

Kent Area League Regulations

Rules and Regulations

1. The Kent Area Leagues are open to any member or associate member of the Kent Contract Bridge Association (KCBA). Additionally, non-KCBA members may play for a maximum of one season provided that:
 - they are not, and have not previously been, members of any County Association,
 - they are members of a bridge club affiliated to the KCBA and located within the accepted boundaries of the relevant Area League.
2. Teams may be entered by either Clubs or individuals and should comprise between four and eight players of which only four players may take part in any one match. No player may play for more than one team in the Kent Area Leagues in any one season, with the exception that a player from one Area League may substitute twice for one team in another Area League.
3. At the beginning of each season the relevant Area Secretary will notify each team captain of the recommended schedule of fixtures. Each team in a league or division shall play each opposing team once during the season, except that:
 - if there are fewer than six teams, each team shall play each opposing team both 'home' and 'away';
 - if there are 10 or more teams, the league or division shall be divided either into two pools or two or more divisions (see Appendix).
4. If all team captains within an Area League agree that matches should be played on pre-determined dates, the Area Secretary shall arrange the schedule accordingly. Matches can only be played at other times by mutual agreement between the teams involved and with the approval of the Area Secretary.
5. On receipt of the schedule, the HOME captain shall offer the AWAY captain a CHOICE of four dates, of which one should be a week-end date and at least two should be mid-week. The AWAY captain should make every effort to accept one of the offered dates within 14 days of receipt but, if none of these can be met, the AWAY captain should contact the HOME captain to discuss possible alternatives. Both captains are expected to act reasonably and co-operatively but, in the absence of a mutually acceptable date the relevant Area Secretary should be contacted for a ruling.
6. The HOME team is responsible for all costs incurred by their choice of venue and for providing reasonable refreshments having regard to the time of day the match is played and the distance travelled by the AWAY team. If teams agree to play at a neutral venue all costs (except travelling expenses) will be shared. All matches must be played in Kent unless specifically authorised by the Area Secretary.
7. The HOME captain shall have the choice of seating for the first set and for the second set the HOME pairs shall change orientation and opponents without necessarily changing tables (this may be at the request of the HOME captain unless the match is played at a neutral venue when it becomes the choice of the AWAY captain). Each match shall comprise 24 or 28 boards if played on a normal week-day evening (two sets of 12 or 14 boards), or 32 boards with the mutual consent of BOTH captains if played at a week-end or during the day mid-week. In the latter case, four stanzas of 8 boards will be played and captains will toss for the choice of seating arrangements for alternate stanzas (i.e. odd or even).
8. All matches shall be played under the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the Blue Book of EBU Permitted Understandings. Conventions up to Level 4 only are permitted and ALL players

are required to produce a properly completed Convention card at the table for opponents' reference. Failure to do this could prejudice a claim arising in a dispute.

9. In the event of a dispute which cannot be settled to the mutual satisfaction of the team captains, a ruling should be sought from the Chief Tournament Director or one of the appointed KCBA referees listed in the Competitions Rules & Regulations. If it is not possible to obtain an immediate ruling, the Match slip should be signed off as 'Subject to an appeal by Team X against the result of Board Y' and forwarded to the Area Secretary with full and written details agreed by both captains.
10. Match scores are the responsibility of the HOME captain who shall ensure the completion of a Match Result Slip for signature by both captains with names of players and any other details contained therein or email the information to the Area Secretary, copying in the away captain. Results should be forwarded to the Area Secretary promptly. Match scoring shall be by International Match Points (IMPs), subsequently converted to Victory Points by the Area Secretary on the following scale:-

	24-board match	28-board match	32-board match
VICTORY POINTS	IMPs DIFFERENCE	IMPs DIFFERENCE	IMPs DIFFERENCE
10-10	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 2
11-9	2 - 5	2 - 6	3 - 7
12-8	6 - 10	7 - 11	8 - 12
13-7	11 - 15	12 - 17	13 - 18
14-6	16 - 21	18 - 23	19 - 24
15-5	22 - 27	24 - 29	25 - 32
16-4	28 - 34	30 - 37	33 - 40
17-3	35 - 43	38 - 46	41 - 50
18-2	44 - 53	47 - 57	51 - 61
19-1	54 - 65	58 - 71	62 - 76
20-0	66 +	72 +	77 +

11. Matches tied with an equal number of VPs shall be broken by the Area Secretary in order to determine the final league positions of each team by:-
 - o the VPs result of the match, or net cumulative result of matches, played by the teams involved,
 - o awarding two points for each match won and one point for each match drawn against, firstly, the teams involved and, finally, against all opponents during the whole of the current season,
 - o the net total of IMPs scored by each team in the match, or matches, against each other team involved in the tied position.
12. Any team which is awarded a walk-over will receive the BEST score of:-
 - o their average over the whole competition,
 - o the converse of the offending team's score over the competition,
 - o 12 VPs
13. Any team that concedes more than one walk-over shall be eliminated from the competition with the results of any played matches being deleted from the records. No MPs are awarded for walk-overs or unplayed matches.

14. If a team is responsible for delaying the start of a match by more than 30 minutes it shall be penalised by the withdrawal of one board from the first set and, for that and each succeeding period of six minutes the non-offending team shall receive +3 IMPs per board withdrawn.
15. Any matter not covered by these Rules shall be resolved by the Area Secretary in consultation with the Competitions Secretary.

APPENDIX

Arrangements for a league of 10 or more teams:-

1. The league should be divided into two pools of equal (or near equal) size. Within each pool each team shall play one match against each other team.
2. Upon completion of the pool matches, each of the leading two teams from one pool shall play one match against each of the leading two teams from the other pool. The VPs previously scored by each team against the other leading team in the same pool shall then be added to the VPs scored in the play-off matches and this will determine the final ranking of the four qualifying teams.
3. Alternatively, a league may be divided into two or more divisions to operate on a promotion and relegation basis the following season contingent upon a similar arrangement being adopted at that time by the Area Secretary.