



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

7th EUROPEAN MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

(19th - 22nd March 2002)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The 2002 European Mixed Teams Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the League"). The Championship will be played under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997, and these Regulations whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the said Laws as required.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- (a) Participation in the Championship is by invitation of the League. Subject to the unfettered discretion of the League's Credentials Committee:
- (i) Nomination of a Team must be made by one (and only one) NBO.
 - (ii) Invitations will be issued to teams of four, five or six comprising at least two men and two women at least one of whom is a member of good standing of the NBO nominating the Team, and the remaining members of the Team are members of good standing of the same or one or more other NBOs.
 - (iii) All members of the Team are members of an NBO or NBOs which is/are of good standing with the League and has/have paid its/their 2002 and all previous years dues.
- (b) to be eligible for invitation teams should be nominated on or before the 31st January 2002 to:

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2. ENTRY FEES

- (a) Amount
The entry fee is 1,000 Swiss Francs per team.
- (b) Payment

The entry fees must be paid in cash (Swiss Francs or Euros) at the Registration Desk between 10.00 and 13.00 on 19th March 2002.

3. NATURE OF COMPETITION

- (a) The European Mixed Team Championship shall consist of:
- (i) 12 rounds of Swiss Teams matches of 10 boards per round.
 - (ii) The leading four teams will then qualify for semi-finals of head-on matches of 32 boards; the first placed team shall choose for its opponent either the third or the fourth placed team and the remaining two qualified teams will play each other.
 - (iii) The two winning semi-finalists will play a head-on match of 32 boards to determine winner and runner-up. The two losing semi-finalists will play a head-on match of 32 boards to determine third and fourth places.
 - (iv) The remaining teams will play a further 4 rounds of Swiss Teams matches of 10 boards per round to determine the places from fifth downwards.
- (b) For the first round teams will be assigned their opponents by the Chief Tournament Director with teams of approximately the same ranking (in the opinion of the Chief Tournament Director) playing each other and so as to ensure wherever possible that teams from the same NBO do not play against each other;
- (c) For the second to sixteenth rounds inclusive of the Swiss Teams matches each team will have assigned as its opponent the team that it has not played against with the score closest to its own.
- (d) Errors in the assigning of opponents shall not invalidate the result of that or any other match;
- (e) The result of each Swiss Teams match shall be converted into Victory Points on the following scale:

<u>Difference in Imps</u>	<u>Victory Points</u>
0 - 1	15 - 15
2 - 6	16 - 14
7 - 9	17 - 13
10 - 12	18 - 12
13 - 16	19 - 11
17 - 20	20 - 10
21 - 24	21 - 9
25 - 28	22 - 8
29 - 32	23 - 7
33 - 36	24 - 6
37 - 40	25 - 5
41 - 45	25 - 4
46 - 50	25 - 3
51 - 55	25 - 2
56 - 61	25 - 1
62 and more	25 - 0

- (f) Should there be an odd number of teams at any stage and it is decided to form a threesome the arrangements for this will be announced at the time.
- (g) For tie-splitting see Regulation 17 below.

4. PARTNERSHIPS AND POLARITY

- (a) Each partnership for each team must at all times consist of a man and a woman
- (b) Men sit North or West throughout; women South or East.

5. SCHEDULE OF PLAY

The Schedule of Play is as follows:

Tuesday 19th March

10.00 - 13.00 hrs	Registration	
14.00 hrs	First Session	Four matches

Wednesday 20th March

10.00 hrs	Second Session	Two matches
16.00 hrs	Third Session	Three matches

Thursday 21st March

10.00 hrs	Fourth Session	Three matches
16.30 hrs	Semi-finals	32 boards
16.30 hrs	Fifth Session	Two matches

Friday 22nd March

10.00 hrs	Final and Third Place match	32 boards
10.00 hrs	Sixth Session	Two matches
15.30 hrs	Prize-Giving and Cocktail Buffet	

6. TABLE OF PRIZES

Honours and cash prizes will be awarded.

