



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**For all World Championships
and other Tournaments
held under the auspices
of the World Bridge Federation**

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1. Preamble

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

The WBF Eligibility Code, the WBF Disciplinary Code, the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations, the WBF Dress Code, the WBF Systems Policy, the WBF Alerting Policy, the WBF Policy on Psychic Bidding and the WBF Code of Practice are part of the Conditions of Contest for every World Bridge Championship and are available for download on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org

The WBF also issues Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) to further regulate any World Bridge Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

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

WBF events are subject to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as updated in January 2024.

Expressions used in these Conditions of Contest and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in duplicate bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Championship Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa, and reference to one gender shall include the other.

The following Ancillary Regulations will apply unless modified by this document.

- [WBF Systems Policy](#)
- [Procedures for Tie Breaking](#)
- [Procedures for dealing with unplayable or fouled Boards](#)
- [Procedures for Apportioning Penalties](#)
- [Regulations for Screens, Bidding and Entering Scores](#)
- [Procedures for Forfeits and Withdrawals](#)
- [Regulations for the Registration and Use of Systems](#) -
- [Regulations governing Seating Rights](#)
- [The WBF Dress Code](#)
- [The WBF Alerting Policy](#)
- [Review Procedure](#)

Each of the above Ancillary Regulations will have the revision date shown under the heading. Please ensure that when referring to them, you check for an updated version on the website.

2. 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:

2.1. Accredited Persons

For security reasons, all persons attending the Championship Venue, including Executive Council Members, Committee Members, Invitees of the WBF, Championship Staff, Players, NPCs, Coaches and other team officials, as well as visitors to the Championship and spectators, must be accredited and wear their official identification badge at all times as indicated in the [WBF Dress Code](#).

2.2. Championship 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.

2.3. Commitment form

means the form prescribed by the WBF, which must be read, signed and registered in advance by all participants in the WBF Championships in order for them to be eligible to participate in any WBF Championship.

2.4. Daily Bulletin, Online News and Official Notices

mean the Daily Bulletin/Online News published on site and on the WBF Website, or official notices placed near the playing rooms, in the registration/hospitality area, displayed on the TV screens or placed prominently in other convenient places.

2.5. Electronic Recording and Scoring Devices

means any electronic device used for recording and/or scoring. North or South is responsible for the use of the device and is required to familiarise themselves with its operation. A player who wilfully misuses any such scoring device by, for example, not entering the score at the end of each board or entering incorrect information is liable to a score deduction as a penalty.

2.6. Eligible Zone

means Zones 1 to 8 inclusive. See also Section 2.30.

2.7. Executive Council (EC)

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

2.8. Gender

The gender of a participant will be taken as that shown on their Passport or National Identity Card.

2.9. GCoC

means these General Conditions of Contest which relate to all WBF Championships and Tournaments

2.10. Head Tournament Director and Tournament Directors

means the Directors as defined in the [Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017](#) appointed by the World Bridge Federation.

2.11. Host NBO

means the NBO which hosts a World Bridge Championship.

2.12. Law

means a Law contained in the [Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017](#).

2.13. Line-Up Desk

means the facility set up at the site of a World Bridge Championship for the teams to register their Line-ups and for the provision of other services relating thereto.

2.14. NBO

means a National Bridge Organisation that is a member of the WBF.

2.15. NPC

means non-playing captain.

2.16. 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 Operations Director or his designee.

2.17. Participants

such term shall include a player, non-playing captain, coach, trainer and/or other team official representing their NBO/Country as defined in the [WBF Eligibility Code](#).

2.18. Playing Area

the area defined by the WBF, which may include the lobby in the immediate vicinity of the actual playing rooms, the toilets adjoining the playing rooms, which are designated for the use of the participants and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be identified through the Daily Bulletin at the Championships.

2.19. President

means the President of the WBF.

