

Scottish National League 2015 – Supplementary Conditions of Contest

Overview

1. The National League is open to all teams, regardless of standard. The winners will receive a trophy and there will be a first prize of £800 and a second prize of £200 (subject to at least twelve teams entering). The winners of the Second Division will win free entry to the 2016 National League.
2. The winning team will be invited to represent Scotland in the first weekend in the Camrose Trophy of the 2016 Home International Series (subject to meeting the playing requirements).
3. The Selection Committee will select the team for the second weekend of the Camrose Trophy, and additional pairs for the first weekend when needed, from players who participated in the First Division that fulfilled the playing requirements.
4. The winning team will also be invited to represent Scotland in the Open Series of the 2016 European Team Championships.
5. The first Camrose weekend is 8-10 January 2016 in the Republic of Ireland.
6. The second Camrose weekend is 4-6 March 2016 in Wales.
7. The European Team Championships is June 2016, expected to be in Budapest, Hungary.

Authority

8. This Conditions of Contest is supplementary to the General Conditions of Contest for the Scottish National League and SBU Trials and is established by the Selection Committee ("Committee") of the Scottish Bridge Union.

Scope of the League

9. The National League is a trial for the Open Series of the 2016 Home International Series and the Open Series of the 2016 European Team Championships. The winners of the First Division in principle earn selection, on a part or wholly self-funded basis, to represent Scotland in these events.
10. The National League is not a trial for Women's or Seniors' events.
11. The two weekends of the National League will comprise a double round-robin in every division. Based on an entry of approximately sixteen teams, eight teams will be placed in the First Division and remaining teams in the Second Division.
12. Based on divisions of approximately eight teams each, the winners and runners up of the Second Division shall earn promotion to the First Division. The bottom two teams in the First Division shall be relegated to the Second Division. Lower divisions, if any, will function similarly.
13. The Committee reserve the right to alter the number of teams promoted or relegated in the event that the size of a division is fewer or greater than eight teams. Notification of any such alteration will be given in advance of the commencement of the League.

Eligibility

14. All players must be members of the Scottish Bridge Union in good standing.
15. All players must qualify, by 1 January 2016, to represent Scotland under the current international regulations of the World Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League, Bridge Great Britain, and the Scottish Bridge Union.

Entry

16. Entries from teams of four to six players should be sent to the Secretary of the Selection Committee, Anne Perkins, email anne_perkins@blueyonder.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 30 April 2015. Subsequent changes to the composition of a team will be subject to the Committee's discretion.
17. The Committee reserves the right to accept further entries at its absolute discretion.
18. All entries should be accompanied by the full entry fee. Entries are not confirmed until the entry fee has been paid. The Secretary will provide the SBU bank details to facilitate electronic transfers.
19. The entry fee for 2015 is £240 per team. This includes table money for all weekends.
20. Entry fees for Scottish junior players will be reduced in accordance with standard SBU competition policy, that is, half-price for U25s.

Registered players

21. If a team loses one or more members as a result of death, serious incapacity or other exceptional circumstance, including the loss of good standing or eligibility, then that team may apply for a permanent replacement player or pair.
22. A registered team of less than six players may add players at any point before or during the season subject to rules on general eligibility.
23. If a player leaves one team to join another after the closing date, and this affects either team's automatic place in the First Division, such teams would be subject to selection review unless they were automatic both before and after the change.
24. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to applications for team changes, and may grant it subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.

Substitutes

25. A team which is unable to field four players may apply to the Committee for authorisation of a substitute. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to any such application and, in particular, may attach such conditions as it thinks fit relating to the use of a substitute.
26. The Director in Charge may authorise an emergency substitution on the day itself, in which case a full report shall be made to the Committee. The Committee will have an absolute discretion to decide the extent (if any) to which the results of the match(es) affected should be allowed to stand and whether the team in question will be allowed to continue in the League.

