

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

4th EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(12th – 27th June 2009)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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The 4th European Open Bridge Championship will be hosted in Sanremo, Italy, at Palafiori and/or other places set forth by the EBL.

The Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the European Bridge League ("the League"). The Championship will be played according to the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, and these Regulations whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the said Laws as required.

The Championship will consist of Open, Women's, Senior & Mixed Teams and Pairs competitions. All events will be trans-national and there will be no restriction on the number of entries per NBO.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1.1 Right of Entry

Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate.

Participation in the Championship is only by invitation of the League and is subject to the unfettered discretion of the League's Credentials Committee.

All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Teams will be issued to teams of four, five or six (comprising at least two men and two women in the Mixed event).

All members of the Team and both members of the Pair have to be members of an NBO or NBOs which is/are of good standing with the League and WBF and has/have paid its/their 2006 and all previous years dues.

All members of the Team and both members of a Pair in Senior events must have to been born before 1st January 1951.

1.2 Registration

All entries to the Championships tournaments must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/09Sanremo/Information.htm>

by 20 April 2009. All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval. Applications submitted after the deadline of 20 April 2009 will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be acknowledged by email to the EBL by the same deadline, to avoid payment of the entry fee.

Notification of withdrawals should be sent no later than 5th June 2009 to Mr. Gianarrigo Rona - President, European Bridge League - Via C. Menotti, 11/C - 20129 Milano. ITALY - Tel: +39 02 7000 0022 - Fax: +39 02 70001398 - e-mail: ebel@federbridge.it. Those who fail to notify withdrawals by this date will incur disciplinary sanctions.

1.3 Hotel Accommodation – Booking

To attend the event, please contact

Sanremo Promotion S.p.A.

Tel.: 0039.0184.591600

Fax: 0039.0184.547563

booking.bridge@sanremopromotion.com

www.sanremopromotion.com

2. ENTRY FEES

2.1 Amount Payable

Mixed Teams	Euro 800
Mixed Pairs	Euro 270
Open, Women's & Senior Teams	Euro 950
Open, Women's & Senior Pairs	Euro 400

2.2 Payment

The entry fees must be paid in cash (Euros or US Dollars) or by Credit Card at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk at the Palafiori,

The pairs who played the final in the Teams are entitled to free entry to the Pairs event of the same category

2.3 Discount

A 25% reduction on the entry fees will be offered to players entering all the four events. A personalized identification badge will certify this agreement.

A 15% reduction on the entry fees will be offered to all the players living in Regione Liguria (Italy) and in Cote d'Azur – Alpes Maritimes Region (France)

The above mentioned reductions are not cumulative.

3. WILD CARDS FOR PAIRS EVENTS

- a) The pairs composed of players from teams qualified and playing the K.O. matches in each Teams competition, provided that they have already registered their entries at the stipulated time, will be exonerated from playing the qualification session in respective Pairs events, according to the following criteria:
 - i) The Pairs composed of losers from the 16th-final and 8th-final will be admitted to the third session of the Qualifications of the Mixed Pair competition;
 - ii) The Pairs composed of losers from the 4th-final and Semi-final will be admitted to the first session of the Semi-final of the respective Pairs competition;
 - iii) The Pairs composed of players playing the Final will be admitted to the first session of the Final of the respective Pairs competition.
- b) The wild card, which exonerates a pair from playing the qualification session in Pairs events, may be awarded to a pair composed of only one player who has fulfilled the above-mentioned requirements provided that:
 - i) The pair already registered its entry at the stipulated time;
 - ii) The partner of the entitled player must have at least the title of Master in his Zonal or WBF ranking.

The Championship Committee will assess each individual case and has the right to refuse to issue the wild card.

- c) The wild card, which exonerates a pair from playing the qualification session in Pairs events, may be awarded to a pair composed of 2 players, both EBL or WBF Grand Masters, provided that pair registered its entry at the stipulated time.

4. SCHEDULE OF PLAY

The Schedule of Play is as follows (subject to adjustments depending on the number of entries and technical requirements):

