



**EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**

*57th European Teams Championships*

# **SUPPLEMENTAL** **CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**



**57th EUROPEAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**HELD IN RIGA, LATVIA**

27 JUNE – 7 JULY, 2026

**Published by the European Bridge League**

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# Table of Contents

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<b>1. INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Introduction .....	4
1.2 Format .....	4
1.3 Draw .....	4
1.4 Provisional Programme and Timetable .....	4
<b>2. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Registration .....	6
2.1.1 Registration of Teams and Players' Names .....	6
2.1.2 Right to enter .....	6
2.1.3 Competitor's Commitment .....	6
2.2 Team Members .....	7
2.3 Credentials Committee .....	7
<b>3. SYSTEMS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Systems Policy .....	8
3.2 Submission of Systems (in all Championships) .....	8
3.3 Format of Cards for submission .....	8
<b>4. RULES FOR RUNNING THE TEAMS MATCHES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Composition and seating of teams .....	10
4.1.1 Designation of teams .....	10
4.1.2 Line-up procedure .....	10
4.1.3 Seating of Teams where no HUM systems may be in use .....	10
4.1.4 Seating and Line-up of Teams where a HUM system may be in use by one team .....	10
4.1.5 Seating of Teams where 'HUM systems may be used by both teams .....	11
4.1.6 Seating of Teams where "Brown Stickers" may be in use .....	11
4.2 Period of Play and penalties for slow play .....	11
4.2.1 Start of the round .....	11
4.2.2 End of the period of play .....	11
4.3 Playing Area .....	12
4.4 End of rounds, results .....	12
4.4.1 IMP scale .....	12
4.4.2 VP Scale .....	12
4.5 Protest time .....	12

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4.6	Publication of decisions .....	12
4.7	Byes, Ranking and Ties .....	13
4.7.1	<i>Byes</i> .....	13
4.7.2	<i>Ranking</i> .....	13
4.7.3	<i>Ties</i> .....	13
4.8	Tablets and screens .....	13
<hr/>		
5.	<b>RULINGS AND APPEALS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
6.	<b>SECURITY .....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.	<b>DRESS CODE .....</b>	<b>14</b>
8.	<b>AWARDS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
9.	<b>CHANGES IN REGULATIONS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
10.	<b>CONFLICTING REGULATIONS.....</b>	<b>16</b>

# 1

## INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE

### 1.1 Introduction

The 57<sup>th</sup> European Team Championships ("the Championships") are to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in the International Exhibition Centre, Kipsalas Street 8, Riga from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2026. The Championships consist of 4 categories: Open Teams, Women's Teams, Seniors' Teams and Mixed Teams. All events will end on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2026.

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 in accordance with Section 9.

### 1.2 Format

All 4 Championships will be played as a single complete round robin. The number of boards played in each match will be determined and published when the number of participants is known.

The Open Championship will be played over 11 days, and the Women's, Seniors', and Mixed Championships will be played over 7 days.

### 1.3 Draw

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published in the programme and on the EBL website for the Championships. In the event of a variation in the number of teams participating, adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be notified in the daily bulletin or, if necessary, at the captains' meeting.

### 1.4 Provisional Programme and Timetable

Event	Date
Open Teams Registration	Friday 26 June
Open Captains meeting	Friday 26 June
All Pairs Registration	Monday 26 June

Event	Date
W/S/M National Pairs	Saturday June 27 – Monday June 29
Opening Ceremony	Monday June 30 (4 Teams Championships) 19:30
Open Teams	Saturday June 27 - Tuesday July 7
Women's Teams	Wednesday July 1 - Tuesday July 7
Seniors' Teams	Wednesday July 1 - Tuesday July 7
Mixed Teams	Wednesday July 1 - Tuesday July 7
Prize-Giving & Closing	Tuesday July 7 19:00

# 2

## ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

### 2.1 Registration

#### 2.1.1 Registration of Teams and Players' Names

Registration to the Championships of teams must be submitted via the EBL electronic registration system (not by email) at

<https://db.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/26riga/microsite/participants.asp>

no later than 22:00 CEST 7 June 2026.

Names of players, captains and officials must be registered as above no later than 22:00 CEST 14 June 2026.

#### 2.1.2 Right to enter

Each member NBO is authorised to enter one team in each Championship. NBOs must have paid the entry fee and be in good standing including payment of 2024 dues to the EBL.

Each participating NBO must play against all other participating NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play may result in disqualification and possible disciplinary measures.

