



## 2027 HOME INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

(June 2026)

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## **1. Scope**

- These Rules and Regulations are established by the Expanded Committee of Bridge Great Britain (BGB) and shall apply to all matches in the Home International Series. All issues and difficulties raised prior to an event will be resolved by BGB.
- During an event the Director in Charge will determine how any problems are to be resolved.
- All events sponsored by BGB are played under the current version of the International Code of Laws of Duplicate Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the WBF Laws Commission as at the date of publication of these Regulations.
- Bridge Great Britain is the Regulating Authority under the 2017 Laws.

## **2. Programme**

- BGB shall arrange the programme of matches which shall take place on set dates during a single competition year. A competition year runs from 1 September to 31 August of the following calendar year.
- Any disputes will be resolved by the Expanded Committee of BGB.
- In extreme circumstances, and on the joint application of the countries concerned, BGB may permit a match to be rescheduled. This must be within four weeks of the due date. If the match cannot be rescheduled in good time BGB will award a match score as it sees fit.
- Matches in 2027 are expected to be played face-to-face.

## **3. Conditions of entry**

- The Home International Series comprises the Camrose Trophy (Open Teams), the Lady Milne Trophy (Women's Teams), the Junior Camrose Trophy (Under 26), the Peggy Bayer Trophy (Under 21), and the Teltscher Trophy (65 and over). A Mixed event is also held.
- Participating Home NBOs (HNBO) are the English Bridge Union, the Northern Ireland Bridge Union, the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, the Scottish Bridge Union, and the Welsh Bridge Union.
- To participate in the Home International Series each HNBO must pay an entry fee to BGB at the start of the competition year. The Mixed event is separately organised by one HNBO with an entry fee paid, per team, to the organising HNBO. See Appendix C.
- Each HNBO may enter one team in each event, but see sections [13.1](#), [14.1](#), [15.1](#), [16.1](#). Each country entered must play against each other such country. Entry and subsequent refusal to play shall result in disqualification.
- Each team may have up to six playing members, plus a non-playing captain.

## 4. Eligibility

Each nominated player and any Non Playing Captain must be a member of the HNBO for which they are selected to play and must satisfy one or more of the following criteria.

1. They were born in the country governed by that HNBO.
2. They have a parent or grandparent who was born in that country. (Parents by legal adoption count as natural parents; parents by marriage do not).
3. They have been a bona fide resident of the country governed by that HNBO for at least two years prior to nomination.
4. They have previously represented that HNBO but retain membership of that HNBO and have not subsequently represented any other country. Additional criteria apply to the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy (15.3) and the Teltscher Trophy (16.3)

### 4.1 Proof of eligibility

It is the responsibility of each HNBO to ensure that all selected players are eligible to represent it, and to provide evidence if required to do so by BGB (prior to a match) or the Director in Charge (during a match). Failure to prove eligibility may result in the team's disqualification. This also applies in terms of transgender persons, where relevant documents will be requested if necessary.

### 4.2 Change of eligibility

- No player will be permitted to play for more than one country for events in the same season.
- If a player satisfies eligibility conditions for more than one country, they must state which HNBO they wish to represent at the start of the competition year on or before 1 September. Once registered with one HNBO a player is eligible to represent only that HNBO until they notify BGB of their desire to change allegiance and meet the requirements of the new HNBO.
- A player may change allegiance from one HNBO to another by registering the change with both HNBOs and the BGB Secretary by the start of a new competition year. They may not represent the new HNBO **until two full competition years have elapsed since representing another HNBO.** Participation in an HNBO Trial does not affect eligibility to play for another country.
- Playing in a Transnational event organised by the EBL or WBF, or representing another NBO in a friendly match does not affect eligibility. Representing Ireland in an EBL or WBF event does not affect eligibility to represent the CBAI or NIBU in the Home International Series. Representing Great Britain in such an event does not affect eligibility to represent England, Scotland, or Wales. The Commonwealth Games bridge event has no formal standing and is not affected by either WBF or EBL eligibility regulations.

## 5. Organisation of matches

### 5.1 General procedures

The organising HNBO is responsible for providing copies of the Laws, these Rules and Regulations and other relevant documents. The current regulations are to be found on the BGB website.

## **5.2 Venue and facilities**

The host HNBO is responsible for arranging for sufficient staff to run the event to the standard required.

## **5.3 Officials**

- Matches shall be organised by a Match Manager appointed by the host HNBO, and their responsibilities are contained in the “Match Manager’s Guide” which is published on the BGB Website.
- The Match Manager shall be responsible for deciding whether to use public presentation by RealBridge or Bridgebase Online.
- The Match Manager may decide to use LoveBridge/Bridge Owl at their discretion
- In terms of the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer trophies, it is adequate to cover two tables of the Junior Camrose, and unnecessary to expose the weaker players.
- The Match Manager is responsible for arranging a Captains’ Meeting prior to the event and ensuring that the date and time of the meeting is communicated to all HNBOs and officials.
- The Match Manager shall provide the BGB Webmaster ([bgbwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:bgbwebmaster@gmail.com)) with details of the website links for the HNBO hosting the event.
- The Match Manager is responsible for arranging team photos, which should be sent to the BGB Webmaster immediately after the event.
- A Director in Charge will be nominated by the host HNBO and endorsed by the other HNBOs. Their name shall be submitted to BGB for approval at least one month in advance of the match. Assistant Directors shall be appointed by the host HNBO in consultation with the Director in Charge.
- All expenses are the responsibility of the host HNBO.
- It is the responsibility of the BGB delegate of the host HNBO to oversee the arrangements for the event.

## **5.4 Hospitality**

A reasonable level of hospitality is expected of the host HNBO. They should ensure that there is adequate provision of refreshments for players and officials during, and after, play. They should organise a Closing Ceremony at which the results will be announced and opportunity afforded to the visiting Captains to express their appreciation.

If possible the teams should be provided with a private area for scoring.

The cost of all hospitality will be charged to the respective teams. For the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, and Teltscher Trophy a package comprising three nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast, plus sandwich lunches on Saturday and Sunday, will be organized by the host HNBO at a cost of no more than £475 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, calculated on a single room basis.

When played face-to-face, the package rate for the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy is £360 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, which may be calculated on a shared room basis. If single occupancy is required the rate is increased to £400 per person, or the equivalent in Euros. All costs of single and double rooms must be confirmed, and a rate for non-residents and meals costs negotiated.

If the maximum hotel rates exceed the figures determined annually by the Committee, the host HNBO shall pay any excess.

