



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST
WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

APRIL 1998

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for the
WBF General Conditions of Contest
Issued April 1998

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1. Definitions For The General Conditions Of Contest

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these Conditions of Contest shall have the following meanings:

1.1 “World Bridge Championship”

means any event so designated by the WBF from time to time and if the context permits, also means the totality of such events scheduled for play at a particular site.

1.2 “the International Code”

means the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge as revised and promulgated by the WBF in 1997, and includes any subsequent amendments thereto authorized by the WBF.

1.3 “NCBO”

means a National Contract Bridge Organization that is a member of the WBF.

1.4 “WBF”

means the World Bridge Federation, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York in the United States of America.

1.5 “the host NCBO”

means the NCBO which hosts a World Bridge Championship.

1.6 “Zone”

means a geographical zone of the WBF and includes any NCBO or NCBOs representing a Zone.

1.7 “eligible Zone”

means Zone 1 to 7 inclusive.

1.8 “Zonal Conference” or “ZC”

means a union of NCBOs as described in the Constitution and By-Laws of the WBF.

1.9 “these Conditions of Contest”

means these General Conditions of Contest.

1.10 “Supplemental Conditions of Contest”

means the additional Conditions of Contest issued from time to time by the WBF for the further regulation of World Bridge Championships - see Section 2.

1.11 “President”

means the President of the WBF.

1.12 “Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee”, “Tournament Appeals Committee” and “Credentials Committee”

mean the respective committees constituted either generally or for a World Bridge Championship pursuant to the By-Laws of the WBF.

1.13 “Executive Council”

means the Executive Council of the WBF established under the Constitution and By-Laws of the WBF.

1.14 “Director” or “Tournament Director”

means a “Director” as defined in the International Code appointed for a World Bridge Championship.

1.15 “Chief Tournament Director” and “Assistant Chief Tournament Director”

mean the respective Directors so designated by the WBF for a World Bridge Championship.

1.16 “WBF Convention Card” or “Card”

means the Convention Card authorized by the WBF for the disclosure of Systems by contestants in a World Bridge Championship and includes Supplementary Sheets. See also Appendix 2.

1.17 “WBF Convention Booklet”

means the definition of bidding conventions published under that name by the WBF for use by contestants in a World Bridge Championship in conjunction with the WBF Convention Cards.

1.18 “System”

means all agreements and understandings a pair has as to the meaning of any “call” or “play” as those respective expressions are defined in the International Code.

1.19 “Highly Unusual Methods” (“HUM”)

mean any of the systemic agreements so described in the WBF Systems Policy.

1.20 “HUM System”

means a System that utilizes Highly Unusual Methods.

1.21 “WBF Systems Policy”

means the Policy, issued by the WBF from time to time, that regulates the use of Systems in a World Bridge Championship. See Appendix 2.

1.22 “WBF Alerting Policy”

means the Policy, issued by the WBF from time to time, that regulates the alerting procedure in a World Bridge Championship (see Appendix 3)

1.23 “WBF policy on Psychic Bidding”

means the policy, issued by the WBF from time to time, that specifies the WBF’s Policy with regard to Psychic Bidding (see Appendix 4)

1.24 “Guide to Completion”

means the publication of that name issued by the WBF to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF Convention Cards for a World Bridge Championship.

1.25 “Supplementary Sheets”

means such additional pages containing System details as are annexed to and form part of WBF Convention Cards in accordance with these and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

1.26 “Schedule of Play”

means the schedule for the play of a World Bridge Championship, either as contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest or as subsequently determined by the WBF.

1.27 “Appeals Form”

means the form prescribed by the WBF for the lodging of appeals at a World Bridge Championship.

1.28 “Law”

means a Law contained in the International Code, these being numbered from 1 to 93 inclusive.

1.29 “Convention Card Desk”

means the facility set up at the site of a World Bridge Championship for the filing of Systems and for the provision of other services relating thereto.

1.30 “Session”

means a segment of play (as prescribed by the Schedule of Play) after which scores are computed.

Expressions used in these Conditions of Contest and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the International Code). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa and reference to one gender shall include the other genders.

2. Purpose

These Conditions of Contest are regulations which apply to all World Bridge Championships.

The WBF Systems Policy, the WBF Alerting Policy and the WBF Policy on Psychic Bidding are part of the Conditions of Contest for every World Bridge Championship and are annexed to these General Conditions of Contest.

