



2018 HOME INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

(last updated 14 September 2017)

Change to 16.3 Senior's Eligibility

Update to Fixtures for future years

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1. Scope

These Rules and Regulations are established by the Expanded Committee of Bridge Great Britain (BGB) and shall apply to all matches in the Home International Series. All issues and difficulties raised prior to an event will be resolved by BGB.

During an event the Director in Charge will determine how any problems are to be resolved.

All events sponsored by BGB are played under the current version of the International Code of Laws of Duplicate Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the WBF Laws Commission as at the date of publication of these Regulations.

Bridge Great Britain is the Regulating Authority under the 2017 Laws.

2. Programme

BGB shall arrange the programme of matches which shall take place on set dates during a single competition year. A competition year runs from 1 September to 31 August of the following calendar year.

Any disputes will be resolved by the Expanded Committee of BGB.

In extreme circumstances, and on the joint application of all the countries concerned, BGB may permit a match to be rescheduled. This must be within four weeks of the due date. If the match cannot be rescheduled in good time BGB will award a match score as it sees fit.

3. Conditions of entry

The Home International Series comprises the Camrose Trophy (Open Teams), the Lady Milne Trophy (Women's Teams), the Junior Camrose Trophy (Under 26), the Peggy Bayer Trophy (Under 21), and the Teltscher Trophy (60 and over).

Participating Home NBOs (HNBO) are the English Bridge Union, the Northern Ireland Bridge Union, the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, the Scottish Bridge Union, and the Welsh Bridge Union.

To participate in the Home International Series each HNBO must pay an entry fee to BGB at the start of the competition year.

Each HNBO may enter one team in each event, but see sections 13.1 and 14.1. Each country entered must play against each other such country. Entry and subsequent refusal to play shall result in disqualification.

If a team withdraws from any of the Home International Series it will not be replaced. Matches will be rescheduled appropriately.

Each team may have up to six playing members, plus a non-playing captain.

4. Eligibility

Each nominated player and any Non Playing Captain must be a member of the HNBO for which he is selected to play, and must satisfy one or more of the following criteria to qualify to represent that HNBO:

1. He was born in the country governed by that HNBO.
2. He has a natural parent who was born in that country (parents by legal adoption count as natural parents, but parents by marriage do not).
3. He has been a bona fide resident of the country governed by that HNBO for at least two years prior to nomination.

He has previously represented that HNBO as a resident and has since moved away, but retains membership of that HNBO and has not subsequently represented any other country.

Additional criteria apply to the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy (15.3) and the Teltscher Trophy (16.3)

4.1 Proof of eligibility

It is the responsibility of each HNBO to ensure that all selected players are eligible to represent it, and to provide evidence if required to do so by BGB (prior to a match) or the Director in Charge (during a match). Failure to prove eligibility may result in the team's disqualification.

4.2 Change of eligibility

- No player may seek to play for more than one country for events in the same season.
- If a player satisfies eligibility conditions for more than one country he must state which HNBO he wishes to represent at the start of the competition year on or before 1 September. Once registered with one HNBO a player is eligible to represent only that HNBO until he notifies BGB of his desire to change allegiance.
- A player may change allegiance from one HNBO to another by registering the change with both HNBOs and the BGB Secretary by the start of a new competition year. He may not represent his new HNBO **until two full competition years have elapsed since he represented another HNBO**. Participation in an HNBO Trial does not affect eligibility to play for another country.
- Playing in a Transnational event organised by the EBL or WBF, or representing another NBO in a friendly match does not affect eligibility. Representing Ireland in an EBL or WBF event does not affect eligibility to represent the CBAI or NIBU in the Home International Series. Representing Great Britain in such an event does not affect eligibility to represent England, Scotland, or Wales. The Commonwealth Games bridge event has no formal standing, and is not affected by either WBF or EBL eligibility regulations.

5. Organisation of matches

5.1 General procedures

The organising HNBO is responsible for providing copies of the Laws, these Rules and Regulations, copies of the "Statement of Procedure in BGB Appeal Committees", and other relevant documents. The BGB Secretary will provide a copy of these Rules and Regulations for the Director in Charge.

5.2 Venue and facilities

The host HNBO is responsible for hiring a suitable venue, and for arranging for sufficient staff to run the event to the standard required. A "Guide for Match Managers" is on the BGB website which incorporates all technical and organisational requirements, the necessity for training Bridge Base Online (BBO) operators prior to the event, as well as information to be submitted to Captains including the availability and cost of Internet at the venue.

Playing facilities should include two or more separate playing rooms (NOT one large room divided by screens). One room shall be designated "Open", to which spectators may be admitted, and the other "Closed" from which all but participating players and authorised personnel are excluded. A designated area will be provided for line-up submission.

