

General Conditions of Contest (GCoC) for the Camrose and the Lady Milne & Senior Camrose Trials 2022 for 2023 (issued July 2022)

Overview

- 1 This GCoC applies to the SBU Trials for Camrose, Women, & Senior Home Internationals.
- 2 Any SBU Trial may have a Supplementary Conditions of Contest (SCoC) which governs aspects not covered by this GCoC and which can modify the regulations applicable to a specific event.
- 3 Where a SCoC for an event differs from this document, the SCoC takes precedence.
- 4 **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. If feedback from players is required, they will be contacted by a representative of the Committee. The Committee will have the discretion to make decisions taking all factors into account.**

Authority

- 5 This Conditions of Contest is established by the International Committee of the Scottish Bridge Union. References to 'the Committee' mean the International Committee of the SBU. The Committee acts on behalf of, and is responsible to, the Operation Management Team, the General Manager and ultimately the Board of Trustees of the SBU.
- 6 The decision of the Committee in relation to the interpretation of this Conditions of Contest will be final.
- 7 The Committee reserves the right to determine a course of action at its discretion in the event of any matter arising which is not covered by this Conditions of Contest, or in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising. If a player or pair subsequently become unavailable for an event that they have been selected for, then they will be replaced by a pair who played in the relevant trial if practically possible.
- 8 In the event that a decision under this Conditions of Contest is required during the event, a decision may be made on the Committee's behalf by the Director in Charge.
- 9 The events are played under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, with such modifications as have been approved by the WBF Laws Commission as at the date of publication of these Regulations.
- 10 The SBU is the Regulating Authority under the 2017 Laws.

Eligibility

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

Entry

- 14 Entry fees for Scottish junior players will be reduced in accordance with SBU competition policy. Currently this is free for U26s.

15. 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.
16. Participants should be available for selection for the specified trial they are entering for.
- 17. It is a condition of entry that participants must accept that both sound and video are turned on throughout the duration of any trials held on Realbridge or similar online platform.**
18. Each player, by entering a selection 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.

Systems and conventions

19. 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 be system restrictions in the earlier stages.
20. Where Brown Sticker conventions and HUM systems are permitted, it is subject to the provisions of [Appendix A](#) regarding system disclosure and seating rights. Opponents of such methods should note that written defences are permitted and may be referred to at the table (see [Appendix A](#) for full details).
21. Copies of all systems must be lodged with the Committee in advance. See [Appendix A](#) for full details.
22. Failure to lodge a system card by the deadline will result in a fine of 2VP, or equivalent. The Committee may waive or reduce this fine in the case of late substitutions.
23. Systems lodged in advance as above 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.

Alerting

The WBF Alerting Policy has been adopted for the Home International Series as follows:

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
2. Those bids 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 unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

The method used by RealBridge when screens are employed (as may happen in some trials) is that there will be a system of self-alerting visible to both opponents but not partner, which automatically creates a library, and dispenses with the need to type the explanation of the same call again.

Scoring

24. Where scoring is converted to Victory Points, the WBF 20-point continuous Victory Point scale will be used.
25. A bye should be scored as 12 VP.
26. Scores will be posted by the online system in use. Any problem with these should be reported to the Chief TD without delay. In case of any doubt, the online system is deemed to be the official scoring system.

Undos

Undos in the auction, until they are non-recoverable (eg. after partner has bid), will be treated as the equivalent of a mechanical error using a bidding box, and this will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Undos in the play will not be permitted, but players will be reminded of the option of a two-click system when playing their cards.

Standard adjustments and penalties

27. The 'standard adjustment' is the difference between average plus and average (or between average and average minus) for the purpose of Law 12C2. It is applied in the initial method of scoring.
28. The 'standard penalty' is the amount of a standard (procedural) penalty and is applied in the final method of scoring (eg Victory Points if there is a conversion to Victory Points). Penalties do not affect the scores of other contestants except in a head-to-head contest, when they reduce the score of the offender, as expressed in the basic method of scoring.

Method of scoring	Standard penalty / standard adjustment
Teams-of-four	3 IMP
Cross IMPs	2 IMP per comparison
Victory Points	½ VP in matches of 5 boards or more 1 VP in matches of 4 boards or fewer

For example, in a head-to-head teams match,

- AVE+/AVE- translates into a difference of 3 IMP in the result of a match.
- A 'standard penalty' makes a difference of 3 IMP in the result of a match.
- AVE+/AVE- with a further 'standard penalty' (eg the normal penalty for a red psyche) makes a difference of 6 IMP in the result of a match.