Where the package price has been negotiated with the venue hotel based on a minimum number of bedrooms, anyone seeking to book direct with the hotel may be subject to a surcharge of up to £60 per person, payable to Bridge Great Britain. Teams should not book alternative hotels (this affects the rate that may be obtained from the host hotel). Booking elsewhere does not remove the obligation to pay the appropriate rate for the venue hotel. An exception will be made if a participant lives within 25 miles of the host venue.

If the playing venue arranged for the match is other than a hotel, e.g. a bridge club, it is the responsibility of the host HNBO to ensure that the venue is within walking distance of an acceptable hotel, and that suitable daytime refreshments can be provided. In this case, a variety of alternative package rates would be produced by the host HNBO.

The host HNBO is requested to inform other HNBOs of any unusual or unexpected arrangements with a hotel venue, such as group booking or direct payment.

To avoid each HNBO making payments to each other for accommodation costs, the netted-off balances may be submitted at the end of each season, where possible.

**The host HNBO is not responsible for hotel expenses of the visiting teams, which must be settled prior to departure.**

In terms of transport to and from the host venue, each team shall be responsible for safeguarding its own players, but they are welcome to consult the Match Manager in terms of the practicalities. In the event of any disagreement, the decision of the Committee of BGB shall be final.

## **5.5 BGB Trophies**

Trophies and their plinths will be available at the events to which they apply. When the trophy is received and signed for by a Match Manager, it is their responsibility to ensure that it is returned undamaged. If this is not the case, then the cost of any damage will be borne by the host HNBO.

## **6. Teams**

- Each HNBO shall inform both BGB and the host HNBO of the names of the Captain and members of each team at least 14 days in advance of the start of each match and send details for inclusion on the BGB website to the BGB Webmaster at [bgbwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:bgbwebmaster@gmail.com). If an HNBO has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added prior to the commencement of the second play period. The arrangements for the event and programme should be available for publication on the HNBO and BGB websites a week before the event.

- It is the responsibility of each HNBO Captain to ensure that selection of their NPCs is done in sufficient time to make them aware of their responsibilities, i.e.
  - Submission of names of selected players to the Match Manager at least 14 days in advance of the event, and to [bgbwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:bgbwebmaster@gmail.com).
  - Submission of personal data to RealBridge specifically for the event selected for
  - Standard of behaviour and reporting of incidents
  - System submission (in WBF format) to go to Fearghal O’Boyle ([bgbssystemcardcheck@gmail.com](mailto:bgbssystemcardcheck@gmail.com)) for approval in advance of the deadline date, available in the calendar of the BGB website. These are then submitted by Fearghal to the BGB webmaster.
  - Travel and venue details
  - Rooming requests
  - Dietary requirements
  - Biographies and photographs
  - Emergency contact numbers
  - Uniform
  - Return of trophies

Subject to the approval of the Director in Charge, the members of a team may be changed up to the posting of the line-up for the first session of the event, but not thereafter. Immediately before the commencement of the first session the Captain of each team shall nominate to the Director the members of their team. Thereafter no substitute or reserve player shall be permitted to play.

## **6.1 Responsibilities of a Home International NPC**

### **6.1.1 Pre-event preparation**

#### **System Cards:**

- Make sure your pairs submit these in good time (deadlines on the BGB website) and in a fit state to pass scrutiny
- Print sufficient copies so that they will always arrive at the table with their CC
- Study oppositions’ cards: prepare brief summaries to issue before each match
- Check defences to anything unusual/weird

#### **Travel and accommodation**

Book hotel accommodation at the host hotel as required – check on accompanying friends/families

Check travel arrangements are adequate

### **6.1.2 Team Instructions: make sure your players are aware of their responsibilities**

#### **Behaviour:**

- Players are required to be polite to partners, opponents, TDs, VG operators and spectators
- Make sure players are aware of mobile phone restrictions,
- They must make every effort to complete the session in time.
- (Try to ban discussion at the end of a board: “Next!”)

- They should try to ensure that the VG operator can see all bids and played cards
- When claiming make sure the operator knows how many tricks have been taken

### **Scoring:**

The player in charge of the Bridgemate should fill in the entry on completion of each board

(To keep running scores up-to-date and indicate whether there might be time issues)

At least one partner must keep an accurate scorecard so scores can be checked

At the end of the session players should check and agree the scores on the Bridgemate

### **6.1.3 Captain's responsibilities on site**

#### **Lineups:**

Must be entered in good time – note requirement to enter the first match on the previous evening

#### **Pre-match:**

- Ensure that the players know the starting times.
- Check that they are at the table in time
- Check for mobile phones: confiscate as necessary
- Check that they have their system card

## **7. System regulations**

### **7.1 Submission of systems**

The Lady Milne Trophy and Teltscher Trophy are Category 2 events. Highly Unusual Methods are not permitted but **Brown Sticker** agreements may be played subject to full disclosure.

The two members of a partnership are restricted to a single system in any one weekend and both must play the same system and methods in bidding and play.

A team is restricted to a maximum of **four** system cards.

The current definitions of Highly Unusual Methods and **Brown Sticker** agreements are provided in [Appendix B](#). Defensive measures are permitted as defined in the WBF Systems Policy.

All players must make available their own System Card to the opponents.

No change in basic methods or material change to a system or agreement during an event is permitted without the approval of the Director in Charge. Permission will normally be given provided that the Director is assured that neither the original submission nor the change is made to gain an unreasonable advantage, and that the change is made to a method in common use.

System cards are subject to a review. When the system card has been reviewed and accepted, it will be published on the BGB website prior to the event. It is the responsibility of Captains to ensure that their players' systems are submitted on time.

The deadline for submission of **finalised approved system cards** is in the table below and a reminder will be sent by The Secretary seven days before the deadline.

**An automatic fine of 1 VP will be imposed on any pair not submitting an approved system card by the due date. This may be increased in the case of aggravated circumstances.**

The relevant dates for submission of systems & team names for the Home International Series are:

Event	Team Details	System cards
Camrose Trophy Weekend 1	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2026	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
Junior Camrose/Peggy Bayer Trophies	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027
Camrose Trophy Weekend 2	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2027	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2027
Lady Milne Trophy	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2027	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2027
Teltscher Trophy	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2027

## 7.2 System Card Review

- Bridge Great Britain (BGB) will review the system cards submitted by teams in the Home International Series. A Guide to Completion of System Cards is on the BGB website for the benefit of HNBOs, players and their NPCs.
- The purpose of the review is to maintain the high standard and provide consistency across all participants.
- The principle of disclosure requires that competitors fully disclose all agreements and treatments requiring defensive preparation.
- **Pairs must use WBF System Cards**, with up to two supplementary sheets, to achieve this objective. These should be sent to the BGB reviewer ([bgbsystemcardcheck@gmail.com](mailto:bgbsystemcardcheck@gmail.com)) who will liaise with the submitters to address potential shortcomings. When **Brown Sticker** agreements may be used, separate forms for each **Brown Sticker** agreement, together with viable proposed defences, must be submitted with the System Card.
- It is strongly recommended that before completing their System Card that participants study the **WBF Guide to Completion**, available on the [WBF website](#).
- Latitude will be given to inexperienced junior pairs.
- Teams may appeal a decision of the Reviewer to the Director in charge of the event.

