



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

51ST EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

12th June – 23rd June 2012

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A. INTRODUCTION, FORMAT AND TIMETABLE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A.1 Introduction

The 51st European Bridge Teams Championship ("the Championship") is to be played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the EBL") in Dublin, Ireland commencing on Tuesday 12th June 2012 and ending not later than Saturday 23rd June 2012. The Championship consist of 3 Series: Open Series, Women Series and Senior Series.

A.2 Format

The Open Series consists of two round-robins. In the first round-robin the teams are divided into two groups, seeded according to section C.4.6 below. At the end of the first round-robin the 9 best ranked teams from each group are qualified for the second round-robin. The other teams finish the championship at that stage. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards. Each team qualified for the second (final) roundrobin will carry forward 100% of the IMPs and VPs achieved against the other 8 qualified teams from the first round-robin and will play a 20 board match against each of the 9 teams from the other group.

The Women Series consists of a complete round-robin. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards.

The Senior Series consists of a complete round-robin. It is anticipated that matches will be of 16 or 20 boards, depending on the number of matches played in this championship.

The results of the matches are expressed in victory points and at the completion of the round-robin the teams will be ranked according to the numbers of Victory Points gained

The Championship is played under the Laws of Bridge 2007 and the present Rules and Regulations, whose special provisions for this Championship supplement those Laws.

A.3 Timetable

Opening Ceremony

- Open Teams 1st Round-Robin
- Open Teams Final Round-Robin
- Women Teams
- Senior Teams Welcome
- Senior Teams
- Closing Ceremony

Tuesday 22nd June

Wednesday 13th – Tuesday 19th June
Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd June
Wednesday 13th – Saturday 23rd June
Friday 15th June
Saturday 16th – Saturday 23rd July
Saturday 23rd June

B. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

B.1 Registration

B.1.1 Registration of Teams

All entries to the Championships tournaments must be submitted electronically via the EBL website(not by email)at <http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/12Dublin/microSite/Information.htm> by **15th April 2012**.

B.1.2 Registration of Players' Names

Registration of members of the teams and NBO Delegation members' names must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at <http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/12Dublin/microSite/Information.htm> by **30th April 2012**.

B.2 Right to enter, and entry fees

Each member country, being up to date with the payment of its dues (including the 2012 dues) to the EBL is authorised to enter one team in the Open Series, one team in the Women's Series and one team in the Senior Series of the Championship. Countries must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with the payment of dues to the EBL before they can participate in the Championship.

The entry fees are € 3,500 for the Open and Women's Teams and € 3,250 for the Senior Teams. A discount will be given to countries who did not participate in the last three EBL Bridge Teams Championships (Warsaw 2006, Pau 2008 and Ostend 2010): for these teams the entry fees are € 2,500 both for the Open and Women and € 2,000 for the Senior Teams.

A discount of € 500 will also be given to countries who will accommodate all their players at the Thermae Palace Hotel or make their reservation through the Dublin Tourist Office and arrange accommodation for all their players in the hotels recommended.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 30th April 2012 to

HSBC Bank
31 Chequer Street
St. Albans AL1 3YN
United Kingdom

Account: EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
IBAN: GB 82 MIDL 4005 1571 2825 45
SWIFT: MIDLGB22

No team will be permitted to refuse to play against any other team and such refusal to play will result in disqualification.

B.3 Team Members

In addition to a non-playing captain and a coach or team-manager, each team is entitled to have six members. Subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee the members of any team may be changed up to the time of commencement of play of the Championship.

If a country has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added after the commencement of play but only during the first day, subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee and with permission of the Championship Committee.

Except with the permission of the Chief Tournament Director or Championship Manager, such substitute or added player must use one of the systems already filed in accordance with B.6 below.

B.4 Credentials Committee

The names of the captain, coach and the other members of each team as well as the names of Chief Delegation, Team Manager, Medical Doctor, Journalists and members of the NBO's Official Delegation must be sent for approval to the EBL President via the EBL website (not by e-mail) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/12Dublin/microSite/Information.htm> by **30th April 2012**.