2.20. Prohibited List

Means the [Medications](#) obtainable from WADA

2.21. Reviewer and their assistants

The WBF President appoints the reviewer and their assistants before the start of the championship and will review the TD’s rulings when required to do so. Any such review may be recorded and subsequently published on the WBF Website.

2.22. Schedule of Play

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

2.23. Session

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

2.24. Therapeutic Exemption Certificate (TUE)

means the [Therapeutic Exemption Certificate](#) that players must apply for if they are required to take medication listed as prohibited by WADA.

2.25. WADA

refers to the [World Anti-Doping Authority](#)

2.26. WBF

means the World Bridge Federation, an International Sports Federation, recognised by the IOC and incorporated in Switzerland.

2.27. WBF Alerting Policy

means the Policy issued by the WBF from time to time that regulates the alerting procedure in a World Bridge Championship. [Click here to download the Alerting Policy.](#)

2.28. WBF Code of Practice

means the WBF Code of Practice used when considering any potential infraction of the laws. [Click here to download the Code of Practice.](#)

2.29. 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.

2.30. Zonal Conference or ZC

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

2.31. Zone

means a geographical zone of the WBF and includes any NBO or NBOs representing a Zone.

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 Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017. These Conditions of Contest, and any SCoC, supplement the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 as required.

3.2. Invitation to Participate

Participation in a World Bridge Championship is by WBF invitation only. The process for registration and submission of names will be detailed in the SCoC for the event or in separate communications on the WBF Website. Furthermore, no participant shall be eligible to compete, nor any person be a participant in a team unless their name has been submitted in writing by their Zone or NBO to the WBF for invitation by the WBF - see also Sections 3.11 and 2.17.

3.3. Eligibility to Participate

To be eligible for participation in the World Bridge Championships, all participants, as defined in Section 2.17, must comply with the [WBF Eligibility Code](#).

3.4. NPCs, Coaches, Trainers or other Team officials

No captain, coach, trainer and/or other team official shall act for more than one NBO in any WBF Representative Events.

3.5. WBF Eligibility Code for qualifying events

Compliance with the [WBF Eligibility Code](#) is mandatory for any qualifying event leading up to any of the WBF Representative Events.

3.6. Participation in Teams and Pairs events

No player may participate in two or more events running concurrently.

3.7. Media

By participating in a World Bridge Championship, each Zone and each NBO and its participants agree that all or part of any event may be photographed, filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicised at the discretion of the WBF. Such media may be used by the WBF and, with the agreement of the WBF, by its member Zones or NBOs free of charge for non-commercial publicity purposes following the event.

3.8. Competition Requirement

Each Zone and each NBO 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 participants that they must compete against all other participants. 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 NBO may be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the WBF for such period as the WBF, at its discretion, shall determine.

3.9. Political Statements

Each NBO further agrees that for the proper conduct of any World Bridge Championship it shall also instruct its participants that at no time during the course of or in relation to the event may they make any form of public political statement or comment. Any participant making such a statement may be disqualified from the event or events in which they participated or intend to participate and shall be subject to suspension from participation in any future event conducted under the auspices of the WBF for such period as the WBF in its discretion shall determine. Furthermore, at its discretion, the WBF may also suspend the participant's NBO from participating in any future event conducted under its auspices.

It is a breach of propriety for any participant overtly to display any political, religious and racial statement or object. Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

3.10. Credentials Committee

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the WBF, the EC 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, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials whose names have been submitted by an NBO for invitation to compete in a World Bridge Championship. The names of players and non-playing captains submitted by the Zonal Conferences of eligible Zones and/or NBOs for invitation to a World Bridge Championship must be transmitted to the President, or an appointed designee, in writing or electronically, as prescribed by the relevant SCoC or as published on the WBF website;
- b) in its discretion, to refuse to invite any player, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials whose name has been submitted for invitation by an NBO or ZC, as aforesaid, to participate in a World Bridge Championship.

3.11. WBF Commitment Form

Participants in WBF Championships events must read, complete and sign the [WBF Commitment Form](#) before they can compete in any World Championship event. The Commitment is binding, and the absence of a valid signature renders that person ineligible to participate in the championship.

