

DANMARKS BRIDGEFORBUND

Conditions of Contest

Neighbour Challenge 2014

10-03-2014

1. Neighbour Challenge

The Neighbour Challenge is conducted under the auspices of the DBf (Danish Bridge Federation). The events shall be played in accordance with the current edition of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. These Conditions of Contest supplement the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as required.

2. Invitational Event

The DBf wishes to remind the players of their special obligations when participating in the Neighbour Challenge, this being an invitational event.

A. Ethics and Deportment

Players are required to conform at all times to the highest standards of ethics and deportment, according to the Code of Discipline of the WBF.

Players must compete against all other contestants.

Players are expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Director in a sportsmanlike manner.

B. Media

Players agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the DBf.

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews, etc., arranged by the DBf, including video, internet, TV, radio, or any other media presentation.

Players directly authorize the DBf to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of the event. They further give their consent to the DBf using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information are exclusive property of the DBf and cannot be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent.

Players are required to play on on-line Vu-Graph (internet broadcasting) whenever assigned to do so.

C. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices brought into the playing area and toilets must be turned off at any time during a session. The Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing such devices into the playing area and toilets.

Any player bringing a mobile phone or electronic device into the playing area or toilet without it being turned off will result in a penalty of 2 VPs for the team.

D. Attendance in Playing Room

Spectators are allowed. A spectator may not watch more than one table during any one round.

3. General Rules during Play

A. Language

English is the official language of the Neighbour Challenge. After the bidding period of the first board of a round has commenced and until the score of the last board of the round has been entered and verified, players may converse only in English unless all four players at the table agree to use some other common language at their own risk.

During the course of a round of play, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, a non-playing captain should avoid addressing members of his team at the table in any but the English language; if he wishes to converse in any language other than English, he must first seek the consent of the opponents, which should be given where reasonably possible. If any difficulty arises, the non-playing captain should speak only through a member of his team who is able to translate for the benefit of the opponents. A non-playing captain may not converse with the members of his team (or their opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table and until all the hands have been replaced in the board, except for the abovementioned purposes.

B. Laws

The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities.

C. Dealing

The boards will have been pre-dealt and duplicated.

D. Non-Playing Players

Non-playing players of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates playing at the table.

E. End of Round

At each table when play has finished the players should agree the scores and then leave the playing room as quickly as possible. Before doing so, they must make sure that all the results have properly been entered into the Bridgemates. Repeated violation may result in penalties to be imposed.

F. Leaving the Table

After the bidding period of the first board of a round has commenced and until the score of the last board of the round has been entered and verified, players may only leave their table after giving notice to the Tournament Director.

4. Scoring at the Table and Score Corrections

A. Scoring at the Table

BridgeMates will be used for the official scoring. North or South at each table is responsible for entering the score after each board is completed; then, East or West verifies the score entered.

B. Score Corrections

An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a pair must be made no later than 20 minutes after the publication of the scores at the end of each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

5. Time Procedure

A. Start of the Round

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure.

Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be fined 1 VP and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1 VP. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director has to be satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player and, if not, will take the necessary measures.

Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match and receives zero Victory Points. For the score of the opposing team see 5.D.

If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a round 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.

B. End of the Round

If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed on the table. VP penalties for delays of at least 5 minutes are eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them.

- from 0 to 5 minutes late: For each team: A warning on the first instance, $\frac{1}{2}$ VP if the team already had received a warning in a previous match. If the Tournament Director judges that one team is solely responsible for the delay, only that team is penalized.
- from 5 to 10 minutes late: 1 VP.
- from 10 to 15 minutes late: 2 VPs.
- from 15 to 20 minutes late: 4 VPs.
- from 20 to 25 minutes late: 6 VPs.
- from 25 to 30 minutes late: 10 VPs.
- for delays of more than 30 minutes the Tournament Director may impose a more severe penalty.

C. Slow Play

If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in his opinion, including, at his discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

The Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play, but an absence of warning does not diminish the responsibility of the players or their liability to be fined.

If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty in (a) will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

D. Byes

A team will score zero if, by its own fault, it is not able to play against another team. Its opponents will receive the best score between:

- 13 VPs
- That team's average
- The average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault

6. Tournament Format

The Neighbour Challenge 2014 is played as a team event with an Open Series and a Women Series, each being played as a double round-robin between four teams. Each match consists of 1 session; 20 boards per match in the first round-robin, 16 boards per match in the second. The new WBF VP scale (0-20 with decimals) will be used, see

<http://www.worldbridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/regulations/WBFVPscales.pdf>. The VPs for all matches are added, even if the matches are not of equal length.

A. Schedule

Each day, three matches are played, starting at:

- Saturday: 11:00, 14:30, 17:30.
- Sunday: 9:30, 12:30, 15:00.

Each round must be completed within 2 hours and 45 minutes when playing 20 boards; 2 hours and 15 minutes when playing 16 boards.

B. Screens

Screens will be used. WBF regulations for screens apply.

C. Seating Rights

The team designated as the home team has the seating rights for the match. However, if the team having seating rights wishes to use a HUM, it must pass on the seating rights to the opponents, except if both teams wish to use a HUM.

7. Systems

The WBF Systems Policy (<http://www.eurobridge.org/departments/systems/policy.html>) applies.

A. Lodging of Systems

Convention cards and supplementary sheets must be sent to christina@bridge.dk (or the other captains) no later than April 22.

B. Allowed Methods

Both members of a partnership must agree to adopt the same meanings for calls in the auction and also for defensive card play. This does not restrict exercise of style and judgement.

Brown sticker conventions and HUMs are allowed. However, a team playing a HUM must inform the organizer or captains of the other teams no later than the day before the tournament.

Psyching conventional or artificial opening bids is forbidden.

C. Use of Convention Cards

Players may only look at their own system as Law 40B2(b) allows (allows the declaring side, only, to look at its own system card during the Correction Period – see Law 22B1. This assists the correction of any mis-explanation during the auction.) Players may look at the system of their opponents at any time during the bidding but during the play only when it is their turn to play.

In accordance with the EBL Systems Policy players may consult their written defences to Brown Sticker Conventions during the auction and also their written "defence against the defence".

For regulations applying when a Highly Unusual Method is in use, and particularly those governing defence against a Yellow (HUM) system see the EBL Systems Policy.

8. Appeals

Decisions made by the Tournament Director are final. No appeals are possible.

The Tournament Director will apply a procedure similar to that of an EBL Championship in order to reach a high quality level of decisions. This includes conducting polls among players at a national level or close to that level (not necessarily participating in the tournament and if possible from different countries) and consulting fellow Tournament Directors in case of doubt as to the interpretation of Laws and Regulations.

9. Substitutes

Substitution during a round is not allowed, except if the team has notified the Tournament Director about a planned substitution before the round. The Tournament Director should inform the opponents of the team about such planned substitution.

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute or a substitute pair to complete the team. A substitute so designated need not be a national of the country in whose team she substitutes. If necessary, a substitute can be a player of another team.

The Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game.