Every proposed player must, along with other criteria, fulfil the requirements set forth by the EBL Eligibility Code.

In any case only accredited people can enter the venue of the Championship.

B.5 Draw for numbers

Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and will be published in the programme. In the event of a variation in the number of teams participating, adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be notified in the programme, or if necessary at the captains' meeting.

B.6 Systems

B.6.1 Systems Policy

- a) The European Bridge League's Systems Regulations and Systems Policy 2007 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") apply to these Championships. Category 1 systems and conventions are permitted in the Open and Women's Series. Only Category 3 systems and conventions are permitted in the Senior Series.
- b) Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

B.6.2 Written explanations of systems

Every participating partnership in the Championships must complete, accurately and legibly, an EBL Convention Card (with supplementary sheets as appropriate) in accordance with "the SYSTEMS POLICY" and the Systems Regulations published separately to the NBOs and included on the EBL Website at www.eurobridge.org and on www.ecatsbridge.com.

A partnership may lodge a comprehensive statement of its methods (which may be of any length but must be in English) prior to the commencement of the Championship at the Hospitality Desk for the attention of the Championship Manager. Any statement so lodged may be used by the Director and the Appeals Committee (and may be used by the partnership in argument before the Appeals Committee) to assist in determining whether or not full, proper and timely information was given to the opponents as to the meaning of calls made in the auction by the partnership and of any related partnership understanding.

No prior agreement is permitted by which a varied meaning of a call or play applies only after a question asked, a reply given, or an irregularity of one's own side occurring

B.6.3 Submission of Systems (in all series)

Systems in all the series have to be registered with the European Bridge League by **10th May 2012** by email to: anna@ecats.co.uk

Strict compliance with Section 1.2 of the Systems Regulations is required.

Copies of opponents' filed Systems will be made available on the Internet to all teams who have filed their Systems.

Failure to lodge Systems as required by this rule may result in prohibition of a System. In addition the Appeals Committee may impose a financial penalty of up to € 340 for the late filing of Systems.

B.6.4 Changes in lodged systems

Team captains must give careful attention to the requirements in Section 1.6 of the Systems Regulations.

C. RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

C.1 Composition and seating of teams

C.1.1 Designation of teams

The team mentioned first in the schedule of matches printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team. Its opponent is the Away Team.

C.1.2 Line-up procedure

Since teams meet each other only once there will be no seating rights when teams without 'Highly Unusual Methods' play each other. Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. The line-up will be made by computer.

Line-ups for a round have to be submitted within 15 minutes after the previous round has ended. For the first round the details will be announced at the captains' meeting.

Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- 1st occasion a written (through the communication system) warning
- 2nd occasion ½ VP penalty
- Subsequently 1 VP penalty for each occasion.

These penalties will be applied automatically by the scoring system and can only be waived by the Championship Manager in exceptional cases.

C.1.3 Seating of Teams where no 'Highly Unusual Method' may be in use.

Where neither team contains any partnership that uses a 'Highly Unusual Method' the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The teams meet according to the schedule printed in the programme. The Home Team sits throughout in the N/S position in the Open Room and in the E/W position in the Closed Room.

C.1.4 Seating of Teams where a 'Highly Unusual Method' may be in use by one team.

Where one team contains any partnership that uses a 'Highly Unusual Method' the following seating arrangements shall apply:

The team that does not contain any partnership that uses a 'Highly Unusual Method', will always be the Home Team and gets seating rights. It gets an additional 5 minutes to submit the line-up knowing the line-up of its opponent. Furthermore a pair playing a 'Highly Unusual Method' has an obligation to be seated at the playing table 15 minutes before the start of the round when requested by their opponents. Notification of the request shall be given through the Championship's Communication System.