It should be noted that this requirement applies to the qualifying Zonal Championships held for the purpose of qualifying the teams to represent each Zone in the World Bridge Teams Championship. It is in addition to any commitment form required by the individual Zone.

All participants, as defined in Section 2.17 will be required to provide either an electronic, digitally signed form obtained from anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com or to send a completed, signed and scanned copy of all four pages of the form by email to anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com. Photographs of all four pages will be acceptable if necessary. Once signed, the form will be valid

for future WBF Championship events, and any changes thereto imposed by either the WBF or WADA will be published as a revised form on the WBF Website, and it will be assumed that these have been agreed to. Participants are required to ensure that the copies are legible and that their signature is clearly visible.

NBOs are directly responsible for the fulfilment of the above-mentioned mandatory requirement.

4. 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 and all four players (in team events) or all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk.

Spectators may not speak to, communicate, or attempt to communicate with anyone during a playing session.

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

5. Ethics and Deportment

5.1. Participant's obligations

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

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

Participants are therefore urged to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the behaviour requirements as listed in Laws 73 - 76. It is expected that participants will receive all decisions made by the Championship Committee, Tournament Directors and Reviewers in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

5.2. Looking at partner

Partners should neither look at nor attempt to look at one another during the auction or play. The objective is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.

5.3. Discussions

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 or, subject to the limitations in Section 19, to the Captain of the team.

5.4. Partnership understandings

Under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge a player is not allowed to make a call or play based on a partnership understanding unless the opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning or unless the use of such a call or play has been fully disclosed on the Official System Card. Psychic actions are permissible, but at all times should have the same potential to surprise partner as to surprise the opponents; they may not be the subject of undisclosed partnership understandings.

5.5. Improper Behaviour or Unethical Conduct

Actions or behaviours considered to be improper will be referred, normally by a Tournament Director, to the Championship Committee, who may impose sanctions as they see fit. Serious misdemeanours and unethical conduct may further be subject to the authority of the Disciplinary Commission and the WBF Disciplinary Code, which governs such matters.

6. Anti-Betting Regulations

The Anti-Betting Regulations can be [downloaded here](#)

7. Anti-Doping Regulations

It is mandatory for all participants to follow the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations which can be [downloaded here](#). Competitors must check that any medications they are required to take are not listed on the [WADA Prohibited List](#) and ensure that, if necessary, they apply for a [Therapeutic Exemption Certificate](#).

8. Dress Code

The participants at a WBF Championship must abide by the [WBF Dress Code](#).

9. Age restrictions for Youth and Senior events

The full age restrictions for Youth and Senior events are published on the [WBF Website](#) and in the SCoC for the event.

10. Restrictions and Security

The following restrictions apply to both participants and spectators in the playing areas (see definition of these areas in Section 2.18).

10.1. Smoking and Alcohol

10.1.1. Smoking

Smoking in the venue other than in a designated smoking area (if any) is prohibited. No participant may leave the playing area in order to smoke before completion of play in a session. Spectators may leave the playing area but may not subsequently return.

Any participant smoking in a prohibited area will cause their team to be fined 2 VP (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in their partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus a monetary fine the amount of which will be informed to the participants before the start of the event. Repeated violations of this regulation may, and constant violation will result in the player being prohibited from playing or any official or spectator prohibited from entering the playing area. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The same regulations govern the use of electronic cigarettes.

10.1.2. Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and the toilet area is prohibited. No participant may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol before completion of play in a session.

Any participant consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or the toilet area will result in their team being fined 2 VP (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in their partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus a monetary fine the amount of which will be informed to the participants before the start of the event. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation will result in the player being prohibited from playing or, in the case of an NPC, Coach or spectator,

will result in them being prohibited from entering the playing area. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

10.2. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Smartwatches are not permitted in the playing area at any time.