5.3 Vugraph

A Vugraph presentation of at least one table in the Closed Room is optional. However, a BBO presentation is mandatory, with as many tables as possible covered. All teams must play in matches covered by BBO and/or video if requested by the organisers.

Match Managers should be aware that Vugraph is primarily for the benefit of spectators and should seek to ensure that all countries get a reasonable allocation of Vugraph time. For the Junior Camrose it is traditional that all countries appear on Vugraph during the first few matches, and thereafter as the results dictate. However, if a pair is required to play Simple System for failing to submit its system on time, it would be inappropriate for the pair to be on BBO whilst the system restriction remains.

Public presentation of the teams is discretionary.

5.4 Officials

Matches shall be organised by a Match Manager appointed by the host HNBO. He is responsible for the venue, provision of equipment and facilities, BBO Operators, recorders, stewards, hand, and scoring records.

A Director in Charge will be nominated by the host HNBO and endorsed by the other HNBOs. His name shall be submitted to BGB for approval at least one month in advance of the match. Assistant Directors shall be appointed by the host HNBO in consultation with the Director in Charge.

All expenses are the responsibility of the host HNBO.

5.5 Hospitality

A reasonable level of hospitality is expected of the host HNBO. They should ensure that there is adequate provision of refreshments for players and officials during, and after, play. They should organise a Closing Ceremony at which the results will be announced and opportunity afforded to the visiting Captains to express their appreciation.

If possible teams should be provided with a private area for scoring.

The cost of all hospitality will be charged to the respective teams. For the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, and Teltscher Trophy a package comprising three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast, plus sandwich lunches on Saturday and Sunday, will be organized by the host HNBO at a cost of no more than £295 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, calculated on a single room basis.

The package rate for the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy is £220 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, which may be calculated on a shared room basis. If single occupancy is required the rate is increased to £295 per person, or the equivalent in Euros.

If the maximum hotel rates exceed the figures determined annually by the Committee, the host HNBO shall pay any excess.

Where the package price has been negotiated with the venue hotel based on a minimum number of bedrooms, anyone seeking to book direct with the hotel may be subject to a surcharge of up to £40 per person, payable to Bridge Great Britain.

In the event that the playing venue arranged for the match is other than a hotel, e.g. a bridge club, it is the responsibility of the host HNBO to ensure that the venue is within walking distance of an acceptable hotel, and that suitable daytime refreshments can be provided. In this case, a variety of alternative package rates would be produced by the host HNBO.

The host HNBO is requested to inform other HNBOs of any unusual or unexpected arrangements with a hotel venue, such as group booking or direct payment.

The host HNBO is not responsible for hotel expenses of the visiting teams, which must be settled prior to departure.

The host HNBO is encouraged to arrange transfer from the nearest reasonable point of arrival, provided it is informed of travel arrangements at least seven days in advance. These transfers may be chargeable.

In the event of any disagreement, the decision of the Chairman of BGB shall be final.

6. Teams

Each HNBO shall inform both BGB and the host HNBO of the names of the Captain and members of each team at least 30 days in advance of the start of each match and also send details for inclusion on the BGB website to the BGB Webmaster at bgbwebmaster@btinternet.com. If an HNBO has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added prior to the commencement of the second play period.

Subject to the approval of the Director in Charge, the members of a team may be changed up to the posting of the line-up for the first session of the event, but not thereafter. Immediately before the commencement of the first session the Captain of each team shall nominate to the Director the members of his team. Thereafter no substitute or reserve player shall be permitted to play.

The host HNBO may field an additional team in the Junior Camrose and/or Peggy Bayer trophies, provided that this does not create an odd number of teams. In the case of the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy *see also 15.1*.

7. System regulations

The Camrose Trophy is designated as a Category 1 event as defined within the WBF Systems Policy. Highly Unusual Methods and Brown Sticker agreements are permitted subject to full disclosure.

The Lady Milne Trophy and Teltscher Trophy are designated as Category 2 events. Highly Unusual Methods are not permitted but Brown Sticker agreements may be played subject to full disclosure.

The Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy are designated as Category 3 events. Highly Unusual Methods and Brown Sticker agreements are not permitted.

The two members of a partnership are restricted to a single system in any one weekend and both must play the same system and methods in bidding and play.

A team is restricted to a maximum of four system cards.

The current definitions of Highly Unusual Methods and Brown Sticker agreements are provided in [Appendix B](#). Defensive measures are permitted as defined in the WBF Systems Policy.

7.1 Submission of systems

Systems should be accurately and legibly typed or printed to a standard that permits a legible photocopy, on one System Card, together with a maximum of two A4 supplementary sheets.