C.1.5 Seating of Teams where 'Highly Unusual Methods' may be used by both teams

Pairs playing 'Highly Unusual Methods' from both teams need to be seated 15 minutes in advance if either opponent so require.

C.1.6 Seating of Teams where “Brown Stickers” may be in use

When a team contains any partnership that uses more than one “Brown Sticker” all the above mentioned rules adopted for HUM Systems will be applied.

C.1.7 Substitutes

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Head Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute so designated need not be a national of the country in whose team he or she substitutes. A substitute cannot be a player of another team. A substitute in the Women’s Series must be female. A substitute in the Senior Series must be a Senior. The decision as to whether the result shall stand of a match in which a substitute has played for some or all of the boards, and what, if any, penalties shall be imposed, shall rest with the Championship Committee, which will adjudicate upon every instance in which a substitute plays.

The Head Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Championship Manager or his delegate as soon as possible and furnish the Championship Committee with a written report.

C.2 Time procedure and penalties for slow play.

C.2.1 Start of the round

At the beginning of each round the Tournament Director on duty will announce the time by which the round must be completed. For a sixteen board match this will be 2 hours and 20 minutes and for a twenty board match this will be 2 hours and 50 minutes.

The period allowed is calculated from the commencement of the period of play and includes the time for system explanation and scoring procedure. Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be fined 1 VP and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. In case of any player entering the playing room after the commencement of the broadcasting of the match, the Director has to be satisfied that no useful information about already shown boards could have been passed to the late player and, if not, will take the necessary measures. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match and receives zero Victory Points. For the score of the opposing team see C.5.2.

If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a round 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.

C.2.2 End of the period of play.

- a) If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed on the table, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them:
 - from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
 - from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
 - from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs.
 - from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs.
 - from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs..
 - for delays of more than 25 minutes the Championship Committee may impose a more severe penalty.

- b) If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any corrective measures that are necessary in his opinion, including, at his discretion, the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

The Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play, but an absence of warning does not diminish the responsibility of the players or their liability to be fined.

If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty in (a) will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun.

- c) It is a serious breach of propriety deliberately to break a Law or Rule even if one is willing to accept the prescribed penalty. Accordingly, over and above the prescribed penalties, the Tournament Director may impose an additional penalty in cases where he is of the opinion that players are indulging deliberately in unnecessarily slow play. The following regulations will be observed in putting this rule into effect:
- i) No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.
 - ii) Such a penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which a verbal warning has been given.
 - iii) The penalty may, in the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other to reflect the measure of each team's responsibility for the occurrence.

C.2.3 Penalty warning

Except for a penalty under C.2.2.c above all penalties for violations of time procedure and slow play are mandatory and require no previous warning to the players that penalties will be applied.

C.3 General rules during play

C.3.1 Language

All players are reminded that the official language of the Championships is English and during a match the players are expected to converse in this language only unless both teams agree to speak another language.

C.3.2 Dealing

The boards will have been pre-dealt and duplicated.

C.3.3 Duplication and movement of boards

- a) Wherever possible, boards will be duplicated throughout. In case of impossibility, the Championship Manager will communicate in due time how the operation will proceed.

C.3.4 Non-playing players

Non-playing players of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates playing (except in the Viewgraph theatre).

C.3.5 Finish of play

At each table when play has finished the players should agree the scores and then leave the Room (Open or Closed) as quickly as possible. Before doing so, they must make sure that all the

results have properly been entered into the Bridgemates. Repeated violation may result in penalties to be imposed.

C.3.6 Leaving the table and playing rooms

No player may leave the table during a match unless authorized by the Tournament Director. If any player leaves the table during a match without permission of the Tournament Director, that player's team will be fined 2 VPs.

No player may leave the playing rooms during a match unless authorized by the Tournament Director who may require that player to be accompanied by a person specifically designated. If any player leaves the playing room during a match without permission of the Tournament Director, that player's team will be fined 2 VPs.