Each pair in the Mixed Team Championship must consist of one player of each gender.

To participate in the Senior Championship a player must have been born **before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962**.

#### 2.1.3 Competitor's Commitment

Attention is drawn to Article 2.8 of the EBL GCoC. Players, Captains, Coaches and other team officials are required to have signed the EBL Competitor's Commitment Form [EBL Participant's Commitment](#).

#### Entry fees

- € 4,000 for the Open Teams,
- € 3,000 for the Mixed Teams
- € 2,500 for the Women Teams,
- € 2,500 for the Seniors Teams.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 20 June 2026 to

## **UBS SWITZERLAND AG**

PIAZZA COL. C. BERNASCONI 5 6830 CHIASSO

Account name: **European Bridge League**

IBAN: **CH94 0023 6236 2129 6360 L**

Swift code: **UBSWCHZH68B**

Or through Paypal, here: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/CLFEU2EWVJVAS>

## **2.2 Team Members**

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach or team-manager, each team is entitled to have six members. An NBO may change or add members up to the commencement of play of the Championships, or add a fifth or sixth player after commencement of play.

All such changes are subject to the approval of the Championship and Credentials Committees.

Except with the permission of the Head TD or Operations Director, such substitute or added player must use one of the systems already filed in accordance with Section 3.2 below.

No player may play in more than one Championship.

## **2.3 Credentials Committee**

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as submitted to the EBL website in accordance with 2.1. above will be transmitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration of approval of participation.

These championships are National Representative Events for purposes of eligibility.

Only accredited people can enter the venue of the Championship.

# 3

## SYSTEMS

### 3.1 Systems Policy

The EBL's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy (Revised February 2025) apply to these Championships.

The Open and Women's Championships are classified as Category 1.

The Seniors' and Mixed Championships are classified as Category 2 (Brown sticker methods allowed, HUM not allowed).

Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

The systems must be described on System (Convention) Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with Section 11 of the GCoC, and submitted, together with Brown Sticker Announcement Forms, as described below.

### 3.2 Submission of Systems (in all Championships)

Systems for all Championships must be submitted by 23:59 CEST on 14 June 2026 via the dedicated platform: <https://championships.eurobridge.org/2026-european-national-championships/system-cards>

Cards may be amended until the deadline. Please note that VP penalties and other restrictions will apply for late submissions per the GCoC. System cards are public. Each team is responsible for printing and bringing sufficient copies of their own and their opponents' System Cards and Supplementary Sheets; the EBL will not provide printing facilities at the venue.

#### Format for Submission:

- ▶ Files must be in PDF format.
- ▶ Templates (Word/Excel) are available at: <https://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>
- ▶ Do not use the old WBF CCE format.
- ▶ Maximum of six Supplementary Sheets allowed.
- ▶ Brown Sticker Methods must use the special forms found in Appendix 2 of the EBL Systems Policy.
- ▶ Incorrectly formatted cards will be rejected.

The maximum number of Supplementary Sheets is six.

Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Methods must use the special forms provided which can be found in Appendix II of the EBL Systems Policy <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>

The opponents' filed Systems will be made available on the Internet to all teams who have filed their Systems. The URL will be sent to the captain of each team, who may also request that it is sent to other team members (e.g. the coach) by informing Francesca Canali ([info@eurobridge.org](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)) of the names and email addresses that they wish it to be sent to.

It is the obligation of each team to print and bring a sufficient number of copies of both opponents' and their own System Cards and Supplementary Sheets to the Championship. The EBL provides no facilities for teams to make copies at the venue.

# 4

## RULES FOR RUNNING THE TEAMS MATCHES

### 4.1 Composition and seating of teams

#### 4.1.1 Designation of teams

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team.

#### 4.1.2 Line-up procedure

There will be no seating rights when teams without HUM systems play each other. Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents.

Line-ups for a round have to be submitted within 10 minutes after the previous round has ended.

For the first round the details will be announced at the Captains' Meeting.

Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- ▶ 1st occasion a written (through the Championship's Communication System) warning
- ▶ 2nd occasion ½ VP penalty
- ▶ Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

These penalties will be applied automatically by the scoring system and can only be waived by the Operations Director in exceptional cases.