7. PERMITTED SYSTEMS

- (a) The European Bridge League Systems Policy as revised January 2000 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") applies to the Championship.
Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted except that Category 2 systems are permitted in the semi-finals, playoff for 3rd place and the final.
- (b) Apart from in semi-finals, the final and 3rd place match, a psychic call of an artificial or conventional opening bid is forbidden.
- (c) 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.

8. CONVENTION CARD

- (a) Each pair must complete legibly in English four copies of the League's Official Convention Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.
Two copies must be handed to the Tournament Organizers at least 30 minutes before the start of the Championship. One copy of the Convention Card must be handed to each opponent before the start of each match.
- (b) Failure to complete the Convention Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may give rise to the imposition of procedural penalties.
In particular the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty of 1 VP for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate Convention Card. (The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score that the Chief Tournament Director deems appropriate because of damage caused to the opponent.)

9. TIME ALLOWED

Players are expected to complete a ten board Swiss Teams match in one hour twenty minutes. The Chief Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards from players if in his opinion the match would otherwise exceed the allotted time of one hour twenty minutes.

If an unplayed board or boards is removed:

- (i) the match will be scored on the results of the played boards, but
- (ii) if the Chief Tournament Director determines that one side did not contribute to the slow play, 3imps per unplayed board will be awarded additionally in favour of the non-offending side.

10. SCREENS AND BIDDING BOXES

Screens and bidding boxes will be used throughout and their use is mandatory.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are respectively screenmates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.

Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but Law 25 may apply). North and South pass the tray under the screen after their screenmate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screenmate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards. Other than for play of the cards there shall be no oral communication through the screen until the end of play.

The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997, are in effect 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 screenmate. But he should try to avoid exposure of a premature opening lead or an opening lead from the wrong hand.

Review of the Auction:

Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. 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 screenmate with the screen aperture closed.

Explanation of Calls:

1. During the Auction:

At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.

2. During the Play Period:

Questions during the play period shall be in writing with the aperture closed. The aperture is opened again after the response has been made in writing.

LAWS 25 THROUGH 32; LAWS 36 THROUGH 39:

In respect of these laws the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not Passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate (or the offender himself) shall call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The Director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted. The limitation of score under Law 25B does not apply if the original call has not passed through the screen.

B. Both Sides at Fault:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These Infringing calls may not be accepted.

C. Only One Side at Fault:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction - East or West - also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

D. Irregularity not Noticed:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

E. Information - Authorized or not:

Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnership one or both of whom is/are at fault but authorized for a partnership neither of whom has committed an irregularity. If the Director determines that the unauthorized information from withdrawn calls precludes normal bidding, he shall award an artificial adjusted score.

LAW 33:

The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.

LAW 40:

Alerts: When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screenmate. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call.

LAW 41A:

Opening Lead out of Turn:

The offender's screenmate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side:

- a) and the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.
- b) and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card. When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

LAW 73D:

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray.

A delay of the bidding tray on one side of the screen of up to 15 seconds (at any time during the auction and whether or not out of tempo) shall not give rise to any inference of unauthorized information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses up to 15 seconds can be considered normal.

LAW 76:

Spectators:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen. Spectators must not hold conversation during the auction and play of a board and, until it is too late for the players to obtain a ruling, they have a responsibility not to call attention to any error or irregularity they believe they may have observed.

11. ALERTING

Any call which:

- (i) has a special or artificial meaning, or
- (ii) whose partnership meaning may not be understood by the opponents

is an "alertable call" which must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the "alert procedure".

The "alert procedure" is as follows:

A player who makes an "alertable call" alerts his screenmate 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.

When the bidding tray is returned to their side of the screen both players are obliged, before either has made a further call, to alert their screen-mate if partner's call is an "alertable call"; using the "alert procedure".

It is the obligation of the player making an "alert" to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an "alert" has been made.

12. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

As a team ceasing to participate in the Championship will create a bye, and consequently cause inconvenience to other competitors, the rule is that all teams are expected to participate until the end of the Championship. Any team failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined.