C.3.7 Authorised persons in the playing rooms

Authorised persons who may enter the playing rooms (except by special permission of the Chairman of the Championship Committee) are:

- The Championship Manager
- the staff on duty
- the Chairman of the Appeals Committee and the members of the Appeals Committee on duty
- the President of the E.B.L.
- the members of the Championship Committee
- the captains or coaches (or their respective duly approved designates) are allowed in the Open Room, except the Open Vugraph room where they are not allowed.
- except in the Open VG room, where they are not allowed, two duly accredited journalists plus one representative of the Bulletin, all of whom must remain for the entire round in the rooms. Each of them must watch at only one table..
- Staff for the provision of refreshments.

C.3.8 Scoring at the table

Scoring at the table is done by the use of the Bridgemates (see D.1.3).

C.3.9 Recording the matches

There will be no recording.

C.3.10 Use of the systems

Players may only look at their own system as Law 40B2(b) allows

(allows the declaring side, only, to look at its own system card during the Correction Period – see Law 22B1. This assists the correction of any mis-explanation during the auction.) Players may look at the system of their opponents at any time during the bidding but during the play only when it is their turn to play.

In accordance with the EBL Systems Policy players may consult their written defences to Brown Sticker Conventions during the auction and also their written "defence against the defence". It is worth noting that for the purpose of this paragraph only, a "Multi" 2♣/♦ is considered to be a Brown Sticker Convention.

For regulations applying when a Highly Unusual Method is in use, and particularly those governing defence against a Yellow (HUM) system see the EBL Systems Policy

C.4 End of rounds, results

C.4.1 IMP scale

The difference in the total point scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (“IMPs”).

C.4.2 VP scale

For each match there will be between 25 and 30 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the following scale:

16 board matches

IMPs diff.	VPs
0 - 2	15 - 15
3 - 7	16 - 14
8 - 11	17 - 13
12 - 15	18 - 12
16 - 19	19 - 11
20 - 23	20 - 10
24 - 27	21 - 9
28 - 31	22 - 8
32 - 36	23 - 7
37 - 41	24 - 6
42 - 46	25 - 5
47 - 52	25 - 4
53 - 58	25 - 3
59 - 64	25 - 2
65 - 71	25 - 1
72 and more	25 - 0

20 board matches:

IMP diff.	VPs
0-2	15-15
3-8	16-14
9-12	17-13
13-16	18-12
17-21	19-11
22-26	20-10
27-31	21-9
32-36	22-8
37-41	23-7
42-47	24-6
48-53	25-5
54-59	25-4
60-65	25-3
66-72	25-2
73-79	25-1
80 and more	25-0

C.4.3 Effect of penalty points

In no case will a VP penalty imposed under these Rules benefit the score of the non-offending side.

C.4.4 Protest time

In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day’s play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony

The protest time concerning rulings by the TD ends 30 minutes after the round.

C.4.5 Carry-over (Open Series)

Each team qualified for the second (final) round-robin will carry forward 100% of the IMPs and VPs achieved against the other 8 qualified teams from the first round-robin.

C.4.6 The Draw

The draw will be publicised to all NBOs as soon as all the teams are known and the final draw has been made. It will also be published on the official EBL website.

The two groups of the first round-robin in the Open Series are composed considering the ranking of the three previous Team Championships (Warsaw 2006, Pau 2008 and Ostend 2010) and following the “greek” formula. However, in exceptional cases and for teams that did not participate in all three previous championships, the Championship Committee may adjust the seeding to seek equity and fairness.

C.4.7 Official results

If at the end of protest time no protest has been lodged, the posted result shall become the official result of the match with the exception of:

- a) any adjustment arising from the hearing of an appeal;
- b) adjustment in respect of any fines to which either team is liable;
- c) completion of scores following the replay of one or more boards where such a replay has been ordered.

An official result may be altered only by written notice from the Head Tournament Director, from the Championship Committee, or from the Tournament Appeals Committee.