The WBF may also issue Supplemental Conditions of Contest further to regulate particular World Bridge Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

In the event of any inconsistency between these Conditions of Contest and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest, the Supplemental Conditions of Contest shall prevail.

3. Conditions Of Entry

3.1 General

World Bridge Championships are conducted under the auspices of the WBF and all events designated as World Bridge Championships shall be played in accordance with the International Code. These Conditions of Contest, and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest, supplement the International Code as required.

By participating in a World Bridge Championship, each Zone and each NCBO and its contestants agree that all or part of any event may be filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the WBF.

Each Zone and each NCBO agrees that in the interest of promoting goodwill in the world, and for the proper conduct of a World Bridge Championship, it shall instruct its contestants that they must compete against all other contestants. Entry in a World Bridge Championship and subsequent refusal to play against any other team or contestant as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification of any team, or of any contestant refusing to play. Such disqualification shall extend for the balance of the World Bridge Championship involved. Furthermore, the offending contestant(s) and their Zone and NCBO shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the WBF (including World Bridge Championships) for such period as the WBF in its discretion shall determine.

3.2 Invitation to Participate

Participation in a World Bridge Championship is by WBF invitation only. Furthermore, no player shall be eligible to compete unless his name has been submitted in writing by his Zone or NCBO to the WBF, for invitation by the WBF - see also Section 3.3

3.3 Eligibility

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the WBF, the President has appointed a Credentials Committee, whose functions shall be (subject to these Conditions)

- a) to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players and non-playing captains whose names have been submitted by a Zonal Conference or NCBO for invitation to compete in a World Bridge Championship ("nominated"), taking into account the reports (if any) received from Zonal Conferences and NCBOs regarding previous proceedings involving suspension of or disciplinary proceedings against players under their jurisdiction. The names of players and non-playing captains submitted by the Zonal Conferences of eligible Zones and/or NCBOs for invitation to a World

Bridge Championship must be transmitted to the President, or his designee, in writing, as prescribed by the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest;

- b) in its discretion, to refuse to invite any player or non-playing captain whose name has been submitted for invitation by a Zonal Conference or NCBO, as aforesaid, to participate in a World Bridge Championship. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee must be satisfied that each nominated contestant satisfied the birth and residence requirements of the Zone to which the NCBO nominating him belongs and was either:

- (i) nominated by the NCBO (or the Zonal Conference of the Zone to which that NCBO belongs) of the country of his birth, or by the NCBO of which such nominated contestant first became a member; and that such nominated contestant has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year (having regard to the year in which the relevant World Bridge Championship is to be held) represented a different NCBO (or different Zone, while representing a different NCBO) in a World Bridge Championship; or
- (ii) was nominated by the NCBO (or the Zonal Conference of the Zone to which that NCBO belongs) of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence; and that such nominated contestant has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years (having regard to the year in which the relevant World Bridge Championship is to be held) represented a different NCBO (or different Zone, while representing a different NCBO) in a World Bridge Championship:

PROVIDED THAT those contestants nominated for participation in any World Junior Championship shall not be subject to the conditions of this Section 3.3:

AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT in the case of representation of a Zone where nominated contestants are from different NCBOs, each such nominated contestant must satisfy the conditions of (i) or (ii) above (as the case requires) in respect of his NCBO.

Entries may be rejected if any NCBO whose nominated contestants are submitted for invitation is in arrears in the payment of monies due to the WBF for annual dues or for entry fees to any WBF event (including non-championship events such as the Worldwide Bridge Contest).

No male shall be a playing member of or a substitute player in a team or pair competing in a women's event.

4. Eligibility For Awards

The WBF will establish, for each World Bridge Championship, a scale of WBF Master Points Awards in accordance with the WBF Master Point Plan.

5. Official Language

English is the official language of a World Bridge Championship. During a match the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English.

The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities. No appeal due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

6. Completion Of WBF Convention Card

6.1 Requirements

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and also to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The Supplemental Conditions of Contest will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, in accordance with the WBF Systems Policy and in addition to rules established in these Conditions of Contest.

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the WBF Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purposes of Section 6.1 unless:

- a) all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the Guide to Completion, these Conditions of Contest, and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest;
- b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the WBF that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction, may be omitted from the Card without such omission constituting a breach of the requirement that the Card contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System;
- c) the type of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card.

6.2 Supplementary Sheets

- a) The WBF Convention Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet.
- b) The number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of Convention Cards will be set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

6.3 General

- a) If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to correct the damage.

