

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

INTER-CLUB LEAGUE for TEAMS of EIGHT

COMPETITION RULES

The competition shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:-

- (1) The league will not be part of the official Northamptonshire Contract Association competition programme. This enables ALL club members to be eligible to represent their club and it is hoped that many will be encouraged to do so. Players DO NOT have to be members of the NCBA & EBU to play in this league. This does mean that individual clubs are responsible for the Master Points won by their players. The scales for MPs are explained in Rule 17.
- (2) The competition shall be organised and directed by a League Secretary appointed by the Management Committee of the Northamptonshire Contract Bridge Association. All correspondence relating to the conduct of the league, including appeals, should be addressed to the League Secretary.
- (3) Level Four Conventions will be allowed ONLY in Division One. In all lower divisions Level Three Conventions will be allowed.
- (4) Teams shall consist of eight players and no player may represent more than one club during the season, May to March, without prior consent of the League Secretary. This consent will not usually be given if the player has played two or more games for his/her first club.
- (5)
 - (a) Where a club fields more than one team in the league, players will be expected to be part of a squad for one team only. At the fixtures meeting each club will provide the League Secretary with a squad list of at least 8 players for each team. A member of a squad can be re-registered with a lower ranked team provided the League Secretary and opposing captains are informed in advance of them playing for such a team. If more than half the season's matches of the team from which they are being transferred have been played, the transfer will not be permitted. Such players would not be allowed to play for a higher ranked team for the remainder of the season.
 - (b) Any member of a team squad may play for a higher ranked team or teams up to 3 times in total. Once a lower ranked player plays for a higher ranked team for a fourth time then that player is automatically re-registered for the lower of those higher teams. The player will not then be allowed to substitute in any lower ranked team. The same applies to a player not originally listed in any squad.
 - (c) Where it is necessary to do so, and only in order to ensure that a match is played on the agreed date, any team from a club may select one player from the next highest ranked team.
 - (d) If any player plays for a lower ranked team, except as permitted by rule 5 (c), the match is forfeited. The offending team receives zero VPs and the non-offending team receives the higher of the awarded score according to rule 15 and the actual score in the match.
- (6) Match dates for the whole season shall be agreed at a specially arranged fixtures meeting early in May. Each team captain, or a representative, must attend this meeting. Failure to attend will mean that fixtures for the team will be arranged between opposing captains and the League Secretary. Once these dates are fixed then the matches should be played on the agreed dates. Postponements and re-arrangements will only be allowed by the League Secretary under exceptional circumstances and if both captains agree.

- (7) In fixing these dates captains should also avoid County and National event days and the regular nights for the involved clubs. No captain should insist on a particular night. Clubs only having the use of premises on fixed days should consider an intermediate venue if no agreement can be reached on dates. The League Secretary will endeavour to circulate a calendar listing all known County and National events to captains before the fixtures meeting. This will enable the addition of club dates and particular team circumstances. Please remember that the second half of the year is when the early rounds of many competitions take place, Broke Cup, Betts Bowl, Gold Cup and NICKO. If you expect to win early rounds then February and March also become very congested.
- (8) Away teams reserve the right to request an intermediate venue to reduce travelling. The fact that one team captain is prepared to travel across the County does not remove this right from the away captain for the return fixture. However, it will then be the responsibility of the AWAY team captain to book and pay for the venue, whilst the HOME team captain retains the responsibility for any refreshments required. In most cases both matches are played at an intermediate venue and captains agree to be responsible for all arrangements for their scheduled home match. At the fixtures meeting, captains are asked to make such arrangements clear.
- (9) The team first mentioned on the fixture list is the home team. To ensure the smooth running of the league, HOME team captains are asked to confirm the date, venue and start time of the match at least three days before it is due to be played. Both captains should e-mail the match result to the NCBA website administrator within 24 hours of the match. The home team captain must forward the result sheet to the League Secretary within four days of the match.
- (10)
- (a) Exceptionally, it may prove impossible to play a match on the agreed date. In these circumstances the captain wishing to change the date (initiating) must consult the other captain (opposing) at the first opportunity. The opposing captain has the right to select three dates from which the new fixture should be chosen. These dates must be on different days and not all in the same week.
 - (b) Where a match is not played on the originally arranged date the initiating captain must inform the League Secretary of the newly arranged fixture within 48 hours of the agreement. Failure to inform the League Secretary of the change may constitute a concession of the match by the initiating captain.
 - (c) Where it proves impossible to agree on a mutually acceptable date the matter must be referred to the League Secretary by the initiating captain. Rule 15 below may apply and the ruling of the League Secretary will be final.
 - (d) In the event that one captain unilaterally postpones a match or a team fails to arrive at the agreed venue, the circumstances must be reported to the League Secretary by both captains. Rule 15 below is likely to apply and the ruling of the League Secretary will be final.
- (11) Matches shall consist of 24 boards except in exceptional circumstances as described in Rule 12. Each pair shall play 6 boards against each of the opposing team's four pairs. Computer dealt hands are allowed.