All players must also bring a copy of their own System Card to the table.

No change in basic methods or material change to a system or agreement during an event is permitted without the approval of the Director in Charge. Permission will normally be given provided that the Director is assured that neither the original submission nor the change is made to gain an unreasonable advantage, and that the change is made to a method in common use.

WBF system cards for all events must be submitted electronically to the BGB Webmaster at bgbwebmaster@btinternet.com for publication on the BGB website prior to the event. It is the responsibility of Captains to ensure that their players' systems are submitted on time. Similarly, Brown sticker agreements and the defence thereto must also be submitted in advance. Such defences will be subject to scrutiny by the appointed.

A fine of 1 VP will be imposed on any pair not submitting their system by the due date, and the pair will be restricted to a WBF Category 3 system (Simple System¹ for the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy) for the first period of play. Appropriate system cards will be available at the playing venue to cover such an eventuality.

The relevant dates for submission of systems for the 2018 Home International Series are:

Camrose Trophy 1 st weekend	6 December 2017
Camrose Trophy 2 nd weekend	31 January 2018
Junior Camrose Trophy	2 February 2018
Peggy Bayer Trophy	2 February 2018
Lady Milne Trophy	14 March 2018
Teltscher Trophy	18 April 2018

Acceptable formats for submission of system cards are:

- A PDF of the system card and any supplementary notes.
- A Microsoft Word Document doc or docx format.
- An Open Document Format odt format (e.g. OpenOffice/LibreOffice).
- A WBF Convention Card Editor file using version 2.19 or above (CCF format)

Note: CCF files turned into pdfs sometimes cause problems as regards display of fonts, so please check before submitting them.

8. Match rules

All conversation at the table shall be in English.

8.1 Open Room

No player may leave the Open Room until the play session is completed unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may he watch play at other tables. No spectator may enter the Open Room while play is in progress. If a spectator leaves the Open Room while play is in progress he may not return until the play session has been completed. Non-playing captains are prohibited from entering the Open Room once play has commenced in the Closed Room.

8.2 Closed Room

Only the following personnel are authorised to be present in the Closed Room:

1. Participants assigned to play in the Room
2. Captains
3. Tournament Directors on duty
4. Personnel needed to ensure the smooth running of the match
5. Hotel staff for the provision of refreshments, etc.
6. A maximum of two journalists, who must remain in the Closed Room for the duration of the session

No player may leave the Closed Room until the play session is completed unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may he watch play at other tables.

8.3 Spectators

It is the duty of the match manager to make spectators aware of their responsibilities:

- During play in the Open Room they must refrain from mannerisms or remarks, and must not converse with a player or display any reaction to bidding or play.
- Spectators are permitted to observe the cards of one player only.
- They should be seated behind that player and may not get up to walk round the table, or seek to look at the cards of any other player.

- Spectators may not draw attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question except by request of the Director.
- Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates playing at the tables.
- A player is responsible for the actions of any spectator who is associated with him (as distinct to a spectator casually attracted to the table by his presence there).

The Director in Charge and/or the Match Manager is empowered to control the presence of spectators, individually or collectively.

8.4 Smoking, alcohol, and mobile phone regulations

The playing area may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the playing rooms which are designated for the use of the players, and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be identified to the participants by the Match Manager.

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke. A violation of this regulation will incur an automatic penalty for the team of 2 VP.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to consume alcohol.

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to completion of the session must leave his mobile phone and electronic devices at the table.

Any player, captain, or coach breaching these regulations will cause his team to be fined 2VP. This penalty is automatic. Persistent violation will result in the player being prohibited from playing and or the team official not being admitted into the playing area.

The Director in Charge may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

8.5 Captain

A Captain may watch a pair in play at a table, in the open or closed room, designated by the Director. A Captain who has watched his pair in play and who then leaves the table shall not return (except with the prior agreement of the Director), nor shall he approach any other table in play until the next scoring interval.

1. A Captain may not converse with players once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board to be played until play has been completed. Only then may he call the Director to make a protest or request a ruling. He may, however, act during the auction or play for any of the following reasons:
 - to cause a decision as to whether his side will request a ruling to be deferred.
 - to protect the rights of his team if he believes them to have been jeopardised.
 - to curtail unnecessary discussion.
 - to restrain inappropriate behaviour by a member of his team.
 - to ensure that a non-playing pair is not watching their team-mates in play.
 - to require that a Director is called to the table, but only for the purposes of implementing one or more of the above listed rights.

The Captain is not permitted to suggest tactics during the course of a session, nor to draw attention to the state of the match.

8.6 Appeals

All appeals must be made by the Team Captain, and a deposit of £50 is payable. The Director in Charge shall have the right to retain the deposit if in his/her opinion the appeal was without merit.