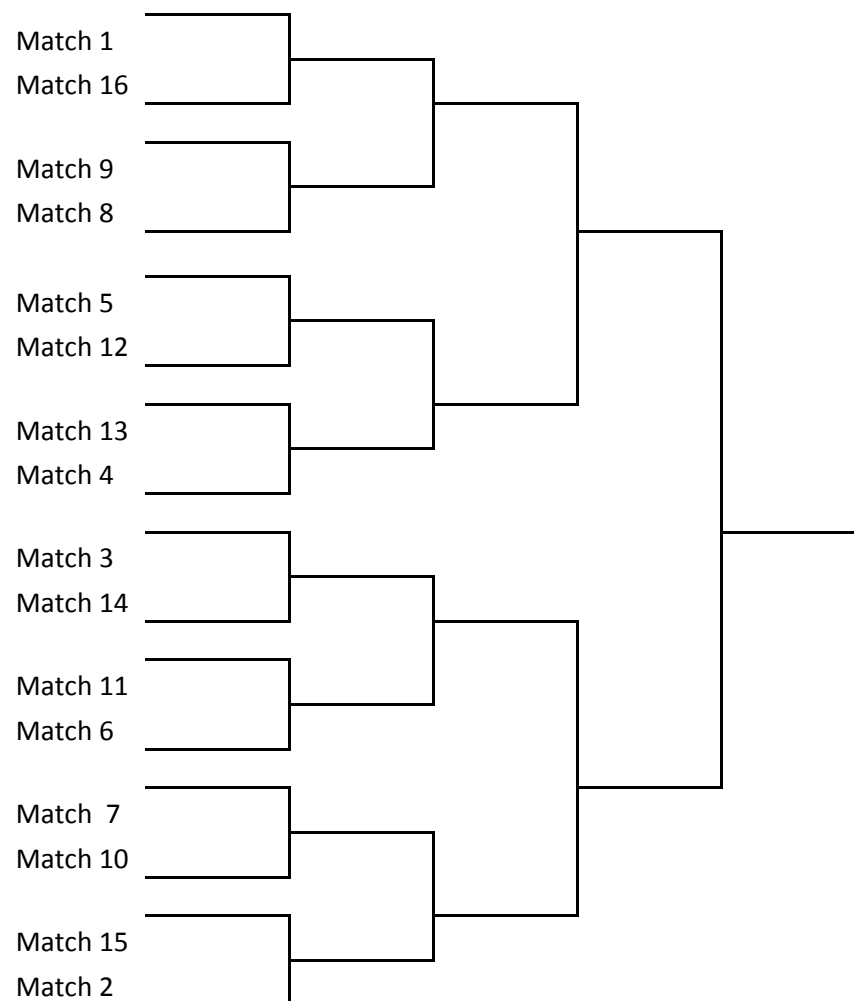
Friday 12th	- 12.00/20.00	- Mixed Teams Registration
	- 20.30	- Opening Ceremony
Saturday 13th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams Qualification in Groups, 5 Rounds
	- 20.00	- Captains Meeting
Sunday 14th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams Qualification Swiss
	- 12.00/24.00	- Mixed Pairs Registration
	- 20.30	- Captains' Meeting
Monday 15th	- 08.30/10.00	- Mixed Pairs Registration
	- 10.00	- Mixed Teams (16 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 1st Session)
	- 15.00	- Mixed Teams (8 [^] Final)
	- 15.30	- Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 2nd Session)
Tuesday 16th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams (4 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 3rd Session)
	- 15.30	- Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 4th Session)
	- 15.30	- Mixed Teams (Semi-final)
Wednesday 17th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams (Final 1st Session)
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 1st Session)
	- 14.45	- Mixed Teams (Final 2nd & 3rd Sessions)
	- 15.30	- Mixed Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 2nd Session)
Thursday 18th	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs (Final A & B 1st Session)
	- 15.30	- Mixed Pairs (Final A & B 2nd Session, Final C)
	- 12.00/20.00	- O/W/S Teams Registration
	- 20.00	- Mixed Championships Prize-giving Ceremony
Friday 19th	- 10.00/18.00	- O/ W/ S Teams Registration
	- 20.00	- Open Teams (Qualifying in Groups , 2 rounds)
	- 20.00	- Women & Senior Teams Qualifying Round Robin
Saturday 20 th	- 10.30	- Open Teams (Qualifying in Groups, 5 rounds)
	- 10.30	- Women & Senior Teams Qualifying Round Robin
	- 17.00	- Open Teams (Qualifying Swiss, 2 rounds)
Sunday 21st	- 10.30	- Open Teams (Qualifying Swiss, 5 rounds)
	- 10.30	- Women & Senior Teams Qualifying Round Robin
	- 12.00/20.00	- O/ W/ S Pairs Registration
	- 20.00	- Captains' meeting
Monday 22nd	-08.30/10.00	- O/ W/ S Pairs Registration
	- 10.00	- Open Teams (16 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Qualifying 1st Session)
	- 15.00	- O/ W/ S Teams (8 [^] Final)
	- 16.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Qualifying 2nd Session)
Tuesday 23rd	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Teams (4 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Qualifying 3rd Session)
	- 15.00	- O/ W/ S Teams (Semi-final)
	- 16.00	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Qualifying 4th Session)
Wednesday 24th	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Teams (Final 1st Session)
	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 1st Session)
	- 14.45	- O/ W/ S Teams (Final 2nd & 3rd Sessions)
	- 16.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 2nd Session)
	- 20.00	- O/ W/ S Teams Prize-giving Ceremony

Thursday 25th	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 3rd Session)
	- 15.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Semi-Final A & B 4th Session)
Friday 26h	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Final A, B & C 1st Session)
	- 11.00	- EBL President's Press Conference
	- 15.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Final A, B & C 2nd Session)
Saturday 27th	- 10.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Final A & B 3rd Session)
	- 15.30	- O/ W/ S Pairs (Final A & B 4th Session)
	- 20.00	- O/ W/ S Pairs Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony

5. TEAMS COMPETITIONS

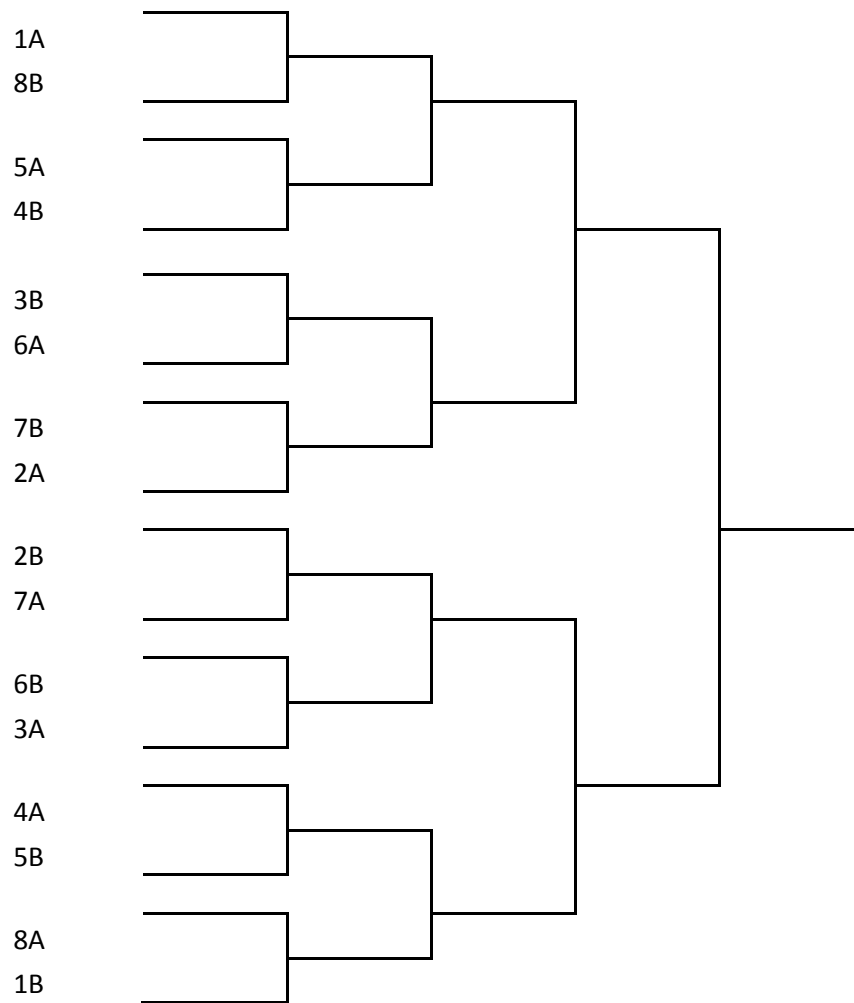
The teams events, in Open and Mixed categories, shall consist of the following:

- i) The teams are divided in groups of 6 and play a complete Round-robin of 10 boards. The teams will be assigned to the different groups by the Championship Committee according to criteria based on their strength, to seek an equal and well balanced subdivision of the groups and taking into account, whenever possible, that teams from the same NBO do not play each other;
- ii) At the end of the Round-robin the first 2 teams from each group will qualify for Swiss A and the other teams for Swiss B. In Mixed Swiss the teams will play 5 rounds and in Open Swiss 7 rounds of 10 boards each with the Swiss system.
- iii) The Open teams the 1st and 2nd ranked teams receive a carry over of respectively 6 and 3 VP entering the Swiss A. The teams ranked 4th and 5th receive a carry over of respectively 2 and 1 VP entering the Swiss B. The matches for the 1st round in the Swiss are randomly chosen using the so composed ranking and the Swiss procedure.
- iv) Errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that or any other matches.
- v) The first 27 teams of Swiss A and the first 5 teams of Swiss B will qualify for the K.O. phase without a carry-over;
- vi) The K.O. matches will be played over 28 boards (2 sessions of 14 boards), except the Final which will be played over 48 boards (3 sessions of 16 boards). The teams losing the Semi-final will be qualified third and will be awarded the Bronze medal;
- vii) Provided they have previously registered their intended entry on due time, pairs losing the Quarter-final or the Semi-final can play in the Pairs event of the same category, and under the same condition pairs of the teams in the Final can enter into the Pairs Final of the same category;
- viii) For the K.O. phases the highest ranked teams in the Swiss A pick a team from the teams 9 to 32, where the team ranked 1st in Swiss B gets rank 28 and so on. After these first eight choices the right to select the opponent passes to the highest remaining seeded team and so on until the bracket will be completed. For the purposes of composing brackets the number in the bracket is determined by the order of the selection.



The teams events, in Women's and Senior categories, shall consist of the following:

- b) The teams, divided in 2 groups, will play a complete Round-robin of 10 boards. At the end of the Round-robin the first eight teams of each group will qualify for the KO phases and the others will continue in one Consolation Swiss;
- c) For the K.O. phases there will be a fixtures board numbered from 1 to 16 and the teams will be assigned as follows:



- d) Depending on the number of entries in the Women's and Senior events the Championship Committee is entitled to change the format.
- e) The result of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the following scales:

No. Of Boards	No. Of Boards	Victory Points	No. Of Boards	No. Of Boards	Victory Points
IMP diff.	IMP diff.		IMP diff.	IMP diff.	
8	10	V.P.	8	10	V.P.
0 - 1	0 - 1	15 - 15	24 - 26	26 - 29	23 - 7
2 - 5	2 - 6	16 - 14	27 - 29	30 - 33	24 - 6
6 - 8	7 - 9	17 - 13	30 - 33	34 - 37	25 - 5
9 - 11	10 - 12	18 - 12	34 - 37	38 - 41	25 - 4
12 - 14	13 - 15	19 - 11	38 - 41	42 - 45	25 - 3
15 - 17	16 - 18	20 - 10	42 - 45	46 - 50	25 - 2
18 - 20	19 - 21	21 - 9	46 - 50	51 - 55	25 - 1
21 - 23	22 - 25	22 - 8	51 +	56 +	25 - 0

For tie-splitting see Section 7 below.