C.4.8 Publication of decisions

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of the Rules, etc., will be posted through the Championship’s Communication System. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it does not nullify the penalty.

C.5 Byes, Ranking and Ties

C.5.1 Byes

In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 18 VPs.

A team must play against each other team against which it is drawn. A team will score zero if, by its own fault, it is not able to play against another team. Its opponents will receive the best score between:

- a) 18 VPs
- b) That team’s average
- c) The average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault

C.5.2 Ranking

The teams will be ranked according to the total number of VPs each gains in the Championship.

C.5.3 Ties

A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. Where that match has resulted in a tie in VPs, any difference in IMPs will decide. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie. Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained.

The other tied teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

D. ETHICS

D.1 Player's Obligations

The privilege of representing one's country as a player in the European Bridge Championships is not an inalienable right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics.

In the absence of penalties expressed in IMPs or VPs, given that participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standards becomes the more imperative.

Players are therefore urged to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. It is expected that Players, Captains and Teams will receive all decisions of the Director and of the Appeals Committee in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political or religious statement or object which might cause offence to others.

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

D.2 Looking at partner

Players are requested not to look at their partners during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.

D.3 Discussions

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players during the match should avoid discussions with partner or argument with opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to the Tournament Director.

E. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS

E.1 Rights of a non-playing captain

In the Open Room a non-playing captain may act in order:

- a) to protect the rights of his team if he believes that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- b) to curtail unnecessary discussions involving any of his/her players;
- c) to forbid a member of his team to make a protest;
- d) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his team;
- e) to require, but only after the play of a board has been completed, that a Tournament Director be called to the table;
- f) to intimate his own intention of making a protest or an appeal on behalf of his team in reference to any matter in respect of which his players have not done so;
- g) to ensure that a player not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch its team mates in play.

E.2 Conversation at the table

During the course of a round of play, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, a non-playing captain should avoid addressing members of his team at the table in any but the English language; if he wishes to converse in any language other than English, he must first seek the consent of the opponents, which should be given where reasonably possible. If any difficulty arises, the non-playing captain should speak only through a member of his team who is able to translate for the benefit of the opponents. A non-playing captain may not converse with the

members of his team (or their opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table and until all the hands have been replaced in the board, except for the abovementioned purposes.

E.3 Substitute captains

The captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. If it is the coach or other registered official there is no need to ask permission, otherwise permission from the Championship Manager or, if not available, the Chief Tournament Director is required.

F. VIEWGRAPH & BROADCASTED MATCHES

F.1 Obligation to play

When Viewgraph is in use and or the match is broadcasted, any team must play in the appointed rooms, as often as required.

F.2 Access to Viewgraph Room

Access to Viewgraph Room is limited to the four players and the championship's staff on duty.

F.3 Playing time

The time for playing in Viewgraph is the same as for the other rooms.

G. APPEALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

G.1 Appeals

G.1.1 Procedure

A team, through its captain, may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match. Notification of intention to appeal must be given to a Tournament Director and if there is no TD available it has to be given to any Championship Official.

In the first instance such notification need not be in writing, but it should be committed to the official Appeals form as soon as it is practicable with the help of the Tournament Director who made the ruling and the form when completed should be given to the Tournament Director who will hand it to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty.

The Appeals form should be completed correctly.

The Tournament Director states the facts (board identification and as relevant the auction and/or play), what happened at the table, the ruling and who made the appeal. Each team by its captain may add its remarks to the statement of the Tournament Director and may state whether they wish to make an oral statement to the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals form must be signed by the Tournament Director and the captains of both teams involved.

After signing no alterations are allowed.

Once lodged, an appeal may be withdrawn only by the captain of the appellant team.

A deposit must accompany each appeal. The amount of the deposit will be € 100,00 If the appeal is rejected this deposit will be returned only if the appeal is judged to be of substantial merit, but not otherwise.

