



"Bridge for Peace"

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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Maison du Sport International,
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1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

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GAISF



Headquarters: Maison du Sport International – 54 av. de Rhodanie – 1007 Lausanne – Switzerland
Tel.: +41 21 544 7218 – Fax: +41 21 601 2315
President's Address: Via Moscova 46/5 – 20121 Milano – Italy
Tel.: +39 02 367 04 987 – Fax: +39 02 367 05 962

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1. Preamble

These 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 further to regulate any World Bridge Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

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

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.

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 Personnel*

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. See also Section 9.3

2.2 *Approved Recorder*

means:

- a) any person subject to approval of both teams and of the Head Tournament Director or their designee
- b) a person approved for the purpose by the Head Tournament Director or their designee
- c) either Captain of the playing teams, or
- d) the North or South player.

2.3 *Brown Sticker Announcement Form*

Means the form designed for the announcement of Brown Sticker Conventions (bids, overcalls and subsequent auction) as referred to in the [WBF Systems Policy](#).

2.4 *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.

2.5 *Championship Chairman and Championship Manager (Operations Director)*

mean the respective persons so designated by the WBF.

2.6 *“Daily Bulletin and Bulletin Board”*

Mean the Daily Bulletin published on site and available to the players in a printed version and also on the WBF Website, and to a Bulletin Board placed near the playing rooms where all important notices, whether or not they are published in the Daily Bulletin, will be posted.

2.7 *Commitment form*

means the form prescribed by the WBF which must be signed by all competitors including the NPC, Coach and any other Team Official in order for them to be eligible to participate in any WBF Championship.

2.8 *Disciplinary Commission*

Means the commission in charge of all matters pertaining to ethics and behaviour etc. Their duties, powers and function are defined in the [WBF Disciplinary Code](#).

2.9 *Eligible Zone*

means Zones 1 to 8 inclusive.

2.10 *Executive Council*

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

2.11 *Head Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Directors*

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

2.12 *Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) & HUM System*

mean any of the systemic agreements so described in the [WBF Systems Policy](#) and the system that utilizes such methods.

2.13 *Host NBO*

means the NBO which hosts a World Bridge Championship.

2.14 *IMSA*

means the [International Mind Sports Association](#) created in 2005 under the aegis of SportAccord.

2.15 Law

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

2.16 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.

2.17 NBO

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

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 players and any other rooms/lobby areas to be decided on site. Such areas will be identified to the participants through the Daily Bulletin at the Championships.

2.19 President

means the President of the WBF.

2.20 Reviewer and their assistants

The reviewer and their assistants are appointed by the WBF President 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.

2.21 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.

2.22 Session

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

2.23 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.

2.24 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.

2.25 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 Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

2.26 *these Conditions of Contest*

means these General Conditions of Contest.

2.27 WBF

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

2.28 WBF Alerting Policy

means the Policy, issued by the WBF from time to time, that regulates the alerting procedure in a World Bridge Championship.

2.29 WBF Code of Practice

means the WBF Code of Practice used by Reviewers when considering any potential infraction of the laws.

2.30 *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.

2.31 WBF Guide to Completion

means the publication of that name issued online by the WBF to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF Convention Cards for a World Bridge Championship For the interpretation of these General Conditions any special partnership understanding is included in the terms “convention”, “conventional call”, “conventional play”, “conventional agreement” or the like.

2.32 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.

2.33 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.

2.34 *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.

2.35 World Standard Card

means the Card devised by the WBF for use in specific circumstances defined in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

2.36 Zonal Conference or ZC

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

2.37 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 Supplemental Conditions of Contest, 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 Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the event. Furthermore, no player shall be eligible to compete unless their name has been submitted in writing by their Zone or NBO to the WBF, for invitation by the WBF - see also Section 3.12.

3.3 Eligibility to Participate

To be eligible for participation in the World Bridge Championships a competitor (including Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials) 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 Federation in any WBF Championship.

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 Championships

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 contestants agree that all or part of any event may be photographed, filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized 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 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 NBO 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.