6. PAIRS COMPETITIONS

The pairs events in any category (Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed) are match-pointed pairs tournaments and shall consist of 4 Qualifying, 4 Semi-final (2 in Mixed) and 4 Final (2 in Mixed) sessions. Qualifying and Semi-final session will be over 24 or 26 boards played in 12 or 13 two-boards rounds. For each pair, the match-point score for each session is converted to a percentage score. If different sessions are of different number of boards, the percentage scores will be adjusted by applying an appropriate coefficient;

6.1 Qualifying sessions

- i) Scoring in Qualifying sessions will be "over the field" in match-points converted to a percentage;
- ii) Depending on total entries and technical requirements approx. one third of the total number of pairs (including the pairs coming from the Teams K.O.) will qualify for the Semi-final A and the others to the Semi-final B: the exact number will be decided right after the start of each event;

6.2 Semi-final A

- i) The qualifying pairs shall play Semi-final A;
- ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from the qualifying sessions;
- iii) Scoring in Semi-final A shall be "over the field" in match-points converted to a percentage;
- iv) Depending on total entries and and the number of pairs coming from the Final KO Teams 52 or 54 pairs will qualify for Final A;
- v) The remaining pairs will qualify for Final B;

6.3 Semi-final B

- i) The non qualified pairs from the Qualifying sessions shall play Semi-final B;
- ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from the qualifying sessions;
- iii) Scoring in Semi-final B shall be "over the field" in match-points converted to a percentage;
- iv) The top 6/8 pairs will qualify for Final A and the next pairs up to a total of 130 will qualify for Final B;
- v) The remaining pairs will qualify for Final C;

6.4 Final A

- i) The qualifying pairs shall play the Final A;
- ii) There shall be a carry-forward score from the Semi-finals:
- iii) For each pair who qualified from Semi-final A: one half of their total percentage in the semi-final;
- iv) For the pairs who qualify from Semi-final B: last in "B" – same score as last qualifying in "A"; one but last in "B" – same score as one but last in "A"- etc.

- v) For the pairs coming from the Final K.O. Teams; Final winners – same score as pair ranked “15” in “A”; Final losers – same score as pair ranked “23” in “A”
- vi) Scoring in Final “A” shall be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage, plus the carry-forward score;

6.5 Final B

- i) The qualifying pairs from Semi-final B and the remaining pairs from Semi-final A shall play in Final B;
- ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from Semi-finals;
- iii) Scoring in Final B shall be the total “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;

6.6 Final C

- i) All pairs who fail to qualify for Final A and B of the Pairs events shall have the right to play in Final C, which will be played in a Mitchell movement. For the first round the ranking in the Semifinal will be used;
- ii) There shall be no carry-forward score from Semi-finals;
- iii) Scoring in Final C shall be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;

6.7 Adjustments

The detailed format for the Women and Senior Championships will be decided when the entries are known. The Finals most probably will be played by either 28 or 32 pairs. The “winning” and “losing” pairs from the Women and Senior teams final receive the same percentage as those pairs in the Open event.

6.8 Dealing

The boards will be pre-dealt and pre-duplicated.

7. TIE BREAKING

7.1 Swiss

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated (for example: Team A played against Teams B, C and D. Team B scored 40 VPs, Team C 36 VPs and Team D 24 VPs. Team A has 100 "Swiss Points").
- ii) The Team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.

If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

7.2 Round-robin

7.2.1 Two Teams

If two teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of any Round-robin, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- a) IMPs balance in the match between the two tied teams. If the tie remains, then:
- b) The higher IMP quotient (total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost) in all matches played by the tied teams. If the tie remains, then:
- c) The higher total of Victory Points earned against the qualified teams they each played against. If the tie remains, then:
- d) One board “sudden death” matches (one board at a time) until a winner emerges, with neither team to have seating rights against the other.

7.2.2 Three Teams

If three teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of any Round-robin, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- a) If one team won both matches on Victory Points against the other tied teams, it shall be the winner; and if it is necessary to break the tie between the two remaining teams, this shall be done in accordance with Section 7.2.1. If the three teams remain tied, then:
- b) If one of the teams has been beaten by the other two teams in matches it played against them, it shall be ranked third in the tied position; and the tie between the remaining teams shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.1. If the three teams remain tied, then:
- c) If one team earned more Victory Points against one of the teams and tied with the other, in matches played between them, it shall be declared the winner; and the tie between the two remaining teams shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.1. If the three teams remain tied, then:
- d) The highest IMP quotient in all matches played by the tied teams; and if a tie remains between the teams, it shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.1. If the three teams remain tied, then:
- e) The highest total of Victory Points earned against the qualified teams they played against; and if a tie remains between two teams, it shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.1.

