



General Conditions of Contest for SBU Trials -2012-13 season

Version 2 – 06/11/2012

1 Overview

- 1.1 These General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) apply to SBU Trials for Open, Women and Senior international events in the 2012-13 season.
- 1.2 Any SBU Trial may have a Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) which governs aspects not covered by this GCoC and which can modify the regulations applicable to a specific event.
- 1.3 Where a SCoC for an event differs from this GCoC document, the former takes precedence.

2 Authority

- 2.1 These General Conditions of Contest are established by the Selection Committee of the Scottish Bridge Union, referred to as 'the Committee'. The Committee acts on behalf of, and is solely responsible to, the SBU Council.
- 2.2 Any decisions by the Committee as to the meaning/interpretation of any CoC will be final.
- 2.3 To ensure an effective and practical trials process the Committee reserves the right to determine a course of action at its sole discretion in the event of any matter arising which is not covered by any CoC, and at any time to change them in the context of unforeseen circumstances.
- 2.4 In the event that a decision under any CoC is required during the trials, a decision may be made on the Committee's behalf by the Tournament Director in Charge.
- 2.5 The trials are played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.

3 Eligibility

- 3.1 All players in the Trials must be current members of the Scottish Bridge Union in good standing, and must be prospectively qualified to represent the SBU in an international event to which the Trials relate, under the relevant international regulations.
- 3.2 Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility.

4 Entry

- 4.1 It is a condition of entry that all players disclose to the Committee any limitation that would in any way restrict the freedom of the Committee to select a team to represent Scotland.
- 4.2 Entry fees for Scottish junior players will be reduced in accordance with standard SBU competition policy, that is, half-price for U25s.
- 4.3 All pairs selected to represent Scotland are reminded that the SBU has adopted the EBL Code of Conduct and Dress. This can be found at <http://www.eurobridge.org/administration/codes/>. Please note that the code covers player's obligations to know the rules and to "display good sportsmanship, correct deportment and irreproachable ethics" and the wearing of the agreed uniform during play and at formal events.

- 4.4 Each player in an SBU Trial, by entering the event, agrees that in the event the player represents Scotland in any World Bridge Federation, European Bridge League or Bridge Great Britain event, he or she will comply with the relevant requirements for that event.

For example; in WBF events these requirements may include, among other things:

- Drug Testing: each player must be willing to submit to drug testing mandated by WBF.
- Publicity: players may be videotaped at any time during the championship and agree to the use of video footage or other photographs to publicise the championships and for any other reasonable purpose of the organising body.

5 Scoring Methodology

- 5.1 Scoring methods will be defined for individual stages of each trial within the relevant SCoC.

6 Systems and Conventions

- 6.1 Pairs will normally be allowed to play any system or convention that is permitted in an international event to which the Trials relate. However, in multi-stage trials there may well be system restrictions in the earlier stages.
- 6.2 Where Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) and/or Brown Sticker Conventions (BSCs) and treatments are permitted, full details must be provided to the other pairs (through the Secretary) a full 14 days in advance or as notified. Any pair failing to provide adequate notification shall not be permitted to play the method. Please note that some agreements permitted in SBU tournaments are BSC and will need advance notification, e.g., a 2NT opening being a pre-empt in either clubs or diamonds. Please contact the Committee if you are in any doubt about a system or convention classification.
- 6.3 Brown Sticker information and forms are available from <http://www.ecatsbridge.com/documents/wbfinfo/systemsinfo/BSformsindex.asp>.
- 6.4 All pairs intending to play, or considering playing, a HUM or BSC should contact the Committee to ensure that the appropriate notification (including a viable defence) is provided.
- 6.5 Opponents may bring written defences to a HUM system to the table as an aide-mémoire.
A pair may prepare written defences against the BSC elements of any system. Such defences shall be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against BSC are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.
- 6.6 An artificial two level opening bid in a minor, where the only weak type is a weak two in either major suit, whether with or without the option of strong hand types, is not defined as a BSC, but the WBF (and EBL) Systems Policy permits a pair to prepare and use a written defence as if it were. The Committee is adopting this policy in trials for events based on the WBF or EBL Systems Policy.
- 6.7 A fully completed WBF convention card must be used unless otherwise stated. Completion guides, editors and templates are available from <http://www.ecatsbridge.com/documents/wbfinfo/systemsinfo/conventioncards.asp>.
- 6.8 Failure to provide two fully completed identical convention cards will result in the Director instructing the pair to play the basic SBU Level 1 System for the rest of the session.
- 6.9 Systems lodged in advance (when required) may only be changed with the prior approval of the Committee, which will normally be granted provided that the Committee is satisfied that neither the original submission nor the change is made to gain an unreasonable advantage, and that the change is made to a method in common use.

- 6.10 The Committee is happy to assist pairs with the preparation of their Convention Card.
- 6.11 If requested by a director or appeals committee, pairs shall produce any written agreements or system notes. Pairs who do not make their notes available or do not have their system notes at a trial will not have the benefit of doubt in any related ruling or inquiry in the trial.