3.9 Political Statements

Each National Organisation further agrees that for the proper conduct of any World Bridge Championship it shall also instruct its competitors 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 contestant(s) 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 in its discretion the WBF may also suspend the contestant's National Organisation from participation in any future event conducted under its auspices.

3.10 Special requirements for entry to the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup

Only NBOs participating in the World Bridge Games are eligible to qualify to participate in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Championships held in either of the two subsequent odd-numbered years; in each case, an Open Team or at least one Open Pair must participate in the Games in order to be eligible for the Bermuda Bowl and a Women's Team or at least one Women's Pair must participate to be eligible for the Venice Cup. There is no such criteria for the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl or the WBF Mixed Teams Championship.

3.11 Credentials Committee

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, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials whose names have been submitted by an NBO for invitation to compete in a World Bridge Championship (“nominated”), 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, as prescribed by the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest;
- 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, as aforesaid, to participate in a World Bridge Championship. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.

3.12 WBF Commitment Form

Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in WBF Team Championship 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 the competitor ineligible to participate the championship.

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

All competitors as defined above will be required 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 WADA will be published on the WBF Website and it will be assumed that these have been agreed to. Competitors are required to ensure that the copies are legible and that their signature is clearly visible.

If a competitor is unable to scan the signed form, a copy may be mailed to:

Anna Gudge
Mill Cottage, Voy
Stromness, Orkney
KW16 3HX Great Britain

to arrive no later than 15 days before the start of the Championship in which they are to play.

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 (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 review due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

5. Ethics and Deportment

5.1 *Player'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. The WBF expects all teams and partnerships to play to win.

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

Players are therefore urged to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties. It is expected that Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officers will receive all decisions made by the Championship Committee in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the Proprieties to overtly display any political, religious and racial statement or object. (see section 3.9).

Violations may result in suspension or disqualification.

5.2 *Looking at partner*

Players are requested not to look at or attempt to look at their partner during play of a hand. The object 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 17.2, to the Captain of the team.

5.4 *Partnership understandings*

Under the Laws of 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 Convention 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 Illicit Actions

Any illicit actions or behaviour that may affect the proper running of the competition or any unethical conduct or the results of any such actions, are subject to the competence and authority of the Disciplinary Commission and the WBF Disciplinary Code which governs such matters.

6. Anti-Betting Regulation

It shall be a violation for any player, team captain or official, or any other persons associated with or related to a player, team captain or official participating in any WBF event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof. Any violation will be subject to charges to be presented to a hearing before the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

7. Anti-Doping Regulations

It is mandatory for all participants to follow the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations which will be found on the WBF Website : <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/anti-doping-regulations/>.

8. Dress Code

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

9. 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).

9.1 *Smoking and Alcohol*

9.1.1 Smoking

Smoking in the venue other than in a designated smoking area (if any) is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke before completion of play in a session.

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

The use of electronic cigarettes is governed by the same regulations.

9.1.2 Alcohol

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

Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or the toilet area will result in 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 of this regulation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

9.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be brought into the playing area and toilets. Any electronic devices required for health purposes, together with any mechanical supports, prosthesis, electric wheel chairs and such devices must be declared to the Head Tournament Director who may in his discretion rule that they may not be brought into the playing area.

Any player, captain, coach or other team official bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets 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. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

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

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.

See also Section 29.2 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches and other team officials to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there. Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual 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.

9.3 Security

All accredited personnel (See Section 2.1) must, at the time of registration when they will receive their badge, inform the Registration Desk of where they are staying for the period of the Championship.

Temporary spectators and guests are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Championship and must register at the Championship Registration Desk leaving their ID which will be returned to them when they leave the venue.

9.4 Pets

Pets, other than official Support and Guide Dogs, are not permitted in the playing areas at any time.

10. 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 whole, will be made.

11. Vu-Graph & Broadcasting

11.1 Obligation to play

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

11.2 Access to the Tables under electronic control

Access to the Tables under electronic control is limited to the four players, the Vu-Graph operators on duty, TDs and other officials as required.

