



Surrey County Bridge Association

Rules and Regulations for the Novice League and Schools League

1. Purpose

Novice League

A teams of four league intended to be used by bridge teachers as a means of giving their students experience in team competitions and is suitable for players whose ability is equivalent to someone having had 1 or 2 year's of tuition.

Schools League

A teams of four league intended to encourage and support inter-school competitions.

2. General

The entry form must be entered or endorsed by a teacher (bridge teacher or school teacher as appropriate). The team may have up to two reserves who are also new to bridge. Teachers are encouraged to manage a team and organise matches but cannot play or offer advice during the play. Membership of the EBU is not required.

EBU rules in force at the time of each match will apply but in the case of conflict the rules set out below will take precedence.

Teams will be grouped into geographical sections within the county as far as possible. A multiple teams final will be held at the end of the season to determine the overall League winner (see the SCBA website for venue and date). For sections of less than 6 teams the winning team will qualify for the final for sections of 6 or more teams the top two teams in the section will qualify for the final. In addition the next highest team in the section will also qualify for the final should any one of the following conditions be met:

- a qualifying team from the section is unable to attend the final; or
- the next highest team were undefeated in their section matches.

Unless explicitly agreed with the organiser no individual may play in the final if they have not previously played in at least one league match in the earlier part of the competition. (See also Substitutions below)

3. Dates for matches

Matches are to be held at intervals from November to the end of April. A programme of fixtures will be issued at the beginning of the competition. Matches should be played within the scheduled periods, following the process set out below. Any difficulty in arranging a match should be notified to the organiser at an early stage and all matches must be completed before the end of April unless explicitly agreed by the organiser. The organiser is empowered to award results for matches un-played at the end of April taking into account the circumstances in each case.

The home team should offer a minimum of five dates spread over at least three weeks and over at least three different days of the week (of which at least three dates should be weekday evenings) and the earliest should be at least two weeks away. The Away team then has one week to select the date of the match from the dates offered. If there is a difficulty in fixing a match, the organiser must be consulted.

If a team fails to arrange a date for a match or cancels a match without a valid reason, they will concede the match and 7. below will apply.

4. Play

Each team will play 16-board matches following the supplied instructions on running a team event. Matches are played in two equal halves, changing opponents at half-time.

No correction of scores is allowed after the captains have agreed the result.

5. Refreshments

The home team is expected to provide light refreshments.

6. Irregularities

Late arrival and non-arrival

If a team is 45min late, or 90min late having notified late arrival, the match is awarded to the non-offending side. If a member of a team is present within 45min of the starting time, that is an indication that the whole team intends to arrive and constitutes 'notification' within the meaning of this clause.

After 30 min of late arrival, whether notified or not, the match is reduced by 2 boards and for each further complete 15min period the match is again reduced by 2 boards. The maximum number of boards that can be removed is eight (which occurs after 75min of late arrival). The non-offending side is awarded 3 IMPs per board.

Fouled or cancelled boards

In the event that both pairs in a team sit in the same polarity in one stanza, the score for that set will be zero. The stanza that has been completed will determine the score according to the VP scale relevant to the match as if the first stanza had been played in full. Both pairs at the table are equally responsible for making sure that they sit in the correct positions.

If a board is fouled or cancelled for whatever reason in the first stanza of the match, a substitute board is added to the second half with the same dealer and vulnerability. If a board is fouled or cancelled in the second stanza of the match a substitute board may only be played if no player is aware of any of the results from the other table.

7. Unplayed or incomplete matches and withdrawal

If a match has to be abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances with neither team at fault, then:

- (a) if at least half of the boards have been played at both tables, the match is considered complete and the VP scale for the number of completed boards is used;
- (b) if fewer than half of the boards have been completed, the captains should endeavour to replay the match completely. If this is not possible, the Organiser will adjudicate a result.

A team is considered not to be at fault if its home venue becomes unavailable during the match (e.g. due to a power cut) unless a member of the team was the direct cause of the problem.

If a team is awarded a match, for example under rules 3 or 6 above, it will receive the highest of 12 VPs, its average across all the other matches it plays in that stage of the competition, or the final average of all other teams in matches played against the defaulting team. Artificial VP scores from other defaulted matches are not included in this calculation.

If a team 'concedes' a match having played at least half the boards, the non-offending side get the higher of their score under the preceding paragraph or their VP score for the match assuming they score +3 IMPs on each of the unplayed boards.

The defaulting team always receives 0 VPs.

If a team withdraws from the league having played fewer than half its scheduled matches, all results against the team are removed. If the team has played at least half its scheduled matches, results in the remaining matches are calculated using the preceding rule for defaulted matches.

The organiser may impose the penalty of non-entry in the following season on some or all the members of a team that defaults on a match or withdraws during the season.

8. Systems and conventions

Conventions within the Standard English Acol-Foundation Level are permitted with the following optional addition:

- Transfers over 1 and 2 No Trumps
- Weak Twos

(See <http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/convention-cards>)

9. Scoring

Scoring is by IMPs converted to Victory Points using the scale below.

Victory Points Scale 16 board matches

IMPs	0-1	2-4	5-8	9-12	13-17	18-22	23-28	29-35	36-43	44-53	54+
VPs	10-10	11-9	12-8	13-7	14-6	15-5	16-4	17-3	18-2	19-1	20-0

10. Results

It is the responsibility of the winning captain, or the home captain in case of a draw, to enter the results via the EBU website or if unable to do so, send the results to the

organiser within two days of the match being played. The names of the team members and their EBU numbers (if any) are required. Master points will be allocated to EBU members at the end of the season.

11. Substitutions

Substitution of team members will only be allowed with the explicit agreement of the organiser and a maximum of one substitution will be allowed per team per season. Possible reasons for requiring a substitute include: non-availability of a team member to play in the final; an unavoidable emergency immediately prior to an arranged match where re-arrangement is not possible. No substitute that is a significantly better player than the team member they are substituting will be allowed.

12. Rulings & appeals

Any rulings or appeals will be in accordance with the procedure shown on the SCBA website for matches played privately.

14. Resolution of ties

A tie between two or more teams with the same number of VPs will be resolved as follows:

- (a) the teams will be ranked according to the VPs scored in matches played against each other in the whole competition:
- (b) if not all of the tied teams played each other or if (a) above does not resolve the tie then teams will be ranked according to the number of matches won in the whole competition, a draw will count as half a win.
- (c) if (b) above does not resolve the tie then the teams will be ranked according to the total net IMPs score divided by the number of boards played in the whole competition.

Whole competition means the initial league matches within each geographical section and if relevant the end of season multiple teams final.

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