- b) The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Appeals Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

7. WBF Convention Booklet

A reference on the Card to the name of a convention described in the WBF Convention Booklet shall be deemed to incorporate on the Card the full text of the relevant convention as described in the WBF Convention Booklet. Should any modification of the description contained in the WBF Convention Booklet be used, sufficient details of such modification must appear on the Card in the appropriate section where the subject convention is named. No modification should be written on the WBF Convention Booklet itself.

8. Use Of Convention Card At Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, each member of a pair must hand to one of his opponents at the table during each Session of an event his duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for a specific World Bridge Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the Session.

After withdrawing his cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, a player may not consult his own Card or Supplementary Sheets. He may consult the WBF Convention Booklet in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner, or one made or contemplated by himself.

9. Alerts And Explanations

An alertable call is defined in the WBF Alerting Policy (see Appendix 3)

Subject to the provisions of Section 16 when screens are in use, the partner of a player who has made an alertable call must immediately alert his opponents unless they have stated, before the auction started on the first board of the set, that they do not wish to be alerted. It is the responsibility of the alerting player to alert clearly. No explanation of the meaning of the alertable call should be made unless requested by an opponent. Request for explanation of an alertable call may be deferred until later in the auction, or until after the auction has closed in accordance with Law 20.

10. Substitutes In Teams

If, for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a Session or because of an emergency that develops during the Session, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute need not be a member of the NCBO or the Zone represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player from another team and may not be a male in the case of an event restricted to women.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Appeals Committee or his designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Tournament Appeals Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skills were considerably greater than those of the player replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

The Tournament Appeals Committee shall have authority to determine whether, and to what extent, a substitute may become a permanent replacement.

11. Substitutes In Pair Tournaments

The Chief Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made.

12. Forfeits In Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Tournament Appeals Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The team in forfeit shall score zero Victory Points and zero IMPs for that match. The team winning the forfeited match shall be credited with such number of Victory Points as the Tournament Appeals Committee shall consider to be equitable in all the circumstances.

If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the winning team shall be credited with the average number of IMPs, rounded up, which earn the assigned Victory Points score.

13. Fouled Boards

A board is considered "fouled" if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 of the International Code applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

13.1 Fouled Boards in Team Matches

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, a fouled board should be replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. That match is scored as though the board had never been played*. The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Tournament Appeals Committee. When the Tournament Director has reason to believe the Tournament Appeals Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final Session of a match, he should have a provisional board played during the Session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The Tournament Director, on his own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

***Example:** if the 7th board in a 16-board match is fouled and the error is discovered when the contestants are computing the result of the match, the board is disregarded and the match is scored as though it consisted of only 15 boards.

13.2 Fouled Boards in Pair Games

When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. If guilt can be determined, penalties should be assessed in accordance with the

Supplemental Conditions of Contest. Procedures for scoring fouled boards are contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

14. Substitute Boards In Team Matches

A "substitute board" is one introduced into play in a Session or a match, to replace a board already played at one or both tables. Depending upon the decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee, the results of a substitute board may, or may not, be counted as part of the Session or match. Substitute boards are put into play by the Tournament Director either on his own volition or by direction of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

15. Bidding Boxes

15.1 General

Bidding boxes will be used throughout a World Bridge Championship.

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).

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 written review of the auction at his first turn to play to trick one.

If screens are in use, the bidding cards are removed from the box and placed in the tray; the players should make every effort to see that these actions are performed as quietly as possible. Any call selected and taken from the bidding box may be changed provided it has not been placed and released from the hand (but Law 73F2 may apply).

15.2 Changes to Bids Made

A call placed and released may be changed if:

- (a) 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
- (b) it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected.

see 16.3 for procedures when screens are in use.

A call placed and transferred to the other side of the screen becomes subject to the normal provisions of the Laws.

16. Screens

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

16.1 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.

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.

16.2 Alerts and Explanations

A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Section 9 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.

16.3 Modifications of Penalties when Screens are in Use

The International Code of Duplicate Laws is in effect except as specified below:

- Law 9A2(b)(1); Law 42B(3); Law 43A(1)(b) - Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed.
- Law 13 - The artificial adjusted score and penalty prescribed in the first paragraph apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.
- Law 20 - Review of the Auction. Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screenmate.

