

Birmingham Pairs League (BPL)
Rules & Conditions of Competition
Current for 2023/24 Season Only



These rules should be read in conjunction with the WCBA Common Rules.

0. Changes

- a. No changes required.

1. Summary of Competition

- a. The BPL is a competition for pairs, but scored using Teams IMPs. A key aim is to encourage players of all abilities to enter and to play against opponents of a similar standard. The same computer-dealt hands are played by all divisions, with hard copies available at the end of each evening.
- b. The two Series will run from September to January and February to June with promotion/relegation at the end of each Series.
- c. Five Sessions per Series are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month although this may be changed from time to time to avoid public holidays etc.

2. Eligibility

- a. Entrants do not have to be members of Moseley Bridge Club nor WCBA but **must be members of the EBU.**

3. Entry

- a. Once entered, a pair will be deemed to continue playing in the event until they formally withdraw by notifying (*) an Event Organiser of their withdrawal at the end of the current series.
- b. New pairs must contact one of the Event Organisers (see 17. Contact below).
- c. Entry payment will be taken at the first Session of each Series.

(*) Notification – Only in writing, via email or registered post. Please note that unacknowledged emails do not constitute any form of notification. Please see section 17 for contact information.

4. Substitutes

- a. It is essential for the successful running of this competition that every pair is represented at all five evenings in the Series. A pair or player unable to play **is required** to field a substitute pair or player.
- b. Substitutes may be as a pair or a single player and may substitute for different pairs or players during a Series.
- c. No player may substitute in their own division.
- d. No pair playing in the event may substitute in a lower division.
- e. **It is the responsibility of the players to make these arrangements.**

5. Late or Non-Arrival

- a. Notified late arrivals will be accommodated under EBU regulations with +/- 2 imps awarded for missed boards. Notified late arrivals must always attend.
- b. No Match will be started after the half way point, ie after 30 minutes of the Match has elapsed for a 9 board match or 32 minutes for a 10 board Match.
- c. A pair in attendance but unable to play or score a Match due to absent opponents will receive a score of 15 VPs. If their opponents have notified the Event Organisers then they will receive a score of 5 VPs for each unplayed Match.
- d. In the event that a number of pairs/players in the same Division notify late arrival, eg due to traffic problems, then the following will apply :
 - i. The Event Organisers may apply reassignments such that absent or incomplete pairs will play each other.
 - ii. If part of such a Match is able to be played then there is no penalty for either pair for unplayed boards.
 - iii. Pairs scoring with such a match will score +2 imps per board for each unplayed board.
 - iv. If one pair in such a Match is complete prior to the half way point in the Match and the other is not, then the Match will be scored 12-8 VPs in favour of the pair arriving in time.
 - v. If neither pair in such a Match is complete prior to the half way point in the Match, then the match will be scored 8-8 VPs..
- e. A pair of which one or both players fail to turn up to a Session without prior notification (*) and without a valid reason (e.g. a car accident) will be assigned 0 VPs **for the Session**. This will include non-arrival of substitute pairs. If, however, a substitute pair (or player) is found to play in their place then the

score of that pair shall stand. Any pair (or player) in this category may, having taken all the circumstances into account, be referred to the WCBA Conduct Committee by the Event Organisers.

- f. Any pair or player who fails to turn up without prior notification (*) and without a valid reason more than once will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Event, and shall be referred to the WCBA Conduct Committee.

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6. Format

- a. A “standard” division comprises 8 pairs although divisions can range from 6 to 10 pairs.
- b. A random draw will take place to determine the starting positions for session 1 of each series. Stationary pairs will be at the discretion of the Event Organisers.
- c. The 5 Sessions will normally comprise 3 x 9 board matches for the first 3 Sessions, 2 x 10 board matches plus a 5 board half match for the 4th Session, and the second 5 board half match plus 2 x 10 board matches for the last Session.
- d. In a standard division, over the course of the five evening Series, each pair will play against every other pair in their division twice. This will vary for non-standard divisions according to the number of pairs playing.
- e. In a 6 pair division there is an option to play 3 matches for all 5 Sessions. This lets each pair play each other pair 3 times in the Series.
- f. In the lowest division the number of boards played in each match may be reduced to allow for slower play. This will be at the discretion of the Event Organisers.
- g. Starting positions and movements are provided for each pair at the start of each Session.

