

Conditions of Contest

The NIBU handbook needs to be revised.

The following is a work in progress.

Any comments at this stage would be welcome.

It is based on what we have in the handbook under competition rules p2&3 and should take its place.

Some formatting and reordering may be required.

NIBU GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Any additional specific conditions will be included in the circular advertising the event or in specific conditions in the Handbook.

1. Duplicate contract bridge competitions organised by or under the auspices of Northern Ireland Bridge Union [NIBU] shall be conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge authorised by the World Bridge Federation and any relevant regulations or directives made by the Union or its Committees

2. All competitors in contract bridge competitions organised by or under the auspices of the Union must be members of a club affiliated to the Union which has paid the current year's affiliation fee to the Union unless the rules of a competition stipulate otherwise. (Competitors in a Congress or a School competition organised by the Union need not be members of a club affiliated to the Union.)

Players who are members of a club affiliated to the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland [CBAI] may play in competitions organised by the NIBU as may players affiliated to other NBOs. (But see League regulations.) Likewise players who are members of a club affiliated to the Union may play in Contract Bridge Association of Ireland competitions.

3. Competitors must conform to the eligibility conditions of the competition as published by the Union or the organisers.

4. Master points are awarded for each competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union.

5. No competitor may play on more than one team or pair in any one competition

6. Entry fees and table money shall be paid before the commencement of each competition or as announced by the Tournament Director (TD) at the commencement of each competition

7. Junior Members being aged under 22 or full time students under the age of 25 on the first day of the event or, in the case of knock-out competitions, on the closing date for entries are entitled to a student rate entry fee which

equates to a 50% reduction in fees, Provided that for competitions specifically for Junior Members there shall be no student rate entry fee.

8. Any competitor, pair or team who withdraws after the commencement of a competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union without adequate reason shall not be permitted to enter or play in any competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union for the period of 12 months from the date of withdrawal.

A competitor aggrieved by such a decision must appeal in writing within 21 days to the Laws & Ethics Committee of the Union

9. A substitute may not play in a competition from which he or she has already been eliminated. A substitute may not subsequently play in that competition in another pair or team. In Men's, Ladies and Mixed Pairs or teams a substitute must be of the same gender as the replaced competitor

10. In team competitions teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players only 4 of whom may play in any one session. An application to enter a team will not be accepted unless at least 4 competitors are identified

11 Mobile telephones and other electronic communication devices must be kept switched off at all times in the playing area from the start of play until after the last competitor has finished playing in that session.

A competitor who believes he has a sufficient reason to have his mobile telephone kept switched on, such as family illness or medical alert, during a competition may request the tournament director for permission so to do. The decision of the TD shall be final.

A fine of 2 victory points or 12 imps or 40% of a top [according to the form of scoring for the competition] shall be imposed on any pair or team if a mobile telephone or other electronic communication device belonging to or carried by a competitor in that pair or team sounds or vibrates during the competition.

12. In competitions each player must have at the table a completed convention card.

13 Intentionally blank.

14. Smoking or vaping is not permitted in the playing area at any time.

The playing area includes the playing room and any areas adjacent to the room for the use of the players.

15. A winner or one of the winners of a competition in which a trophy is awarded shall sign a receipt for any trophy received.

The winner of a trophy is responsible for having the trophy engraved (the receipt should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer seeking reimbursement of reasonable outlay) and for returning it, clean and in good condition for presentation to the winner at the next year's competition

16. Where there is an appeal against a ruling of a TD, the TD shall send a copy of the appeal form and the ruling of the appeals committee to the Laws & Ethics Committee of the Union within 14 days of the date of determination of the appeal

17. In any dispute relating to the laws, the decision of the Laws & Ethics Committee of the Union shall be final with respect to an appeal against any decision made by a NIBU competition Appeals Committee or matters under the NIBU disciplinary procedures. [Constitution 5.6]

18. Timings and rate of play.

Unless otherwise stated in the specific Conditions of Contest (COC) for an event (E.g. Trials and Knock out Cups) the following shall apply.

A One Session Event starts at 7.15 p.m. and a Two Session Event starts at 11.00 a.m.

Slow play

2 board rounds should take no more than 15 min, 3 boards 21 min and 4 boards 26 min. No new board should be started with less than 3 minutes remaining. A third slow play warning should normally be penalised. Teams ½ VP or 3imps , pairs 10% of a top as appropriate. Penalties doubled for each further offence.