7.2.3 Four or more Teams

If four or more teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of any Round-robin, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- a) If one team earned the most Victory Points in its matches against the other tied teams, or if it has, exceptionally tied with one and defeated the other tied teams, it shall be declared the winner; and the tie between the three remaining teams shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.2.
- b) The highest IMP quotient in all matches played by the tied teams; and the tie between the three remaining teams shall be broken in accordance with Section 7.2.2.

7.3 Failure to break a tie

In the event that the procedures set out in Section 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 fail to break a tie, the Tournament Rules and Regulation Committee is authorized to break the tie by whatever procedure it considers to be equitable in the circumstances. No appeal can be made against the decision of the Committee on this matter.

7.4 Direct Knockout

7.4.1 All matches except the Finals:

If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, it will be resolved by playing four additional boards (boards 1 to 4); if the tie remains, another four boards (5 to 8) will be played; if the tie remains, one board ("sudden-death") matches will determine the winner.

7.4.2 Finals:

As in Section 7.2.1, except that eight additional boards, instead of four, will be played in the first two tie-breakers.

8. SYSTEMS POLICY AND CONVENTION CARDS

8.1 Systems Policy

HUM systems and Brown Stickers are not allowed in any event of the European Open Championships. The European Bridge League Systems Policy as revised August 2008 ("the SYSTEMS POLICY") defines HUM systems and Brown Stickers;

Psyching conventional or artificial opening bids is forbidden.

Both members of a partnership must agree to adopt the same meanings for calls in the auction and also for defensive card play. This does not restrict exercise of style and judgement.

8.2 Convention Cards

8.2.1 Teams Competitions

- i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the League's Official Convention Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.
- ii) Each pair is required to hand two copies of its convention card to the opponents before the start of the match. During the knock out phase each team delivers a copy of each system to its opponents as soon as the matches to be played are decided. Detailed instructions will be given at the captains meeting.

8.2.2 Pairs Competitions

- i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the League's Official Convention Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.
- ii) Each pair is required to hand two copies of its convention card to the opponents at the start of each round.

Failure to complete the Convention Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties.

In particular the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty (of 1 VP for Teams events and of 50% of the match-points available on a board for Pairs events) for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate Convention Card. The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score that the Chief Tournament Director deems appropriate because of damage caused to the opponent.

During a match against an opponent changes in conventions cards are normally not allowed. If a team nevertheless wants to change a convention card it lodges a request with the Head TD, who needs to approve such change.

9. TIME ALLOWED

9.1 Pairs events

Players are expected to complete each two-boards round in 17 minutes. The Chief Tournament Director may remove un-played or partly-played boards from pairs who are persistently slow.

9.1.1 If an un-played board is removed:

- i) The offending pair or pairs shall be awarded 40% of the match-point available for the board, and
- ii) If the Chief Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, the non-offending pair shall be awarded, subject to Law 88, 60% of the match-points available for the board.

9.1.2 If a partly-played board is removed:

- i) The offending pair or pairs shall be awarded the lesser of 40% of the match-points available for the board, and the match-point score for the result on the board which the Chief Tournament Director deems to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed, and
- ii) If the Chief Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, the non-offending pair shall be awarded the greater of 60% of the match-points available for the board and the match-point score for the result the Chief Tournament Director deems to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

9.2 Teams events

Players are expected to complete each 8 board Swiss Teams match in one hour fifteen minutes; each 10 board Swiss Teams match in one hour thirty minutes; each 14 board session in K.O. matches in two hours; each 16 board session in K.O. matches in two hours fifteen minutes. The Chief Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards from players if in his opinion the match would otherwise exceed the allotted time.

If an un-played board or boards is removed:

- i) the match will be scored on the results of the played boards, together with
- ii) if the cancelled board was not played in the other room then the Chief Tournament Director will award 3 imps per each of such unplayed boards to the non-offending side (if any). Otherwise the Chief Tournament Director will deal with the cancelled board according to Law 86d.

10. LINE-UPS AND SEATING IN TEAMS EVENTS

10.1 Line-Ups

10.1.1 Round-robins and Swiss

In each match of the round-robins and Swiss, the first named team will be the Home Team and there is no requirement to submit Line-ups in advance.

10.1.2 Direct Knockout

Each match will be divided into two Segments, of two Sessions each. The lower numbered team shall be the Home Team in the first Segment and the Visiting Team in the second Segment until the Semi-final. For the Semi-final and Final there shall be a coin toss by the captains to determine

seating rights. The winner of the toss may elect to be Home or Visiting Team in one of the two Segments, or may pass this election to the opposing team. Accordingly, each team shall be Home Team for one Segment and Visiting Team for the other. In all cases, line-ups shall be submitted in accordance with Section 10.1.4.

10.1.3 Direct Knockout: Tie-Breaking Matches

When a tie exists at the end of a match in the Direct Knockout, there shall be a coin toss by the captains to determine Home Team rights for the first tie-breaking . If a tie still exists, Home Team rights in the second tie-breaking match shall pass to the Visiting Team in the first match. Line-up changes may be made before play begins in either of the tie-breaking matches; and in each case the captain of the Visiting Team shall submit his line-up at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director, and the captain of the Home Team shall submit his line-up five minutes thereafter. Each set of 4 or 8 boards (as the case may be) shall be treated as a separate match. If a still-existing tie requires that one board (“sudden death”) matches be played, the line-up and seating positions for both teams will, until the tie is broken, remain as they were for the second tie-breaking match.