The time limit within which an appeal may be lodged will be specified by the Director in Charge, taking into account Laws 79C1 and 79C2.

In the event of an appeal, the Director in Charge would be expected to consult with experienced colleagues and/or representative players as appropriate. Unless such persons are clearly independent of any interest in either HNBO involved in the Appeal, the Director in Charge should seek the approval of the Team Captains party to the appeal. Any complaints regarding the procedures of the Appeal shall be referred to BGB, which shall act as the National Authority.

It is a requirement that the decision of the Director in Charge be fully documented, together with the Law(s) relevant to the decision.

The decisions of the Director in Charge shall be final.

8.7 Computer dealing

Computer dealing is mandatory.

8.8 Hand records & cross-imp results

Hand copies should be available after each stanza.

Subject to adequate security, hand copies may be released to Vugraph commentators and Directors at the commencement of each stanza.

It is a requirement that the scorer produce results of cross-imping.

9. Playing regulations

Rules and Regulations whose special provisions supplement the Laws will be interpreted, where not explicitly covered in this document, as provided in the EBU White Book.

9.1 Commentary on the Laws and recent WBF clarifications

Except where specifically covered in these regulations, BGB accepts the default position of the Regulating Authority in the Laws.

9.1.1 Law 21

Law 21B2: When a player elects not to change a call because of misinformation, Law 16C will still apply. The situation is analogous to the withdrawal of an original call followed by the subsequent replacement of the same call. Information arising from inferences that only become available because of the correction of misinformation is authorized to the non-offending side, but unauthorized to the offending side.

9.2 When screens are in use

The use of screens in the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, Junior Camrose Trophy and Teltscher Trophy is mandatory. Screens will not be used in the Peggy Bayer Trophy. Regulations on the operation of screens are contained in Appendix A.

9.3 When screens are not in use

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory.

Calls made using cards are treated under the Laws in the same way as spoken calls. A call is considered to have been made when the call is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent (but the Director may apply Law 25). A call may be changed without penalty if the conditions of Law 25A are met.

9.4 Late arrival

Any team not seated and ready to play at the start of a session will be fined 1VP and a further 1VP for every complete five minute period thereafter.

If any team has been late at the commencement of a session 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.

9.5 Slow play

At approximately half way, and approximately ten minutes before the end of play, the Director should notify each table of the time remaining. Failure of the Director to meet this requirement will not absolve the players from penalty.

At the end of the allocated time the Director will impose, for any table still in play, a fine of 1 VP for any delay up to five minutes, and an additional fine of 1VP for each further delay of five minutes or part thereof. It is open to the director in charge to give penalties of fractions of VPs to each side.

There is no discretion in regard to imposition of fines for slow play, which must be enforced unless the problem was caused e.g. by operation of BBO, or other “mechanical” difficulty.

Where the same pair incurs a subsequent fine, this shall automatically be increased by 50%, and the Director will normally exercise his authority to require the withdrawal of that partnership for the next session. To give effect to such decision the Director shall inform the Team Captains of it.

For substantial or repeated delays the Director should impose a more severe penalty.

Appeals against fines for slow play may be based only on a question as to the Director’s findings of fact.

9.6 Replaying a stanza which has been played at the same polarity in both rooms

Where a stanza has been played at the same polarity in both rooms, the Director in Charge, in consultation with the Match Manager, will decide whether there is time to replay the stanza. If there is insufficient time, each team will be fined 3 VP for the unplayed stanza, and the number of boards played scored to the nearest scale available.

9.7 Alerting

The WBF Alerting Policy has been adopted for the Home International Series as follows:

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
2. Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
3. Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

If screens are not in use, do **NOT** alert the following:

1. Any double.

2. Any no-trump bid which suggests a balanced or semi-balanced hand, or suggests a no-trump contract.
3. Any call at the four level or higher, with the exception of conventional suit bids on the first round of the auction.

Nevertheless, players must respect the spirit of the Policy as well as the letter.

For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as conventional for the purposes of alerting, even though it is considered natural and not artificial for the purposes of HUM and Brown Sticker defences.

9.8 Scoring

At the end of each session both sides at each table must agree the scores, including where Bridgemates are in use. The Captains of the respective teams must agree the score, as above, and sign an official results slip at the conclusion of each match, subject to a ruling/appeal as appropriate. In case of any doubt, the Bridgemate is deemed to be the official scoring system.

At the end of each stanza the Tournament Director produces table records for each Captain, and when agreed, this becomes the final score. A scoring correction can be made if it is notified by the Captain that a Bridgemate entry on the Tournament Director's printout is incorrect, within sixty minutes from the start of the next stanza.