Withdrawal

27. Teams are required to participate in both weekends and to complete all their matches. Failure to comply with these requirements without reasonable excuse may jeopardise participation in the League or selection to represent Scotland in future years.
28. Details of the impact of a team withdrawal are in [Appendix C](#).

Playing requirements

29. To be a qualified player for the title of National League or Division champion, the player must play at least 50% of the boards (rounded down in the case of a fraction).
30. To be automatically eligible for selection a player must be in a partnership that has played at least 50% of the boards. In the event of a player being in two partnerships who have played 50% of the boards then the player must choose a preferred partnership.
31. To be automatically eligible for selection a pair must play against every team.

Camrose selection

32. The Committee will automatically select all qualifying pairs from the winning team.
33. If required, the Committee shall, in consultation with the team, select pair(s) to fill the remaining places from amongst players who have competed in the League, taking into account performance in the League and results in recent national and international events.

European Team Championships selection

34. If the winning team does not have two qualifying pairs or declines selection, then the Committee will invite the highest placed interested team that has at least two qualifying pairs, with the caveat that they must have finished in the top half of the First Division.
35. In the event that no interested team finishes in the top half, then at least one team with two qualifying pairs who competed will be invited to a playoff. At its discretion the Committee may introduce new teams comprising of qualifying pairs into the playoff.
36. If required, the Committee will select a third pair, in consultation with the team, taking into account performance in the League and results in recent national and international events.
37. The selected team will be expected to participate in an appropriate program of preparation prior to the championships. Failure to comply with this requirement without reasonable cause may jeopardise selection to represent Scotland in future years.

Timetable and format

38. The two weekends will comprise a double round-robin of participating teams. Based on an entry of sixteen teams in two divisions, each match will be sixteen boards.

Weekend 1: **24-25 October, 2015**

Venue: TBA (expected to be in Glasgow)

Telephone: TBA

Format:

First Division:

Saturday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-2.30, 3.00-5.10, 5.20-7.30

Sunday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-2.30, 3.00-5.10

Second Division:

Saturday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-2.30, 3.00-5.10, 5.20-7.30

Sunday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-2.30, 3.00-5.10

Weekend 2: **21-22 November, 2015**

Venue: New Melville Bridge Club, Edinburgh

Telephone: 0131 334 4467

Format: As Weekend 1

39. Regulations concerning seating rights are contained in [Appendix A](#).
40. The draw for the second weekend will be seeded based on the results of the first weekend, with the leading two teams in a division scheduled to play each other in the final round.

Scoring

41. Scoring will be by IMP, converted to Victory Points on the WBF 20-point continuous victory point scale.
42. Cross-imping of all matches will be done and these results may be used as a guide for selection.

Composition of future divisions and team continuity

43. Promotion and relegation for the 2015 season will be two up/two down, based on the First Division containing eight teams.
44. To maintain team continuity for 2015, any of the following is sufficient. A player is qualified if he satisfied the playing requirements for the previous season, and satisfies all the general conditions of eligibility.
 - Three qualified players from a team of four or five qualified players
 - Four qualified players from a team of six qualified players
45. If a team has such a quorum it may add any further players it chooses to form its 2015 team without restriction (the maximum total number of players on a team remains six). There is no absolute requirement for the core 2014 qualified players to play any minimum number of boards during the 2015 season.
46. Any remaining First Division places will be decided by the Committee at its discretion, considering the number of qualified players on the teams, and the teams' bridge merit as judged by the Committee.
47. To maintain team continuity from 2015 to 2016, any of the following is sufficient. A player is qualified if he satisfied the playing requirements for the 2015 season, and satisfies all the general conditions of eligibility.
 - Three qualified players from a team of four or five players
 - Four qualified players from a team of six players

Systems and conventions

48. This is a Category 1 SBU competition.
49. The SBU regulation prohibiting the psyching of strong, artificial, forcing opening bids does not apply to this event.

