

GCBA COMPETITION RULES

1.1. Membership

Only EBU members are eligible to play in GCBA events, other than in those events specified below

1. Cleverly Teams League,
2. Rank Xerox Trophy,
3. Bredon Vale Cup,
4. Ace of Clubs.

Outside these events, anyone recognised as appropriate by the TD may play in any online GCBA games, and bona fide visitors to England who are not EBU members will be allowed to play in single sessions of any multi-session face-to-face GCBA Pairs events, or as an occasional (maximum of twice in any 12 months) substitute in a multi-session face-to-face GCBA Teams event. The TD of the day can waive these restrictions when it deemed expedient to do that.

1.2. Bridge rules

Current EBU practice, such as contained in its tournament directors guide ("White Book"), will be the basis of all GCBA competitions. The CTD or the TD of the day has power to impose penalties for anything that interferes with the smooth running of an event, such as: slow play, mis-boarding or playing the wrong boards. In any dispute, an appeals body will be created by the County Committee. Further appeals may be directed to the national body.

In all GCBA events, it is improper for opponents to come to an agreement about a bridge result that might be to the detriment of a third party in the same competition.

VP Scales: in all events where IMPs are converted to VP's (which will be those recommended by the EBU), the scales published in the EBU's Tournament Directors Guide (White Book) will be used; GCBA will use the discrete scales adopted by the EBU from 1 September 2013. Copies are attached at the end of this document.

Tie-breaks: ties are broken, when necessary to decide championships, qualification, promotion, or relegation places according to the procedures published in the EBU Tournament Director's Guide. Master points and cash prizes are to be shared equally between the tying contestants.

1.3. Conventions & systems

Conventions and systems defined by the EBU as **level 4** are permitted in all county competitions. Players are responsible for checking in the **Blue Book** (EBU Conventions and Directives) whether their system meets these requirements.

1.4. Non-expert

Unless otherwise specified, the definition of a non-expert (for non-expert prizes or restricted competitions) is below the rank of National Master at the first time the person plays in that competition in the relevant year (so you cannot become ineligible for the Ace of Clubs after you have played this season as eligible). For open events which offer a non-expert prize, all members of a team or pair must be 'non-expert' for that pair or team to be eligible for that prize.

1.5. Teams

A team will consist of between four and six nominated players, all of whom must be EBU members (a restriction dropped where specified in 1.1 above) . An unlimited number of substitutes is permitted in any multiple session Teams event except for County Knock Out (in which all participants must be nominated players) and that no nominated league player can substitute for another team in the same or a lower league.

[In Pairs Events, an unlimited number of substitutes is allowed, but the score with a substitute cannot contribute to the total achieved by the "real" pair over the series.]

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Seating rights: where these apply the captains toss for choice of opponents. Then

- a) four stanzas: choose one or pass the choice to choose one; then choose two, then take the fourth.
- b) five stanzas: choose two but not the last two, or pass this choice over, then take three.
- c) six stanzas: chose two but not the last two or pass this choice over, then choose three, and then take the sixth.

1.6. TD Rulings and Appeals

At GCBA events with a playing director

- a) Requests for a ruling will be handled by the TD if available and not an interested party, and otherwise by a suitably capable substitute nominated by the TD.

At all GCBA events

- b) Where the ruling requires a bridge judgement, the TD (or substitute) will always consult a suitable number of people before making the ruling. This might delay the ruling, and where that causes a problem, an interim ruling (eg "score as if the claim was valid") will be made.
- c) Where one or other party is not satisfied with the final ruling, they should inform the TD (or substitute) as soon as possible.
 - a. If the issue is an issue of interpretation of the Laws or Regulations, then the party concerned can appeal to the County CTD whose decision will be final. If the CTD is already involved, then another independent and qualified TD will be appointed to handle the appeal. If there is no suitable local candidate, then an EBU Panel TD will be used.
 - b. If the issue is an issue with any judgement made, then an independent "Appeal Counsellor" of suitable standing will be appointed. If, following discussion with the aggrieved party, the counsellor and the aggrieved party believe that a serious error of judgement has taken place, then the matter will be referred to an EBU Appeals Referee, whose judgement shall be final.