10.1.4 Direct Knockout: Line-up Times

- i) Up to the Round of 16, teams shall seat freely.

From the Round of 16 onwards, line-ups for the Direct Knockout are to be submitted at the place designated by the Chief Tournament Director. The Team required to submit its line-up first shall do so no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the Session or at such time as the Chief Tournament Director determines. The Team required to submit its line-up second shall do so no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the Session: provided that if the team required to submit its line-up first is late, the other team shall be allowed 5 minutes from the time of such late submission in which to submit its line-up. See also Section 9.2.

- ii) Repeated violation of these time schedules will be subject to VP penalties according to the following scale:
 - First occasion – a written warning
 - Second occasion – ½ VP penalty
 - Subsequently – 1 VP penalty for each occasion
 - Furthermore the non-offending team will be relieved from posting its line-up until 10 minutes before start of play.

10.2 Seating

10.2.1 Round-robin and Swiss

In the round-robins and Swiss, the designated Home Team (see Section 10.1.1) sits in the North-South direction in the Open Room and in the East-West direction in the Closed Room throughout the match. The Home Team has the right to seat its players after the Visiting Team has done so. There is no change of Line-up during the round-robin matches.

10.2.2 Direct Knockout

In each Segment of the Direct Knockout (see Section 10.1.2) the Home Team sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room. The Home Team has the right to designate its Line-up for the first Session after the Visiting Team has turned its Line-up over to the Tournament Director. For the second Session, the Visiting Team has the right to designate its Line-up after the Home Team has turned its Line-up over to the Tournament Director.

10.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms

The rooms respectively referred to as the “Open” and the “Closed” rooms shall be so designated in each match (or Session) by the Chief Tournament Director or his designee.

10.2.4 Substitutes

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Chief Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute to complete a team. A substitute in a Women's event must be female; in Senior events he must be a Senior; in Mixed events the substitution must be in accordance with Section 16 hereunder. 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 Appeals Committee, which will adjudicate upon every instance in which a substitute plays.

11. BIDDING BOXES

Starting with the dealer, players place the bidding cards on the table in front of them, from the left and neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner; players should refrain from touching any bidding cards until they have determined their call. A call is considered to have been made when the bidding card(s) is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent (but Law 25 may apply and if a player's mind was elsewhere as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error).

Alerts should be made by the use of the alert card; it is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that his opponents are aware of the Alert.

A player "announces" a skip bid by placing the Stop card in front of him, then placing his bid card as usual, and eventually removing the Stop card. His LHO should not call until the Stop card has been removed. (If the Stop card has been removed hastily or has not been used, an opponent may pause as though the Stop card has been used correctly.)

Until they are removed from the table, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting the bidding cards. When such inspection is not feasible a player may obtain a review of the auction at his first turn to play to trick one. If a player whose pass will conclude the auction removes his bidding cards from the table he is deemed to have passed.

If screens are in use the foregoing is modified – see section 13

12. PLAY OF THE CARDS

During the course of play, each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time so that it can be seen by all players at the table.

Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping with tricks won pointing towards partner and tricks lost pointing towards the opponents.

13. SCREENS

Screens will be used whenever possible in a European Bridge Championship.

13.1 Description of the Operation

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as

quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

13.2 Changes to Bids Made

- a) A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:
- b) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screenmate is aware of this; or
- c) If it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected or
- d) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error.

13.3 Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Appendix 3 must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.
- b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screenmate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made.

13.4 Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.

- a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:
 - i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected
 - ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

- b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen. No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.
- c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:
 - i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 - ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.
 - iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
 - iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- d) When an alertable call is made see 13.3 above.
- e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- f) If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

13.5 Spectators:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen. Spectators must not hold conversation during the auction and play of a board and, until it is too late for the players to obtain a ruling, they have a responsibility not to call attention to any error or irregularity they believe they may have observed.

14. ALERTING

14.1 Alert any call which:

- i) has a special or artificial meaning, or
- ii) whose partnership meaning may not be understood by the opponents is an "alertable call" which must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the "alert procedure".

14.2 The "alert procedure" is as follows:

- i) A player who makes an "alertable call" alerts his screenmate by placing the alert card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player acknowledges by returning the alert card to his opponent.

- ii) When the bidding tray is returned to their side of the screen both players are obliged, before either has made a further call, to alert their screen-mate if partner's call is an "alertable call"; using the "alert procedure".
- iii) It is the obligation of the player making an "alert" to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an "alert" has been made.
- iv) Players who collude in a method of alerting, other than the one specified here, do so at their own risk.

15. ASSIGNMENT OF STARTING POSITION IN PAIRS EVENTS

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so to ensure, so far as is practicable, that pairs from the same NBO do not play against each other in the third, sixth and ninth sessions.

Subject to the above the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Championships Committee.

16. PARTNERSHIPS AND POLARITY FOR MIXED EVENTS

Each partnership for each team must at all times consist of a man and a woman. Men sit North or West throughout; women South or East.

17. MANDATORY PENALTIES IN PAIRS EVENTS

Fouling a board – 50% of the match-points available on the board during the session.

18. OBLIGATION TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE

Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called is a breach of the Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to 50% of the match-points available on the board during the session in Pairs events and of 2 VPs in Teams events.

19. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the end of the third (second in Mixed) or the sixth (fourth in Mixed) session provided they so notify the Chief Tournament Director in writing no later than one hour after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director, which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.

As a team ceasing to participate in the Championship will create a bye, and consequently cause inconvenience to other competitors, the rule is that all teams are expected to participate until the end of the Championship. Any team failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined. If a team believes it cannot continue to participate through force majeure or other good reason it should seek permission to withdraw from the Chief Tournament Director.

20. ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT

Participation in the 4th European Open Championship is by invitation of the League. The privilege of participating in the Championship is not an inalienable right. Rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in matchpoints or monetary fines, and because participants appear as public representatives rather than as private individuals, observance of the highest standards is imperative. Players are therefore required to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. Each player is reminded that it is a breach of ethics to break a law or regulation deliberately even if willing to accept a prescribed penalty.

Players shall receive all decisions of the Directors and the Appeals Committee in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

To leave the table unnecessarily before the end of a match is a breach of propriety and a violation of law.

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

21. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS IN TEAMS EVENTS

21.1 Rights of an N.P.C.

In the Open Room an N.P.C. may act in order:

- i) to protect the rights of his Team if he believes that they have been jeopardised in any way;
- ii) to curtail unnecessary discussions;
- iii) to forbid a member of his Team to make a protest;
- iv) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his Team;
- v) to require that a Tournament Director be called to the table;
- vi) 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;
- vii) to ensure that a pair not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch its team-mates in play.

In the Closed Room an N.P.C. has no rights and must not communicate with anyone at the table nor draw attention to any irregularity. A matter that may require the Director's attention may be raised with the players when meeting them after the session and, if desired, protested to the Director within 30 minutes of conclusion of the match.

21.2 Substitute Captains

The Captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who shall not be a player. Such an appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.

22. VU-GRAPH

22.1 Obligation to play

When Vu-Graph is in use, any Team or Pair must play in the Vu-Graph room, when and as often as required.

22.2 Access to the Vu-Graph room

Access to the Vu-Graph room is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty, and those persons (except N.P.C.s of away teams, journalists, and Bulletin representatives) authorised to be in the Closed Room – see Rule 20 hereunder.

22.3 Playing time

The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play will apply to the Closed Room of the Vu-Graph.

The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play will apply to the Open Room of the Vu-Graph with the following variations:

- i) The time allowed is calculated by the Tournament Director from the time the first board is made available for play at the table;

- ii) The Tournament Director may add such further time as in his opinion is clearly attributable to delay in delivery of hands to the Room or to the operation of Vu-Graph.

23. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY IN TEAM EVENTS

23.1 Authorized Persons in the Closed Room

Authorized persons who may enter the Closed Room (except by special permission of the Chairman of the Championship Committee) are:

- The President of the EBL;
- The Chairman of the Championship Committee;
- The Officer in charge;
- The Onsite Organizer
- The Operations Director
- The Tournament Director, scorers, recorders and board movers on duty in the Closed Room;
- The Chairman of the Appeal Committee and the Members of the Appeal Committee on duty;
- The Captains of the Away Teams (or their respective duly approved designates) but only for the purpose of recording;
- The duly accredited journalists plus one representative of the Bulletin, all of whom must remain for the entire round in the Closed Room; the names of these must be notified to the Chairman of the Championship Committee and each of them must watch at only one table.
- Staff for the provision of refreshments

23.2 Non-playing Pairs

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing.

23.3 Leaving the Closed Room

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

No recorder may leave the Closed Room during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If a recorder leaves the Closed Room during a match without permission of the Tournament Director, the Away Team of the match in which the recorder was acting will be fined 2 VPs.

These penalties may not be waived.

23.4 Finish of Play

At each table, when play has finished, the players should agree the score and then leave the room (Open or Closed) as quickly as possible.

24. SCORING AT THE TABLE

Bridgemates will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

The correction period in Law 79C expires at the time specified; and thereafter, the result will be final, with the following exceptions:

- i) Awaiting decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee on a filed appeal;
- ii) Completion of play or replay boards where such replay has been directed by the Tournament Appeals Committee.

25. SCORE CORRECTIONS

Score corrections may be made as sanctioned in Law 79 and in Laws 69 and 71, 63 and 64.

An agreed-upon score that is proven to be erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director and the Appeals Committee, may be corrected up to thirty minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

26. RECORDING THE K.O. MATCHES

- a) Only in the K.O. Matches in the Open Room the Captain of the Home Team (or his designate to be approved by the Captain of the Away Team and the Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, the lead to the first three tricks and the result on the "recording form" provided at the table.
- b) Only in the K.O. matches in the Closed Room the Captain of the Away Team (or his designate to be approved by the Captain of the Away Team and the Tournament Director) shall record the bidding, the lead to the first three tricks and the result on the "recording form" provided at the table.

27. APPEALS COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall be heard and decided by the Championship Appeals Committee. An appeals committee appointed to hear an appeal shall consist of the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the League's Appeals Committee (one of whom shall be its Chairman, failing which the Chairman shall nominate a member to chair the committee) and not less than two other persons nominated by the Chairman of the League's Appeals Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

The Appeals Committee, also constituting for the Championship the national authority under law 93C., shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of law, and to take such advice as it thinks fit, whether under the Laws or these Regulations, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

The WBF Code of Practice applies, save that no co-national of any player involved in an appeal may participate as a member of that appeals committee.