- (12) In the event that a match cannot be started on time because one or both of the teams is/are incomplete:-
- (a) The matter should be settled by apology in circumstances which are exceptional and likely to have led to the late arrival. Apology will always be regarded as sufficient where the delay in arrival is not more than 15 minutes.
 - (b) Where the delay is between 15 and 30 minutes the non-offending captain shall have the right to reduce the match to 20 boards, five boards being played in each set. Both captains may also mutually agree to curtail to 20 boards where exceptional circumstances call for an early finish.
 - (c) Where the delay is greater than 30 minutes the non-offending captain has the right to claim the match, but may elect to play it, provided there is time to play at least 16 boards, an equal number against each pair.
 - (d) If a match is abandoned (Power failure or illness) during the first half, it must be re-arranged as soon as possible. If abandoned during the second half then any boards played at both tables by one half of the team are scored as usual. These IMPs are added to the first half score and the winners determined on the most appropriate Victory Point scale (See Rule 16) (Boards played per player, not boards in play).
- (13) A fouled board which has been played at one table should be computer re-dealt for play at the second and subsequent tables. Without a Duplimate machine the board must be re-dealt at the second table and replayed at the first table before the end of the particular session of the match. If the board is fouled after two or three tables have played it and it cannot be computer re-dealt, then +3 IMPs will be awarded to the non-offending pair and -3 IMPs awarded to the offending pair (See EBU Law 86). The first two tables will score the board as normal.
- (14) Teams entering this competition are expected to fulfil all of their fixtures. Should any team fail to fulfil all its fixtures the NCBA Management Committee will issue a warning that it has the authority to consider demotion to a lower division for repeated offences.
- (15) If a match is not played, the side adjudged as non-offending shall receive a score which is the highest of the following:
- (a) The average of the non-offending team's VPs for the matches played or as soon as they have played half of their fixtures. The non-offending team's average will be rounded up to a whole number if necessary.
 - (b) Twenty less the average of the offending team's VPs for their matches played or as soon as they have played half of their fixtures. The offending team's average will be rounded down to a whole number if necessary.
 - (c) The VPs scored in the reverse fixture against the team.
 - (d) 11 VPs.

The offending team will usually receive zero VPs. The League Secretary reserves the right to award the balance of the VPs (20 less than the score awarded to the opponents) in exceptional circumstances. The League Secretary has discretion to award a different result in a case where there is no offending team.

- (16) All matches shall be scored in IMPs as two teams of four. The two totals shall be added and then scored in VPs in accordance with the appropriate table from the three below.