### Full disclosure

- Full disclosure does not require you to present your complete system. However, it does include a clear description of openings, responses, and early rounds of bidding with or without competition, conventions as well as other partnership agreements, style and understandings based on experience.
- Full disclosure is a combination of what you reveal in your System Card and supplementary sheets and what you add at the table also without your opponents having to ask questions.
- In cases where there is damage due to possible failure to disclose, the side that was not informed will be given the benefit of the doubt. If an opponent refrains from asking a question to which you should have provided the answer without prompting, and damage ensues, there is an a priori assumption that you have not provided full disclosure. Each case will be heard on its merits.

### Formats

Acceptable formats for submission of system cards are:

- A PDF of the system card and any supplementary notes
- A Microsoft Word Document (doc or docx format)
- An Open Document Format (odt format e.g. OpenOffice, LibreOffice)
- A Google Docs format document

Please note that use of the WBF System Card Editor (ccf format) has been deprecated. The most up to date Word version of the card is on the BGB website.

System cards for the opponents may be kept by players for consultation.

### **Common Shortcomings**

As it says in the WBF Guide to Competition:

1. Use suit symbols or S, H, D, C, but be consistent throughout the card.
2. Avoid names of agreements, explicitly define what your calls mean.
3. Use the recommended abbreviations in the Guide, do not make up your own.
4. Avoid terms like “weak”, “strong” or “pre-emptive” as they seem to mean very different things depending on region or upbringing. Use an approximate hcp count. Indicate length and suit quality requirements if any.

Other common failings include:

1. Inadequate description of leading methods and carding.
2. Inadequate description of subsequent auctions and passed hand bidding.
3. Not listing on the front page of card your unusual or unexpected first-round actions and competitive agreements after your side has opened (‘Special bids that may require defence’ section).

## **8. Match rules**

All conversation at the table must be in English.

### **8.1 Open Room**

No player may leave the Open Room until the play session is completed unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may they watch play at other tables. No spectator may enter the Open Room while play is in progress. If a spectator leaves the Open Room while play is in progress they may not return until the play session has been completed. Non-playing captains are prohibited from entering the Open Room once play has commenced in the Closed Room.

### **8.2 Closed Room**

Only the following personnel are authorised to be present in the Closed Room:

- Participants assigned to play in the Room
- Captains
- Tournament Directors on duty
- Personnel needed to ensure the smooth running of the match
- Hotel staff for the provision of refreshments, etc.
- A maximum of two journalists, who must remain in the Closed Room for the duration of the session

No player may leave the Closed Room until the play session is completed unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may they watch play at other tables.

### **8.3 Spectators**

It is the duty of the match manager to make spectators aware of their responsibilities:

- During play in the Open Room they must refrain from mannerisms or remarks and must not converse with a player or display any reaction to bidding or play.
- Spectators are permitted to observe the cards of one player only.
- They should be seated behind that player and may not get up to walk round the table or seek to look at the cards of any other player.
- Spectators may not draw attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question except by request of the Director.
- Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates playing at the tables.
- A player is responsible for the actions of any spectator who is associated with them (as distinct to a spectator casually attracted to the table by their presence there).
- The Director in Charge and/or the Match Manager is empowered to control the presence of spectators, individually or collectively.

### **8.4 Smoking, alcohol, and mobile phone regulations**

The playing area may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the playing rooms which are designated for the use of the players, and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be identified to the participants by the Match Manager.

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes and vapes, in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session to smoke. A violation of this regulation will incur an automatic penalty for the team of 2 VP.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in to consume alcohol. A violation of this regulation will incur an automatic penalty for the team of 2 VP.

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to completion of the session must leave their mobile phone and electronic devices at the table.

Any player, captain, or coach breaching these regulations will cause their team to be fined 2VP. This penalty is automatic. Persistent violation will result in the player being prohibited from playing and/or the team official not being admitted into the playing area.

The Director in Charge may, at their discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

## 8.5 Captain

A Captain may watch a pair in play at a table, in the open or closed room, designated by the Director. A Captain who has watched their pair in play and who then leaves the table shall not return (except with the prior agreement of the Director), nor shall they approach any other table in play until the next scoring interval.

A Captain may not converse with players once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board to be played until play has been completed. Only then may they call the Director to make a protest or request a ruling. They may, however, act during the auction or play for any of the following reasons which are to:

- cause a decision as to whether their side will request a ruling to be deferred.
- protect the rights of their team if they believe them to have been jeopardised.
- curtail unnecessary discussion.
- restrain inappropriate behaviour by a member of their team. Ensure that a non-playing pair is not watching their team-mates in play.
- to require that a Director is called to the table, but only for the purposes of implementing one or more of the above listed rights.

**The Captain is not permitted to suggest tactics during a session, nor to draw attention to the state of the match.**

## 8.6 Appeals

- All appeals must be made by the Team Captain. If the appeal is judged to be without merit a “without merit” fine of up to £50 may be imposed by the Director in Charge acting upon the recommendation of the Arbiter.
- The time limit within which an appeal may be lodged will be specified by the Director in Charge, taking into account Laws 79C1 and 79C2.
- An appeal will only be allowed if it is demonstrated that there has been an error of procedure or that the Director in Charge had not adequately acquainted himself of the facts and/or failed to consult experienced colleagues. To avoid any question of bias by the countries involved in the appeal, one of Gordon Rainsford, Fearghal O’Boyle and Sarah Amos would act as a “Arbiter” of the TD’s ruling.
- Any complaints regarding the procedures of the Appeal shall be referred to BGB, which shall act as the National Authority.
- It is a requirement that the decision of the Arbiter and Director in Charge be fully documented, together with the Law(s) relevant to the decision.

## 8.7 Computer dealing

Computer dealing is mandatory.

## 8.8 Hand records & cross-imp results

- Hand copies should be available after each stanza.
- Subject to adequate security, hand copies may be released to Vugraph commentators and Directors at the commencement of each stanza.