1.7. Time limit for protests and appeals.

Requests for a ruling should be made before the next board is started unless new information comes to light at a later point (but no later than 20 minutes after the end of a session of pairs or 20 minutes after end of the scoring up period of teams).

Appeals against TD's ruling. The tournament director in charge should be notified by 10 minutes after the end of the session or by 5 minutes after the ruling is given, whichever is the later.

Appeals against mis-scoring. In the case of faulty filling-in of travellers or Bridgemates, faulty agreement of tricks won and withdrawn claims and concessions, the onus of making a case is on the pair or team that wishes to change the recorded result. The end of the protest period for various GCBA events is specified in the table below:

1. Everett Cup / Cotswold Cup / Rank Xerox Teams / Bredon Vale Cup / Garden Cities QF - when the trophy has been presented; the director should allow the contestants ten minutes access to the score sheet before announcing the result.
2. Any head-to-head matches in team events - when the result has been agreed and authorities have been informed.
3. For all Monday events, and any other event not specified above, twenty four hours from the posting of the results and hand records on the website.

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It must be noted that where it is too difficult to agree on the facts, then the appeal will have to be dismissed, and no-one will be deemed to be at fault.

1.8. County League

Format: ten sessions with matches of 24 boards, played in two sets of twelve boards.

Scoring: imps converted to VPs on a 20-point scale.

Special Rules:

Matches will be face-to-face unless both teams agree to it being on RealBridge or agree to it being on BBO.

Postponements are discouraged – please use substitutes. If a match must be postponed the teams shall fix a date within a month of the original date. If they fail to produce an agreed date the team which did not cause the postponement shall give the offending team a choice of three weekday dates (not all the same day of the week). If none of these dates are accepted, then the team responsible for the cancellation will be deemed to have lost 0-12. The 'winning' team will be awarded their average over the season if this is more than 60% (rounded up to the nearest half VP). If a team fails to turn up for a match or gives so little notice that one or more of their opponents cannot be contacted, then the non-offending side has the right to claim the match 12-0 (or more than 12 if their average is above that).

The League shall be organised in Divisions of - in order of preference - 6 teams, 8 teams, 10 teams. There will be a reallocation of teams to divisions (involving promotion / relegation as indicated below) after 5 matches if all divisions are of 6 teams (and new teams will be accommodated at this point). If we have eight teams each team plays each other once (7 matches) and then the top four play against amongst themselves (3 matches), and the bottom four do likewise. If we are forced to have 7 teams in a division, we adopt the 8-team format. If we have a mix of divisions of 6 & 8, then the top divisions should be 6. If we have two divisions of six there will be promotion/relegation of one team after five matches. If we have 10 teams, we will play a 9-match series, all-play-all, followed by an extra head-to-head match for the top two, the next two, etc.

The Tournament Subcommittee is responsible for allocating teams to divisions, applying the following rules as far as possible -

1. Unchanged teams (ie teams that have kept more than half of their players from the previous run) that won divisions other than the top division will be promoted.
2. Unchanged teams that finished bottom of their divisions will be relegated (unless the league size increases, or if bottom in the lowest division).

Further promotions and relegations will happen at the discretion of the TSC if the division sizes change.

1.9. Winter Swiss Teams

Format: this competition will comprise 6 evenings with 2*12 board matches each evening. A re-match of an earlier match will be allowed in sessions 4-6 but only if it is not a repeat of a match from the previous session. In all Swiss Teams matches there will be a compulsory change of opponents at halfway.

Scoring: in all matches by imps converted to VPs on a 20-point scale.

Missing sessions: teams giving adequate notice (at least 30 minutes before the start of play) of missing a session (to the TD in charge, or to the CTD) will be awarded a credit for the session missed. Teams which miss a session will be allocated a credit of 50% on the first session missed and any sessions before they first appear, and 40% on any others. Teams failing to turn up without notice might receive 0 VPs.

