

Scottish National League 2016 – Supplementary Conditions of Contest

Overview

1. The National league is open to all teams, regardless of standard. The winners of Division 1 will receive the Matheson Trophy. The winners of Division 2 will receive the Alexander Trophy. Prize money for all 3 Divisions will be announced prior to the event once costs are known.
2. The qualifying pairs (see paragraphs 30 & 31) from the winning team in Division 1 will be selected for the first weekend of the Camrose Trophy of the 2017 Home International series.
3. The International 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. As Scotland is the host nation for the second weekend, there will be a SBU team for both weekends. This team will be selected from those taking part that fulfil the playing requirements.
5. The first Camrose weekend is 6 – 8 January 2017 in England
6. The second Camrose weekend is 3 – 5 March 2017 in Scotland

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 International Committee of the Scottish Bridge Union.

Scope of the League

8. The National League is a trial for the Open Series of the 2017 Home International Series.
9. The National League is not a trial for Women's or Senior events.
10. The two weekends of the National League will typically comprise a double round-robin in every division.
11. Based on divisions of approximately eight teams each, the winners and runners up of the Second and Third Division shall earn promotion to the First and Second Division respectively. The bottom two teams in the First and Second Division shall be relegated to the Second and Third Division respectively.
12. The Committee reserve the right to alter the number of teams promoted or relegated in the event that the sizes of the Divisions of the League 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 2017 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 2018.

Entry

16. Entries from teams of four to six players should be sent to the Secretary of the International Committee, Anne Perkins, email anne_perkins@blueyonder.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 30 April 2016. 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 2016 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 ie. 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 the 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 the 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 affected matches 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 B](#).

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 among players who have competed in the League, taking into account performance in the league and results in recent national and international events.

Timetable and format

First Division

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

Weekend 1: 29-30 October, 2016

Venue: St Andrew Bridge Club, Glasgow

Telephone: 0141 387 6608

Format: Seven 16-board matches

Saturday: 11.00-13.10, 13.20-15.30, 16.00-18.10, 18.20-20.30

Sunday: 10.00-12.10, 12.20-14.30, 15.00-17.10

Weekend 2: 19-20 November, 2016

Venue: New Melville Bridge Club, Edinburgh

Telephone: 0131 334 4467

Format & timetable as first weekend

Second Division

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

36. All the details are the same as for Division One except that without screens the time allocation per round will be 1 hour 52 minutes.

Saturday: 11.00-12.52, 13.20-15.12, 16.00-17.52, 18.20-20.12

Sunday: 10.00-11.52, 12.20-14.12, 15.00-16.52

Third Division

37. With eight teams all the details will be the same as for Division Two.

38. In the event that there are only seven teams, the two weekends will comprise a double round-robin of six 18-board matches. A separate timetable will be issued nearer the time but will be roughly similar.

Seating Rights

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 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 2016 season will be two up/down, based on the First Division containing eight teams.

44. To maintain team continuity from one season to the next, 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 2016 team without restriction (the maximum total number of players on a team remains six). There is no absolute requirement for the core 2015 qualified players to play any minimum number of boards during the 2016 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 2016 to 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

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 in 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)

Communications

52. Any notices to be given to, or communication for, the Committee should be emailed to the Secretary of the Committee.

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 will be 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 stanza in order to assess the playing requirements.