Scoring adjustments will be made in accordance with these Regulations. If not so covered, the default position will be by reference to the EBU "White Book".

If at the end of protest period no protest has been lodged, the posted result shall become the official result of the match except in these circumstances (but see also Section 8.6):

1. There is a pending appeal.
2. There is to be an adjustment in respect of fines.
3. Where a replay of one or more boards has been directed and is still in progress. WBF 'Continuous' VP Scales will be in use.

10. Conduct

10.1 Standard of dress

Players are expected to adhere to a standard of dress and personal grooming suitable for the venue.

10.2 Disciplinary powers

The Director in Charge may at his discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws, the Proprieties of the Game, or these Rules and Regulations. This shall be the case irrespective of the way in which such a matter has come to his attention. Consequent upon the findings of such investigation he is empowered:

1. to impose such penalty as he shall decide in respect of the score or the participation of any individual, pair, or team in that match.
2. to award an adjusted score on any board involved.

The powers of the Director in Charge shall extend to the suspension or disqualification of any pair or players, or disqualification of a team. This in no way affects the powers of the Director to maintain discipline.

10.3 Disciplinary proceedings

All complaints about a player's behaviour shall be reported to the Director in Charge and the HNBO of the player involved for further action as appropriate.

10.4 Penalties

Breaches of these regulations by a player or non-playing captain where a penalty is not otherwise provided shall carry an automatic fine of 1VP.

11. Reports

It is essential that immediately the match is completed and the final score agreed, the match result shall be posted on a website whose address has been previously submitted to the BGB Webmaster at bgbwebmaster@btinternet.com for inclusion on the BGB website. The following reports should then be sent to the BGB Secretary:

1. A statement from the Match Manager, containing the following information:
 - Match details and report on the venue.
 - Names of all players in each team and their Captain.
 - Line-up forms.
 - Name of Director in Charge.
2. Results of each match and the overall result signed by all the Captains and the Director in Charge.
3. A confidential report from the Director in Charge, concerning observations and/or recommendations regarding the venue and facilities, together with copies of all Appeals Forms and rulings made during the event.

All reports should be printed in dark ink so as to facilitate photocopying.

Where possible photographs in digital format of each team should be sent to the BGB webmaster.

12. Championship table and trophies

Each HNBO shall be credited with the number of Victory Points gained in each of the matches.

In each series the winner of the trophy shall be the country with the greatest number of Victory Points gained over the series. In the event of two or more countries gaining an equal number of VPs a tie will be split firstly by the VPs in the direct match between the two or more representative teams, and thereafter in IMPs. If both are tied, then the trophy will be shared. Each trophy shall be in the custody of the winning team for 12 months. The HNBO of the winning team shall be responsible for insuring the trophy and be responsible for collecting, engraving, and delivering it to the following year's event.

To qualify as trophy winner, a player must play at least one-third of the total number of boards. In the Camrose Series this is at least one third of the boards on at least one of the weekends

See section [13.3](#) in regard to the cumulative scores of a country fielding two teams.

12.1 Master point awards

For each player who plays at least one-third of the boards, master point awards for the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, Junior Camrose Trophy, Peggy Bayer Trophy, and Teltscher Trophy, awarded at the discretion of each HNBO, are as follows:

Camrose Trophy

For each 32-board match won: 2 nationals
(having played at least 16 boards)

For the winners of each weekend: 2 nationals

For the runners-up of each weekend: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded for each weekend.

Lady Milne Trophy

For each 32-board match won: 2 nationals (having played at least 16 boards)

For the winners: 2 nationals

For the runners-up: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded

Junior Camrose Trophy

To the overall winners: 2 nationals

To the overall runners-up: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded

Peggy Bayer Trophy

To the overall winners: 200 Local points (for England 2 Blue Points)

To the overall runners-up: 100 Local points (for England 1 Blue Point)

One representative cap will be awarded

Teltscher Trophy

For each 28-board match won: 2 nationals
(having played at least 14 boards)

For the winners: 2 nationals

For the runners-up: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded

Where there is a tie in Victory Points for first place, the joint winners will each receive half of the combined masterpoint award for the winning and runners-up. In the case of a tie for 2nd place, the runners-up award will be split between the two teams.

13. Special regulations – Camrose Trophy

13.1 Format

Six teams will compete, the sixth team rotating between each country, with the country hosting the second weekend providing the second team that year. If, for any reason, that country is unable to field a second team, then the holders from the previous year will be invited to field a second team. No player may play for more than one team each year. Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas, will be played on each of two weekends. The VP scores from the first weekend will be carried forward to the final weekend.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match of each weekend, and will be designated teams C & E.

