

GCBA COMPETITION RULES

1.1. Membership

Only EBU members are eligible to play in GCBA events, other than in those events specified below

1. No Fear
2. Clubs League
3. Rank Xerox Trophy

Bona fide visitors to England who are not EBU members will be allowed to play in single sessions of any multi-session GCBA Pairs events, or as an occasional (maximum of twice in any 12 months) substitute in a multi-session GCBA teams event.

1.2. Bridge rules

Current EBU practice, such as contained in its tournament directors guide ("White Book"), will be the basis of all GCBA competitions. The CTD or his appointed assistant has power to impose penalties (subject to appeal to the Tournament Sub-Committee, hereafter TSC) for anything that interferes with the smooth running of an event, such as: slow play, mis-boarding or playing the wrong boards. In any dispute the tournament sub committee is the final appeals body of the GCBA. Further appeals may be directed to the national body.

In all GCBA events, it is improper for opponents to come to an agreement about a bridge result that might be to the detriment of a third party in the same competition.

VP Scales : in all events where IMP's are converted to VP's (which will be all in which the TD deems it practical), the scales published in the EBU's Tournament Directors Guide (White Book) will be used; GCBA will use the discrete scales adopted by the EBU from 1 September 2013. Copies are attached at the end of this document.

Tie-breaks : ties are broken, when necessary to decide championships, qualification, promotion or relegation places according to the procedures published in the EBU Tournament Director's Guide. Master points and cash prizes are to be shared equally between the tying contestants.

1.3. Conventions & systems

Conventions and systems defined by the EBU as **level 4** are permitted in all county competitions, except that only level 2 systems as defined by the EBU may be used in events restricted to non-experts.

Players are responsible for checking in the **Blue Book** (EBU Conventions and Directives) whether their system meets these requirements.

1.4. Non-expert

Unless otherwise specified, the definition of a non-expert (for non-expert prizes or restricted competitions) is below the rank of National Master at the first time the person plays in that competition (so you cannot become ineligible for the Ace of Clubs after you have played this season as eligible).

For open events which offer a non-expert prize, all members of a team or pair must be 'non-expert' for that pair or team to be eligible for that prize.

1.5. Teams

A team will consist of between four and six nominated players, all of whom must be EBU members. An unlimited number of substitutes is permitted in any multiple session teams event except for County Knock Out, provided that the substitutes are not nominated members of any other team. In the league a member of another team in a lower division can act as a substitute. Substitutes in teams must comply with the rules documented in section 1.1 above.

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In the event that a team drops out of any multiple session teams event, or that a player leaves the team that he/she started with, then the player(s) concerned are free to substitute in, but not be a member of, another team.

[There is no concept of substitute in a pairs event – a change of person creates a new pair, and all our multi-session pairs events allow a player to have different partners in different sessions]

Seating rights: where these apply the captains toss for choice of opponents. Then

- a) four stanzas : choose one or pass the choice to choose one; then choose two, then take the fourth.
- b) five stanzas : choose two but not the last two, or pass this choice over, then take three.
- c) six stanzas : chose two but not the last two or pass this choice over, then choose three, and then take the sixth.

1.6. TD Rulings and Appeals

At GCBA events with a playing director

- a) Requests for a ruling will be handled by the TD if available and not an interested party, and otherwise by a suitably capable substitute nominated by the TD.

At all GCBA events

- b) Where the ruling requires a bridge judgement, the TD (or substitute) will always consult a suitable number of people before making the ruling. This might delay the ruling, and where that causes a problem, an interim ruling (eg “score as if the claim was valid”) will be made.
- c) Where one or other party is not satisfied with the final ruling, they should inform the TD (or substitute) as soon as possible.
 - a. If the issue is an issue of interpretation of the Laws or Regulations, then the party concerned can appeal to the County CTD whose decision will be final. If the CTD is already involved, then another independent TD from the County Tournament Sub-Committee (who is not involved) will be appointed to handle the appeal.. If there is no suitable local candidate then an EBU Panel TD will be used.
 - b. If the issue is an issue with any judgement made, then an independent “Appeal Counsellor” of suitable standing will be appointed. If, following discussion with the aggrieved party, the counsellor and the aggrieved party believe that a serious error of judgement has taken place, then the matter will be referred to an EBU Appeals Referee, whose judgement shall be final.

1.7. Time limit for protests and appeals.

Requests for a ruling should be made before the next board is started, unless new information comes to light at a later point (but no later than 20 minutes after the end of a session of pairs or 20 minutes after end of the scoring up period of teams).