7 Alerting

- 7.1 The WBF Alerting Policy will be used.
- 7.2 Full disclosure is vital. However, players are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter.
- 7.3 The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players are, however, expected to alert whenever there is doubt.

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional calls should be alerted, non-conventional calls should not.
2. Those calls which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
3. Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an un-passed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

If screens are not in use, do NOT alert the following:

1. All doubles.
2. Any no-trump bid which suggests a balanced or semi-balanced hand, or suggests a no-trump contract.
3. Any call at the four level or higher, with the exception of conventional calls on the first round of the auction.

Nevertheless, players must respect the spirit of the Policy as well as the letter.

8 Correction Periods

- 8.1 There are four correction periods.
1. Rulings: This is the period referred to in Law 92B within which a contestant may ask for a ruling. No request for a ruling will be entertained once this period has expired.
 2. Appeals: This is the period referred to in Law 92B within which a contestant who has received a ruling may appeal it. No request for an appeal will be entertained once this period has expired.
 3. Score queries: This is the period referred to in Law 79C within which a contestant can challenge any aspect of scoring. No request for a change in score will be entertained once this period has expired except as in the next section.
 4. Gross and manifest scoring errors: This is the period referred to in Law 79C within which a contestant can challenge a gross and manifest error in scoring made by an official. No request for a change in score will be entertained once this period has expired under any circumstances. This does not cover errors such as entering a wrong score, which should have been found by checking at the time.

8.2 For events scored in stanzas, the correction periods are:

All stanzas where the following stanza will start within 24 hours

Rulings	Start of next stanza
Appeals	Start of next stanza after ruling is given
Score queries	Start of next stanza
Gross and manifest scoring errors	17h00 on the second working day after the end of the stanza

Last stanza, or stanzas where the next stanza will not start within 24 hours

Rulings	20 minutes after end of stanza
Appeals	20 minutes after end of stanza or after ruling is given [whichever is later]
Score queries	20 minutes after end of stanza
Gross and manifest scoring errors	17h00 on the second working day after the end of the stanza

Notes: A stanza is a group of boards played followed by a scoring break.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Conditions, the Selectors reserve the right, outside of the usual time limits, to correct scoring errors however caused if they consider it necessary for equity to the field as a whole, and possibly also to impose a procedural penalty on an offending pair (a pair who entered or agreed a wrong score) who gain from such correction.

9 Recording of Psyches

- 9.1 A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system. If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge that has damaged the opponents he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.
- 9.2 Psyches should be reported to and recorded by the Director.
- 9.3 The Committee will maintain a record of recorded psyches.

10 Slow Play

- 10.1 At approximately half way, and approximately 10 minutes before the end of play, the Director is required to notify each table of the time remaining. Failure of the Director to meet this requirement will not absolve the players from penalty.
- 10.2 At the end of the allocated time the Director must impose, for any table still in play, a fine of 1 VP for any delay up to five minutes, and an additional fine of 1 VP for each further delay of five minutes or part thereof. A 1 VP fine will be levied on each pair unless the Director considers only one pair to be at fault, in which case only the offending pair shall incur a 1 VP fine.

- 10.3 Where the same pair incurs a subsequent fine, this shall automatically be increased by 50%.
- 10.4 For substantial or repeated delays the Director should impose a more severe penalty, or refer the facts to the Committee.
- 10.5 If the time limit for a round is significantly exceeded and further delays will impact the smooth running of the trial, the Director may remove any unplayed boards (and may remove a partially played board) from the table awarding an artificial adjusted score (A+ for non-offender/A- for offender) for each such board.

11 Late Arrival

- 11.1 A player is deemed to be late if the lesser of 5 minutes or 5% of the allocated session time has elapsed.
- 11.2 When a contestant is deemed to be late the Director will 'remove' an appropriate number of boards and award an artificial adjusted score (A+ for non-offender/A- for offender) for each such board.
- 11.3 One board is removed for each 7½ minutes or part thereof after the actual start time.
- 11.4 If, owing to lateness or some other reason, the Director determines that one or more boards have to be cancelled, then
1. Provided at least half a match can be played, an artificial adjusted score (A+ for non-offender/A- for offender) will be awarded for each unplayed board.
 2. If less than half a match can be played, then the match is declared void and (assuming the scale score for a draw is 15 VP) is scored:-
 - (a) For a non-offending side

The greatest of 16 VPs, their average VP match score, the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault.¹

- (b) For an offending side

The least of 12 VPs, their average VP match score, the complement of the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault.

12 Withdrawals (Pairs Trials)

- 12.1 If a pair withdraws during a trial, then all the scores against that pair are cancelled other than those relating to a completed round-robin against all other pairs (note: depending on the movement and scoring rules, the result of the first weekend of a two weekend trial may consequently remain unchanged by a subsequent withdrawal).