If mobile phones and other electronic communication devices are brought into the playing area by any participant, including spectators, they must be visible and completely switched off, not merely turned to silent or flight mode. They must remain visible at the table and may not be taken from there to any other area (e.g. the toilets) until the participant or spectator leaves the room at the end of play. Once they have left the room, taking any communication device, they may not return.

Any participant or other team supporter/spectator bringing a mobile phone and or electronic communication device into the playing area and not complying with the above regulations will cause their team to be fined 2 VPs, (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or in the case of pairs events, will result in their partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus in all cases, a monetary fine the amount of which will be informed to the participants before the start of the event. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of participants to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual concerned being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director, in consultation with the Championship Committee shall decide.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the WBF for the detection of such electronic equipment.

11. Animals or Small Children in the playing area

No animals are permitted in the playing areas other than working service dogs, which are subject to prior approval by the Championships Committee. Non-participating children under the age of six are not permitted in the playing areas at any time.

12. Disqualification from any WBF Championship event or Tournament

Should a team, pair or individual player be disqualified, no refund of the entry fees, either in part or in full, will be made.

13. Vu-Graph & Broadcasting

13.1. Obligation to play

All participants are required to play on Vu-Graph, online Vu-Graph (internet broadcasting), Television and any other electronic or technical medium, including tables under security video-electronic registration, whenever assigned to do so.

13.2. Access to Vu-Graph and other broadcast tables

Access to the Vu-Graph and other broadcast tables is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty, TDs and other officials as required.

14. Media Presentation – Recording – Publication

Players are required to participate in any public presentation of matches, interviews etc arranged by the WBF and / or the Tournament Sponsors, including video, Internet, TV, radio or any other media presentation.

NBOs and their representatives at the Championships directly authorise the WBF to broadcast, record, photograph and film the participants during the course of the championships. They further give their consent to the WBF using and delivering at its discretion such material and information through the media, internet, Social Networks and any other electronic or by other different means for the furtherance of bridge. Such material and information is the exclusive property of the WBF and may not be copied, reproduced or used without its written consent. Such consent will normally be given to other bridge organisations wishing to use such material for non-commercial, promotional purposes.

15. Registration and Use of Systems

The regulations for the registration, use and publication of Systems are published as a separate document and can be [downloaded here](#). Participants should also familiarise themselves with the [WBF Systems Policy](#).

16. Drawing cards from a board

Players are not permitted to remove cards from any board before the playing session begins.

17. Alerts and Explanations

See [Screens, Bidding and Entering Scores](#).

Alertable calls are defined in the [WBF Alerting Policy](#).

18. Length of Matches

7 board matches: 60 minutes

10 board matches: 1 hour 25 minutes

12 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes

14 board matches: 2 hours

16 board matches: 2 hours 15minutes

20 board matches: 2 hours 50 minutes

Teams judged guilty of slow play will be subject to a penalty. Additional time will not be allowed for teams playing on Vu-Graph or on other broadcast matches; nor because of the use of bidding boxes, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons. Vu-Graph or broadcast presentation for any match or session, will not start until the Tournament Director notifies the Operator.

19. Non-Playing Captains in Team Tournaments

19.1. 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. The above rule is in effect for both the Open and Closed Room but in any case is subject to the discretion of the Head TD according to the conditions of security of the room/s.

19.2. Rights of Non-Playing Captains

Non-playing captains may act in order:

- a) to protect the rights of their team if the NPC believes that they have been jeopardised in any way;
- b) to curtail unnecessary discussion;
- c) to forbid a member of their team to make a protest;
- d) to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of their team;
- e) to intimate their own intention of requesting a review of a ruling on behalf of their team in reference to any matter in respect of which their team players have not done so;
- f) to ensure that a player not participating in a particular match is not allowed to watch their teammates other than on VuGraph.

19.3. Procedure during matches

- a) An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that Session. Exceptionally, if any NPC is requested to leave the playing room by a Tournament Director, the President, the Operations Director or the Championship Chairman, they may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- b) Apart from actions described in Section 19.2, NPCs are bound by the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76). NPCs may not call the Tournament Director.