The draw for 2018 is as follows:

Team A:	Scotland
Team B:	Wales
Team C:	Ireland
Team D:	England
Team E:	CBAI
Team F:	Northern Ireland

13.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match.

Subject always to the over-riding provisions of section 13.4 (relating to the use of HUMs), seating rights alternate between the two teams. In the first stanza the Captain of the second-named team nominates his pairs first; in the second stanza the first-named Captain nominates first.

The Director in Charge has discretion to vary seating rights, as necessary, to accommodate a disability, provided that extra care is taken to ensure that no problems ensue, either mechanical or in relation to scoring.

There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating his players first completes his portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating his players second completes his portion.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

13.3 Trophies

With regard to the trophies between teams for the direct matches, if a country is fielding two teams that year, the destination of the trophy will be worked out on the cumulative scores of the two teams.

13.4 Systems

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are permitted in the Camrose Trophy, but full details must be provided when submitting the system.

Where a team has a pair or pairs using a HUM system that team loses seating rights whenever these pair(s) are selected to play. Opponents may bring written defences to the HUM system to the table as an aide mémoire.

Brown Sticker agreements may be used provided separate forms for each Brown Sticker agreement to be played, together with viable proposed defences, are submitted with the system card.

Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker agreements.

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker agreements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against Brown Sticker agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

13.5 Hospitality

Details of the weekend package(s) are contained in section 5.5. The host nation shall organise a buffet-style meal at 5.30pm on Friday. The dinner on the Sunday of the first weekend will be informal. On the Sunday of the second weekend there will be a dinner at which all the prizes will be presented. It is expected that all teams will attend.

13.6 Schedule

The time allowed for a 16-board stanza shall be 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 15-minute scoring break between stanzas and a 45-minute break between matches played on the same day.

13.6.1 First weekend

Friday	17.00	Captains' meeting		
	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	D v F	C v E	B v A
	21.25–23.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25–14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45–19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25–14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45–19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.30	Dinner		

13.6.2 Second weekend

Friday	17.00	Captains' meeting		
	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	F v A	D v B	E v C
	21.25–23.35	F v A	D v B	E v C
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v D	B v E	C v F
	12.25–14.35	A v D	B v E	C v F
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v D	C v B	A v E
	17.45–19.55	F v D	C v B	A v E
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	E v F	A v B	D v C
	12.25–14.35	E v F	A v B	D v C
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	C v A	D v E	B v F
	17.45–19.55	C v A	D v E	B v F
	20.30	Reception & prize-giving dinner		

13.7 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2018	5–7 January	Northern Ireland
	2–4 March	Ireland
2019	4–6 January	Wales
	1–3 March	England
2020	10–12 January	Scotland
	6–8 March	Northern Ireland
2021	9-11 January	Ireland
	7-9 March	Wales
2022	7-9 January	England
	4-6 March	Scotland
2023	6-8 January	Northern Ireland
	3-5 March	Ireland

14. Special regulations – Lady Milne Trophy

14.1 Format

Six teams will compete, the sixth team rotating between each country, with the country hosting the match providing the second team that year. If, for any reason, that country is unable to field a second team, then the holders from the previous year will be invited to field a second team. Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas, will be played.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match, and will be designated teams C & E.

The draw for 2018 is as follows:

Team A:	Northern Ireland
Team B:	Wales
Team C:	SBU
Team D:	England
Team E:	Scotland
Team F:	Ireland

14.2 Seating rights

Where six teams are competing, see regulation 13.2. If fewer teams are competing, then the seating rights will be announced at the Captains' Meeting.

There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating his players first completes his portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating his players second completes his portion.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

See section 13.2 in relation to disability.

14.3 Systems

Brown Sticker agreements may be used provided separate forms for each Brown Sticker agreement to be played, together with viable proposed defences, are submitted with the system card.

Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker agreements.

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker agreements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against Brown Sticker agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

14.4 Hospitality

Details of the weekend package(s) are contained in section 5.5.

The host nation shall organise a buffet-style meal at 5.30pm on Friday. On the Sunday evening there will be a dinner at which the Lady Milne Trophy will be presented. It is expected that all teams will attend.

14.5 Schedule

The time allowed for a 16-board stanza shall be 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 15-minute scoring break between stanzas and a 45-minute break between matches played on the same day.

Friday	17.00	Captains' meeting		
	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	D v F	C v E	B v A
	21.25–23.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25–14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45–19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25–14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45–19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.30	Reception & prize-giving dinner		

14.6 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2017	21-23 April	Wales
2018	13–15 April	Scotland
2019	12–14 April	Ireland
2020	17–19 April	England
2021	16-18 April	Northern Ireland
2022	22-24 April	Wales
2023	21-23 April	Scotland

15. Special regulations – Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy

15.1 Format

Each team in each event will play two matches against each other team in the same event. Each match will be between teams of four over 12 boards with IMP scoring converted to VPs.