16.3.1 Explanation of Calls:

1. During the Auction. At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.

2. During the Play Period. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.
- Laws 26 through 32; Law 34; Laws 36 through 39 - For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:
 - A. Tray not Passed. Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the director. The director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.
 - B. Both Sides at Fault. When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the director. The director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These infringing calls may not be accepted.
 - C. Only One Side at Fault. When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction - East or West - also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the director. The director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.
 - D. Irregularity not Noticed. When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.
 - E. Information - Authorized or Not. Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity. If the Director determines that the unauthorized information from withdrawn calls precludes normal bidding, he shall award an artificial adjusted score.
 - Law 33 - The subsequent call is cancelled without penalty.
 - Law 40 - Alerts. When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screenmate. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call.
 - Law 41A - Opening Lead Out of Turn. The offender's screenmate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side (a) and the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies; (b) and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card.

When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

- Law 73D - During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on, the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray.
- Law 76 - Spectators. Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.

17. Rulings And Appeals

The Tournament Director shall be summoned to a table as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. After the Director has given the ruling, any appeal against such ruling must be lodged in accordance with Section 19.

18. Tournament Appeals Committee

18.1 Definition

For the purposes of Sections 18, 19, 20 and Appendix 1 of these Conditions of Contest:

- **“Committee”** means the Tournament Appeals Committee appointed for the World Bridge Championship by the President.
- **“Chairman”** means the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, and also means, where applicable, the designated chairman referred to in Sections 20.1 and 18.2.

18.2 General

All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall (subject to Sections 21 and 22, and where applicable, subject also to Section 18.3) be heard and decided by the Committee. The Chairman shall convene the Committee at the conclusion of Sessions or at any other time he deems appropriate, and may divide the Committee into smaller committees each having no fewer than three members; and each such smaller committee shall be deemed to be the Committee for the purposes of deciding the matter in question. If the Chairman is not a member of such smaller committee, he will designate a member of that smaller committee to act as its chairman.

The decision of the Committee in any appeal shall be determined by the vote of the Chairman, except in circumstances where all other members of the Committee support a specific contrary decision, in which case such specific contrary decision shall be the decision of the Committee.

18.3 Authority

During the course of any World Bridge Championship the Committee may in its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the International Code, or these Conditions of Contest, or the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, however that matter may have come to the attention of the Committee; and the decision of the Committee in respect of any such matter shall be arrived at in the manner referred to in Section 18.3, and shall, subject only to Section 20.1 of these Conditions, be final in all cases.

18.4 Team Requirements

The WBF expects all teams and partnerships to play to win at all times and in all circumstances. While a team may rest its players and make other decisions for strategic reasons, the failure to play anything less than as good bridge as possible is not permitted,

and the Committee shall have the authority to determine whether there has been such a failure. Teams may submit particular proposed strategies to the Committee in advance to determine compliance with this provision. Any non-compliance will be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the Committee, including recommendation that the Executive Council disqualify or suspend any team.

19. Lodging Of Appeals

An appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director must be lodged within 30 minutes of the posting of the official score for the Session in which the ruling was made. All appeals must be made in writing on an Appeal Form and turned over to the Tournament Director for delivery to the Chairman or his designee.

All appeals must be lodged by the team's Captain or his designee.

When lodging an appeal the appellant must deposit an amount of money, as determined by the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, with the Tournament Director. This deposit will be refunded unless the Committee determines that the appeal was without merit, in which case the deposit will be forfeited and paid to a charity nominated by the President.

20. Hearing Of Appeals

20.1 General

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals Form the Tournament Director shall, as soon as possible, inform the Chairman or his designee. The Chairman shall schedule the time and place for the hearing of the appeal and shall so advise the Tournament Director, who in turn shall advise all parties involved of such time and place.

Guidelines for the hearing of appeals and other proceedings of the Committee are set out in Appendix I. Failure to observe such guidelines shall not of itself vitiate any decision of the Committee. However, if in the opinion of the President or the Chairman there may have been non-observance of the guidelines capable of seriously prejudicing the rights of any party appearing before the Committee, then the President or the Chairman may, in his discretion, direct that the proceedings in question be reheard, in which case the decision of the Committee on the rehearing shall replace the decision on the first hearing.

On an investigation made otherwise than on appeal, the Committee may impose such penalty on any party, or direct that an adjusted score be entered for any boards, as it shall deem proper. In any case in which it considers the circumstances to justify or require it, the Committee may (in addition to any other penalty imposed) recommend to the Executive Council the suspension of any player for one or more Sessions of the event, the forfeiture of a match, or the disqualification of a pair or team.