Appeals against TD's ruling. The tournament director in charge should be notified by 10 minutes after the end of the session or by 5 minutes after the ruling is given, whichever is the later.

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Appeals against mis-scoring. In the case of faulty filling-in of travellers or Bridgmates, faulty agreement of tricks won and withdrawn claims and concessions, the onus of making a case is on the pair or team that wishes to change the recorded result. The end of the protest period for various GCBA events is specified in the table below:

1. Everett Cup / Cotswold Cup - when the trophy has been presented; the director should allow the contestants ten minutes access to the score sheet before announcing the result.
2. Any head-to-head matches in team events - when the result has been agreed and authorities have been informed.
3. Rank Xerox Teams, Bredon Vale Cup - ten minutes after the scoring has been completed and the result posted.
4. Teams-of-eight - until the result has been announced; the director should allow the contestants ten minutes access to the score sheet before announcing the result.
5. For all Monday events, and any other event not specified above, eight days.

1.8. County League

Format : ten sessions with matches of 28 boards, played in four sets of seven boards.

Scoring : imps converted to VPs on a 20 point scale.

Special Rules :

Postponements are discouraged – please use substitutes. If a match must be postponed the teams shall fix a date within a month of the original date. If they fail to produce an agreed date the team which did not cause the postponement shall give the offending team a choice of three weekday dates (not all the same day of the week). If none of these dates are accepted then the team responsible for the cancellation will be deemed to have lost 0-12. The 'winning' team will be awarded their average over the season if this is more than 60% (rounded up to the nearest half VP). If a team fails to turn up for a match, or gives so little notice that one or more of their opponents cannot be contacted, then the non-offending side has the right to claim the match 12-0 (or more than 12 if their average is above that).

The League shall be organised in Divisions of - in order of preference - 6 teams, 8 teams. There will be a reallocation of teams to divisions (involving promotion / relegation as indicated below) after 5 matches if all divisions are of 6 teams (and new teams will be accommodated at this point). If we have eight teams each team plays each other once (7 matches) and then the top four play against amongst themselves (3 matches), and the bottom four do likewise. If we are forced to have 7 teams in a division we adopt the 8-team format. If we have a mix of divisions of 6 & 8, then the top divisions should be 6 ~~with promotion & relegation after 5 matches~~.

The Tournament Subcommittee is responsible for allocating teams to divisions, applying the following rules as far as possible -

1. Unchanged teams (ie teams that have kept more than half of their players from the previous run) that won divisions other than the top division will be promoted.
2. Unchanged teams that finished bottom of their divisions will be relegated (unless the league size increases, or if bottom in the lowest division)

1.9. Swiss Teams

Format :

This competition will comprise 4 evenings with 2*14 board matches each evening. Rematches will be allowed only in session 4 and if there are fewer than 14 teams present that day, and no repeats of session 3|4 matches will be allowed. In all Swiss Teams matches there will be a compulsory change of opponents at half way.

Scoring : in all matches by imps converted to VPs on a 20 point scale.

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Special Rules :

Missing sessions : teams giving adequate notice (at least 30 minutes before the start of play) of missing a session (to the TD in charge, or to the CTD) will be awarded a credit for the session missed. Teams which miss a session will be allocated a credit of 50% on the first session missed, and 40% on any others. Teams failing to turn up without notice might receive 0 VPs.

1.10. Open Teams

Format : this will be multiple teams, all-play-all format, and the top four ranked teams will be given POINT on a 8-6-4-2 scale. The winning team will be the team which accumulates most points over the series of sessions.

1.11. (Autumn & Summer) Swiss Pairs

Format : this will comprise 4 evenings of 3 matches each evening, against opponents assigned where can be on a round-by-round basis. No rematches are to be planned.

Scoring : match pointed across the field and results converted into VPs on a 20 point scale.

Special Rules :

Missing sessions : pairs giving adequate notice (at least 2 hours before the start of play) of missing a session (to the TD in charge, or to the CTD) will be awarded 50% for the first session they miss and any sessions before they first appear, and 40% for subsequent missed sessions. Pairs failing to turn up without notice might receive 0 VPs. Later entries will be assigned a score of at most 50% by the CTD.

Where the software allows, each board will be match-pointed against a top of 24, whatever the number of tables.

1.12. Winter Pairs & Spring Pairs

Format : this will comprise multiple pairs sessions, for which random seating will apply. Wherever possible the same boards will be played and scored across the field.