As soon as the number of teams is known, the draw shall be undertaken publicly by the BGB Secretary for the order of play and seating rights, with the condition that the host nation shall be Team C. An additional host HNBO team shall be team F. See section 6 in regard to an additional host HNBO team.

In the case of the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy, it is permitted that a “floating pair” be selected to play in either event.

15.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room.

The Captain of the second-named team nominates his pairs first.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

See section 13.2 in relation to disability.

15.3 Eligibility

Players competing in the Junior Camrose Trophy must not have achieved their 25th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. Players competing in the Peggy Bayer Trophy must not have achieved their 20th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place.

It is the responsibility of the HNBO to check that participants meet the age criteria and BGB may ask for evidence of this.

A Junior in full-time education may represent the HNBO of his place of education provided he has not sought to represent another HNBO earlier in that competition year. This eligibility lasts until

the end of the competition year in which his full-time education ceases, or his place of full-time education changes to another HNBO.

The requirement to wait for the statutory two competition years when changing HNBO of allegiance is waived for a Junior taking up or losing eligibility based on place of education. Under no circumstances may a player represent more than one HNBO in any one competition year.

15.4 Screens

Screens will be used in the Junior Camrose Trophy and also the Peggy Bayer if possible

15.5 Hospitality

For details of the weekend package, please see section 5.5.

It is expected that competitors are met at the point of arrival and suitable arrangements made for their departure.

It is recommended that the hosts do **not** provide free alcohol at the closing dinner.

15.6 Schedule

The time allowed is 105 minutes and these are the recommended timings:

Friday	17.00	Captains' meeting		
	19.30-21.15	A v D	E v B	C v F
	21.35-23.20	C v A	D v E	B v F
Saturday	10.00-11.45	E v C	B v D	A v F
	12.05-13.50	B v A	D v C	E v F
	Lunch			
	14.30-16.15	A v E	C v B	D v F
	16.35-18.20	D v A	B v E	F v C
	20.00	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00-11.45	A v C	E v D	F v B
	12.05-13.50	C v E	D v B	F v A
	Lunch			
	14.30-16.15	A v B	C v D	F v E
	16.35-18.20	E v A	B v C	F v D
	20.00	Dinner & closing ceremony		

In the event that only four teams are participating in the Junior Camrose or Peggy Bayer, the schedule will be adjusted to nine matches by omitting the last session on Friday. Each team shall play three matches against each other team. Seating rights alternate for the first two matches, and for the third match they will be decided by a blind line-up.

15.7 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2018	16-18 February	England

2019	15–17 February	Northern Ireland
2020	14–16 February	Wales
2021	12-14 February	Scotland
2022	18-20 February	Ireland
2023	17-19 February	England

16. Special regulations – Teltscher Trophy

16.1 Format

Each team will play two matches against each other team. Each match will be between teams of four over 14 boards with IMP scoring converted to VPs.

The draw for 2018 is as follows:

Team A:	Ireland
Team B:	Northern Ireland
Team C:	Wales
Team D:	Scotland
Team E:	Sponsor
Team F:	England

16.2 Seating rights

Where six teams are competing, see regulation 13.2. If fewer teams are competing then the seating rights will be announced at the Captains' Meeting.

There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating his players first completes his portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating his players second completes his portion.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

See section 13.2 in relation to disability.

16.3 Eligibility

Players in the Teltscher Trophy must attain the age of 61 before or during the calendar year 2018, that is born in or before 1957.

The provision of a 6th team by the host HNBO is at the HNBO's discretion, i.e. it can be a sponsor's team or a cross-national HNBO team, provided that all members of the team are members of any of the HNBOs, and meet the minimum age requirement. The eligibility of players in the sixth team to play for another country will not be affected.

The Teltscher Trophy will be presented to the leading team representing one of the five HNBOs, all of whose members must be current members of that HNBO.

16.4 Systems

Brown Sticker agreements may be used provided separate forms for each Brown Sticker agreements to be played, together with viable proposed defences, are submitted with the system card.

Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker agreements.

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker agreements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against Brown Sticker agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

16.5 Hospitality

Details of the weekend package are contained in section 5.5.

On the Sunday evening the teams will be expected to attend the prize-giving dinner at which all the trophies will be presented.