During the time allowed for a Session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, NPCs may not address members of their 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, NPCs should call the TD.

- c) At any time when a comparison of scores is allowed NPCs may draw their players' attention to any observation of an infraction, but they are bound as a spectator by Law 76B until that time.

19.4. Delegation of Responsibility by the NPC

NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC. While the WBF recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach, etc.), it is only when they are officially registered as members of the team, have provided a signed commitment form, 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 Championship Committee, which may impose conditions on such entrance at its discretion.

20. Substitutes in Team Tournaments

If for any reason a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a Session or because of a situation that develops during the Session the Head Tournament Director, after verifying the respect of all the conditions of security and regularity and 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 NBO or the Zone represented by the team on which they substitute, but must not be a player from another team. A substitution may be permitted so long as once the replacement is made, the team or pair continues to meet the gender/age requirements to qualify for the event.

The Head Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Championship Committee or an appointed designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Championship 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 Championship Committee may impose additional penalties should it be considered appropriate.

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

21. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments

The Head Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary for the smooth operation of the event. 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. In an event where a category is involved, the substitute must be in the same category.

22. Procedures for Tie Breaking

These Procedures can be [downloaded here](#)

23. Procedures for dealing with unplayable / fouled Boards

These Procedures can be [downloaded here](#)

24. Procedures for Forfeits and Withdrawals

These Procedures can be [downloaded here](#)

25. Procedures for Apportioning Penalties

These Procedures can be [downloaded here](#)

26. Regulations Governing Seating Rights

These Regulations can be [downloaded here](#)

27. Special Scoring Methods

27.1. Scoring groups of scores (match-pointed pairs)

If a group contains fewer than four scores, match points in that group shall be as follows:

Group contains only one score - both pairs are awarded 60% of the points available.

Group contains two scores. If identical, both pairs receive 60%. If the scores are different, the better score receives 65%, the lesser 55%.

Group contains three scores - the best receives 70%, the middle 60%, and the lowest 50%. Ties share the match points.

For all groups containing four or more scores, match points shall be awarded in accordance with the Neuberg Formula.

Match points will be rounded off to the nearest tenth of a match point, 0.05 being counted as 0.1.

27.2. Artificial Scores

For a board on which one or more participants have been assigned artificial scores, match points will be awarded for other pairs in accordance with 27.1

An IMP penalty applied during the knock-out phase affects the match score in full. For example, if a match score were 100 IMPs - 87 IMPs in favour of team A, then were team A to be penalised 3 IMPs, the match score would then become 97-87

28. Regulations for Screens, Bidding and Entering Scores

These Regulations can be [downloaded here](#)

29. Regulations for Electronic Line-Ups

The Line-ups must be submitted electronically in accordance with the SCoC or directions given at the Captains' Meeting on site. Failure of a captain to submit his line-up in a timely fashion shall result in penalties in accordance with the SCoC for the Championship.

The time of the Line-Up will be recorded automatically by the system, and penalties for late line-ups will be mandatory.

If a partnership that has not registered a specific System Card is to play, they should indicate on the line-up form which of the registered System Cards will be used.

30. Duplicated Boards

Whenever possible, duplicated boards will be used throughout all World Bridge Championships.

31. Attendance in Playing Rooms

31.1. General

Subject to any supplementary regulations in the SCoC or published on-site by the Championship Committee, only the following are permitted to enter the playing rooms:

- a) participants assigned to play in that room;
- b) the Tournament Directors on duty;
- c) personnel needed to operate these Championships, including caddies and broadcast personnel;
- d) the WBF President and the Chairman, Co-chairman, Vice-chairman of the Championship Committee or a duly appointed delegate;
- e) the Chairman and members of the Disciplinary Commission who are on duty;
- f) the Chairman of the Investigation Committee or his designee
- g) the Reviewer or an appointed assistant;
- h) personnel for provision of refreshment and room cleaning, if necessary;
- i) "Officials on duty" appointed for a specific session or sessions by the Chairman of the Championship Committee;
- j) Media operators authorised by the Chairman of the Championship Committee, the approved journalists who have been accredited by the President (or designee) of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) and ratified by the Chairman of the Championship Committee;
- k) one member of the World Championship Book staff to be named by its Editor.