The TD may reduce the number of boards played in a round/stanza due to slow play.

Pairs / Teams may be excluded if not seated 5 minutes before the start of the competition. This decision rests with the TD and is not subject to appeal.

Unplayed boards Av- for an offender or -3imps , Av + or + 3 imps for a non -offender in pairs / teams.

Players are reminded that Post-Mortems, ‘secretarial’ work etc should not delay the game.

19. Entry fees should be paid at the start of the event. (As at 06/19 £8 for a single session event, £15 for a two session event, £20 for a three session event.)

20. Entries should be made to the Hon. Comp. Sec. (HCS) preferably accompanied by a Master Point Number and by email. Email entries will be confirmed by the HCS. Entries normally close 24h before the start of the event but last minute entries will be accepted subject to the smooth running of the competition.

21. The closing dates for entries for Leagues and Cups will be published online on the Union Calendar. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the HCS. Entry for competitions under control of the Selection Committee will have closing dates similarly published. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.

22. In team matches of more than 8 boards where there is a reduction in the number of boards played the match is scored both on the basis of the actual number of boards played and the expected number of boards played. An offending team gets the lower number of VPs available, a non-offending team gets the higher number of VPs available.

23. Breaking of ties in teams competitions if necessary

If two or more teams finish with the same VP total, the tie shall be broken by [in descending order] :-

[a] the result of the direct match in VPs; then

[b] total net aggregate imps scored in all league matches.

[c] fewest imps conceded

[d] The highest ranked card cut by the captains from a shuffled and cut pack of cards.

Bridgemate Regulations.

The score should be entered by N/S at each table and agreed by E/W.

Any subsequent changes (within the appropriate correction time) should only be done with the agreement of a member of each pair. TD s may, on their own initiative, change a score when there is an obvious error.

Claims.

Players making Claims should be considered to have played a suit from the top unless they have made a statement giving a different order. TDs should consider suits are played in the order most favourable to the opponents.

Scoring.

Pairs competitions use Neufeld scoring. (Computer programmes do this automatically.)

Teams competitions use Imps converted to Victory Points on the WBF continuous scale unless specifically stated in the rules of the competition.

[Add a link to the WBF Imp to VP scales.](#)

Spectators.

Spectators should not make any remarks or mannerisms during the play of a hand.

Spectators should only watch the cards of one player and once watching a table must not move to another.

Players may not watch their own team-mates nor may they watch a table play boards that they have already played in a session.

The following should be inserted in the handbook p7 under bidding box rules.

Bidding Box Regulations. [These follow and are taken from the EBL regulations.]

A call is considered made when it is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent. (Subject to Law 25.) Players should refrain from touching any bidding cards until they have determined their call.

The alert card should be used when alerting calls. It is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that the opponents have seen the alert. It is good practice for an opponent to acknowledge in some way.

Before making a skip bid a player should place the Stop card on the table (\approx 10 seconds) Left hand opponent should not call until the stop card has been removed. If the stop card is not used or removed quickly an opponent must pause as if it had been played correctly

The following should be inserted in the handbook p9 under Master Points

For Master Point section.

All members of a NIBU-affiliated club should be allocated a Master Point number. Club Secretaries should inform the Hon. Master Point Secretary each season of any changes in club membership. They should also inform the Hon. Master Point Secretary of any new members admitted to the club during the year so that a Master Point number may be allocated.

Players are not eligible to play in graded competitions or for graded prizes if their club does not award Master Points for their regular competition sessions.

Master Point numbers are given for administrative purposes and should be given to new players as soon as is reasonable. Players should attempt to have them available for TDs, entries and results etc as required. However, there is no penalty for not remembering the number nor for not having one immediately there is an entitlement.

When a player has a Master Point number in more than one jurisdiction only one may be used for the collection of points.

National Points are awarded in competitions specified by the Union as National Point competitions. Each competitor must notify indicate his Master Points Number on request by the tournament director or organiser of the competition.

The NIBU Laws & Ethics Committee should complete the section below.

Conventions and announcements.

Insert the Announcing in the NIBU documents on the NIBU website. This covers the present regulation on what to announce and what to alert.

Brown Sticker conventions and HUM systems may only be played in Premier 1 League and the Kelvin Cup. The regulations for their use are those to be found on the BGB website. Opposing teams should be informed 14 days before the fixture of any such Conventions to be used in the match with appropriate defences as required. A league team should give the Organiser such details to be forwarded to their opponents in the first match as soon as possible.