



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

SUPPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

8th EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN MONTECATINI, ITALY JUNE 10 – JUNE 24, 2017

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Preamble

The 8th European Open Championships (EOC) will be hosted at the Monolandia Village, Via Ponte Dei Bari 5, in Montecatini Terme, Italy, from 10-24 June 2017.

The EOC will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League (EBL). Unless stated otherwise in these Regulations, the EOC shall be governed by the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the EBL General Conditions of Contest (GCoC).

The EOC will consist of Pairs and Teams medal events in the categories Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed as well as Open Pairs and Teams side events. All events will be transnational and there will be no restriction on the number of entries per NBO.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1.1 Right of Entry

Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.

All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Teams will be issued to teams of four, five or six (comprising at least two men and two women in the Mixed event).

All members of a team and both members of a pair in Senior events must be born in 1957 or earlier.

1.2 Competitor's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players in Pairs events and Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams events are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form.

1.3 Registration

All entries to the medal events must be submitted electronically using the following link <http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/17Montecatini/Microsite/Participants.htm> on the website. The deadline for guaranteed participation is 7 days prior to the start of the respective event. Applications submitted after this deadline will be accepted only if technically and logistically convenient.

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval.

Withdrawals of accepted entries must be acknowledged by email to webmaster@europeanbridge.org latest 5 days prior to the start of the respective event to allow a refund of the entry fee (minus costs). Those who fail to notify withdrawals by this date may incur disciplinary sanctions.

Further information is available at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/17Montecatini/Microsite/information.htm>

2. ENTRY FEES

All information concerning how to pay what amounts, and any applicable discounts, is available at <http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/17Montecatini/Microsite/information.htm#Fees>

3. SCHEDULE OF PLAY

For up to date information regarding the programme and details of the schedule refer to <http://www.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/17Montecatini/Microsite/information.htm>

Provisional programme, subject to change depending on entries:

DATES	MEDAL EVENT	OTHER EVENT
Saturday 10 June - Tuesday 13 June	Mixed Teams	
Monday 12 June		Open BAM
Tuesday 13 June – Friday 16 June	Mixed Pairs	
Thursday 15 June – Friday 16 June		EBL Cup
Saturday 17 June – Wednesday 21 June	Open Teams	
Saturday 17 June – Tuesday 20 June	Women/Seniors Teams	
Monday 19 June		Open BAM
Tuesday 20 Jun – Saturday 24 June	Open Pairs	
Tuesday 20 Jun – Thursday 22 June	Women/Senior Pairs	
Friday 23 Jun – Saturday 24 June		Open Pairs event

4. DROP-INS FOR MEDAL PAIRS EVENTS

4.1 Open Pairs

Provided they have already registered and paid for the Open Pairs medal event at the stipulated time, pairs formed by players from teams still playing in the Open Teams at the start of the qualifying stage of the Open Pairs may enter the Open Pairs in the semi-final stage. However, such a player may form a pair also with a player who did not participate in the same, or indeed any, team in the Open Teams competition. A team with four players may contribute a maximum of two, and a team with five/six players a maximum of three, drop-in pairs.

These pairs will be awarded a carry-over. The carryover formula will be published when the number of participating pairs is known.

4.2 Mixed Pairs

The arrangements and conditions for drop in pairs for the Open Pairs medal event shall apply also to the Mixed Pairs medal event quid pro quo.

4.3 Women Pairs and Senior Pairs

The arrangements and conditions for drop in pairs for the Open Pairs medal event shall apply also to the Women Pairs and Senior Pairs medal events quid pro quo except that the drop in will be to the second stage of the respective Pairs events..

5. TEAMS COMPETITIONS

5.1 General

In the qualifying stages in all categories the results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In Section 5.2 hereunder the details of format and number of boards are based on the anticipated numbers of participants, and subject to change once the exact numbers are known.

In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match. When there are an odd number of teams the bye team will receive 12 VPs.