**It is a requirement that the scorer produce results of cross-imping.**

## 9. Playing regulations

Rules and Regulations whose special provisions supplement the Laws will be interpreted, where not explicitly covered in this document, as provided in the **current version of the EBU White Book** <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/white-book/white-book.pdf>.

### 9.1 Commentary on the Laws and recent WBF clarifications

Except where specifically covered in these regulations, BGB accepts the default position of the Regulating Authority in the Laws.

#### 9.1.1 Law 21

*Law 21B2: When a player elects not to change a call because of misinformation, Law 16C will still apply. The situation is analogous to the withdrawal of an original call followed by the subsequent replacement of the same call. Information arising from inferences that only become available because of the correction of misinformation is authorized to the non-offending side but unauthorized to the offending side.*

### 9.2 When screens are in use

The use of screens in the Camrose, Junior Camrose, Lady Milne Trophy and Teltscher Trophy is mandatory. They are recommended for the Peggy Bayer Trophy. Regulations on the operation of screens are contained in Appendix A.

### 9.3 Late arrival

- Any team not seated and ready to play at the start of a session will be fined 1VP and a further 1VP for every complete five-minute period thereafter.
- If any team has been late at the commencement of a session the fines for slow play in the same round will be based on the time at which all players were seated at the table and ready to play.

### 9.4 Slow play

- At approximately halfway, and approximately ten minutes before the end of play, the Director should notify each table of the time remaining. Failure of the Director to meet this requirement will not absolve the players from penalty.
- At the end of the allocated time the Director will impose, for any table still in play, a fine of 0.2 VPs for each additional minute. It is open to the director in charge to give penalties of fractions of VPs to each side. **There is no discretion about the imposition of fines for slow play**, which must be enforced unless the problem was caused e.g. by operation of RealBridge, or other “mechanical” difficulty.
- Where the same pair incurs a subsequent fine, this shall automatically be increased by 50%, and the Director will normally exercise their authority to require the withdrawal of that partnership for the next session. To give effect to such decision the Director shall inform the Team Captains of it.
- For substantial or repeated delay the Director should impose a more severe penalty.
- Appeals against fines for slow play may be based only on a question as to the Director’s findings of fact.

### 9.5 Alerting

The WBF Alerting Policy has been adopted for the Home International Series as follows:

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
- Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless their side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
- Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.
- A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert the screenmate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives. The alert must be made by placing the alert card in a position clearly visible to the screen mate. It is the responsibility of a player that alerts to make sure that the screenmate sees the alert. It is good practice for an opponent to acknowledge the alert in some way.

## **9.6 Scoring**

Scores will be posted by the online system in use. Any problem with these should be reported to the Chief TD without delay. Match, subject to a ruling/appeal as appropriate. In case of any doubt, the online system is deemed to be the official scoring system.

At the end of each stanza the Tournament Director produces table records for each Captain, and when agreed, this becomes the final score. A scoring correction

can be made if it is notified by the Captain that a Bridgemate entry on the Tournament Director's printout is incorrect, within sixty minutes from the start of the next stanza.

Scoring adjustments will be made in accordance with these Regulations. If not so covered, the default position will be by reference to the EBU "White Book".

If at the end of protest period no protest has been lodged, the posted result shall become the official result of the match except in these circumstances (but see also Section 8.6):

- There is a pending appeal.
- There is to be an adjustment in respect of fines.
- Where a replay of one or more boards has been directed and is still in progress.

WBF 'Continuous' VP Scales will be used.

## **10. Conduct**

### **10.1 Disciplinary powers**

The Director in Charge may, at their discretion, investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws, the Proprieties of the Game, or these Rules and

Regulations. This shall be the case irrespective of the way in which such a matter has come to their attention. Consequent upon the findings of such investigation the DIC is empowered:

1. to impose such penalty as shall be decided in respect of the score or the participation of any individual, pair, or team in that match.
2. to award an adjusted score on any board involved.

The powers of the Director in Charge shall extend to the suspension or disqualification of any pair or players, or disqualification of a team. This in no way affects the powers of the Director to maintain discipline.

### **10.2 Disciplinary proceedings**

No behavioural problems will be tolerated, and there is a requirement for self-reporting. The onus will be on the Captain of the player(s) involved to submit a report, and every instance will be dealt with.

All complaints about a player's behaviour shall be reported to the Director in Charge and the HNBO of the player involved for further action if appropriate.

### **10.3 Penalties**

Breaches of these regulations by a player or non-playing captain, where a penalty is not otherwise provided, shall carry an automatic fine of 1VP.

## **11. Reports**

Immediately the match is complete and the final score agreed, the match result shall be posted on the website dedicated to the event and communicated to the Secretary and to the BGB Webmaster at [bgbwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:bgbwebmaster@gmail.com) for inclusion on the BGB website. The following reports should then be sent to the BGB Secretary:

A statement from the Match Manager, containing the following information:

- Match details and report on the venue.
- Names of all players in each team and their Captain.
- Line-up forms.
- Name of Director in Charge.

Results of each match and the overall result confirmed by the Director in Charge.

A confidential report from the Director in Charge, concerning observations and/or recommendations regarding the venue and facilities, together with copies of all Appeals Forms and rulings made during the event.

**Photographs in digital format of each team should be sent to the BGB webmaster, by the Match Manager, immediately after the conclusion of the match**

## **12. Championship table and trophies**

Each HNBO shall be credited with the number of Victory Points gained in each of the matches.

In each series the winner of the trophy shall be the team with the greatest number of Victory Points gained over the series. In the event of two or more countries gaining an equal number of VPs a tie will be split firstly by the VPs in the direct match between the two or more

representative teams, and thereafter in IMPs. If both are tied, then the trophy will be shared. Each trophy shall be in the custody of the winning team for 12 months. The HNBO of the winning team shall be responsible for insuring the trophy and be responsible for collecting, engraving, and delivering it to the following year's event.

To qualify as trophy winner, a player must play at least one-third of the total number of boards.

### **12.1 Master point awards**

For each player who plays at least one-third of the boards, master point awards for the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, Junior Camrose Trophy, Peggy Bayer Trophy, and Teltscher Trophy, awarded at the discretion of each HNBO, are as follows:

#### **Camrose Trophy**

For each 32-board match won: 2 nationals

(having played at least 16 boards)

For the winners of each weekend: 2 nationals

For the runners-up of each weekend: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded for each weekend.