If a team believes it cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason it should seek permission to withdraw from the Chief Tournament Director.

13. ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT

Participation in the European Mixed Teams Championship is by invitation of the League. The privilege of representing one's country as a participant in the Championship is not an inalienable right. Rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in matchpoints or monetary fines, and because participants appear as public representatives rather than as private individuals, observance of the highest standards is imperative. Players are therefore required to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. Each player is reminded that it is a breach of ethics to break a law or regulation deliberately even if willing to accept a prescribed penalty.

Players shall receive all decisions of the Directors and the Appeals Committee in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

To leave the table unnecessarily before the end of a match is a breach of propriety and a violation of law.

14. APPEALS COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Tournament Appeals Committee. An appeals committee appointed to hear an appeal shall consist of the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the League's Appeals Committee (one of whom shall be its Chairman, failing which the Chairman shall nominate a member to chair the committee) and not less than two other persons nominated by the Chairman of the League's Appeals Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

The Appeals Committee, also constituting for the Championship the national authority under law 93C., shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of law, and to take such advice as it thinks fit, whether under the Laws or these Regulations, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

The WBF Code of Practice applies, save that no co-national of any player involved in an appeal may participate as a member of that appeals committee. The Chief Director is authorized as the Code of Practice recommends to apply Law 12C3 in appropriate circumstances. A co-Chief Tournament Director is authorized to act for, and with all the powers of, the Chief Tournament Director in any matter.

15. LODGING OF APPEALS

- (a) An appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director must:
 - (i) be in writing on the special appeal form;

- (ii) be lodged (by handing to the Chief Tournament Director) within thirty minutes of the end of the match during which the ruling was made; or, in the case of a ruling given after the end of a match, within ten minutes of receiving the ruling or 30 minutes of the end of the match, whichever is the later;
- (iii) be accompanied by a deposit of Euro 60.
- (b) An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a team must:
 - (i) be made not later than 30 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of each session;
 - (ii) be accompanied by a deposit of Euro 30.
- (c) Deposits will be refunded if the appellant's case is judged to have merit, even if rejected.

16. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

All players are reminded that English is the official language in which they should converse during play. Once cards have been removed from the board no language other than English may be used at the table without the agreement of all four players.

17. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

(a) Journalists

- (i) Application of these Rules and Regulations.
All journalists are invitees of the League and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, to which they are subject.
- (ii) Accreditation
All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the League 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 League and the IBPA, the view of the League shall prevail.

(b) Spectators

- (i) Application of these Rules and Regulations.
All Spectators are invitees of the League and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, and the laws of the game, to which they are subject.
- (ii) Watching at table.
Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Chief Tournament Director (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) it is hoped (but not guaranteed) that a limited amount of watching at table by spectators will be permitted. In which event the following shall generally apply, subject to the right reserved to the Chief Tournament Director to prescribe more restrictive regulations.

No more than four spectators (including journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where "pits" are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)

Spectators must remain at one table. The observance of this regulation is particularly important. Any spectator who attempts to move to a second table (for example, to follow a moving East-West pair) will be required to leave the room for the remainder of the Session and at the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee may be subjected to greater penalties.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.

Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident no special interest may be shown.

Sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.

18. TIE BREAKING

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their ranking will be determined as follows:

- (a) (i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated (for example: Team A played against Teams B, C and D. Team B scored 40 VPs, Team C 36 VPs and Team D 24 VPs. Team A has 100 "Swiss Points".)
- (ii) The Team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.
- (b) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points" their ranking will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

19. NON SMOKING

Smoking in the playing area and toilets is prohibited.

No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke.

Any player found to be smoking during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points, plus a fine of Euro 60. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

20. ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and toilets is prohibited.

No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol.

Any player found consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points, plus a fine of Euro 60. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

21. MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones may not be brought into the playing area and toilets.

Any player bringing a mobile phone into the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points, plus a fine of Euro 100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

22. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the League if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the Championship.