- AVE+/AVE or AVE/AVE- translate into a difference of 2 IMP in the result of a match (this is 1½ IMP rounded up).
- AVE+/AVE+ or AVE/AVE or AVE-/AVE- make no difference in the result of a match.

Correction periods

29. 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 79C1 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 79C2 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.

30. For all events the end of a session is defined when there is a major movement of the sections or there is a major break and corresponding calculation of scores. The correction periods are:

Rulings	20 minutes of non-playing time after the end of the session
Appeals	20 minutes of non-playing time after the end of the session or after ruling is given (whichever is later)
Score queries	5pm on the second working day after the end of the event
Gross and manifest scoring errors	5pm on the second working day after the end of the event

31. In exceptional circumstances the Director is authorised to vary the Correction Periods in order to accommodate some unforeseen circumstance or to facilitate the smooth running of the event. For example, when there is the late posting of results.

Slow play

32. The regulations covering slow play are provided in [Appendix B](#).

Late arrival or fouled match/stanza

33. In team events warnings and penalties apply to the team as a whole rather than to any individual or to any partnership within a team.

34. A pair or team is late if one or more playing members is not seated and ready to play at the advertised starting time.

35. Any team not seated and ready to play at the start of a session will be fined 1VP and a further 1VP for every complete five-minute period thereafter. A pair or team will incur a 1VP penalty for

lateness save that a warning will be issued in lieu of a penalty for the first offence of no more than 4 minutes of lateness. The Director may increase this penalty, to a maximum of 2 VP, for repeat offences.

36. When a contestant is deemed to be late the Director will remove an appropriate number of boards. One board is removed for each 7½ minutes or part thereof after the actual start time.
37. When the Director determines that one or more boards have to be removed, then:
 - Provided at least half a match can be played, an artificial adjusted score (AVE+ for non-offender/AVE- for offender) will be awarded for each unplayed board.
 - If less than half a match can be played, then the match is declared void and is scored:
 - For a non-offending side:
The greatest of 13 VP, their average VP match score, and the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault.
 - For an offending side:
The least of the 7 VP, their average VP match score, and the complement of the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault.
38. The warnings and penalties 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.
39. All players are encouraged to log-on as early as possible to Real Bridge, and inform the TD of potential internet connection problems. In the absence of any such notice, the following will apply:
 - If any team has been late at the commencement of a session 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
 - An emergency mobile number will be available to NPCs to inform the Tournament Director of any problems relating to the start of a stanza.
40. All players are advised to have a reserve device available in case of technical failure or connection problem.
41. If any team has been late at the commencement of a session 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.

At approximately half way, and approximately ten minutes before the end of play, the Director should notify each table of the time remaining. Failure of the Director to meet this requirement will not absolve the players from penalty.

At the end of the allocated time the Director will impose, for any table still in play, a fine of 1 VP for any delay up to five minutes, and an additional fine of 1VP for each further delay of five minutes or part thereof. It is open to the director in charge to give penalties of fractions of VPs to each side. **There is no discretion in regard to imposition of fines for slow play**, which must be enforced unless the problem was caused e.g. by operation of RealBridge, or other “mechanical” difficulty.
42. Where the same pair incurs a subsequent fine, this shall automatically be increased by 50%,
43. For substantial or repeated delays the Director should impose a more severe penalty.

44. Appeals against fines for slow play may be based only on a question as to the Director's findings of fact.

Withdrawals (pairs trials)

45. 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).

Playing requirements (team trials)

46. To be a qualified pair for automatic selection purposes, the pair must play at least 50% of the boards (rounded down in the case of a fraction) in every stage of the event.
47. An individual player failing to fulfil the playing requirements does not disqualify his teammates.
48. Once play has started, substitutes will not be allowed. If this happens before the halfway point, then all scores are scrubbed – if after halfway then the score given is the best of 12 VPs, opponents score versus withdrawn team or own average score.

Appeals procedure

49. An appeals panel duly constituted will consider any appeals.
50. Any pair or team has the right to call for a review of any ruling made by the Director at their table, provided:
- They have sought prior advice/guidance from an experienced non-involved counsellor. A list of names and telephone numbers will be available at the event.
 - They make a potentially non-refundable deposit at the time of lodging their appeal.
 - That both players if a pair, or the captain if a team, make the appeal.
51. A deposit of £30 will be required if an appeal is made; this may not be refunded if the appeal is deemed to be without foundation (frivolous).
52. It should be noted that Appeals Committee may not overrule the Director on a point of Law, on Regulations, or on the exercise of disciplinary powers.
53. The appeals procedure may be changed provided it is announced prior to play.