#### **Junior Camrose Trophy**

To the overall winners: 2 nationals

To the overall runners-up: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded

#### **Peggy Bayer Trophy**

To the overall winners: 1.5 National points

To the overall runners-up: 0.75 National points

One representative cap will be awarded

#### **Lady Milne Trophy & Teltscher Trophy**

For each 32-board match won: 2 nationals

(having played at least 16 boards)

For the winners: 2 nationals

For the runners-up: 1 national

One representative cap will be awarded

Where there is a tie in Victory Points for first place, the joint winners will each receive half of the combined masterpoint award for the winning and runners-up. In the case of a tie for second place, the runners-up award will be split between the two teams.

#### **Junior Online Pairs**

A document detailing the masterpoint awards for the Junior Online Pairs will be produced and circulated by the Secretary

## **13. Special regulations – Camrose Trophy**

### **13.1 Format**

Six teams will compete, the sixth team rotating between each country, with the country hosting the second weekend providing the second team that year. All members of the second team representing the host HNBO must be members in good

standing of the host HNBO. If, for any reason, that country is unable to field an additional team, a combined nations team (“Celtic Nations”) would be invited to complete the line-up and would compete on the same basis i.e. they would be entitled to be trophy winners. No player may play for more than one team each year. Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas, will be played on each of two weekends. The VP scores from the first weekend will be carried forward to the final weekend.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match of each weekend, and will be designated teams C & E.

The draw for 2027 is as follows:

	Weekend 1	Weekend 2
Team A:	Republic of Ireland	Wales
Team B:	Wales	Republic of Ireland
Team C:	SBU	Scotland
Team D:	England	Northern Ireland
Team E:	Scotland	SBU
Team F:	Northern Ireland	England

### 13.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match.

Subject always to the over-riding provisions of section 13.4 (relating to the use of HUMs), seating rights alternate between the two teams. In the first stanza the Captain of the second-named team nominates their pairs first; in the second stanza the first-named Captain nominates first.

The Director in Charge has discretion to vary seating rights, as necessary, to accommodate a disability, provided that extra care is taken to ensure that no problems ensue, either mechanical or in relation to scoring. There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating their players first completes their portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating their players second completes their portion. Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

### 13.3 Trophies

With regard to the trophies between teams for the direct matches, if a country is fielding two teams that year, the destination of the trophy will be worked out on the cumulative scores of the two teams.

### 13.4 Systems

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are permitted in the Camrose Trophy, but full details must be provided when submitting the system. Where a team has a pair or pairs using a HUM system that team loses seating rights whenever these pair(s) are

selected to play. Opponents may bring written defences to the HUM system to the table as an aide mémoire.

**Brown Sticker** agreements may be used provided separate forms for each **Brown Sticker** agreement to be played, together with viable proposed defences, are submitted with the system card. Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of **three Brown Sticker** agreements. A pair may prepare written defences against the **Brown Sticker** agreements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against **Brown Sticker** agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

### 13.5 Schedule

The time allowed for a 16-board stanza shall be 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 15-minute scoring break between stanzas and a 45-minute break between matches played on the same day. The Captain's meeting for both weekends will be held using Zoom (or similar) at a time to be notified. Captains will be sent a link to the meeting.

#### 13.5.1

Friday	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	D v F	C v E	B v A
	21.25–23.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25–14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45–19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25–14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45–19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.30	Dinner		

#### 13.5.2

Friday	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	F v A	D v B	E v C
	21.25–23.35	F v A	D v B	E v C
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v D	B v E	C v F
	12.25–14.35	A v D	B v E	C v F

	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v D	C v B	A v E
	17.45–19.55	F v D	C v B	A v E
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	E v F	A v B	D v C
	12.25–14.35	E v F	A v B	D v C
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	C v A	D v E	B v F
	17.45–19.55	C v A	D v E	B v F
	20.30	Closing Dinner		

### 13.6 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2027	8-10 January	England
	5-7 March	Scotland
2028	7-9 January	Northern Ireland
	3-5 March	Ireland
2029	5-7 January	Wales
	2-4 March	England
2030	11-13 January	Scotland
	8 -10 March	Northern Ireland
2031	10-12 January	Ireland
	7-9 March	Wales
2032	8-10 January	England
	4-6 March	Scotland
2033	7-9 January	Northern Ireland
	4-6 March	Ireland

## 14. Special regulations – Lady Milne Trophy

### 14.1 Format

Six teams will compete, the sixth team rotating between each country, with the country hosting the match providing the second team that year. All members of the second team representing the host HNBO must be members in good standing of the host HNBO. If, for any reason, that country is unable to field an additional team, a combined nations team (“Celtic Nations”) would be invited to complete the line-up and would compete on the same basis i.e. they would be entitled to be trophy winners. Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas, will be played.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match, and will be designated teams C & E.

The draw for 2027 is as follows:

Team A:	Scotland
Team B:	Northern Ireland
Team C:	Wales
Team D:	England
Team E:	WBU
Team F:	Republic of Ireland

## 14.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match.

Captain of the second-named team nominates their pairs first; in the second stanza the first-named Captain nominates first.

The Director in Charge has discretion to vary seating rights, as necessary, to accommodate a disability, provided that extra care is taken to ensure that no problems ensue, either mechanical or in relation to scoring. There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating their players first completes their portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating their players second completes their portion. Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

## 14.3 Systems

**Brown Sticker** agreements may be used provided separate forms for each **Brown Sticker** agreement to be played, together with viable proposed defences, are submitted with the system card.

Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker agreements.

A pair may prepare written defences against the **Brown Sticker** agreements of any system.

Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against **Brown Sticker** agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

## 14.4 Schedule

The time allowed for a 16-board stanza shall be 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 15-minute scoring break between stanzas and a 45-minute break between matches played on the same day.

The Captain's meeting will be held using Zoom (or similar) at a time to be notified. Captains will be sent a link to the meeting.

Friday	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	D v F	C v E	B v A

	21.25–23.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25–14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45–19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00–12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25–14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45–19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.30	Closing Dinner		

#### 14.5 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2027	16-18 April	Wales
2028	14-16 April	Scotland
2029	13-15 April	Ireland
2030	19-21 April	England
2031	18-20 April	Northern Ireland
2032	16-18 April	Wales
2033	15-17 April	Scotland

### 15. Special regulations – Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy

#### 15.1 Format

Each team in each event will play two matches against each other team in the same event. Each match will be between teams of four over 16 boards with IMP scoring converted to VPs.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match, and will be designated teams C & E. with the condition that the host nation shall be Team C. If the host HNBO is unable to provide an additional team, a combined nations team (“Celtic Nations”) would be invited to complete the line-up and would compete on the same basis i.e. they would be entitled to be trophy winners.