5.2 Open, Mixed, Women and Seniors Teams

i) The qualifying stage will be played either as a round robin or as a Swiss with 10 matches of 10 boards each. The top 32 or 16 teams in the Open, the top 16 in the Mixed and the top 8 or 4 (depending on participation, in the respective series) in the Women and Seniors will advance to the knockout stage. There will be no carry-over from the qualifying stage to the knockout.

ii) The number of boards played in each knockout stage is shown below:

	R32	R16	QF	SF	F
Mixed	-	2x14	2x14	2x14	2x14
Open (32)	2x14	2x14	2x14	2x14	4x14 or 3x16
Open (16)		2x14	2x14	4x14 or 3x16	4x14 or 3x16
Women (8)	-	-	2x14	2x14	4x14 or 3x16
Women (4)	-	-	-	4x14 or 3x16	
Seniors (8)	-	-	2x14	2x14	4x14 or 3x16
Seniors (4)	-	-	-	4x14 or 3x16	

iii) A fixed bracket (see example for 16 teams in Appendix 1) will be created. Thus there is no re-seeding between rounds and a lower ranked team that beats a higher ranked team takes over that higher ranked team's seed-number.

iv) In the Open knockout, in the event of 32 teams qualifying, the teams placed 1st-8th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-8. They, in that order, get to choose their "round of 32" opponents from the teams placed

17th-32th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 32-25 respectively. The remaining seed nos. 9-24 are assigned according to the original seeding made before the start and published as soon as possible. In the event of only 16 teams qualifying for the knockout stage the procedure described in (v) below will be followed.

v) In the Mixed knockout, the teams placed 1st-4th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-4. They, in that order, get to choose their "round of 16" opponents from the teams placed 9th-16th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed nos. 16-13 respectively. The remaining seed nos. 5-12 are assigned according to the original seeding made before the start and published as soon as possible.

vi) Players from teams not qualifying for the knockout stage in the Open and Mixed Teams have the right to enter the next day's BAM event free of charge.

vii) In the Women and Seniors knockout, in the event of 4 qualifiers the teams placed 1st-2nd in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-2. The winner of the Swiss gets to choose its semi-final opponent from the teams placed 3rd-4th in the Swiss. Such chosen team is assigned seed no. 4.

In the event of 8 qualifiers the teams placed 1st- 2nd in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-2. They, in that order, get to choose their quarter final opponents from the teams placed 5th-8th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed numbers 8 – 7 respectively. The remaining seed nos. 3-6 are assigned according to the original seeding made before the start and published as soon as possible.

viii) Players from teams not qualifying for the knockout stage in the Women and Senior Teams have the right to enter the pairs event held on the last two days of the Championships free of charge.

ix) There will be no play off for 3rd place. In all series the losing teams of the semi-finals will both receive bronze medals, and the players will receive the average of EBL Master Points for 3rd and 4th place.

x) If the final number of entries in any of the Teams competition is very different from the expectations the format may be changed. This will be published in the Daily Bulletin prior to the start of the relevant event.

5.3. Tie Breaking

5.3.1 Swiss

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

i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated and the team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.

ii) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

5.3.2 Direct Knockout

All matches except the Finals:

If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, it will be resolved by playing one board (“sudden-death”) matches.

Finals:

If a tie exists at the end of the Final knockout match it will be resolved by playing four additional boards (boards 1-4). If the tie still remains one board (“sudden death”) matches will determine the winner.

6. PAIRS COMPETITIONS

The formats and number of boards in this section are based on the anticipated numbers of participants, and subject to change once the exact numbers are known.

6.1 Open Pairs

The competition consists of three stages; Qualifying, Semi-final and Final.

It is anticipated that the the format of each stage, except the Finals, will be either sessions of 26 board Mitchells or sessions of 10 boards Mitchells (both played in two-board rounds). 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). In any stage where 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.

(If the format is 10 board Mitchel movements then 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.)

6.1.1 Qualifying

The qualification will consist of 104 boards. Depending on the number of entries and technical considerations approx. 1/3 of the pairs playing the qualification, plus drop-ins (see section 4 above), will qualify for the A semi-final, and the rest for the B semi-final.

6.1.2 Semi-final A and semi-final B

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.5 below) from the qualification.

The semi-finals will consist of 52 boards. 46 pairs from semi-final A and 6 pairs from semi-final B will qualify for the final.

6.1.3 Final

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.5 below) from the semi-finals.

The final will consist of 102 boards, and will be played in a barometer Endless Howell movement.

6.2 Women and Seniors Pairs

Each competition will be played as a match pointed event in two stages: a two day Qualifying and a one day Final.