12. Media Presentation – Registration – 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, register, 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 are 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, promotion purposes.

13. Completion of WBF Convention Card

13.1 Publication of Systems

Registration of Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets with the WBF gives the WBF the right to publish such convention cards via Internet or to any parties at the Championship in such form as it sees fit. Following the event they may be maintained on a website for general download by interested parties.

When full systems are registered on site, for the purposes of providing additional information, these will not be published by the WBF to persons other than those requiring them for the purpose of running the Tournament.

13.2 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 this section 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.
- d) any appropriate Brown Sticker or other forms required by the WBF Systems Policy are fully completed and appended to the Card.

13.3 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) Any limitation on the number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of Convention Cards will be detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest

13.4 Approved Convention Card Editors

Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel may be used and blank templates are available on the WBF website or from the Systems Administrator. Players are encouraged to send the original Word or Excel files in addition to any PDF that they may have created in case of any issues with the font used. PLEASE NOTE

that when registering cards before a Championship image files of any type are not acceptable (i.e. files in formats such as .jpg, .tif or .bmp.), nor are pdf files created from scanned documents or images.

Players should be aware that Mac numbers and pages files are unsuitable for the purpose of creating Convention Cards and should not be used.

Registered cards will be converted by the Systems Administrator to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com.

13.5 Distribution of Systems

Following registration of the systems for all pairs in a team, the systems will be displayed on a web site designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) sent by email to the captain of the team making the registration and if required, and providing email addresses are provided for the team members, also to them individually. If captains have queries concerning the systems of other teams, they should email the Systems Administrator (anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com) who will pass the query on to the team concerned.

The WBF deems the publication of the URL of the private web site to the Captains of all teams submitting systems in accordance with the regulation detailed above to constitute distribution of systems. All teams should make every effort to download and print sufficient copies of their opponents' systems for their own use. Should there be any changes to systems uploaded, the WBF Systems Administrator will ensure that these are indicated as REV1 (2 etc) on the website. The files will also be date stamped. Teams are expected to check the website regularly to ensure they are aware of any revisions posted. No changes will be made to any systems on the web site after a date to be set in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, except in cases of emergency, in which event notification will be sent by email to the other teams.

13.6 General

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on their Card (including Supplementary Sheets), or if a partnership is found to be using agreements not permitted at that particular event, 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 redress any damage.

In addition if a pair is found to be playing a system not permitted within the regulations for the event in question as detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, penalties may be applied. Furthermore that player will not be permitted to continue using their system until it has been altered to the full satisfaction of the Chairman of the Systems Committee. In the meantime they may be required to play the WBF Standard Card.

14. Use of Convention Cards at the Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, each member of a pair must hand to one of their opponents at the table at the start of each Session of an event their 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. Failure to provide copies of the Convention Card in accordance with this regulation may lead to a procedural penalty

After withdrawing their cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, players may not consult their own Card or Supplementary Sheets. **A written question may be posed to an opponent and written defences against Brown Sticker conventions and HUM aspects in an opponent's system consulted.**

15. Alerts and Explanations

An alertable call is defined in the [WBF Alerting Policy](#).

Subject to the provisions of the regulations with regard to the use of screens (see Section 27) the partner of a player who has made an alertable call must immediately alert his opponents. 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.

16. Length of Matches

7 board matches: 60 minutes
10 board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes
12 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes
14 board matches: 2 hours
16 board matches: 2 hours 20 minutes
20 board matches: 2 hours 50 minutes

Teams judged guilty of slow play will be subject to penalty. Additional time will not be allowed for teams playing on Vu-Graph; neither will extra time be granted because of the use of bidding boxes, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons. Vu-Graph presentation for any match or session, will not start until the Tournament Director notifies the Chief Commentator or his designee.

17. Non-Playing Captains in Team Tournaments

17.1 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.

17.2 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 jeopardized 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 pair not playing in a particular match is not allowed to watch its team mates.