Scoring : scoring will be match-points and the overall competition winning pair, for those contestants who play in more than half the sessions, will be determined by the average of their best scores on the requisite number of sessions.

1.13. Summer Pairs

This mirrors the Winter & Spring Pairs and follows the same rules. It however is an Individual Competition and any number of appearances with the same partner are allowed.

1.14. Summer Teams

Format : this will be a teams event but we accept entries by pairs and draw for team-mates. There are two rankings – one for teams, and one for Butler Pairs. The Butler Imps ranking will be used to assign POINTS to each pair, to the top eight as 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. . This is an individual competition and the overall competition winner will be determined by total of their assigned POINTS.

Scoring : by imps converted to VPs on a 20 point scale.

Special Rules : there are no restrictions on how often a player plays with the same partner or team-mates.

1.15. Morgan-Brown Cup

Format : This shall be a single session individual event.

Scoring : match-points.

Special Rules : The system to be used will be based on EBU Level 2 systems.

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1.16. County Pairs

Format : this will comprise a qualifying round in clubs; the number of qualifiers from a heat will be 50% of the number of pairs who are eligible to qualify (so those already qualified do not count), including ties, but no substitutes, following by single day final, with the number of board determined by the TD on the day (ideally around 50).

Scoring : match-points.

Special Rules :

An individual or a pair may play in as many qualifying heats as they wish.

The top 3 eligible (that is, pairs who owe their primary allegiance to Gloucestershire) pairs in the ranking in the final will have the opportunity to represent Gloucestershire in the Corwen trophy (with substitutes placed above halfway in the final if necessary).

1.17. County Knock-out

Format : this will normally start with a multiple teams session from which the top 8 teams will qualify for the knock-out stages. If that session has only 8 teams then knock-out matches of 28 boards will be played instead. If fewer than 8 teams, the qualifying stage will reduce the field to 4 teams.

Multiple teams sessions will be of a suitable length as determined by the Tournament Director in charge; knock out rounds will be of 32 boards in length (round 1), 40 boards in length (semi-final), and 48 boards in length (final) - all reducible by 8 boards with agreement of both captains.

Scoring : imps throughout.

Special Rules :

The seeding for the knock-out stage will be determined by the ranking in the last multiple teams stage.

First knock out round must be completed by 8 Jan; the semi-finals by 8 Mar; the final by the date of the AGM.

The winners – subject to eligibility - shall represent Gloucestershire in the Pachabo (substitute players or teams as per current EBU rules for the Pachabo).

1.18. Inter-club teams of eight

Format : every team plays every other team for an equal number of boards. Approximately 28 boards will be played.

Scoring : The two foursomes imp up as a team; the imps scores are added and a VP score of 0-20 is applied.

Special Rules :

Intention is to mirror the format/scoring of Garden Cities regional final.

The leading team is eligible to represent Gloucestershire in the Garden Cities Trophy (the next best may substitute). For the Garden Cities event a club may elect to use different players but this must exclude any player who has competed for any other team in the county teams-of-eight.

Clubs may enter ~~any-up to 2 number~~ of teams, but if one of their teams goes forward to the Garden Cities, they cannot use in that team club members who competed in other teams in this event.

1.19. Everett Cup

Format : either multiple teams or Swiss Teams as the TD thinks best for the numbers. Around 52 boards to be played. Entry will be by pairs with a draw for team-mates.

Scoring : imps converted to VPs.

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1.20. Cotswold Cup

Format : either multiple teams or Swiss teams as the TD thinks best for the numbers. Around 52 boards to be played

Scoring : Point-a-board converted to VPs, but IMPS if numbers suggest that would be a better format for the number of teams.

1.21. Walter Jessop (Men's Pairs) & Burry (Women's Pairs) Cups

Format : single session pairs.

Scoring : match-points

Special Rules : none.

1.22. Mixed Pairs and Flitch

Format : pairs event of single session length.

Scoring : match-points

Special Rules :

The winners will be the Mixed Pairs champions. The best married couple (or next best, if the Mixed Pairs champions are a married couple) are the winners of the Flitch trophy.

1.23. Leonard Cup

Now subsumed within the Ace of Clubs – see below.

1.24. No Fear Trophy

Now been overtaken by the Ace of Clubs; the intent is that this trophy is used for a novices competition, more likely one run by Cheltenham Bridge Club.

1.25. Bredon Vale Cup

Format : A one session event for clubs in the county, affiliated or not. Each clubs can enter up to three teams of four.

Scoring : imps converted to VPs, and the highest total will be the winner of the Bredon Vale Cup.