6.2.1 Qualifying

Depending on the final number of entries in the respective Series it will be played either

- i) as a “Swiss”, with a one round delay and the two first rounds seeded, or
- ii) as a “Mitchell” . If each pair does not play against most of the other pairs the field will be divided into sections that may be seeded so as to achieve a reasonable balance.
- iii) as a Round Robin

In each case, depending on the number of entries and technical considerations, approx. 1/3 of the pairs, plus drop-ins (see section 4 above), will qualify for the Finals.

6.2.2 Final

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.5 below) from the qualification.

Depending on the number of qualifiers in the respective Series it will be played either

- i) as a “Swiss”, with a one round delay and the two first rounds seeded
- ii) as a Mitchell
- iii) as a barometer Endless Howell.

6.3 Mixed Pairs

The competition consists of three stages; Qualifying, Semi-final and Final.

6.3.1 Qualifying

The qualification will consist of 52 boards. Depending on the number of entries and technical considerations approx. 1/3 of the pairs playing the qualification, plus drop-ins (see section 4 above), will qualify for the A semi-final, and the rest for the B semi-final.

6.3.2 Semi-final A and semi-final B

Details will be published when the number of entries is known.

6.3.3 Final

There will be a carry-over score (see section 6.5 below) from the semi-finals.

The final will consist of 102 boards, and will be played in a barometer Endless Howell movement.

6.4 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.

6.5 Carry-overs

As mentioned above there will be carry-over scores between the various stages in the Pairs competitions. The exact amount of carry-over may vary from event to event, and 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, prior to the start of each event.

7. SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

7.1 Systems Policy

All events at these championships are designated Category 3 events. Consequently, neither HUM Systems nor Brown Sticker conventions, as defined by the EBL Systems Policy as revised September 2013 (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.

7.2 System (Convention) Cards

7.2.1 Teams Competitions

i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the WBF's or 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 before the start of the match. During the knockout phase each team delivers a copy of each system to its opponents as soon as the matches to be played are decided. Detailed instructions will be given at the captains' meeting.

7.2.2 Pairs Competitions

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.

7.2.3 Teams and Pairs Competitions

Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties.

In particular the Chief Tournament Director shall impose a procedural penalty (of 1 VP for Teams events and of 25% of the match-points available on a board for Pairs events) 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.

During a match or round changes in system cards are normally not allowed. If a team nevertheless wants to change a system card it lodges a request with the Chief Tournament Director, who needs to approve such change.

8. TIME ALLOWED

8.1 Pairs events

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

The Chief Tournament Director may remove un-played or partly-played boards from pairs who are persistently slow.

8.1.1 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 Chief 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.

8.1.2 If a partly-played board is removed:

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

8.1.3 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 Chief Director ranging from 10% of a top up to the standard penalty (see Section 22 of GCOC). These penalties are in addition to any boards removed and scored as 40%

8.2 Teams events

Players are expected to complete each 10 board Swiss Teams match in one hour thirty minutes; each 14 board session in knockout matches in two hours. The Chief Tournament Director may remove un-played boards from players if in his opinion the match would otherwise exceed the allotted time, but only if the board has not been played in the other room.

If any such un-played board is removed:

- i) the match will be scored on the results of the played boards, and

ii) The Chief Tournament Director will award 3 IMPs for each such un-played board to the non-offending side (if any).

iii) For otherwise cancelled boards the Chief Tournament Director will deal with them according to Law 86d and the WBFLC interpretation of it.

8.2.1 Late arrival in teams events

All participants should be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time. Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time will receive a warning for a first offence during that phase of the event for being up to 5 minutes late. Late arrivals of more than 5 minutes, or further late arrivals, will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Chief Director. For knockout matches the penalty will range from half the standard penalty to the standard penalty. For other team matches the penalty will range from 0.5 VP to the standard penalty. For standard penalties refer Section 22 of GCOC)

9. LINE-UPS AND SEATING IN TEAMS EVENTS

9.1 Line-Ups

9.1.1 Swiss

In each match of the Swiss, the first named team will be the Home Team and there is no requirement to submit line-ups in advance.

9.1.2 Direct Knockout

Line-ups shall be submitted in accordance with section 9.1.4.

9.1.3 Direct Knockout: Tie-Breaking Matches

When a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, there shall be a coin toss to determine Home Team rights for the tie-breaking stage. The captain of the Visiting Team shall submit his line-up at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director, and the captain of the Home Team shall submit his line-up immediately thereafter.