16.6 Schedule

The time allowed is 115 minutes and these are the recommended timings:

Friday	17.00	Captains' meeting		
	18.00	Dinner		
	19.30–21.25	D v F	C v E	B v A
	21.40–23.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
Saturday	10.00–11.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	12.10–14.05	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.00–16.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.10–19.05	F v D	C v B	A v E
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–11.55	A v D	B v E	C v F
	12.10–14.05	F v A	D v B	E v C
	Lunch			
	15.00–16.55	E v F	A v B	D v C
	17.10–19.05	C v A	D v E	B v F
	19.45	Drinks reception		
	20.30	Prize-giving dinner		

16.7 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2018	18–20 May	Wales
2019	17-19 May	Scotland
2020	15-17 May	Ireland
2021	21-23 May	England

2022	20-22 May	Northern Ireland
2023	19-21 May	Wales

17. Contact details and resources

17.1 Bridge Great Britain

Secretary: Mrs Sandra Claridge

Tel: +44 (0)1844 208629

Email: sclaridge31@gmail.com

Webmaster: Jeremy Dhondy

Email: bgbwebmaster@btinternet.com

17.2 HNBOs

Country	Contact	Email	Telephone
England	Dawn Mertens	dawn@ebu.co.uk	+44 (0)1296 317200
Ireland	Paul Porteous	paul@cbai.ie	+353 (0)1 4929666
Northern Ireland	Brian McDowell	brian.mcdowell2@btopenworld.com	+44 (0)28 7083 3465
Scotland	Avril Sloane	secretary@sbu.org.uk	+44 (0)7736 895 556
Wales	Alan Stephenson	alandst56@gmail.com	+44 (0)1978 753026

17.3 Websites

Bridge Great Britain: <http://www.bridgegreatbritain.org>

English Bridge Union: <http://www.ebu.co.uk>

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland: <http://www.cbai.ie>

Northern Ireland Bridge Union: <http://www.nibu.co.uk>

Scottish Bridge Union: <http://www.sbu.org.uk>

Welsh Bridge Union: <https://www.welshbridgeunion.org>

17.4 Resources

WBF VP scales: worldbridge.org/victory-point-scales.aspx

EBU White Book: ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/white-book

WBF Systems Policy, Alerting Policy and Brown Sticker forms

<http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/competitions/systems/>

Appendix A Screen regulations (Note: BGB have adopted the most recent (2017) EBL screen and bidding box regulations)

1. Bidding Boxes

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory throughout.

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(s) 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).

Alerts should be made by the use of the alert card; it is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that his opponent/s are aware of the Alert.

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.

2. Bridgemates and other Recording Devices

Electronic devices or other electronic and/or mechanical devices may be used to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, to send the collected data to any control centre, etc.

Bridgemates are currently used for the official recording of the scores throughout the Home Internationals and Recorders may be required to record the bidding, play and scores. This recording is the responsibility of the team sitting North/South at each table.

The official score will be that keyed in by N/S and agreed by E/W. (or their Captain, Coach or other designated person)

Players and Captains are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores.

Repeated violation of correct entering procedures may be subject to penalties.

3. Screens

3.1 Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray **after which the aperture is closed** (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more of his bidding cards from the tray in an apparent attempt to "pass" is indeed deemed to have "passed".

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

At this point Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table and puts the board back in the centre of the table.

When the tray is removed from the table this must be done by either Dummy or Declarer and only Dummy or Declarer may put the board back in the centre of the table.

The opening lead must be made before the Screen aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened.

At the end of play the tray is replaced on the table.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. However, if a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

Cards must always be placed on the table in the same way, vertically or horizontally and at an equal distance from the previous card. Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalties.

3.2 Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the EBL Alert Procedures must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made 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. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.
- b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screenmate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture

closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made. Therefore the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

3.3 Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 72c (2017) may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened.

Otherwise:

i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.

ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted.

The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 72c (2017) may apply. iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card. iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.

d) When an alertable call is made see 3.2 above.

e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.

f) If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.

g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

h) However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 3.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

Appendix B HUMs and BSC definitions

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs)

A Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any system that exhibits one or more of the following features, as a matter of partnership agreement:

1. A Pass in the opening position shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.

2. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
3. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with values a king or more below average strength.
4. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows either length or shortage in a specified suit.
5. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows either length in one suit or length in another.

EXCEPTION: One of a minor in a strong club or strong diamond system.

Brown Sticker agreements and treatments

The following agreements or treatments are categorised as Brown Sticker:

1. Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
 - could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) **and**
 - does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a Brown Sticker agreement.)

EXCEPTION: A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types containing 16 high card points or more, or with equivalent values. Defensive measures are permitted for opponents as if a Brown Sticker agreement.

2. An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: A natural overcall in no trumps.

EXCEPTION: Any cue bid suit that shows a strong hand.

EXCEPTION: A jump cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

3. Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
4. Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
5. None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against Brown Sticker or HUM agreements.
6. For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as natural and not artificial.