28. LODGING OF APPEALS

28.1 Against a Tournament Director's Ruling:

Appeals against a Tournament Director's Ruling must:

- i) be in writing on the special appeal form;
- ii) be handed to the Director within thirty minutes of the end of the match during which the ruling was made (or in Pairs events of the comparable session); or in the case of a ruling given after the end of such a match or session, within ten minutes of receiving the ruling or 30 minutes of the end of the match, whichever is the later;
- iii) be accompanied by a deposit of € 60.

28.2 Against a score or the total score attributed

An appeal against a score or against the total score attributed to a team must:

- i) be made not later than 30 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of each session;
- ii) be accompanied by a deposit of € 30.

Deposits will be refunded if the appellant's case is judged to have merit, even if rejected.

29. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

All players are reminded that English is the official language in which they should converse during play. Once cards have been removed from the board no language other than English may be used at the table without the agreement of all four players.

30. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

30.1 Journalists

30.1.1 Application of these Rules and Regulations.

All journalists are invitees of the League and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, to which they are subject.

30.1.2 Accreditation

All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the League 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 League and the IBPA, the view of the League shall prevail.

30.2 Spectators

30.2.1 Application of these Rules and Regulations.

All Spectators are invitees of the League and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to their observing these Rules and Regulations, and the laws of the game, to which they are subject.

30.2.2 Watching at table

Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Chief Tournament Director (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) it is hoped (but not guaranteed) that a limited amount of watching at table by spectators will be permitted. In which event the following shall generally apply, subject to the right reserved to the Chief Tournament Director to prescribe more restrictive regulations.

No more than four spectators (including journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where "pits" are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director).

Spectators must remain at one table. The observance of this regulation is particularly important. Any spectator who attempts to move to a second table (for example, to follow a moving East-West pair) will be required to leave the room for the remainder of the Session and at the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee may be subjected to greater penalties.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.

Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident no special interest may be shown.

Sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.

31. SMOKING REGULATIONS

Smoking in the playing area and toilets is prohibited.

No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke.

Any player found to be smoking during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points in Teams events and 100% of the match-points available on

the board during the session in Pairs events, plus a fine of € 60. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

32. ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and toilets is prohibited.

No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol.

Any player found consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points in Teams events and 100% of the match-points available on the board during the session in Pairs events, plus a fine of € 60. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

33. MOBILE PHONES

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

Any player bringing a mobile phone into the playing area or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 Victory Points in Teams events and 100% of the match-points available on the board during the session in Pairs events, plus a fine of € 100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

The Chief Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

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 will bar the individual concerned from entry the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

34. DRESS CODE

Uniform is not obligatory. Players must be appropriately dressed. Players are not permitted to wear shorts or open-toed sandals

35. SECURITY

For security reasons no one is allowed at the Championship Playing Areas without displaying his personal badge.

36. REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION

Both the NBO and the participants, with the subscription to the Championship, directly authorize the EBL to take pictures and film the participants during the championships, registrations of the previous mentioned with technological equipment, and authorize the EBL to utilize, publicize and to divulgate, also to commerce, all or part of the material obtained, renouncing expressly to any request or pretence, of any nature or type, with reference to it.

37. AWARDS & PRIZES

37.1 Titles and Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze EBL medals will be awarded in each competition, in both Teams and Pairs. Winners will receive the title of European Open Champion;

In Open Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded with the "Giorgio Belladonna Trophy", with replicas going to the top three European Pairs;

In Women's Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded with the "Annamaria Torlontano Trophy", with replicas going to the top three European Pairs;

In Senior Pairs the best European Pair will be awarded with the “European Senior Trophy”, with replicas going to the top three European Pairs;

Plaques will be given to the first three teams of Final B and C in Pairs events;

Certificates will be given to the teams playing K.O. matches in Teams events.

37.2 Master Points

EBL and EBL NBOs Master Points will be awarded respectively to European players.

Zonal and National Master Points will be awarded according to respective Master Points rules and regulations.

37.3 Prizes

37.3.1 Overall Ranking Cash Prizes

For the Players who participated in at least in three of the four events (the players who participate in all four events can leave out the worst result) there will be a special individual ranking in every single category Open, Women, Senior. For the individual ranking in Open category the only valid results are the ones achieved in open and mixed events.

	Open	Women	Senior
1st	3,500	2,500	1,500
2nd	2,500	1,500	1,000
3rd	1,750	1,250	750
4th	1,250	1,000	500
5th	1,000	750	500
6/10th	750	500	
11/15th	500		

37.3.2 Champions' Prizes

The Teams and Pairs winning the European title in Sanremo will be hosted by the EBL at the 5th Open European Championship in 2011 for one week (the winners in mixed events will be invited to the mixed playing week, the O/W/S will be invited to the O/W/S playing week) with free entry and B&B Hotel accommodation, double room.

Gifts may be awarded depending on sponsorship obtained.

38. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the League if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the Championship.

39. APPENDICES

39.1 The EBL Systems Policy

39.2 The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Systems Policy & the Disciplinary Code can be found on the EBL Website at www.eurobridge.org and on the ECatsBridge Website at www.ecatsbridge.com