of the participants of the class within the final score of the merged tournament. Pairs eligible for more than one class must decide before the tournament starts which class they should be considered to participate in.

D. Systems

The Youth Pairs event is considered a Category 3 event with respect to the EBL Systems Policy. As such, HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are forbidden.

E. Screens

Screens are not in use.

§ 132. Youth Teams Championships

The Nordic Youth Teams Championship takes place biannually (in odd numbered years). The Championship comprises three classes: Juniors (U25), Youngsters (U20), and Girls (U25).

A. Participants

1. Each NBO under the NBU is invited to send one participating team in each class.
2. If an odd number of teams have signed up, the Organiser may appoint one additional team. Such a team must consist of players individually eligible under § 102C, but may be transnational.

B. Format

1. The tournament is played as a round-robin between all participating teams in one group.
2. The schedule shall ensure that teams representing the same NBO play each other as early as possible, normally during the first three rounds of the tournament.
3. The new “continuous” WBF VP scale is used.
4. There are no seating rights. Both teams must submit their line-up without knowing that of the opponents.

C. Awards

1. Awards are given to each class separately according to the relative ranks of the participants of the class within the final score of the merged tournament. A team added under § 132A2 cannot win any award.
2. For the NBU Trophy, each NBO designates one participating team. The NBU Trophy rankings are calculated from the results of the matches between the designated teams only. If an NBO does not explicitly designate a team for the NBU Trophy, by default it will be the U25, U20, or Girls team, in order of priority.

D. Systems

The Youth Teams event is considered a Category 3 event with respect to the EBL Systems Policy. As such, HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are forbidden.

E. Screens

Screens are in use. The EBL Screen Regulations apply.

§ 133. Teams Championships

The Nordic Teams Championship takes place biannually (in odd numbered years). The Championship comprises two classes: Open and Women.

A. Participants

1. Each NBO under the NBU is invited to send one participating team in each class.
2. If an odd number of teams have signed up, the Organiser may appoint an additional team. Results obtained by such a team count in the final rankings, but the team itself is not eligible for awards. The team must play against the other team from the same NBO as early as possible in each part of the round-robin.

B. Format

1. Each class plays its own tournament.
2. With 5 or 6 teams, the tournament is played as a double round robin, 16 boards per match.
3. With 4 teams, the tournament is played as a double round robin, 16 boards per match, followed by a gold/silver medal match for the 1st and 2nd placed teams and a bronze medal match for the two other teams, both matches of 4x16 boards.
4. The schedule of the second round robin is based on the rankings after the first round robin.
 - a. With 6 teams, the pairings are (6-4, 3-1, 5-2), (2-3, 4-5, 1-6), (4-1, 6-2, 3-5), (6-3, 5-1, 2-4), (1-2, 3-4, 5-6).
 - b. With 5 teams, the pairings for 6 teams are used; rank 6 representing a bye.
 - c. With 4 teams, the pairings are (1-4, 2-3), (1-3, 2-4), (1-2, 3-4).
5. The new "continuous" WBF VP scale is used in the round robin.
6. For playoff matches, there will be a carry-over of the aggregate imp score from the head-to-head matches in the round robin. The team with the higher aggregate imp score in the head-to-head matches will receive half of the imp difference if they finished higher in the round robin than their opponents, one third of the imp difference if they finished lower. However, the maximum carry-over will be 12imps. The higher placed team will be the home team.

7. Seating rights:

- a. In the round robin, both teams must submit their line-up without knowing that of the opponents.
- b. In playoff matches, the home team chooses one session in which they have seating rights; the away team will have seating rights in the other session of the same half of the match. The away team then chooses one of the remaining sessions in which they have seating rights, and the home team will have seating rights in the other session of that half of the match. The home team may pass on to the opponents the right to choose first.
- c. Exception: Whenever a team wishes to use a HUM, its opponents will have the seating rights; this applies to round robin and playoff matches alike.

C. Awards

In addition to awards given in each class, the NBU Trophy rankings are calculated by adding the VPs scored by the teams in each class.

1. The results obtained by a team added under § 133A2 are not included, but results obtained against such a team are included.
2. When there is a tournament of 4 teams, the imps obtained in each session of a playoff match are converted into VPs. In addition, teams participating in the gold/silver match are awarded a bonus of 10 VPs for NBU Trophy purposes.

D. Systems

The Teams Championships event is considered a Category 1 event with respect to the EBL Systems Policy. As such, all systems are allowed.

E. Screens

Screens are in use. The EBL Screen Regulations apply.