

Scottish National League 2017 – Supplementary Conditions of Contest

Overview

1. The National League is open to all teams, regardless of standard. The winners will receive a trophy and a monetary prize to be announced nearer the time. The winners of the Second Division will receive a salver and a monetary prize. The winners of the Third Division will receive a monetary prize
2. From 2017 the League will be focussed on teams of 4 in the First Division. However some teams already contain 6 players and we would not wish to advocate splitting these teams up though if some do, it may be necessary to run the First Division with 9 or 10 teams this year. Following consultation items 33 & 34 have been agreed as a way forward.
3. The winning team will be invited to represent Scotland in the first weekend in the Camrose Trophy of the 2018 Home International Series (subject to meeting the playing requirements).
4. The Selection Committee will select a 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.
5. The first Camrose weekend is 5-7 January 2018 in N Ireland.
6. The second Camrose weekend is 2-4 March 2018 in Ireland.

Authority

7. 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

8. The National League is a trial for the Open Series of the 2018 Home International Series. The winners of the First Division in principle earn selection, on a part funded basis, to represent Scotland in this event.
9. The National League is not a trial for Women's or Seniors' events.
10. The two weekends of the National League will typically 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.
11. 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.
12. 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

13. All players must be members of the Scottish Bridge Union in good standing.
14. All First Division players must qualify, by 1 January 2018, 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.
15. All non-First Division players must be able to meet the qualification in paragraph 14 by 1 January 2019.

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 11 June 2017. 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 2017 is £300 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. In the First Division substitutes for teams of 4 will be allowed only at the discretion of a Selection Committee Group (SCG) made up of the SC Convener, a member of the SC not playing in the First Division and the SBU President. A substitute cannot qualify for automatic Camrose selection.
26. In the other divisions up to two substitutes will automatically be allowed subject to them not having played in another team in that or a higher division – they may have played for a team in a lower division. Only the 'core team' will qualify for promotion or relegation.
27. 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 affected matches should be allowed to stand and whether the team in question will be allowed to continue in the League.

Withdrawal

28. 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.
29. Details of the impact of a team withdrawal are in Appendix B.

Playing requirements

30. 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).
31. 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 selectors will choose their preferred partnership.
32. To be automatically eligible for selection a pair must play against every team.

Camrose selection

33. If a team of four wins the National League First Division, both pairs would be selected plus a third pair from amongst those who have competed in the First Division, taking into account performance in the League and results in recent national and international events.
34. If a team of six wins, then only one pair chosen by the selectors is guaranteed selection and the selectors are free to choose whichever other two pairs in the leading teams they believe are best. This may or may not include either or both of the remaining pairs in the team of six.

Timetable and format

First Division

35. The two weekends will comprise a double round-robin of eight teams.

Weekend 1: **28-29 October 2017**

Venue: Buchanan Bridge Club, Glasgow Telephone: 0141 332 5131 Format: Seven 16-board matches

Saturday: 11.00-1.10, 1.20-3.30, 4.20-6.30, 6.40-8.50

Sunday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-2.30, 3.20-5.30

Weekend 2: **18-19 November 2017**

Venue: Melville Bridge Club, Edinburgh Telephone: 0131 334 4467 Format: Seven 16-board matches

Saturday: 11.00-1.10, 1.20-3.30, 4.00-6.10, 6.20-8.30

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

Remaining teams

36. In the event of twelve remaining teams, all will be placed in the Second Division and both weekends will be a double round-robin of 10-board matches.
37. In the event of fourteen or more teams, eight teams will be allocated to the Second Division and the remainder to the Third Division. This will be done on the basis of their finishing positions in the previous season, team continuity and on their qualifying points. The timetable will be published when the numbers are known.

38. Regulations concerning seating rights are contained in Appendix A.
39. 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

40. Scoring will be by IMP, converted to Victory Points on the WBF 20-point continuous victory point scale.
41. 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

42. Promotion and relegation for the 2017 season will be two up/two down, based on the First Division containing eight teams.
43. To maintain team continuity for 2017, 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 players
 - Four qualified players from a team of six players
44. If a team has such a quorum it may add any further players it chooses to form its 2017 team without restriction (the maximum total number of players on a team remains six). There is no absolute requirement for the core 2016 qualified players to play any minimum number of boards during the 2017 season.
45. 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.

Systems and conventions

46. This is a Category 1 SBU competition.
47. The SBU regulation prohibiting the psyching of strong, artificial, forcing opening bids does not apply to this event.
48. There is a limit of four system cards per team per weekend.

Miscellaneous

49. Screens will be used in the First Division (whenever possible).
50. The master point awards are shown in Appendix C.

Communications

51. Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be emailed to the Secretary of the Committee.
52. Communication is prohibited between players and selectors that could be interpreted, in any way, as an attempt by players to influence selection decisions. Transgression of this rule will result in the immediate disqualification of the offending player(s) from potential selection.
53. The Committee can be contacted at selection@sbu.org.uk.

Acknowledgement

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

Appendix A Seating rights

1. Blind seating, where teams submit their line ups to the TD, will be used in all single round-robin formats.
2. For a double round-robin format, the TD will prepare a movement in which each team is the home team in one of the two matches against every other team.
3. The order of opponents and the choice of home or away will be pre-ordained by reference to team number.
4. The home team has the right to seat its players after the away team has seated theirs.
5. 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 for the Scottish National League and SBU Trials).

Appendix B 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. 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.
3. 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.

Appendix C Master Point awards

1. Awards for each match won or drawn
2. Awards as described below assume 16 board matches. Where there is a different number of boards per match, awards are proportional and given in accordance with the formula:

Basic award x number of boards divided by 16

Basic Awards per Match

Divisions	Division			
	1	2	3	4
1	1.00			
2	1.00	0.50		
3	1.00	0.75	0.50	
4	1.00	0.83	0.67	0.50