7. Time Regulations

- a. Pairs will not be permitted to start a new board of a 9-board match if
 - i. one hour has elapsed (65 minutes for 10 board matches) since the round began, and
 - ii. everyone else in their division has finished.
- b. Unless it has been brought to the attention of the director that one pair is particularly slow, both pairs are fined 2imps per unplayed board, with non-offending pairs scoring with them as teammates +2imps on each of these boards.
- c. It is also important to turn up at 6.55pm or before. To advise of late arrival please ring Moseley Bridge Club on 0121 454 4763.

8. Venue

- a. The event is held at the Moseley Bridge Club.

9. Systems and Conventions

- a. All divisions will be played at EBU level 4.

10. Scoring

- a. At the end of each match, each EW pair find their (normally 3) NS teammates, score up with them in IMPs, and convert their IMP score per Match to Victory Points. The Victory Point scale is printed at the foot of the BPL scorecard. After scoring, the EW pairs return to their opponents, check the VP scores, initial the Match Score slip if it is agreed, and place the results slip in the results box.
- b. A Match is scored as the sum of the Victory Point scores with all teammates.

11. Ties

- a. In the event of a split tie in total VPs at the end of a Series the following data from the Series will be used in sequence until the tie is split:
 - i. result of the head to head Matches
 - ii. total number of Matches won
 - iii. total number of Matches drawn

12. Results

- a. Results will be posted on the Moseley BC website and are also available on the WCBA website.
- b. If a player wishes to ask for a ruling they must request this within 24 hours, ie by midnight on the day after the session. No rulings will be considered after this time.
- c. If a player wishes to lodge an appeal they must do this within 24 hours of receiving the ruling. Even if an appeal appears not to affect the ranking positions it should still be lodged. Appeals will be handled according to the normal club appeals process.
- d. Until all rulings and appeals have been resolved, the results will be deemed provisional. Results will normally be confirmed after one week unless the WCBA website states otherwise.
- e. All requests for rulings and appeals should be made to the tournament director (Contact information can be found in the WCBA Common Rules).

13. Master Points

- a. Master Points will be awarded according to EBU scales.

14. Prizes

- a. If there are sufficient numbers, cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division at the end of each Series.

15. Promotion & Relegation

- a. Promotions and Relegations take place at the end of each Series. The top two pairs from each division (except Division 1) will be promoted to the next higher division. The bottom two pairs from each division (except the lowest division) will be relegated to the next lower division.

16. Filling Vacancies

- a. New entrants will be placed according to their ability and availability of places, but the default placement will be into the lowest division. No new pair will be placed in Division 1.
- b. Once any new entrants have been placed, if any vacancies still exist in a division other than the lowest division, they will be filled as follows using data from the preceding Series :
 - i. The difference in VPs between the highest placed pair relegated from the division with a vacancy and the pair immediately above them will be compared to the difference in VPs between the highest placed pair not promoted from the division below and the pair immediately above them, ie the 2nd pair to be promoted. The pair with the smallest difference in VPs will be promoted to the division with the vacancy.
 - ii. An example might be – the pair who finished 7th in Division 2 scored 32 VPs less than the pair finishing 6th; the pair finishing 3rd in Division 3 scored 30 VPs less than the pair finishing 2nd. So the pair finishing 3rd in Division 3 would be promoted to the vacant place in Division 2.
 - iii. In the event that the VP difference is the same then priority for promotion will be given to the highest placed relegated pair.
- c. Decisions on placement of new entrants and the filling of vacancies will be made by the Event Organisers and their decision shall be final.

17. Contact

- a. Event organisers :

Peter Heatherington, heatherington528@btinternet.com , 0121 444 1048

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