

Northamptonshire Contract Bridge Association

BROKE CUP & BETTS BOWL RULES ~ 2017

1. The General Regulations for EBU Knock-out matches played privately, "Knock-Out Competitions Regulations" (last revised April 2015) will apply, unless explicitly overridden by clauses below.
2. Entries for the NCBA Green Pointed Teams-of-Four Knock-Out competition, The Broke Cup, must be submitted to the NCBA Competition Secretary by the date stipulated in the County Calendar (usually the end of August). The draw for the first round is normally made at the NCBA committee meeting at the beginning of September, where depending on the number of teams entered, the format of early rounds is agreed.
3. The Competition Secretary will load the teams and draw in to the EBU knock out System and circulate information to all team captains.
4. The entry fee will be fixed by the Management Committee and will be published in the "County Handbook" and on any competition publicity leaflets.
5. Teams may consist of up to 6 players; all must be members of NCBA. Membership of NCBA is defined as being a member of a bridge club that is affiliated to NCBA or living or working in Northamptonshire (including 'Soke of Peterborough').
6. To enter the Broke Cup following information should be sent to the Competition Secretary before the date published by the NCBA:
 - Nominated Captain: Name, telephone number, email address, home venue
 - EBU numbers and the names of the 4 main players making up the team
 - If entry is made via email, how payment is being made.
 - Whether participating in consolation event

Extra members can be added to a team before any match during the competition, providing they have not played in any other Broke Cup team in the current season and the total number of nominated players does not exceed 6, by sending the players name and EBU number to the Competition Secretary, who will add the new player to the EBU knock out system.

7. Entry into the consolation event, Betts Bowl, is normally for once defeated teams eliminated from the main competition. This may alter depending on number of teams entering the Broke Cup, as determined by the NCBA management committee at time of draw.
8. Payment of entry must be made either directly to the NCBA account, or via Cheques made out to NCBA and sent directly to the NCBA treasurer or Competition Secretary, before the first match is played.
9. Green Points are awarded to the winning team members of each Broke Cup Match and Black Points for each Betts Bowl Match according to the appropriate EBU scales. This is automatic at the end of the competition provided names and results are entered correctly into the EBU Knockout System.
10. Broke Cup matches are to be played over 32 boards, 16 against each of two opposing pairs. If both captains agree then duplimated boards may be used. Boards may be played in stanzas of 8 or 16. Stanzas must be of 8 boards where a team consists of more than 4 players. During a match substitutions can be made at the end of any of these stanzas provided no player plays more than 16 boards against any one opponent.
11. Betts Bowl matches are to be played over 24 boards, in 2 stanzas of 12 with a compulsory change of opponents after 12 boards.
12. Level 4 Conventions are allowed.
13. For any preliminary round and the first round, the first named team in the draw will be the home team. For later rounds the home team will be the better winners in the previous round.
14. It is the responsibility of the AWAY TEAM captain to offer **four** dates to the home team. These should not include dates which are all within the same week nor all on the same day of the week nor are major club events for the home team. County or National events should also be avoided unless it is known that no member of either team is involved in such an event.
15. If both captains cannot agree a date before the published deadline, they may jointly request an extension from the Competitions Secretary, who may grant the extension at his/her discretion. In the event of a failure to agree a match date, the Competitions Secretary will award the match using the criteria in paragraph 5 of the EBU General Knock-out Competitions Regulations.

16. The Home team captain is responsible for providing the venue, the equipment and the refreshments. For evening matches coffee/tea and biscuits is usually sufficient. Please remember that 32 boards should be played and an early start is usually necessary for evening matches.
17. If the away team requests a half-way venue, the home team captain shall agree. In this case the away team will be responsible for making all the arrangements providing refreshments and paying any costs of providing such a venue.
18. The captain winning the toss has the right to sit for both stanzas of 16 (usually deferred to the visiting team) or to choose sitting rights in odd or even stanzas when the match is to be played in four stanzas of 8.
19. Scoring is by total IMPs. In the event of a tie, 4 additional boards will be played, 2 boards against each pair. This pattern will continue until the tie is broken.
20. If the start of the match is delayed by more than 15 minutes because one or more members of a team are late, the delayed team will be fined 3 IMPs unless such lateness is due to an accident or unforeseen circumstance which was not the fault of the offending team.
21. In the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved between the two captains refer to the general regulations for EBU knockout matches played privately.
22. The winning captain must notify the Competition Secretary of the result within 24 hours **and** update the match outcome on the EBU Knock-out system.
23. The final should be played on the date specified when a Director will be appointed and barometer scoring will apply. Anyone may watch in the open room and spectators will be warmly welcomed. In earlier rounds the permission of both captains must be given to spectators. An alternative, earlier date, can be arranged if both teams agree.
24. The winners of the consolation event will hold the Betts Bowl for one year and have free entry into the competition for the next season.
25. The winners of the main event will hold the Broke Cup for one year and, subject to EBU registration regulations, will have free entry into the Pachabo competition to represent the NCBA with subsidised accommodation. This is held each year in June. If the winners are unable to play in the Pachabo, or are ineligible because Northamptonshire is not their County of primary allegiance, then the EBU rules state:
 - a. Additional players from the runners-up team may be added to players from the champion team so as to make as to make a new team of four, five, or six players.
 - b. Failing that, the County may be represented by its runners-up team.