1.10. Summer Teams

Format: this will be multiple teams, all-play-all format, and the top four ranked teams will be given POINTS on a 8-6-4-2 scale. The series winner will be the individual who accumulates most points over the series of sessions.

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1.11. Autumn & Spring Pairs League

Format : this will comprise 7 or 8 online evenings playing against each pair in your division each evening, After each session of a division with 6 pairs, one pair will be relegated, and one promoted from the division below. After each session of a division nominally with 8 pairs, two pairs will be relegated from the division (three from the next to lowest division), and appropriate numbers promoted. The size of divisions and the assignment to divisions will be decided by the TD on the basis of practicalities of the platform concerned.

Scoring: The Autumn Pairs League will be scored as Cross-imp Pairs, and the Spring Pairs League will be Matchpoint Pairs scoring.

Missing sessions: Pairs are encouraged to find a substitute player or pair if someone cannot attend. If a pair misses a session their place in that division will be reserved for the next session, but if they miss two consecutive sessions they will be relegated and (a) if one pair would ordinarily be relegated then an extra pair is promoted, and (b) if two pairs would ordinarily be relegated then only the lower of those is relegated.

1.12. Summer Pairs

Format: this will comprise 6 online Matchpoint pairs sessions, for which random seating will apply.

Scoring: scoring will be match-points and the overall competition winning pair, for those contestants who play in more than half the sessions, will be determined by the average of their best 4.

The series winners will be determined by the individual whose average percentage over their best 6 sessions is highest (subject to at most one score counting with any one partner).

1.13. County Individual: the Morgan-Brown Cup

Format: This shall be a single session individual event. THIS EVENT IS ON HOLD.

Scoring: match-points.

Special Rules: The system to be used will be based on EBU Level 2 systems.

1.14. County Pairs

Format: this will comprise a qualifying round in clubs (online or face-to-face as they prefer, as many as they deem necessary to give all players some opportunity); the number of qualifiers from a heat will be 50% of the number of pairs who are eligible to qualify (so those already qualified do not count), including ties, but no substitutes, following by a single day face-to-face final, with the number of boards determined by the TD on the day (ideally around 36).

Scoring: match-points.

Special Rules:

An individual or a pair may play in as many qualifying heats as they wish.

The top 3 eligible (that is, pairs who owe their primary allegiance to Gloucestershire) pairs in the ranking in the final will have the opportunity to represent Gloucestershire in the Corwen trophy (with substitutes placed above halfway in the final if necessary).

1.15. County Knock-out

Format : This event will be knock-out from the start, with a random draw, and matches of 32 boards. Matches will be on RealBridge unless both teams agree to play on BBO or both teams agree to play face-to-face, in which case that option will apply. Matches will be in four sets of 8 boards unless the two captains agree to two sets of 12 or two sets of 16 boards.

Scoring:imps throughout.

Special Rules:

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First knock out round must be completed by 8 Jan; the semi-finals by 8 Mar; the final by the date of the AGM.

The winners – subject to eligibility - shall represent Gloucestershire in the Pachabo (substitute players or teams as per current EBU rules for the Pachabo).

1.16. Inter-club teams of eight

Format: every team plays every other team for an equal number of boards. Approximately 28 boards will be played.

Scoring: The two foursomes imp up as a team; the imps scores are added and a VP score of 0-20 is applied.

Special Rules:

The intention is to mirror the format/scoring of Garden Cities regional final.

The leading team is eligible to represent Gloucestershire in the Garden Cities Trophy provided they field in the Regional Final at least four of the team which qualified. Otherwise the next best team is given the offer.

Clubs may enter up to 2 teams, but if one of their teams goes forward to the Garden Cities, they cannot use in that team club members who competed in other teams in this event.

This event is only held if more than one club indicates its interest in competing against Cheltenham BC.

1.17. Everett Cup

Format: either multiple teams or Swiss Teams as the TD thinks best for the numbers. Around 36 boards to be played. Entry will be by pairs with a draw for team-mates.

Scoring: total imps if multiple teams, total VPs if Swiss Teams.