17.3 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 (for the purpose of consultation or for whatever reason) 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) NPCs are bound to the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76), except that they may intervene to restrain misbehaviour or curtail unnecessary discussion on the part of their team members and may with the concurrence of the Tournament Director speak to questions of fact or law.
- c) 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 should 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 wishing to speak to their 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.

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

17.4 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 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 and such Committee may impose conditions on such entrance in its discretion.

18. 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 an emergency that develops during the Session, the Head Tournament Director, after verifying the respect of all the conditions of security and regularity, 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 and may not be a male in the case of an event restricted to women. In a Mixed event a man may not substitute for a woman, nor a woman for a man.

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 appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

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

19. Substitutes in Pair Tournaments

The Head 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. In an event where a category is involved, the substitute must be in the same category.

20. Forfeits in Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Championship Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited or postponed. The team in forfeit shall score zero Victory Points and zero IMPs for that match. The team winning the forfeited match will receive the best score between: (a) 12 VP using the 20-0 VP scale, or the equivalent according to the VP scale adopted, (b) the teams average (c) the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault, whichever is greater. A

second walk-over by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team. If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking, the winning team shall be credited with the average number of IMPs, rounded up, which earn the assigned Victory Points score.

21. Walkover

If a team, by its own fault, is unable to play against another team, it will score zero VP. Its opponents will receive the best score between: (a) 12 VP using the 20-0 VP scale, or the equivalent according to the VP scale adopted, (b) the teams average (c) the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault, whichever is greater. A second walk-over by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team.

22. Substitute Boards in Team Tournaments

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 Head Tournament Director 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 Head Tournament Director

23. Special Scoring Methods

23.1 Scoring groups of scores (match-pointed pairs)

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

- i) Group contains only one score - both pairs are awarded 60% of the points available.
- ii) Group contains two scores. If identical, both pairs receive 60%. If the scores are different, the better score receives 65%, the lesser 55%.
- iii) Group contains three scores - the best receives 70%, the middle 60%, 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 formula:

$S = N \cdot S1/n + m/n$ based on 0, 2, 4 - match point scoring, where

S = final match point to be awarded the pair

S1= match point score earned by the pair considering only the scores within the group itself

n = number of scores in that group

N = total number of scores on that board

m = N - n

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

23.2 Artificial Scores

For a board on which one or more contestants have been assigned artificial scores, match points will be awarded for other pairs in accordance with the preceding formula where n is the number of artificial scores.

23.3 Effect of IMP penalties in a KO match

An IMP penalty applied during the knock-out phase affects the match score in full e.g. 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

24. Bidding Boxes, Bridgemates and other Devices

If screens are in use section 24.1 is modified – see section 27.

24.1 Bidding boxes

The use of bidding boxes is mandatory throughout.

Starting with the dealer, calls must be removed from the bidding box and placed on the table directly in front of the player making the call. Players may either remove all previous, or just the chosen call, provided the manner remains consistent throughout the event. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call.

Violation of correct procedures is subject to penalties in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

Players should refrain from touching any bidding cards until they have determined their call. A call is considered made when it is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent (subject to Law 25 any changes are assessed from the moment an error is recognised).

The Alert Card should be used when alerting calls. It is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that the opponents have seen the alert. It is good practice for an opponent to acknowledge in some way.

Before making a skip bid a player should place the Stop Card on the table in left hand opponent's clear view, then make the call, and remove the Stop card in tempo as prescribed by regulation. 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 pauses as though the Stop card has been used correctly.)

Until they are removed from the table, a review of the auction is made by inspecting the bidding cards. When such inspection is not feasible a player may obtain a review of the auction at their turn to play to trick one. A player who removes one or more bidding cards from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

24.2 *Bridgemates and other Devices used for the recording of matches.*

Electronic devices or other electronic and/or mechanical devices are used in the World Bridge Championships to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, send the collected data to any control centre etc.

Whatever device is in use, players are required to enter all the scores in a timely, accurate manner. It is good practice to enter a result the moment the outcome of the board is agreed by both sides. In the case where a ruling is called for, unless unable to determine the outcome of a board, players are required to enter the table result awaiting the final ruling.