9.1.4 Direct Knockout: Line-up Times

Line-ups for the knockout will be explained on site. A team having the choice of seating rights must exercise these rights before the end of the Captains' meeting. The Visiting Team shall submit its line-up no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session, or at such other time as the Chief Tournament Director determines. The Home Team shall submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the session: provided that if the team required to submit its line-up first is late, the other team shall be allowed 5 minutes from the time of such late submission in which to submit its line-up.

Violation of these time schedules will be subject to IMP penalties according to the following scale, and the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until 10 minutes before start of play.

☒ First occasion – a written warning

☒ Second occasion – 1 IMP penalty

☒ Subsequently – 3 IMPs penalty for each occasion

9.2 Seating

9.2.1 Swiss

In the Swiss, the designated Home Team (see section 9.1.1) sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match. The Home Team has the right to seat its players after the Visiting Team has done so.

9.2.2 Direct Knockout

The team with seating rights (see below) is designated as the Home team, and sits NS in the Open Room.

- i) Two sessions: The lowest seed number may choose to have seating rights for the first or second session. A team not exercising its rights within the required time (see Section 9.1.4) will have seating rights for the second session.
- ii) Three sessions: The lower seed number may select any of the three stanzas in which to have seating rights and the opponents then have seating rights in the other two stanzas. OR they may pass this right over; in other words, let the opponents take first choice of stanza leaving them with the remaining two stanzas.
- iii) Four sessions: Each match will be divided into two portions of two Sessions each. The lower numbered team elects in which session (of which portion) it wants to have the seating rights; the opponents then automatically have seating rights in the other session (of that portion). The higher numbered team has seating rights as above for the remaining portion.

9.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms

The rooms respectively referred to as the “Open” and the “Closed” rooms shall be so designated in each match (or session) by the Operation Director or his designee.

10. ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITION IN PAIRS EVENTS

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.

11. PARTNERSHIPS FOR MIXED EVENTS

Each partnership must at all times consist of a man and a woman.

12. MANDATORY PENALTIES IN PAIRS EVENTS

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

13. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE

Leaving the table needlessly before the round 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. 22.2 in GCoC).

14. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the last session of each stage provided it so notifies the Chief Tournament Director in writing no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director and the Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

If 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 and the Operations Director.

15. SUBSTITUTE CAPTAINS

The Captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. Such an appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.

16. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY IN TEAM EVENTS

16.1 Non-playing Pairs

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing.

16.2 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 may be penalized up to the standard penalty (Sec. 22.2 in GCoC).

16.3 Finish of Play

At each table, when play has finished, the players should agree the score and then leave the room as quickly and quietly as possible.

17. SCORING AT THE TABLE

Bridgemates will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

18. SCORE CORRECTIONS

The correction period in Law 79C expires at the time specified; and thereafter, the result will be final, with the following exceptions:

- i) Awaiting decision of the Reviewer on a filed appeal;

ii) Completion of play of replay boards where such replay has been ordered by the Chief Tournament Director, the Reviewer or their designee.

iii) 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 before the starting time of the next 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.

iv) 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.

19. APPEALS: REVIEW PROCEDURE

The Review Procedure outlined in Section 31 of the GCoC shall apply.

20. 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.

21. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

Journalists and spectators are subject to the provisions, conditions and restrictions laid out in Section 27 of the GCoC and section 22 hereunder.

22. SECURITY

No player or team official or non-participant is allowed at the Championship Playing Areas without displaying the personal identification badge.

23. AWARDS & PRIZES

23.1 Titles and Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded in each medal competition, in both Teams and Pairs. Winners will receive the title of European Open Champion.

Awards will be given to leading European Pairs (both players being members of an EBL NBO).

The highest ranked European pairs in the Open, Women and Seniors Pairs will be awarded the "Giorgio Belladonna Trophy", the "Annamaria Torlontano Trophy", and the "European Senior Trophy", respectively, with replicas going to the top three European pairs in each series..

23.2 Master Points

EBL Master Points will be awarded in all events.

WBF, Zonal and National Master Points may be awarded according to the respective Master Point rules and regulations of those organizations.

24. 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.

25. 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 Contract Bridge.

26. 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

APPENDIX 1: Example of Fixed Bracket for 16 teams