13 Dumping

- 13.1 The Committee's policy is based on the WBF Conditions of Contest.
- 13.2 The Committee expects all pairs to play to win at all times and in all circumstances. It is not permissible for a pair to play by design to obtain a match score inferior to that of its opponents, and the Committee shall have the authority to determine on such evidence as it considers sufficient whether a partnership has done so. Any such finding will constitute grounds for such penalties as may be imposed by the Committee, which shall also be empowered to recommend that the SBU Council disqualify or suspend the offending contestant.

¹ For example, suppose a team scores 0, 10, 15, 18, then the expected score of their opponent is mean (25,20,15,12) = 18.

14 Miscellaneous

- 14.1 Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area during a match to smoke or consume alcohol. There is an automatic penalty of 1 VP for a breach of this regulation.
- 14.2 Mobile telephones, pagers or similar electronic equipment may not be brought into the playing area, but may be left with the Tournament Director in charge. There is an automatic penalty of 2 VP for a breach of this regulation.
- 14.3 Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches arranged by the SBU, including video, Internet, TV, radio or any other media presentation.
- 14.4 Players may be photographed at any time during the Trials and agree to the use of photographs or other electronic recordings to publicise the Trials and for any other reasonable purpose of the SBU.
- 14.5 Screens should be used for all trials where practical, and irrespective of the CoC of the target event.

15 Tie Splitting Procedure

- 15.1 The tie splitting procedure is based on the methods recommended in the latest version of the EBU White Book .

16 Failure to Play Required Percentage of Boards (Teams events)

- 16.1 If a member of the winning team has failed to play:
- Either 50% of the matches in any Round Robin (each Round Robin is a separate stage), or,
 - At least 50% of the boards in any knockout match,
- that player will appear before the Selection Committee at the conclusion of the match in which such a failure has occurred.
- 16.2 Counting boards
- For the purposes of 5 or 6 handed teams playing in a Round Robin with an odd number of matches, the play requirement is slightly relaxed to matches divided by 2, rounded down to the nearest whole match. As an example, each player is only required to play 4 out of 9 matches.
 - In cases of forfeiture, the winning captain shall notify the Director of the assignment of the “unplayed” playing time to particular team members.
 - Boards played in a play-off between tied teams do not count.
- 16.3 No exemptions from the play requirement will be granted prior to the start of play for any reason. Once play has begun, if such a failure occurs:
- Prior to the final match, the Selection Committee will normally not allow that player to continue to be a member of the team, but may allow that player to remain if there is a clear reason for failure to play the required number of boards other than bridge skill. Should that player be permitted to continue, the Committee may increase the percentage of boards required for that player in later matches.
 - In the final match, the Selection Committee will normally decline to accept that player as a team member, but it may include the player if there is an acceptable reason for failure to play the required number of boards other than bridge skill.

- 16.4 In either instance, the Selection Committee may recommend that the SBU Council discipline a player and/or the player's team if such player failed to play the required percentage of boards for non-health related reasons.

17 Appeals Procedure

- 17.1 Each trial will have an appeals procedure published at the event, and announced prior to play.
- 17.2 Any pair or team has the right to call for a review of any ruling made by the Director at their table, provided:
- a) they have sought prior advice/guidance from a experienced non-involved counsellor.
 - b) they make a potentially non-refundable deposit at the time of lodging their appeal.
 - c) that both players if a pair, or the captain if a team, make the appeal.

It should be noted that Appeals Committee may not overrule the TD on a point of Law, on Regulations, or on the exercise of disciplinary powers.

18 Interpretation of Conditions

- 18.1 Except where specifically prohibited, the interpretation of these conditions, of SBU regulations, and of the Laws shall be such that the winners at the table are the winners in fact.
- 18.2 Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF, EBL, SBU, or EBU policies, procedures or regulations, as well as the Laws of Duplicate Bridge when ruling on matters or issues not expressly addressed in these conditions.
- 18.3 If scoring is not by VP, any fines or other scoring adjustments will be made on the basis of equivalent values to the VP values defined herein. See the relevant ScoC.

19 Communications

- 19.1 Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be in writing and sent or e-mailed to the Secretary of the Committee.
- 19.2 Email is the preferred means of communication, but communications and attachments (notably systems) sent by email will not be taken to have been received by the Committee until acknowledged that they have been received and can be read and (if necessary) printed.
- 19.3 The Selection Committee can be contacted at selection@scottishbridge.co.uk.

Appendix A Screen Regulations

Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity. The bidding tray may only be removed from the table if both pairs agree.

Changes to Bids Made

A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:

- a) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screen mate is aware of this; or
- b) If it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected or
- c) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error.

Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Appendix 3 must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.
- b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screen mate about the meanings of calls and explanations

given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made.

Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.

- a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:
 - i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected
 - ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screen mate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.
- b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screen mate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

- c) The screen mate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:
 - i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 - ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.
 - iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
 - iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- d) When an alertable call is made see 26.3 above.
- e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screen mate, however, shall not do so.
- f) If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.