Bridgemates are currently the official score recording devices to be used at all championships. This recording is the responsibility of the team sitting North/South at each table. Failure to enter the score before leaving the playing room is subject to a standard penalty.

The official score will be that keyed in by North/South and agreed by East/West (or the captain, coach or another designated person). Players and captains are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores.

Recorders may assist with the data entry of scores to a device to record the bidding, play and scores. However, responsibility for the accuracy of the entered results remains with the players at the table.

Violation of correct entering procedures is subject to penalties in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

25. Verification of Scores

The correction period in Law 79C expires upon the commencement of the next match or segment (including supplementary board/s to be played in case of tie) or – in respect of the final match or segment of any phase of the event only (each KO match being a phase in its own right for this purpose) – 30 minutes after the first posting of scores or the start of a playoff, whichever comes first, and thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- awaiting a review;
- completion of play or a replay of boards where such replay has been directed by the Tournament Authorities.

25.1 *Score Corrections*

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

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

26. Regulations for Electronic Line-Ups

The Line-ups must be submitted electronically in accordance with the details below. Failure of a captain to submit his line-up in a timely fashion shall result in fines in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the Championship.

The line-ups during the round robin must for both teams be submitted no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous round; teams will not know the line-up of their opponents. The line-up for the first round must be given in accordance with the decision taken in the Captains Meeting.

In the KO phase the team to line-up first must submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous session. The second team must then submit its line-up no later than 20 minutes after the end of the previous session or no later than 5 minutes after the submission of the first line-up, whichever is latest. These times may be modified in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the event.

Line-ups are to be submitted in a dedicated area, with computers as designated by the Operations Director. However, each team will have its own password protected page on the WBF's wireless LAN enabling team captains with their own laptops to use them. All information for team captains will be relayed to them via these pages and captains are expected to check at least twice daily for messages.

The time of the Line-Up will be recorded automatically by the system, and penalties for late line-ups will be mandatory. An official clock will be set in the playing area for the purpose of showing the official time.

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

27. Screens

Screens will be used in a World Bridge Championship.

27.1 *Description of the Operation*

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period). The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on 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 the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible.

With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more calls made from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

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

This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

It is the responsibility of North/South to make sure that the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

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

At this point presumed Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened. At the end of play the tray is put back on the table.

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

When leading or following suit, players must take care to always play cards in the same way, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

Violation of correct placing procedures is subject to penalty. Penalties are detailed in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

27.2 Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert the screenmate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives. The alert must be made by placing the alert card in a position clearly visible to the screen mate. It is the responsibility of the player that alerts to make sure that the screenmate sees the alert. It is good practice for an opponent to acknowledge the alert in some way.
- b) At any time during the auction a player may write to the screenmate requesting a full explanation of an opponent's call. The screenmate will reply in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the auction to the completion of play, each player receives information only from the screenmate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period

should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been given. Therefore, the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

27.3 Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.

- a) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen. No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.
- b) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:
 - i) an inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected
 - ii) if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 72C may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.
- c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:
 - i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 - ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 72C may apply.
 - iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
 - iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.
- d) When an alertable call is made see 27.2 above.
- e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if his draw attention to the break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- f) A player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was

no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not normally regarded as significant.

- h) However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 27.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

28. Duplicated Boards

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

29. Attendance in Playing Rooms

29.1 General

Subject to any supplementary regulations made by the Supplemental Conditions of Contest or 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 assigned recorders, scorers, timers, caddies and Vu-Graph 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 Reviewer or an appointed assistant;
- g) staff personnel for provision of refreshment and room cleaning, if necessary;
- h) "Officials on duty" appointed for a specific session or sessions by the Chairman of the Championship Committee;
- i) 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;
- j) 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 an appointed delegate may permit spectators to watch matches in the Open Room. In this event, a spectator should be seated at one side of the screen and no more than six spectators may watch at any one table. Spectators may watch one match only. Players from a team are not permitted to watch their own team's match. Young children are not permitted in the playing area.