#### 4.1.3 Seating of Teams where no HUM systems may be in use

Where neither team contains any partnership that uses a HUM the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

#### 4.1.4 Seating and Line-up of Teams where a HUM system may be in use by one team

Where one team contains any partnership that uses a HUM the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The team that does not contain any such partnership will always be the Home Team and gets seating rights. It gets an additional 5 minutes to submit the line-up knowing the line-up of its opponent. Furthermore, a pair using a HUM has an obligation to be seated at the playing table 10 minutes before the start of the round when requested by their opponents. Notification of the request shall be given through the Championship's Communication System.

#### 4.1.5 Seating of Teams where 'HUM systems may be used by both teams

Pairs from both teams using HUM need to be seated 10 minutes in advance if either opponent so requires. Line-up will be blind.

#### **4.1.6 Seating of Teams where “Brown Stickers” may be in use**

When a team contains any partnership that uses more than one “Brown Sticker” convention all the above mentioned rules adopted for HUM Systems will be applied.

## **4.2 Period of Play and penalties for slow play**

### **4.2.1 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 0.2 VP for each completed minute. 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 Head TD 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 forfeits the match. See GCoC Appendix 1.

If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a round the fines for slow play in the same round will be based on the time at which all players were seated at the table and ready to play.

### **4.2.2 End of the period of play**

- ▶ If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the penalties outlined in GCoC 20.1.1 will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them (but see (c) below:
- ▶ If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in their opinion, including, at their discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as the TD considers desirable, or the use of available camera evidence.

The TD 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.

If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

- ▶ The Head TD may remove unplayed boards from players if in the Head TD’s opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition. The match will be scored in accordance with Section 20.1 of the GCoC and Law 86 may be applied.

### **4.3 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 buildings.

### **4.4 End of rounds, results**

#### **4.4.1 IMP scale**

The difference in the total point scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (“IMPs”).

#### **4.4.2 VP Scale**

For each match there will be 20 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the VP scale published on the EBL website.

### **4.5 Protest time**

In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day’s play 1 hour after the official finishing time of the final match but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony.

In respect of scores which are manifestly incorrect, protest time ends prior to the start of the penultimate round.

The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection.

### **4.6 Publication of decisions**

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted through the Championship’s Communication System. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it does not nullify the penalty.

### **4.7 Byes, Ranking and Ties**

#### **4.7.1 Byes**

In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 12 VPs.

#### **4.7.2 Ranking**

Final rankings will be according to the total number of VPs scored by each team.

### **4.7.3 Ties**

A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie. Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained.

The other tied teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

## **4.8 Tablets and screens**

Tablets will be used for bidding and entering results. At each table one tablet will be allocated to each player. Each player uses the tablet for bidding and scoring the result. See Regulations for Tablet Bidding on the EBL Site.

Screens will be used for all phases.

## 5

### RULINGS AND APPEALS

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

## 6

### 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 this personal tag.

## 7

### DRESS CODE

The players must comply with the EBL Dress code. Attention is drawn to the fact that this code must also be respected for Medals Ceremony.

# 8

## AWARDS

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded to the captain, coach and members of the winning top three teams in each Championship. Winners will receive the title of European Champion.

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least half of the boards played by the player's team.

The first 8 NBOs in the final rankings of the Championships, will have the right to participate in the next Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Seniors Trophy and Wuhan Cup at the World Team Championships. These numbers may be increased by the WBF under special circumstances.

The winning teams from the National Team Championships of the first 9 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will have the right to participate in the 2026 and 2027 European Open Champions' Cups.

EBL will extend this invitation to 10th /11th team in the final ranking if (a) the winner of ESFG 2025 ranks within the top nine teams of the Open Teams event and/or (b) the host and previous winner of European Champions' Cup are from an NBO that finished among top nine in the final ranking of the Open Teams.

The winning teams from the National Women Team Championships (or equivalent) of the first 9 NBOs in the final ranking of the Women Teams will have the right to participate in the 2026 and 2027 European Women's Champions' Cups.

EBL will extend this invitation to 10th /11th team in the final ranking if (a) the winner of ESFG 2025 ranks within the top nine teams of the Women Teams event and/or (b) the host and previous winner of European Champions' Cup are from an NBO that finished among top nine in the final ranking of the Women Teams.

## 9

### CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These SCoC may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the EBL if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the fair, smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the Championships.

By entering the Championships a player, official or staff member agrees to abide by these provisions.

The EBL assumes no liability for players, officials or staff members unable or not willing to adhere to such regulations.

## 10

### CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In case of a conflict between these SCoC and the GCoC, these SCoC shall prevail.

Matters not regulated here are governed by the GCoC, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and relevant provisions and regulations of the EBL or WBF.