20.2 Failure to attend

If any party to an appeal or other proceeding of the Committee, or any other person whose attendance is required by the Chairman, having been given notice of the time and place of the hearing, fails to appear, the Chairman may:

- a) re-schedule the hearing;
- b) proceed to a decision of the Committee in the absence of the party who failed to appear;
- c) if the party who failed to appear is the appellant, dismiss the appeal without a hearing, and confirm the ruling of the Tournament Director.

- d) A party to an appeal or other proceeding of the Committee or any other person whose attendance is required by the Chairman, who fails to appear, having been given notice of the time and place of the hearing, may be penalized by the Committee.

In addition to the powers conferred by these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, the Committee has those powers assigned to it in the International Code.

21. Appeals To The WBF Laws Committee

An appeal of the Tournament Director's ruling on a point of Law may be taken to the WBF Laws Committee. Such appeal shall be made in writing by the team's captain, or his designee, and turned over to the Tournament Director, who will then file the appeal with the Chairman of the WBF Laws Committee, or the President. At least two members of the WBF Laws Committee shall constitute a quorum, and there is no further appeal on matters of Law.

22. Appeals Of These Conditions Of Contest

An appeal of the Tournament Director's ruling on, or an interpretation of, these Conditions of Contest or any Supplemental Conditions of Contest or any technical operation of a World Bridge Championship, shall be made in writing by the team's captain or his designee. Such appeal shall be turned over to the Tournament Director who will then file the appeal with the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee or the President. Unless the Chairman and the President are of joint opinion (which shall be final) that the appeal has no merit, the appeal shall be heard by the members of the Executive Council and the members of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee present at the site of the World Bridge Championship, sitting as a single body. The President shall preside over this meeting and decisions reached shall be final.

23. Ethics And Deportment

All contestants in World Bridge Championships are required to conform at all times to the highest standards of ethics and deportment. All contestants (including non-playing captains) are also expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner.

24. Vu-Graph

All contestants are required to play on Vu-Graph whenever assigned to do so by the President or his designee. In the absence of any contrary stipulation, the room from which play is broadcast to the Vu-Graph audience shall be the Open Room of the match.

25. Non-Playing Captains In Team Tournaments

25.1 General

A non-playing captain (NPC) may observe his team during play subject to the rules set forth in this Section and to any supplementary regulation made from time to time by the WBF before a World Bridge Championship begins. The NPC must enter the room before play begins at the start of a Session, and if the NPCs of both teams are in the room, they shall sit on the same side of the screen. In case of dispute the "Home Team" captain shall decide on which side of the screen they will sit.

25.2 Procedure during matches

- a) An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that Session. Exceptionally, if the NPC is requested to leave the playing room (for the purpose of consultation or for whatever reason) by a Tournament Director, the President, the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, or the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Committee, he may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- b) Once any player at the table has withdrawn a hand from the board, and until all four players have returned their hands to the board, an NPC is bound to the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76), except that he may intervene to restrain misbehaviour or curtail unnecessary discussion on the part of his team members, and may with the concurrence of the Tournament Director speak to questions of fact or law, after the Tournament Director has been called to the table, but may not call the Tournament Director.
- c) During the time allowed for a Session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, an NPC should not address members of his team at the table in any but the English language or in a language understood by the opponents. If it is desired to use a language other than English, the permission of the opponents should be sought, and, where reasonably possible, should be given. If difficulty arises, an NPC wishing to speak to his team in a language not known to the opponents should do so through an interpreter or team member who can translate for the benefit of the opponents.

25.3 Delegation of responsibility by the NPC

NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. While the WBF recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach, etc.), it is only when they are specifically named by the NPC, and have been invited to participate in the relevant World Bridge Championship by the WBF, that they may perform certain of the official functions assigned to the NPC. Such additional team officials may not enter the playing rooms unless they obtain the permission of the Tournament Appeals Committee and such Committee may impose conditions on such entrance in its discretion.

26. Authority Of The WBF Executive Council

The WBF Executive Council reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, at any time.