1.18. Cotswold Cup

Format: this will run as with a Pairs movement with a fixed orientation for all pairs, but scoring will be by imps. Around 36 boards to be played. Entry will be by pairs and scoring will be done (for each of East-West and North-South separately) against a datum supplied from when the hands were played in some previous event.

Scoring: total imps

1.19. Walter Jessop (Men's Pairs) & Burry (Women's Pairs) Cups

Format: single session pairs. THESE EVENTS ARE NO LONGER RUN

Scoring: match-points

1.20. Mixed Pairs and Flitch

Format: pairs event of single session length. THIS EVENT IS ON HOLD.

Scoring: match-points

Special Rules:

The winners will be the Mixed Pairs champions. The best married couple (or next best, if the Mixed Pairs champions are a married couple) are the winners of the Flitch trophy.

1.21. Leonard Cup

Now subsumed within the Ace of Clubs – see below.

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1.22. No Fear Trophy

Now been overtaken by the Ace of Clubs; the intent is that this trophy is used for a novices' competition, more likely one run by Cheltenham Bridge Club.

1.23. Bredon Vale Cup

Format: A one session event for clubs in the county, affiliated or not. Each club can enter up to three teams of four.

Scoring: total imps, and the highest total will be the winner of the Bredon Vale Cup.

Special Rules:

At most one player in each team can be of expert status as defined in 1.4 above; the other team members must be non-expert players.

1.24. Rank Xerox

As for BREDON VALE except that clubs enter teams-of-8 and are allowed two "expert" players, and each club can enter three teams.

1.25. Steve Darke Salver (aka Champions Cup, played on the AGM Day)

Format: A single session Stratified Pairs event of around 30 boards.

Scoring: match points.

1.26. Geoffrey Paterson Trophy for the Victor Ludorum

This competition runs from the first Monday in September until the end of the next Summer Pairs/Teams and is open to all GCBA members who have not played in a County First Team (Tollemache or Dawes) in the three years preceding the competition period. It is awarded to the eligible player who gathers the greatest number of EBU master points during this period on Monday nights. THIS EVENT IS ON HOLD

1.30 Ace of Clubs: Players Championship

Format: The Ace of Clubs competition will comprise a qualifying round in clubs; the number of qualifiers from a heat will be 50% of the number of pairs who are play, including ties, but no substitutes, followed by a single day final, with the number of board determined by the TD on the day (ideally around 26).

Clubs may hold more than one heat to cater for different groups of players. An individual or a pair may play in as many qualifying heats as they wish.

The Leonard Cup will be allocated to the best score in the final from a pair both below Regional Master.

1.31 Stanley Plate

Format: Swiss Teams

THIS EVENT IS ON HOLD

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NEW VP SCALES

VP score	7 boards	8 boards	14 boards	28 boards
10-10	0	0	0-1	0-1
11-9	1-2	1-3	2-4	2-6
12-8	3-5	4-6	5-8	7-11
13-7	6-8	7-9	9-12	12-17
14-6	9-11	10-12	13-16	18-23
15-5	12-14	13-16	17-21	24-29
16-4	15-18	17-20	22-26	30-37
17-3	19-23	21-25	27-33	38-46
18-2	24-28	26-30	34-40	47-57
19-1	39-35	31-38	41-50	58-71
20-0	36+	39+	51+	72+

VP SCALES - multiple comparisons

VP score	MIDLANDS COUNTIES LEAGUES	CPL PAIRS LEAGUE (3 scores)
10-10	0-6	0-2
11-9	7-20	3-9
12-8	21-34	10-16
13-7	35-51	17-23
14-6	52-69	24-32
15-5	70-91	33-41
16-4	92-113	42-52
17-3	114-141	53-64
18-2	142-174	65-80
19-1	175-215	81-98
20-0	216+	99+

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NEW VP SCALES - TRIANGLES

VP score	3 boards	4 boards	7 boards	14 boards
5-5	0	0	0-1	0-2
6-4	1-3	1-3	2-5	3-7
7-3	4-6	4-7	6-9	8-13
8-2	7-9	8-11	10-14	14-21
9-1	10-14	12-17	15-22	22-31
10-0	15+	18+	23+	32+