In the case of the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy, it is permitted that a “floating pair” be selected to play in either event.

The draw for the 2027 Junior Camrose Trophy is as follows:

Team A:	England
Team B:	Northern Ireland
Team C:	CBAI
Team D:	Wales
Team E:	Republic of Ireland
Team F:	Scotland

### 15.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room.

The Captain of the second-named team nominates their pairs first.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

See section 13.2 in relation to disability.

### 15.3 Eligibility

Players competing in Under 26 events must not have achieved their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. Players competing in Under 21 events must not have achieved their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. It is the responsibility of the HNBO to check that participants meet the age criteria and BGB may ask for evidence of this.

A Junior in full-time education may represent the HNBO of their place of education provided they have not sought to represent another HNBO earlier in that competition year. This eligibility lasts until the end of the competition year in which their full-time education ceases, or place of full-time education changes to another HNBO.

The requirement to wait for the statutory two competition years when changing HNBO of allegiance is waived for a Junior taking up or losing eligibility based on place of education. Under no circumstances may a player represent more than one HNBO in any one competition year.

### 15.4 Schedule

The Captain's meeting will be held using Zoom (or similar) at a time to be notified. Captains will be sent a link to the meeting.

The time allowed is 2 hours 10 minutes and these are the recommended timings:

Friday	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00-21.10	E v C	B v D	A v F
	21.25-23.35	B v A	D v C	E v F
Saturday	10.00-12.10	A v D	E v B	C v F
	12.25-14.35	C v A	D v E	B v F

Lunch				
	15.20-17.30	A v E	C v B	D v F
	17.45-19.55	D v A	B v E	F v C
	20.30	Dinner		
Sunday	10.00-12.10	A v C	E v D	F v B
	12.25-14.35	C v E	D v B	F v A
Lunch				
	15.20-17.30	A v B	C v D	F v E
	17.45-19.55	E v A	B v C	F v D
	20.30	Closing Dinner		

## 15.6 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2027	19-21 February	Ireland
2028	18-20 February	England
2029	16-18 February	Northern Ireland
2030	15-17 February	Wales
2031	14-16 February	Scotland
2032	19-21 February	Ireland
2033	18-20 February	England

If only four teams are participating in the Junior Camrose or Peggy Bayer, the schedule will be adjusted to nine matches by omitting the last session on Friday. Each team shall play three matches against each other team. Seating rights alternate for the first two matches, and for the third match they will be decided by a blind line-up.

## 16. Special regulations – Teltscher Trophy

### 16.1 Format

Six teams will compete, the sixth team rotating between each country. If the host HNBO is unable to provide an additional team, a combined nations team (“Celtic Nations”) would be invited to complete the line-up and would compete on the same basis i.e. they would be entitled to be trophy winners. Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas, will be played.

The two teams from the same country will play against each other in the first match, and will be designated teams C & E.

The draw for 2027 is as follows:

Team A:	Republic of Ireland
Team B:	Wales
Team C:	NIBU
Team D:	Scotland

Team E:	Northern Ireland
Team F:	England

## 16.2 Seating rights

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match.

Seating rights alternate between the two teams. In the first stanza the Captain of the second-named team nominates their pairs first; in the second stanza the first-named Captain nominates first.

The Director in Charge has discretion to vary seating rights, as necessary, to accommodate a disability, provided that extra care is taken to ensure that no problems ensue, either mechanical or in relation to scoring. There will be a designated table on which the three line-up sheets will be placed. The Captain seating their players first completes their portion of the sheet, then the Captain seating their players second completes their portion. Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

## 16.3 Eligibility

A Senior player must achieve the age of 65 or more during the year of the Championship in which he is going to play.

## 16.4 Systems

See 13.4

## 16.5 Schedule

The time allowed for a 16-board stanza shall be 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 15-minute scoring break between stanzas and a 45-minute break between matches played on the same day.

The Captain's meeting will be held using Zoom (or similar) at a time to be notified. Captains will be sent a link to the meeting.

Friday	17.30	Buffet meal		
	19.00–21.10	D v F	C v E	B v A
	21.25–23.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00–12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25–14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45–19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
	20.30	Dinner		

Sunday	10.00–12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25–14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
	Lunch			
	15.20–17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45–19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.30	Closing Dinner		

## 16 Fixtures

Year	Date	Host country
2027	21-23 May	Northern Ireland
2028	19-21 May	Wales
2029	18-20 May	Scotland
2030	17-19 May	Ireland
2031	16-18 May	England
2032	21-23 May	Northern Ireland
2033	20-22 May	Wales

## 17. Contact details and resources

### 17.1 Bridge Great Britain

Secretary: Mrs Sandra Claridge

Tel: +44 (0)1844 208629

Email: [sclaridge31@gmail.com](mailto:sclaridge31@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Jeremy Dhondy

Email: [bgbwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:bgbwebmaster@gmail.com)

### 17.2 HNBOs

Country	Contact	Email	Telephone
England	Gordon Rainsford	<a href="mailto:gordon@ebu.co.uk">gordon@ebu.co.uk</a>	+44 (0)1296) 317200
Ireland	Dermot O'Brien	<a href="mailto:dermot@cbai.ie">dermot@cbai.ie</a>	+353 (0)1 4929666
N Ireland	Brian Mullen	<a href="mailto:cnoc17ard@gmail.com">cnoc17ard@gmail.com</a>	07864 858479

Scotland	Anne Symons	<a href="mailto:anne.symons6@gmail.com">anne.symons6@gmail.com</a>	07816 197357
Wales	Ceri Pierce	<a href="mailto:ceri@wbu.org.uk">ceri@wbu.org.uk</a>	07930 503746

### 17.3 Websites

Bridge Great Britain: <https://www.bridgegreatbritain.org>  
English Bridge Union: <https://www.ebu.co.uk>  
Contract Bridge Association of Ireland: <https://www.cbai.ie>  
Northern Ireland Bridge Union: <https://www.nibu.co.uk>  
Scottish Bridge Union: <https://www.sbu.org.uk>  
Welsh Bridge Union: <https://www.welshbridgeunion.org>  
Fearghal O’Boyle: <https://www.fob.ie>

### 17.4 Resources

- WBF VP scales: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/vp-scales>
- EBU White Book:
- <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/white-book/white-book.pdf>.
- WBF Systems Policy, Alerting Policy and **Brown Sticker** forms
- <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/competitions/systems/>

## 17 List of BGB Arbiters

Name	Phone
Sarah Amos	07930 503746
Fearghal O’Boyle	00 353 86 2652871
Gordon Rainsford	07908 730774

## Appendix A: World Bridge Federation Screen Regulations

### 18 Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period). The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player’s side of the screen. A player’s first call should touch the extreme left of the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible.