Special Rules :

At most one player in each team can be of expert status as defined in 1.4 above; the other team members must be non-expert players.

1.26. RANK XEROX

As for BREDON VALE except that clubs enter teams-of-8 and are allowed two "expert" players.

1.27. Steve Darke Salver (aka The Champions Cup)

Format : Two session pairs competition, in which results from the first session guide the allocation of pairs to divisions for the second session. The event will be of around 30 boards.

Scoring : match points.

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1.28. Geoffrey Paterson Trophy for the Victor Ludorum

This competition runs from the first Monday in September until the end of the next Summer Pairs/Teams and is open to all GCBA members who have not played in a County First Team (Tollemache or Dawes) in the three years preceding the competition period. It is awarded to the eligible player who gathers the greatest number of EBU master points during this period on Monday nights.

1.30 Ace of Clubs : Players Championship

~~Format : this is a multiple session event. In each session of match-point pairs (24 boards usually) the pairs, and the clubs they choose to represent, will be allocated points on the basis of their rank against the following scale~~

- ~~———— First place : 25 points~~
- ~~———— Second place : 18 points~~
- ~~———— Third place : 15 points~~
- ~~———— Fourth place : 12 points~~
- ~~———— Fifth place : 10 points~~
- ~~———— Sixth place : 8 points~~
- ~~———— Seventh place : 6 points~~
- ~~———— Eighth place : 4 points~~
- ~~———— Ninth place : 2 points~~
- ~~———— Tenth place : 1 point~~

~~All players must be non-experts (as defined in 1.4) There are no restriction on pairs or clubs attendance, and thereby their ability to score. There will be an overall Pair and overall Club declared as winner on the basis of points accumulated during the season. The Pairs winner will be based on the best scores achieved in more than half the sessions (3 if 5 rounds, 4 if six) but the Club winner will be based on all scores.~~

~~The Leonard Cup will be allocated to the best score in the third session of the Ace of Clubs.~~

~~Format : The Ace of Clubs competition will comprise a qualifying round in clubs; the number of qualifiers from a heat will be 50% of the number of pairs who are play, including ties, but no substitutes, followed by a single day final, with the number of board determined by the TD on the day (ideally around 26).~~

~~Clubs may hold more than one heat to cater for different groups of players. An individual or a pair may play in as many qualifying heats as they wish.~~

~~The Leonard Cup will be allocated to the best score in the final from a pair both below Regional Master.~~

~~The Club Championship trophy will be awarded to the club with the best performance in the final using the following scale :~~

- ~~———— First place : 25 points~~
- ~~———— Second place : 18 points~~
- ~~———— Third place : 15 points~~
- ~~———— Fourth place : 12 points~~
- ~~———— Fifth place : 10 points~~
- ~~———— Sixth place : 8 points~~
- ~~———— Seventh place : 6 points~~
- ~~———— Eighth place : 4 points~~
- ~~———— Ninth place : 2 points~~
- ~~———— Tenth place : 1 point~~

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NEW VP SCALES

VP score	7 boards	8 boards	14 boards	28 boards
10-10	0	0	0-1	0-1
11-9	1-2	1-3	2-4	2-6
12-8	3-5	4-6	5-8	7-11
13-7	6-8	7-9	9-12	12-17
14-6	9-11	10-12	13-16	18-23
15-5	12-14	13-16	17-21	24-29
16-4	15-18	17-20	22-26	30-37
17-3	19-23	21-25	27-33	38-46
18-2	24-28	26-30	34-40	47-57
19-1	39-35	31-38	41-50	58-71
20-0	36+	39+	51+	72+

VP SCALES - multiple comparisons

VP score	MIDLANDS COUNTIES LEAGUES	CPL PAIRS LEAGUE (3 scores)
10-10	0-6	0-2
11-9	7-20	3-9
12-8	21-34	10-16
13-7	35-51	17-23
14-6	52-69	24-32
15-5	70-91	33-41
16-4	92-113	42-52
17-3	114-141	53-64
18-2	142-174	65-80
19-1	175-215	81-98
20-0	216+	99+

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NEW VP SCALES - TRIANGLES

VP score	3 boards	4 boards	7 boards	14 boards
5-5	0	0	0-1	0-2
6-4	1-3	1-3	2-5	3-7
7-3	4-6	4-7	6-9	8-13
8-2	7-9	8-11	10-14	14-21
9-1	10-14	12-17	15-22	22-31
10-0	15+	18+	23+	32+