27. Responsibility Of The WBF

The WBF schedules a World Bridge Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the WBF makes no warranty to any participating NCBO, team, pair or person, that any particular World Bridge Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

28. Appendix 1 - Guidelines for hearing appeals and other proceedings of the Committee

(See Section 20.1 of these General Conditions of Contest)

1. An appeal shall consist of the hearing of the evidence and argument; the deliberations of the Committee; and the announcement of the Committee's decision.
2. The Chairman may in his discretion require the attendance of specified parties at the hearing of an appeal. The parties who will normally be present during the hearing of evidence and argument shall be:
 - a) the appellant pair;
 - b) the respondent pair;
 - c) the respective Captains (if a team tournament);
 - d) an interpreter, if in the judgement of the Chairman this is necessary to ensure adequate understanding of the proceedings by any party thereto;
 - e) the Tournament Director who gave the ruling appealed against, and the Senior Tournament Director on duty;
 - f) any other person who in the judgement of the Chairman is able to assist the Committee in determining the facts;
 - g) the members of the Committee hearing the appeal.
3. Once the hearing of the evidence and argument has begun, no additional member of the Committee shall join the Committee hearing the appeal.
4. The Chairman shall preside over the appeal, and the order of proceedings shall be:
 - a) distribution of copies of the relevant Appeals Form (the Tournament Director shall, prior to the hearing, have whenever practicable given the respondent a copy of the Appeals Form);
 - b) identification of the appellant and the respondent; and the introduction of all present by the Chairman;
 - c) statement of the facts by the Tournament Director who gave the ruling appealed against;
 - d) questions to the Tournament Director from the Committee;
 - e) opportunity for the appellant and the respondent to register agreement or disagreement with the Tournament Director's statement of facts;
 - f) the testimony of any special witness invited by the Chairman to assist the Committee; then as in (d) and (e) above;
 - g) the case for the appellant;
 - h) questions from the Committee;
 - i) the case for the respondent;
 - j) questions from the Committee;
 - k) any further questions or comment elicited by the Chairman;

- l) after hearing the evidence and arguments, all persons other than the members of the Committee shall leave the appeal room, unless the Chairman requests the Tournament Director to remain during all or part of the Committee's deliberations;
 - m) the Committee, having reached its decision in accordance with Section 18.2, shall communicate this to the parties (if still present) and the Tournament Director, together with a brief statement of the reasons by the Chairman. It shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to communicate the decision to any absent party.
5. These guidelines are intended to assist the Committee to conduct appeals fairly and courteously.
 6. If the Committee is conducting a proceeding which is not an appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director, the above guidelines may be modified by the Chairman as appropriate to achieve fairness.
 7. References in these guidelines to the Chairman include the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee and any designated Chairman referred to in Section 18.2 of these General Conditions of Contest.

29. Appendix 2 - WBF Systems Policy 1995

(Adopted December 1994; amended October 1996)

1. Objectives

The objectives are to ensure that WBF Championships can be properly operated and adequately administered, with a fair and equal chance for all competitors, while at the same time affording proper consideration to progress and innovation; to ensure that players are in no doubt as to what is expected of them with regard to preparation and filing of systems material for WBF Championships.

Additions or amendments to this policy will normally be put into effect only after four months' notice.

2. Definition of Highly Unusual Methods

For the purpose of this Policy, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that exhibits one or more of the following features, as a matter of partnership agreement:

- a) A Pass in the opening position promises the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, and the player who passes will or may hold values a queen or more above average strength (i.e. an average hand contains 10 HCP).
- b) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
- c) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with values a king or more below average strength.
- d) By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows either length or shortage in a specified suit; or either length in a specified suit or length elsewhere.

2.2 Classification of Systems

In order to facilitate recognition and handling, systems material will be identified by one or more of the following:

- i) a WBF coloured sticker;
- ii) the appropriate name (hand printed or typed) colour;
- iii) a check mark on a convention card next to the appropriate colour - in keeping with the following descriptions:

Green Natural

Blue Strong Club/Strong Diamond, where one club/one diamond is always strong

Red Artificial: this category includes all artificial systems that do not fall under the definition of Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) systems [see definition below], other than Strong Club/Strong Diamond systems (see 'Blue').

Examples would be a system where one club shows one of three types - a natural club suit, a balanced hand of a specific range, or a Strong Club opener; or a system in which the basic methods (other

than the no trump range) vary according to position, vulnerability and the like; or a system that uses conventional 'weak' or 'multi-meaning' bids (with or without some weak option) in potentially contestable auctions, other than those described in the main part of the WBF Convention Booklet

Yellow Highly Unusual Methods ('HUM') as defined above.

2.3 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments

The following conventions or treatments are categorised as 'Brown Sticker':

- a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
 - i) could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) AND
 - ii) does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION:

- iii) The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a Brown Sticker Convention.)
 - iv) An opening bid showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types, as described in the WBF Conventions Booklet.
- b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: A natural overcall in no trumps.