With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more calls made from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the entire bidding tray under the centre of the screen so that it is visible only to the players on the other side who then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again.

This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

It is the responsibility of North/South to make sure that the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right to have the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards neatly in their respective bidding boxes.

At this point presumed Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened. At the end of play the tray is put back on the table.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened to permit all players to see dummy's cards and cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

When leading or following suit, players must take care to always play cards in the same way, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

**Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalty. Penalties are detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.**

## **19 Scoring**

Players and Captains are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores. The score as calculated by RealBridge will be regarded as the official score.

Repeated violation of any correct entering procedures may be subject to penalties.

## **20 Alerts and Explanations**

**21** A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert their screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in their segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to their opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.

**22** At any time during the Auction a player may request of their screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.

**23** At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from their screen-mate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made. Therefore, the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

#### **4. Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use**

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 72c (2017) may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by their screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of their side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or their screen-mate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

**24** The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened.

Otherwise:

- When the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
- When the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted.
- The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 72c (2017) may apply. lii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card. Iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- When an alertable call is made see 3.2 above.
- When a player takes more than a normal time to make their call, it is not an infraction if they draw attention to the break in tempo. Their screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information they should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. They may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so they may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

- However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 3.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

## Appendix B BSC definitions

### Brown Sticker agreements and treatments

The following agreements or treatments are categorised as **Brown Sticker**:

1. Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
  - could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) **and**
  - does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

**EXCEPTION:** The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a **Brown Sticker** agreement.)

**EXCEPTION:** A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types containing 16 high card points or more, or with equivalent values. Defensive measures are permitted for opponents as if a **Brown Sticker** agreement.

2. An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

**EXCEPTION:** A natural overcall in no trumps.

**EXCEPTION:** Any cue bid suit that shows a strong hand.

**EXCEPTION:** A jump cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

3. Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
4. Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
5. None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against **Brown Sticker** or HUM agreements.
6. For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as natural and not artificial.

## Appendix C

### International Mixed Teams 2027

Run by EBU

# Conditions of Contest

*Updated: July 2026*

## **1. Description of the Operation**

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period). The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible.

With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more calls made from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the entire bidding tray under the centre of the screen so that it is visible only to the players on the other side who then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again.

This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

It is the responsibility of North/South to make sure that the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right to have the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards neatly in their respective bidding boxes.

At this point presumed Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened. At the end of play the tray is put back on the table.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened to permit all players to see dummy's cards and cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

When leading or following suit, players must take care to always play cards in the same way, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in

accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

**Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalty. Penalties are detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.**

## **2. Scoring**

Players and Captains are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores. The score as calculated by RealBridge will be regarded as the official score.

Repeated violation of any correct entering procedures may be subject to penalties.

## **3. Alerts and Explanations**

a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert their screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in their segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to their opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.

b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of their screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.

c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from their screen-mate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made. Therefore, the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

## **4. Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use**

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 72c (2017) may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by their screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of their side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or their screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened.

Otherwise:

- When the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
- When the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted.
- The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 72c (2017) may apply. iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card. iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- When an alertable call is made see 3.2 above.
- When a player takes more than a normal time to make their call, it is not an infraction if they draw attention to the break in tempo. Their screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information they should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. They may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so they may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.
- However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 3.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

## Appendix B BSC definitions

### Brown Sticker agreements and treatments

The following agreements or treatments are categorised as **Brown Sticker**:

1. Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
  - could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) **and**
  - does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

**EXCEPTION:** The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in

one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a **Brown Sticker** agreement.)

**EXCEPTION:** A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types containing 16 high card points or more, or with equivalent values. Defensive measures are permitted for opponents as if a **Brown Sticker** agreement.

2. An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

**EXCEPTION:** A natural overcall in no trumps.

**EXCEPTION:** Any cue bid suit that shows a strong hand.

**EXCEPTION:** A jump cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

3. Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
4. Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
5. None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against **Brown Sticker** or HUM agreements.
6. For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as natural and not artificial.

## Mixed Teams Regulations

### Overview

- 1.1 The International Mixed Teams ("IMT") will be conducted on the online [RealBridge](#) platform from 13-15 March 2027
- 1.2 The event will be organised by the EBU
- 1.3 Participating Home National Bridge Organisations (HNBOs) are the English Bridge Union, the Northern Ireland Bridge Union, the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, the Scottish Bridge Union, and the Welsh Bridge Union.
- 1.4 HNBOs may enter up to two teams. In cases of an odd number of participating teams, an additional team may be permitted to ensure an even total. One or more teams from overseas NBOs may be invited to make the maximum number of teams (10).
- 1.5 Eligibility to play for an HNBO will be the same as set out in the 2027 Home International Regulations published by Bridge Great Britain.

### 1 Authority

- 2.1 The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest, as determined by the Chief TD, Fearghal O'Boyle, shall be considered final.
- 2.2 Decisions required under these Conditions of Contest during the event may be made by the Tournament Director (TD).
- 2.3 The IMT will be played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.

### 2 Authority

- 3.1 Participation is open to bridge players from any World Bridge Federation (WBF) zones who are in good standing with their respective NBOs.
- 3.2 All participants must adhere to the regulations set forth in this appendix. Invitations shall be issued to teams consisting of four, five, or six players.

3.3 Each team must comprise two Mixed Pairs playing at all times. A Mixed Pair is a pair consisting of one female player and one male player.

3.4 The gender of the participant is to be taken as that shown on their valid ID/Passport.

### 3 Entry fee

- 3.1 The entry fee is €150.
- 3.2 Entries from teams of four to six players should be sent to [dermot@cbai.ie](mailto:dermot@cbai.ie).
- 3.3 The closing date for entries is Monday 2 February 2026. Names of team members are required by Monday 2 March 2027 - changes to the composition of a team will be subject to the Chief TD's discretion.
- 3.4 Further entries may be accepted at their discretion of the organiser.

### 4 Schedule

- 4.1 The provisional schedule assumes the participation of ten teams engaging in a complete round-robin of 14-board matches. This schedule may be adjusted according to the final number of entries.