One or more members (players or captain) of the team lodging the appeal must be present at the hearing of the appeal. If not, the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeit. The other team is entitled to attend, to make statements and to answer questions; failure to attend may cause difficulties for the Appeals Committee to explore the facts and may therefore disadvantage that team's case (a player whose actions the committee may

wish to explore should not assume that the committee will readily accept explanations by captain or partner in relation to thought processes, state of mind, or the like).

G.1.2 Practices in the Appeals Committee

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form as provided in Rule G.1.1 the Tournament Director will as soon as possible inform any member of the Appeals Committee on duty, who will advise the Tournament Director at what time the Appeals Committee will convene to hear the appeal.

The Appeals Committee will be entitled to interview and to take into account the statement or representations of any person and any documentary matter that it considers may assist the Committee to reach a decision. The WBF Code of Practice has been adopted by the EBL, subject to the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and applies in the procedures and decisions of the Appeals Committee unless directly in conflict with a specific statement in these Rules and Regulations (see particularly G.2.1 following).

The decisions of the Appeals Committee will be written on the Appeals form and handed to the Tournament Director for him to notify the teams concerned.

G.2 Appeals Committee

G.2.1 Composition of the Appeals Committee

Each appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee constituted from members appointed by the President of the EBL to the Tournament Appeals Committee. The person appointed as Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, during the tournament, appoint additional members for inclusion on an Appeals Committee.

The President of the EBL is automatically a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee. Three members of an Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Tournament Appeals Committee whose national team is concerned shall abstain from taking any part in the appeals process.

G.2.2 Investigations

The Tournament Appeals Committee may, at its discretion, investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws, the Proprieties or these Rules and Regulations, which may arise during the course of the Championship irrespective of the way in which such a matter has been brought to its attention either by way of an appeal against a Tournament Director's ruling or on its own initiative or otherwise.

If a dispute arises regarding an interpretation of the Laws it shall be settled by at least two members of the WBF Laws Committee, conferring on site or by other communication means.

G.2.3 Judgment

As Law 93C3(a) allows, the Appeals Committee has the power to deal finally with any appeal and all parties are bound by its decisions. An Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse, vary or modify the findings or decisions of a Tournament Director (except as provided in Law 93.B.3.) and remove, increase or vary any penalty which may have been imposed, or substitute a different class of penalty or an adjusted score.

On an investigation made from reasons other than of an appeal the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose such penalty on any party or direct that such an adjusted score be entered for any board(s) as it shall deem proper.

In any case whether on an appeal or otherwise, where circumstances are considered by the Committee to justify or require it, an Appeals Committee and/or the Tournament Appeals Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee to suspend a player or players for one

or more sessions or for the remainder of the current Championship or disqualify a team. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to the Chief Tournament Director under the Laws.

H. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

H.1 Journalists

All Journalists are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their conformance with those Rules and Regulations to which they are subject.

All Journalists present at the Championships must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Press Association (the IBPA). In the event of a disagreement over accreditation between the EBL and the IBPA, the view of the EBL shall prevail.

H.2 Spectators

All Spectators are invitees of the EBL. Their presence at the Championships is subject to behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and requires their conformity with these Rules and Regulations to which they are subject and with the instructions of the Tournament Director.

Spectators are admitted in the Open Room at the discretion of the Championship Committee. In case of admission the following rules have to be observed:

- No more than four spectators (including non-playing captains and accredited journalists) shall be permitted at any table.
- Spectators may only spectate at one table during any session of play and must be seated. The observance of this regulation is particularly important when pre-duplicated boards are in play.
- Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.
- A spectator is forbidden to sit in a position from which both sides of the screen may be seen.
- A spectator shall not bring into the room any mobile phone or other electronic device, and will be subject to random search as for the players.

Violation of the above mentioned rules result in spectator being required to leave the Open Room for the remainder of the session and in the discretion of the Championship Committee may be subject to other penalties.

I. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

I.1 General duties of Tournament Directors

The Tournament Directors' responsibilities are in the main covered by Law 81. All Tournament Directors will follow the WBF Code of Practice wherever its recommendations are relevant. A Co-Chief Tournament Director may act with the powers of and in place of the Chief Tournament Director in any matter.

Tournament Directors will seek to ensure the correct position and polarity of players at the table. The responsibility for correct position and polarity remains with the players.

Tournament Directors are required to complete a form for each round when there are late starts, slow play or any other incidents.

Each Tournament Director shall notify the Chief Tournament Director of all penalties which have been applied under mandate of the Laws or these Rules and Regulations.

Prior to the commencement of the following round all important incidents must be reported by the Chief Tournament Director to the Championship Committee and any penalties or changes in scores must be notified in addition to the Chairman of the Championship Committee.

J. NON-SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND MOBILE PHONES

J.1 Non-Smoking

Smoking in the building is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke.

Any player smoking in the building will cause his team to be fined 1 VP, plus a fine of € 60. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

J.2 Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and the toilet area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol.

Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or the toilet area will result in his team being fined 1 VP, plus a fine of € 60.

Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation of this regulation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

J.3 Mobile phones and electronic devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be brought into the playing area and toilets.

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, plus a fine of €100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Chief Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks:

- before the start of play, will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there;
- after the start of play, will bar his team from playing the current match, which will be then be considered lost according to the Rules and Regulations (see the Regulations also for the opposing team's score).

K. DRESS CODE

In the European Open, Women and Seniors Team Championship it is obligatory for all teams to adopt the following dress code:

K.1 Formal Occasions

The EBL has a policy which seeks to encourage Federations to provide Teams, which participate in European Championships, to be dressed in appropriate uniforms which incorporate a badge or emblem identifying the country which those players represent.

K.2 Playing rooms

Everyone entering the playing rooms is obliged to wear the official identification badge provided by the organisation. In case of loss the organisation will provide a duplicate badge at a cost of € 5,00

All players, captains and coaches of participating teams are required to wear T-shirts, polo shirts, shirts or blouses that are of the same colour and contain the Federation's logo.

Team members must be supplied with sufficient changes of clothing to ensure that they look smart and presentable at all times.

If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they should if possible be of the same colour and carry the Federation's logo.

All players are expected to be respectably dressed and are also required to follow the instructions given by the TD.

Any player, captain or coach not respecting the dress code into the playing area will receive a warning on the first occasion and a subsequent breach will result in that team being fined 2 VP, plus a fine of € 100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in that person being prohibited from entering the playing area.

K.3 Publicity

The team uniform must contain its Federation logo and may contain discreet sponsor logos.

L. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

The procedures provided by the WBF Anti-doping Regulations adopted by the EBL will be followed and enforced. Accordingly all players are required to submit themselves to the anti-doping test on request.

M. SECURITY

For security reasons all people at the Championship Venue must wear their official identification badge.

N. REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION

NBOs and their representatives at the Championships directly authorise the EBL to take pictures and film of the participants during the course of these championships. They further give their consent to the EBL using such material and information for the furtherance of bridge.

O. AWARDS

The Open Trophy Trophy, Women Trophy and Jean-Marc Roudinesco Trophy will be awarded to the NBOs winning respectively the Open, Women's and Senior Series. Replicas will be awarded to the captain, the coach and other members of the winning teams. The trophies are challenge trophies and will only be definitively awarded to an NBO which wins the championship three times.

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded to the captain the coach and the members of the winning teams in each competition. Winners will receive the title of European Champion.

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme provided that the player has played at least one third of the boards played by his team.

The teams of the first 6 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open, Women's and Senior Series will achieve the right to participate respectively in the 2013 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior World Championship.

The winning teams from the national championships of the first 10 NBOs in the final ranking of the Open Teams will achieve the right to participate in the 2012 and 2013 European Champions Cups.

P. CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

These Rules and Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the EBL if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth efficient and enjoyable running of the Championships.