No spectators can be admitted in the playing rooms to watch the matches presented in Vu-Graph or broadcast via internet.

An individual who observes an irregularity when a spectator is subject to Law 76B. "Representatives" are spectators, as also are other non-participants observing the play.

29.2 Restrictions

Anyone entering the playing area is required to comply with all restrictions and security regulations detailed in Section 9

30. Pit Matches

The WBF may allow the Open Room segment of selected matches in the Round-Robin to be played in special areas (Pits) designed for spectators to observe the play. Such matches are referred to in these Conditions as "Designated Pit Matches" and (if they take place) may be subject to supplementary regulations issued by the WBF after the date of these Conditions of Contest. However, spectators at any Designated Pit Match shall not include non-playing team members from either of the competing teams.

31. Rulings

After a Director has given a ruling, a request for a review may be made.

32. Review following a Tournament Director's ruling

(see definition in Section 2.20)

32.1 General

The [WBF Code of Practice](#) is utilized 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.

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

33. Request for a Review

A request for a review of a Tournament Director's ruling must be lodged within 30 minutes of the first posting of the official score for the Session in which the board was played that is the subject of the ruling or the start of a supplementary board to be played in case of tie, whichever comes first.

All such requests must be lodged by the team's Captain or his designee, or by one member of the pair in the Pairs events.

33.1 Deposit Requests for Review

When lodging a Request for Review the appellant must make a monetary deposit with the Tournament Director. The amount of deposit required will be not less than US\$ 75 (or the equivalent in Euro), with the exact amount to be informed to the participants before the start of the event. This deposit will be

refunded unless the Reviewer determines that the request was without merit, in which case the deposit will be forfeited.

34. Review Procedure

34.1 General

The case will be reviewed by a person who was not involved in the original decision. The Reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

On application from the Head TD the President will appoint a list of not less than 10 suitable players, chosen among the high level players participating the event, from whom at least five must be consulted by the Tournament Directors.

More information about Reviews and the procedure can be found on the WBF website.

35. 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.

36. Interpretation of these Conditions of Contest

The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest or any Supplemental Conditions of Contest is a matter to be referred to the Championship's Rules & Regulation Committee composed of a Chairman, who will chair it, and two other members appointed by the President. The decisions reached shall be final.

37. Eligibility for Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will normally be awarded for WBF Championships.

In all team events, the winning team in the final will be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy. The losing finalists will be awarded the Silver Medal. For the play off regulations to determine the Bronze Medallists, see Section 38 below.

In all pairs events, the winning pair shall be awarded the Gold Medal and/or Trophy or prize, the second placed pair shall be awarded the Silver Medal and the third placed pair the Bronze Medal.

37.1 Master Points Awards

Master Points and Placing Points will be awarded in accordance with the WBF Master Points plan, details of which can be found at www.wbfmasterpoints.com.

The title, medals and/or trophies are awarded to all the members of the team, irrespective of the number of boards played, but the master point and Placing point awards will be adjusted.

38. Play off Regulations for 3rd place

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

39. 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 Supplemental Conditions of Contest, 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.

40. 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.

41. 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 Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

42. Contact Addresses

42.1 *The World Bridge Federation:*

Maison du Sport International
54 av. de Rhodanie
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

42.2 *President:*

Mr Gianarrigo Rona
Email: president@worldbridgefed.com

42.3 *Treasurer:*

Mr Marc de Pauw
Email: marc.depauw@demanco.be

42.4 *WBF Secretary:*

Mr Simon Fellus
Email: simon.fellus@worldbridgefed.com

42.5 *Assistant to the President:*

Mrs Marina Madia
Email: marina.madia@worldbridgefed.com
or secretariat@worldbridgefed.com

42.6 *Systems, Commitment forms and Communication:*

Mrs Anna Gudge
Email: anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com

42.7 *Official Websites:*

The WBF Website:
www.worldbridge.org

Master Point information:
www.wbfmasterpoints.com

The Website of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
www.wada-ama.org