Friday, 13 March	16:00 GMT	Match 1, boards 1-7
	17:00 GMT	Match 1, boards 8-14
	18:30 GMT	Match 2, boards 1-7
	19.30 GMT	Match 2, board 8-14
Saturday, 14 March	11:00 GMT	Match 3, boards 1-7
	12:00 GMT	Match 3, boards 8-14
	13:30 GMT	Match 4, boards 1-7
	14:30 GMT	Match 4, boards 8-14
	16:00 GMT	Match 5, boards 1-7
	17.00 GMT	Match 5, boards 8-14
	18.30 GMT	Match 6, boards 1-7
	19.30 GMT	Match 6, boards 8-14
Sunday, 15 March	10:30 GMT	Match 7, boards 1-7
	11:30 GMT	Match 7, boards 8-14
	13.00 GMT	Match 8, boards 1-7
	14.00 GMT	Match 8, boards 8-14
	15.30 GMT	Match 9, boards 1-7
	16.30 GMT	Match 9, boards 8-14

	18.00 GMT	Presentation
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The presentation will be conducted via Zoom, with the trophy to be physically presented at the next Home International hosted by the NBO of the winning team.

## 5 Seating rights

- 5.1 Each team has its own home table and seats its North-South pair there throughout.
- 5.2 For a two-stanza match: in the first stanza, the captain of the second-named team nominates their line-up first; in the second stanza the first-named captain nominates first.
- 5.3 Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

## 6 Scoring

- 6.1 Scoring will use IMPs, which will be converted to Victory Points on the WBF's 20-point continuous victory point scale.

## 7 Systems and Conventions

- 7.1 This is an [EBL Category 3](#) competition.  
Note that written defences are not permitted.
- 7.2 Brown Sticker conventions and Highly Unusual Methods are **not** permitted.
- 7.3 Players are **not permitted** to consult their own system cards or notes during play.
- 7.4 System cards must be lodged with the Chief TD ([fearghaloboyle@gmail.com](mailto:fearghaloboyle@gmail.com)) as soon as they are available and no later than Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2027. They will be published on the event's website.
- 7.5 System cards should be compliant with WBF guidelines. For advice on completing system cards to this specification, please refer to [System Card Review](#).
- 7.6 A maximum of four system cards per team is allowed.

## 8 RealBridge with screens

- 8.1 RealBridge employs computer video and audio for player communication. Players are encouraged to test their video and audio functionality in advance.
- 8.2 Players are required to use both video and audio during matches. In cases of audio/video issues, players may continue using text chat until connectivity can be restored, thereby avoiding delays.
- 8.3 The screens restrict audio and video communication. Players will be able to see and interact with their screenmate but not with their partner.
- 8.4 Refreshing the video feed is recommended approximately every hour, achievable without logging out by clicking the refresh button on the name bar.

## 9 RealBridge and UNDOs

- 9.1 Requests for UNDOs are permitted during the auction but not during the play.
- 9.2 If there is a request for an UNDO in the auction, the TD should be called by the opponent on the

same side of the screen, if there is any doubt. (The opponent on the other side of the screen should accept the UNDO.)

- 9.3 The TD will determine the applicability of Law 25A regarding UNDOs and will instruct both opponents to accept the request if deemed suitable.
- 9.4 If the opponents accept the request for an UNDO, without calling the TD, they will usually be deemed to have accepted the replacement call (Law 25B1 – ‘the second call stands and the auction continues’).

## **10 Alerting**

- 10.1 The following classes of calls should be alerted:
  - a) Artificial bids should be alerted; natural bids should not.
  - b) Those calls (that is bids, passes, doubles or redoubles) which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the SBU). See also Law 40B.
  - c) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.
- 10.2 Specifically, calls and passes above 3NT should be alerted and explained if they are artificial or unexpected.
- 10.3 Full disclosure is vital. However, players are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter.
- 10.4 The screens apply to audio and video communication, but alerts and written announcements (from the player making the call) pass through the screen.
- 10.5 Follow-up questions should be to the person who made the call (not the screenmate). This means that both opponents will see exactly the same written explanations.
- 10.6 Calls are alerted by the player making the call: calls are alerted by providing a short explanation of the call before making the call – it is not necessary to click the Alert strip. Alternatively, players can click the Alert strip, make the call, and then click on the call and add the short explanation.

## **11 Slow play**

- 11.1 Players are expected to play seven boards in 55 minutes.
- 11.2 Automatic penalties will be enforced for any table that exceeds the allocated time, specifically a penalty of 0.2 Victory Points per minute of delay.
- 11.3 The TD shall apportion responsibility for slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties accordingly.

## **12 Late arrival**

- 12.1 All participants should be seated and prepared to commence play five minutes prior to the scheduled start time. A warning will be issued for the first offence for late arrivals within five minutes. Penalties will apply for late arrivals exceeding five minutes or for repeated offences, at

the discretion of the TD.

### **13 Requests for rulings, appeals and score corrections**

- 13.1 Requests for rulings must be submitted within 20 minutes following the conclusion of the match.
- 13.2 Appeals against rulings must be lodged within 20 minutes after the conclusion of the match or after the issuance of the ruling, whichever is later. The appeal will be heard by the Chief TD who may appoint a committee for this purpose.
- 13.3 The standard period for corrections to the official score is 30 minutes after the conclusion of play on the relevant day.

### **14 Substitutes**

- 14.1 A team unable to field two mixed pairs may seek authorisation for a substitute from the Chief TD, who retains absolute discretion regarding such requests and may impose conditions for the use of a substitute.
- 14.2 The Chief TD may sanction an emergency substitution on the day of the event, with a full report provided to the organisers, who will determine the extent to which the results of affected matches will stand.

### **15 Withdrawal and unplayed matches**

- 15.1 Teams are obliged to participate in all scheduled matches.
- 15.2 In the event of withdrawal or failure to play a match, the Chief TD will notify the relevant NBOs of the team involved.
- 15.3 If a team completes fewer than half of the scheduled matches, the results of all its matches will be expunged.
- 15.4 Teams that complete at least half of the scheduled matches will have their results counted, with unplayed matches scored according to the formula provided by the EBU.

where

$x$  = Non-offending side's average result in VPs

$y$  = Offending side's average result in VPs

### **16 Communications**

- 16.1 Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the organiser or the Chief TD should be emailed to, respectively, [dermot@cbai.ie](mailto:dermot@cbai.ie) or [fearghalboyle@gmail.com](mailto:fearghalboyle@gmail.com).

### **17 Resources**

- 17.1 [RealBridge camera and microphone test](#)

### **18 Key dates**

- 18.1 Closing date for entries, with payment, is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2027
- 18.2 Names of team members are required by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2027.
- 18.3 System cards must be submitted by Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2027.