16 BOARDS			VICTORY POINTS			20 or 24 BOARDS		
Rule 12c						Normal or Rule 12b		
0	-	1	10	-	10	0	-	2
2	-	5	11	-	9	3	-	7
6	-	10	12	-	8	8	-	12
11	-	15	13	-	7	13	-	18
16	-	20	14	-	6	19	-	24
21	-	25	15	-	5	25	-	30
26	-	31	16	-	4	31	-	37
32	-	38	17	-	3	38	-	46
39	-	47	18	-	2	47	-	56
48	-	60	19	-	1	57	-	72
61	+		20	-	0	73	+	

- (17)
- (a) Master Point allocations for a league with four divisions are 95 for Division One matches, 81 for Division Two, 68 for Division Three and 54 for Division Four. Since this is not an official County competition, individual club master point secretaries must award these Master points to winning team members. Master Points can be awarded after each match or collectively at the end of each half of the season (Green Master Point Handbook 1.10.3(b))
 - (b) If a match is drawn on Victory Points, regardless of the possible 1 or 2 IMP advantage, both teams are awarded half the allocation of MPs for that division (47 – 40 – 34 – 27).
 - (c) With a possible FIVE divisions the awards would be 108 – 91 (Yes 91) – 81 – 68 – 54
 - (d) With a possible THREE divisions or FOUR divisions in the 1, 2, 3A and 3B structure, the awards should be 81 – 68 – 54. The winners of a playoff between 3A and 3B would receive 54 MPs.
 - (e) In addition to the above, ranking points should be awarded to the winners (Two times the win award for the division) and second placed team (One times the win award) in EACH DIVISION. Players must have played in half of the matches to be eligible to receive these ranking awards.
- (18) When two or more teams tie on Victory Points at the end of the season then their positions shall be determined by:-
- (a) The aggregate VPs scored by the teams in their matches against each other.
 - (b) Where this does not break the tie then the TOTAL Net IMPs for ALL matches will determine the ranking, that is the total IMPs scored less the total Imps conceded..
- (19) The NCBA Committee will decide the number of divisions. Each team in a division will play the others on a home and away basis. Additional teams will enter the lowest division, which may cause further movement of teams upwards.
- (20) Below division one, at the end of the season, the winning team will always be promoted and possibly a second team if any team drops out of a higher division.

With the exception of the lowest division the bottom team, at the end of the season, will always be relegated. More than one team may be relegated in order to restructure the league. .

- (21) Applications for admission to the League or re-admission to the League shall be presented at the NCBA AGM. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the League Secretary.

- (22) The league secretary is appointed by and responsible to the Management Committee of the Northamptonshire Contract Bridge Association. Under these rules his/her responsibilities and powers are:-
- (a) To organise and direct the running of the League. (Rule 2)
 - (b) To manage new entries, promotions and relegations. (Rules 20 and 21)
 - (c) To receive all correspondence relating to the league and to respond to it appropriately. (Rule 2)
 - (d) To determine a player's eligibility to play for more than one club in the League during the same season. (Rule 4)
 - (e) To arrange and conduct the annual fixtures meeting. (Rule 6)
 - (f) To receive requests for postponements and to decide on the matter in consultation with the captains involved. (Rule 10)
 - (g) To receive, collate and distribute the results and current league tables to all clubs at regular intervals throughout the season. To determine Trophy winners and report to the AGM.
 - (h) To ensure the smooth running of the League throughout the season and to report to meetings of the Management Committee.
 - (i) To rule on all matters of dispute between captains and to ensure decisions made are effected. (Rule 10)
 - (j) To adjust the scores of offending and non-offending teams in accordance with the provisions of Rule 15.
 - (k) To break a tie where necessary in accordance with the provisions of Rule 18.
 - (l) To receive appeals relating to the conduct, play or results of matches and to adjudicate those appeals. Where necessary the League Secretary may refer the matter to the Management Committee for appropriate action.
- (23) These rules are effective from the NCBA AGM held on 18th April 2007 and may only be changed by the Management Committee. Queries relating to them should be addressed to the League Secretary.