

PAIRS LEAGUE RULES 2015-16

Competition Organiser (CO)

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1. The Competition Sub-Committee (CSC) (comprising the CO, Irene Krantz and John Wilcox) is responsible to the LCBA Tournament Committee for the proper administration of the LCBA Teams of Two League (commonly called the Pairs League) in accordance with EBU rules and guidelines
2. All competitors must be paid-up Player Members of the EBU who meet the general LCBA conditions for participation in the Association's Members-only competitions for the year 2015-16.
3. a) The competition shall consist of a Series of five heats, each comprising a number of '*Teams IMPed*' Stanza. These will be held at the Rothley Centre on 14 January, 11 February, 10 March, 21 April and 12 May 2016.
b) By entering Pairs are making a binding commitment to the LCBA that if one or both are unable to play in any heat they will make every endeavour to find a substitute player or pair of broadly similar standard to play in their place. [see footnotes on page 2]
c) Entries should be sent to the CO by Friday 18 December 2015, together with a cheque payable to the LCBA. The cost of entry is £40.00 per pair for the series. If initial entry is by telephone or email a cheque, thereby confirming the entry, must be received by at the very latest Wednesday 30 December 2015. Later entries will only be accepted if to the benefit of the 'movement' and thus to those who entered on time.
4. a) Each player must provide a completed EBU 20/20A/20B style system card and hand this to the opponents for their use throughout each stanza. Pairs not having completed such cards should be furnished with EBU 20B style LCBA Simple System Standard English Cards and required to play in accordance with these until other personal EBU style cards are completed. WBF style cards may not be used.
b) Pairs with properly completed (2 paged) EBU 20 style system cards, may employ EBU Level 2 Permitted Agreements, as detailed in Section 6 of the 2015 Blue Book.
c) However pairs having properly completed full (4 paged) EBU 20A or 20B style system cards may also employ any Agreements permitted at Level 4, as detailed in Section 7 of the 2015 Blue Book.
5. a) Any pair either wishing to appeal, or reserve the right to later appeal, against a decision of the Director or Scorer should inform the Director and the other pair of this and ensure that all relevant details of the hand and decision etc. are recorded on a witnessed statement before leaving the venue. Whether the actual appeal is immediate, or made later after reflection or consultation, it must be sent in writing by email or post to the CO within two days of the event
b) If a psychic bid is reported to the Director, he shall, on request, record the details of the board on which it occurred, and report the matter to the CO for the attention of the Laws and Ethics SC of the LCBA. The Director may also record and similarly report any departure from the system that he considers should be brought to its attention.
6. a) Entrants will be placed by the Competition Sub-Committee (CSC) into a number of hierarchical divisions based primarily on their record in the 2014-15 pairs league, but for new entrants in the light of their individual standings. Up to 28 pairs may play. Divisions will be of 8 pairs, or more where appropriate depending on the actual entry
b) The top two pairs from each division (except division 1) will normally be promoted to the next higher division; the bottom two pairs from each division (except the lowest) will normally be relegated to the next lower division.
c) Any appeal against the allocations to divisions shall be to the LCBA Executive Committee and shall be submitted within five days of the publication of the League structure. Appeals shall be accompanied by a deposit of £20.00 which will not be returned if the LCBA Executive Committee determines that the appeal is frivolous or otherwise without merit.
7. a) To enable a prompt start of play by at latest 7.15 p.m. pairs must arrive by 7.00 p.m. when starting positions and movements for the whole evening session will be issued.
b) If a player/pair is delayed he must telephone the Director on 07967 714902
8. a) In a division of 8 pairs a typical evening will comprise three 8 board stanza; At the end of each stanza, each EW pair will score up in IMPs with each of the other NS pairs in their division, and convert their IMP score to Victory Points. EW pairs then return to their own table, and check the VP scores.
b) The same computer-dealt hands will be played in all divisions, and published on the LCBA website each evening.
c) Over the series in a division of 8 pairs each pair will play against every other pair in the division twice and score up with them six times. [The details in a larger division will depend on its exact size.]
9. All results shall be treated as provisional until confirmed by the CO after receipt of the event records and the determination of any appeal.
10. A Monetary prize of £70 will be awarded to the pair placed first in each division.
11. The LCBA will award local Master Points on the County scale.

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Footnotes

1. Substitutes

It is essential for the successful running of this competition that each pair is represented on all five evening sessions in the series. A pair unable to play on any evening is required to field a substitute pair or player of broadly similar standard.

Substitutes may be as a pair or a single player and may substitute for a different pair or players later in the series; but not normally for member(s) of another pair in the same division.

It is the responsibility of the players, not the LCBA, to make these arrangements.

If notwithstanding the commitment they have made no substitute can be found by the players then the CO must be contacted in advance of the session.

2. Penalties

If a pair (or one of that pair) fails to turn up for a session without prior notice and without compelling reason then the pair will receive a score of 0 VPs for the session.

If a pair gives advance notice that they will be unable to play or provide substitute(s) they may receive a score of up to a maximum of 8 VP (40% of 20 VP) for each 'match' not played.

Please note that unacknowledged emails or answer-phone messages left do not constitute 'prior notification'. Pairs unable to score-up due to opponents' absence will receive an allocation of 14 VPs for each missing score.