- c) Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
- d) Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
- e) None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions.

Additional to the classification of systems in 1.2 above, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must indicate this alongside its system classification.

3. Systems allowed at WBF Championships

In relation to the aspect of Systems to be allowed at WBF Championships, the events will be divided into three categories:

Category 1: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup (current format), Olympiad Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals

For such events all classifications of systems will be permitted, subject to adequate disclosure, but teams using HUM systems must submit their Convention Cards in advance in accordance with the Conditions of Contest and will be subject to a reduction of seating rights, as follows:

Whenever a team with one or more pairs using a HUM system opposes a team that has no such pair, the HUM systems team will be the 'Away' team, and lines up first throughout.

No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing HUM systems pairs (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.

Category 2: Olympiad (Round-Robin): Rosenblum Cup and McConnell Cup (Knock-out matches only): any other Teams Championships with long matches

The use of HUM systems is prohibited.

'Brown Sticker' conventions will be permitted, subject to adequate disclosure, but players using them must submit their Convention Cards in advance in accordance with the Conditions of Contest.

Category 3: All Pairs Championships. Junior Teams Championships. Rosenblum Cup and McConnell Cup (short matches)

The use of both HUM systems and 'Brown Sticker' conventions is prohibited.

4. Systems Material

For all Category 1 Teams events, where Yellow (HUM) systems are permitted, any pair using a HUM system is required (in addition to the normal timely filing of the Convention card and Supplementary Sheets) to submit **the full system** in English at the beginning of the Championship.

Pairs using Green, Blue or Red systems are encouraged to submit their full system in English at the beginning of any WBF Championship.

In decisions taken by Tournament Directors and by the Appeals Committee, pairs who have submitted their full system will be given the benefit of any support this provides for an explanation given at the table, as far as this goes.

5. Convention Cards/Supplementary Sheets

The principle of adequate disclosure requires that competitors fully disclose the meanings of their calls, and particularly, **all conventions and treatments requiring defensive preparation**. In addition to the Convention cards, pairs will use Supplementary Sheets to achieve this objective.

The use of Supplementary Sheets is not strictly limited for all events, provided that the entries are properly numbered to correspond to appropriately cross-referenced numbers on the Convention card itself. The sheets must readily legible and the numbered entries must be separated by discernible heavy lines. While brevity is encouraged, particularly for Category 2 and Category 3 events, full disclosure must not be prejudiced in any way as a result.

All conventions and treatments requiring defensive preparation must be listed on the front right part of the WBF Card. They must be explained and fully developed (including competitive agreements) either in the appropriate section on the outside or inside of the card, or, where there is inadequate space there, in the first numbered entries on the Supplementary Sheets.

The front right part of the Convention Card must include:

- i) All artificial openings (except strong one club/two club openings)
- ii) Response to natural openings which are weak and conventional
- iii) All conventional defensive bids used over natural openings of one of a suit (making sure that all two suited intervention is detailed precisely; the best way to do this is to write: 'Two Suiters' and include a reference number to an early Supplementary Sheet entry, which will provide the particulars).

If a pair uses any bid which should have been listed here, but which has been left out, and their opponents do not get to their best contract, there will be a strong presumption that the opponents have been damaged by not being able to prepare a defence. The offending pair can assume that they will also be liable to incur a procedural penalty.

Any pair playing a HUM system or 'Brown Sticker' convention has a special obligation to present a complete description of both their bids and subsequent developments (especially competitive developments). If a pair uses an auction that is not fully described, then the same presumption of lack of advance notice (with adjustments and penalties as described in the preceding paragraph) shall apply.

For each tournament, the Conditions of Contest will state the date by which and the address at which systems material and Convention Cards (together with telephone and [preferably] fax numbers of the individuals best equipped to deal with queries regarding the system) must be received. The onus is jointly on the pair, the non-playing captain (where relevant), the NCBO, and the Zonal Organisation to obtain the information required to meet this deadline. Failure to meet this deadline will result in automatic penalties, which will be fully described in the Conditions of Contest.

6. Defence against Yellow (HUM) Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions

For Team events in Category 1, the following regulations will apply to defensive measures against HUM systems.