Interpretation of conditions

54. 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.

Miscellaneous

55. 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.
56. Players may be photographed at any time during the trial and agree to the use of photographs or other electronic recordings to publicise the trial and for any other reasonable purpose of the SBU.

57. Ties will be split where necessary in accordance with standard SBU procedures as described in the Competition Handbook. A tie which cannot be resolved by these means will be deemed to be an unforeseen circumstance (in which case the Committee will determine a course of action).
58. If an issue arises that is not specifically mentioned in the CoC, then the standard SBU rules as per the Competition Handbook will apply.

Communications

59. Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the Committee should be emailed to the Secretary of the Committee.
60. The Committee can be contacted at selection@sbu.org.uk.

Summary of major changes since 2014

61. Scanned system cards, and cards generated by the WBF CCE using suit symbols, will not be acceptable ([Appendix A](#)).
62. Late arrival regulations aligned with the SBU General Conditions for Competitions.
63. Standard adjustments and penalties added for clarity.
64. Minor changes to the screen regulations, bringing them in line with the latest WBF regulations.

Acknowledgement

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

Appendix A: System policy

1. All Green, Red, and Blue systems must be registered with the Committee seven days in advance of play.
2. Where Yellow (HUM) Systems and/or Brown Sticker Conventions (BSCs) and treatments are played, full details must be provided to the other pairs (through the Committee) a full 14 days in advance. Any pair failing to provide adequate notification shall not be permitted to play the method. Contact the Committee if you are in any doubt about a system or convention classification.
3. Systems lodged in advance 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.
4. Brown Sticker information and forms are available from <http://worldbridge.org/brown-sticker-forms.aspx>.
5. All pairs intending to play, or considering playing, a HUM or Brown Sticker Convention should contact the Committee to ensure that the appropriate notification (including a viable defence) is provided.
6. Opponents may bring written defences to the HUM system to the table as an aide mémoire. A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker 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 Brown Sticker conventions are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.
7. When a team that includes a pair using a HUM system (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM system team will always line up first, that is the opponents of the HUM system have seating rights throughout the match. No special seating rights or line up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM systems (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.
8. A fully completed WBF convention card must be used. Completion guides, editors and templates are available from <http://worldbridge.org/convention-cards.aspx>.
Please note that system cards created using the WBF CCE editor are only acceptable as long as suit symbols are not used. Generally the use of this editor is strongly discouraged due to font issues.
9. Scanned images of system cards, even if provided in PDF format, will not be accepted.
10. Failure to provide two fully completed convention cards will result in the Director instructing the pair to play the basic SBU Simple System for the rest of the session.

Appendix B: Slow play

1. The time allowed for each 16-board stanza is 2 hours. If screens are being used, then the time allowed for each 16-board stanza is 2 hours, 10 minutes.
2. In the event of stanzas of some other length being required, the time allowed will be announced prior to the commencement of play in the stage concerned.
3. Automatic penalties will apply to any table which runs over the allotted time. The penalty on the table involved will be 1 VP per five-minute delay or part thereof.
4. The Director will apportion the responsibility for the slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties separately to the teams involved on this basis. All penalties will be expressed in terms of $\frac{1}{2}$ VP or multiples thereof.

Example: a table is eight minutes late (2 VP penalty). One pair is held to be approximately three-quarters responsible and the other approximately one-quarter responsible. The penalty is $1\frac{1}{2}$ VP to the one team and $\frac{1}{2}$ VP to the other.

5. If a suitable person is available to act as a time monitor, the Director may appoint such person to monitor the speed of play at any table (either at the request of one of the players or on his own initiative). Otherwise the responsibility for monitoring the speed of play lies with the Director. The Director may take evidence from independent spectators or officials.
6. A team may be penalised at both tables in the same stanza.
7. In the event that a pair is penalised more than once during the course of a single weekend by reason of slow play, the penalty against that pair shall be twice that calculated in accordance with paragraph 4 for a second offence, and three times for a third offence. Each weekend is treated separately for the purposes of this Appendix.
8. Approximately halfway through each stanza and approximately ten minutes before the scheduled time for the completion of play, the Director shall notify each table of the time remaining. Although the Director will endeavour to warn a pair when they are in danger of a penalty being imposed, any failure to do so shall not preclude the imposition of a penalty.
9. 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 (typically AVE+ for non-offender/AVE- for offender) for each such board.
10. The Director has been instructed to apply the penalty provisions of this Appendix strictly, though discretion shall be used where a table has been delayed through no fault of its own (for example, by Bridge Base Online coverage).