50. There is a limit of four system cards per team per weekend.

Miscellaneous

51. Screens will be used in the First Division (whenever possible).

52. Penalties for late arrival will be assessed in accordance with [Appendix B](#).

Communications

53. Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be emailed to the Secretary of the Committee.

54. The Committee can be contacted at selection@sbu.org.uk.

Acknowledgement

55. Many of these regulations are used with kind permission of the English Bridge Union.

Appendix A Seating rights

1. The TD will prepare a movement in which each team is the home team in one of the two matches against every other team.
2. The order of opponents and the choice of home or away will be pre-ordained by reference to team number.
3. The home team has the right to seat its players after the away team has seated theirs.
4. Separate regulations apply when HUM systems are in use (or may be in use) by one team only (see Appendix A of the General Conditions of Contest).

Appendix B Late arrival or fouled match/stanza

1. A team is late if one or more playing members of that team is not seated and ready to play at the advertised starting time. Warnings and penalties apply to the team as a whole rather than to any individual or to any partnership within a team.
2. The penalties described below apply to each separate match. Warnings and penalties issued during one match are not carried over to the next.
3. A team warned or penalised for late arrival retains the full time in which to play that stanza, that is, the starting time for that table is officially delayed.
4. Penalties for late arrival are as follows:-

0+ - 12 minutes late: ½ VP penalty save that a warning will be issued in lieu of a penalty for the first offence of no more than 4 minutes of lateness.

Thereafter, for each portion of 8 minutes late or part thereof, up to 1 hour late, an additional ½ VP penalty and 1-board is removed from the match and scored as +/- 3 IMP.

Example: 53 minutes late would be a penalty of 3½ VP and would cause 6 boards to be removed from the match (18 IMP in total).
5. If a team is more than 60 minutes late for a stanza, then that stanza will normally be abandoned and scored as +/- 20 IMP. Additionally, the offending team will be penalised 4 VP.
6. The warnings and penalties contained in this Appendix may be expunged for cause either in part or in whole for late arrival for the start of a weekend. A team which feels that it can demonstrate good cause for late arrival for the start of a weekend may apply to the Committee for a waiver or relaxation of these penalties.
7. A stanza is fouled if teams sit in the same direction in both rooms and the error is not discovered until the end of the stanza (or near to the end of the stanza). Were this to arise, the stanza is abandoned and scored as 0 IMP to both teams. Additionally, both teams shall be penalised 1½ VP. Note: this is a relatively modest penalty, as it assumes a degree of responsibility on behalf of the organisation as well as on the players themselves. In aggravated circumstances this penalty may be increased at the sole discretion of the Committee.

Appendix C Consequences of withdrawal

1. If a team does not complete the first weekend and withdraws from the event, then all scores will be expunged. If a team does not complete the second weekend, then all second weekend scores are expunged but the first weekend results will be retained.
2. Otherwise, any unplayed matches will provisionally be scored 12-0 VP in favour of the non-offending team, save that at the end of the season the average number of VP scored per match actually played will be taken into account if this is for the benefit of the non-offending team (if not, then the 12-0 score will stand). This would only apply in the event of a short-lived indisposition or emergency that affects two matches or fewer.
3. If the non-offending team has a match average which is more than 2 VP better than the offending team (the 12 VP provisionally awarded being 2 VP more than average), then its score will be increased by the corresponding amount, up to a maximum score of 20-0.
4. However, the IMP difference for both teams (should it be needed to resolve a tie) shall be deemed to be 0 IMP regardless of the actual assigned VP score.

Example: Team A (non-offending) has scored 85.00 VP from 6 matches (average of 14.17). Team B (offending) has scored 50.00 VP from 6 matches (average of 8.33). The difference in average is 5.84. The match is therefore re-scored as 15.84-0.
5. Boards played by the non-offending team in a match subsequently cancelled under paragraph 1 shall still count for the purpose of assessing the playing requirements described.
6. In the case of an unplayed match or stanza, the non-offending team may nominate which of its players would have played in each such stanza in order to assess the playing requirements.