- i) A pair opposing a HUM system pair will submit two (clearly legible) copies of their defence to the HUM system at an appropriate time and place prior to the start of that segment, to be specified in the Conditions of Contest. Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.
- ii) In preparing the defence against a HUM system, pairs using Green, Blue or Red systems are allowed to change their systems, including opening calls. Pairs using a HUM system are not allowed to change their opening calls.
- iii) The pair using a HUM system must inform the opponents in writing (two clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using a HUM system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

For Teams events in Category 1 and Category 2, the following regulations will apply in relation to defensive measures against Brown Sticker Conventions:

A pair may prepare written defences against the 'Brown Sticker' elements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) at an appropriate time and place prior to the start of that segment, to be specified in the Conditions of Contest. Written defences against Brown Sticker conventions are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card.

7. Number of systems allowed per team

For Category 1 events, a maximum number of four Red or Yellow Systems, of which only three may be Yellow, will be permitted for each participating team. A System, for the purpose of this section, may include different methods for different vulnerabilities.

Both members of the partnership must use the same methods.

30. Appendix 3: WBF Alerting Policy

Preamble

- a) The objective is to have a uniform WBF policy which is applied to all WBF events.
- b) It is not intended that this should over-ride Alerting Policies developed by the Zone or NCBOs.
- c) Players who participate in WBF events are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter. Full disclosure is vital.
- d) The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players, however, are expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (N.B. Where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction.)

Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- a) Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not. (A Convention is a call that serves by partnership agreement to convey a meaning not necessarily related to the denomination named.)
- b) Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
- c) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

The following called should not be alerted (except when screens are in use):

- a) All doubles.
- b) Any no-trump bid which suggests a balanced or semi-balanced hand, or suggests a no-trump contract.
- c) All bids, with the exception of conventional opening suit bids, at the four level or higher.

31. Appendix 4. Psychic Bidding

Psychic bids are specifically permitted by the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, provided that any partnership understandings or agreements are disclosed. It would be inconsistent therefore if the WBF forbade psychics in its own tournaments.

Some partnerships of reasonably long standing develop understandings that psychic bids in certain situations will be of a certain type. These are developed partnership understandings and not conventions, and should be explained on the Convention Card and on the Supplementary Sheets. In other words the psychics should be made randomly but any understandings about them should be revealed.

Where partnerships have agreements that psychic bids are expected or are likely in specific situations or where the psychics are protected by System then a convention has developed. Such psychic understandings are classified as Brown Sticker Conventions and are therefore forbidden in certain events. The type of agreement referred to, for example, is where, third in hand at favourable vulnerability, a player is expected to open the bidding on anything at all.

32. Appendix 5 - The WBF IMP-VP CONVERSION SCALE

<i>Number of Boards</i>												
VPs	8	10	12	14	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	48
15-15	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-4
16-14	2-5	2-6	2-6	3-7	3-7	3-8	4-9	4-10	4-10	4-11	4-11	5-12
17-13	6-8	7-9	7-9	8-10	8-11	9-12	10-14	11-15	11-16	12-17	12-18	13-20
18-12	9-11	10-12	10-12	11-14	12-15	13-16	15-19	16-20	17-22	18-23	19-25	21-28
19-11	12-14	13-15	13-16	15-18	16-19	17-21	20-24	21-25	23-28	24-29	26-32	29-36
20-10	15-17	16-18	17-20	19-22	20-23	22-26	25-29	26-31	29-34	30-36	33-39	37-44
21-9	18-20	19-21	21-24	23-26	24-27	27-31	30-34	32-37	35-40	37-43	40-46	45-52
22-8	21-23	22-25	25-28	27-30	28-31	32-36	35-39	38-43	41-46	44-50	47-53	53-60
23-7	24-26	26-29	29-32	31-34	32-36	37-41	40-45	44-49	47-52	51-57	54-60	61-68
24-6	27-29	30-33	33-36	35-38	37-41	42-47	46-51	50-55	53-58	58-64	61-68	69-76
25-5	30-33	34-37	37-40	39-43	42-46	48-53	52-57	56-61	59-65	65-71	69-76	77-84
25-4	34-37	38-41	41-45	44-48	47-52	54-59	58-64	65-68	66-73	72-79	77-84	85-93
25-3	38-41	42-45	46-50	49-54	53-58	60-65	65-71	69-76	74-82	80-88	85-93	94-102
25-2	42-45	46-50	51-55	55-60	59-64	66-72	72-79	77-85	83-91	89-97	94-102	103-112
25-1	46-50	51-55	56-61	61-66	65-71	73-79	80-87	86-94	92-100	98-106	103-112	113-123
25-00	51+	56+	62+	67+	72+	80+	88+	95+	101+	107+	113+	124+