Subject to conditions of security and play, the Chairman of the Championship Committee or a designee may permit spectators to watch matches in the Open Room. In this event, a spectator should be seated on one side of the screen and no more than four spectators may watch at any one table. Spectators may watch one match only and only one player's cards. Players from a team are not permitted to watch their own team's match. See also the regulations regarding young children and pets in the playing area. See section 11.

Without stating a reason, a player may bar any one spectator from watching his cards. Repeated such demands during a match are subject to the approval of the Head TD or the Operations Director.

No spectators are allowed in the playing rooms to watch the matches presented in Vu-Graph or broadcast via the Internet.

A Spectator who observes an irregularity is subject to Law 76B. All Team Officials are spectators, as also are other non-participants observing the play.

31.2. Restrictions

Anyone entering the playing area is required to comply with all restrictions and security regulations detailed in Section 10.

32. Reviews

The [WBF Code of Practice](#) is utilised by the WBF Tournament Directors before any rulings are given, and such rulings are made in consultation with other Directors, senior players and other personnel as appropriate.

Players should note the procedures which the Code calls upon them to adopt (as for example, that they should randomise and make unpredictable the tempo of passing the tray).

33. WBF IMP to VP Conversion Scale

The [WBF IMP to VP Conversion Scale](#) is published on the WBF Website

34. Interpretation of the Bridge Laws

The interpretation of the Bridge Laws is a matter to be referred to the WBF Laws Committee, from which three members will be appointed by the President to act at the World Championships. The decisions reached shall be final.

35. Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest

The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest or any SCoC is a matter to be referred to the Championship's Rules & Regulation Committee, including the Chairman of the Championship Committee. The decisions reached shall be final.

36. Eligibility for Awards

To be eligible for titles, Master Points, and Placing Points, a player must have played at least one-half of his team's sessions in each stage of each event. Each qualification phase of an event is considered one stage. In a Knockout phase, every match is considered a stage for this purpose. It is not possible to "make up" for missing sessions in one stage by playing more sessions in another.

The foregoing notwithstanding, players will not be required to play more than 50% of the sessions in a stage. If the format of an event makes it impossible to play exactly 50% of the sessions in any stage, the requirement is reduced to the number of sessions that comes closest to 50% for that stage.

There is no minimum required to continue playing until the end of an event.

The Championship Committee may waive a player's requirement for a stage in the case of *force majeure*. In such a case, the player need not make up the missing sessions in a subsequent stage.

Medals will be awarded to all the players of a team that places first, second, or third in each event, and to its NPC. Neither coaches nor other team officials are awarded medals.

37. Playoff Regulations for 3rd place

The detailed play-off Regulations for bronze medals or 3rd place as appropriate will be contained within the SCoC for each WBF Championship.

38. Changes to the Conditions of Contest

The WBF Executive Council, or the Championship Committee by its delegation, reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the SCoC at any time after its publication and before the beginning of the Championships. After the start of the Championships, only on the initiative of the Head Tournament Director may changes be proposed to the Championship Committee, which will then decide whether or not to implement such amendments. The Championship Committee may also make changes if it deems them necessary.

39. 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 NBO, 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.

40. Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest

Entering or being accredited to attend the World Championships means that all personnel concerned with such entry or accrediting (Organisations, Teams and Individuals) know and agree to abide by these General Conditions of Contest and the relevant SCoC.

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 Laws of Duplicate Bridge). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the WBF Rules and Regulations Committee shall be final and conclusive.

41. Official Websites:

The WBF Website:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/>

The WBF Championship Website:

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/>

The Website of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>