



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

YOUTH COMMITTEE

6th WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Piestany, Slovakia • 30 June - 2 July 2006

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The 2006 World Youth Pairs Championships, consisting of two series: for Juniors and Schools players, and incorporating the 8th European Junior Bridge Pairs Championship, will be conducted under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation ('the WBF') and the European Bridge League ('the EBL'). The Championship will be played under the International Code (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge - 1997) and these Conditions whose special provisions for this Championship supplement the International Code as required.

1. Conditions of Entry

Participation in the Championship is by invitation by the WBF. Subject to the unfettered discretion of the WBF Credentials Committee, invitations will be issued to pairs where each member of the partnership:

- a. is a member of good standing of the National Bridge Organization ('NBO') nominating the player; *and*
 - (i) was nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such a nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; *or*
 - (ii) was nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition.
- b. was born on or after 1 January 1981 for the Junior series, or on or after 1 January 1986 for the Schools series.
- c. was nominated by the NBO of a WBF member country, which is of good standing with the WBF and not in arrears in the payment of monies due to the WBF. Nominations from the NBO of an EBL member country which is not a WBF member will also be accepted, provided that the NBO is in good standing with the EBL and not in arrears in the payment of monies due to the EBL.

- d. was nominated to the Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee on or before 15 June 2006 (although later nominations will be favourably considered, if possible). Nominations must be made electronically, via Internet, following the procedure described at the address: <<http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Piestany.06/asp/PairsReg.asp>>.

Members of a partnership need not be of the same nationality nor need they be members of the same NBO.

Each pair must play against any other pair competing in the same series as designated by the Tournament Director. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification. Other consequences are possible at the discretion of the WBF.

By entering, each player accepts that he may be photographed, filmed or video-taped for publicity purposes.

2. Entry Fees

The entry fee is one hundred Euros per player, payable by his NBO to the EBL.

3. Format - Programme

The World Youth Pairs Championships is a match pointed pairs tournament and shall consist of four sessions. 24 to 30 boards will be played in two- or three-board rounds in each session, as determined by the Tournament Director.

Starting times for the sessions are as follows:

First session	Friday, 30 June 2006	20.00 hrs
Second session	Saturday, 1 July 2006	14.00 hrs
Third session	Saturday, 1 July 2006	20.00 hrs
Fourth session	Sunday, 2 July 2006	13.00 hrs

The above program may be altered by the Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee for organizational reasons, provided that clear notice is given to all participants.

4. Permitted Systems

The Championship will be played in strict accordance with the WBF Systems Policy (posted on Internet at the address <<http://www.worldbridge.org/departments/systems/policy.asp>>) which in its entire form is part of these Conditions of Contest. Participants are reminded that the Championship belongs to Category 3 and therefore the use of both HUM systems and 'Brown Sticker' conventions is prohibited. In addition:

- a. Each partnership can play only one system of bidding and card play.
- b. The two members of any partnership must play the same systems of bidding and card play.
- c. Systems' variations are not permitted (except for varying point count ranges of one no trump openings).
- d. Psychic conventional opening bids are prohibited.

5. Convention Card

Contestants are required to make a full written disclosure of their system, and 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 full written disclosure is to be made by the completion of the WBF's Official *Convention Card* electronically through the *Convention Card Editor* (CCE) which is available for free downloading at the Internet address <<http://www.worldbridge.org/departments/systems/cce.asp>>. No supplementary sheets are allowed. A Card will not be regarded as having been completed unless:

- a. all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the *Guide to Completion* and these Conditions of Contest - but in case of inconsistency between the Guide and these Conditions of Contest, the latter shall prevail;
- b. the Card contains a clear and sufficient explanation of the system used including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings;
- c. the Card is marked with the appropriate sticker colour.

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

A partnership using a complex system may lodge a comprehensive statement of its methods in English (which may be of any length) with the Appeals Committee prior to the commencement of the Championship. Any statement so lodged will be used by the Appeals Committee (and may be used by the partnership in argument before the Appeals Committee) to assist it in determining whether or not full and proper information was given to the opponents as to the meaning of calls made in the auction by the partnership.

The greater the number and complexity of bids and plays of purely conventional meaning used, the more improbable and difficult it is for opponents to recognize and therefore to understand them. The onus of disclosure is always on the user of the convention and the benefit of any doubt will always be given by the Tournament Director (or Appeals Committee) to the opponents.

Each pair must provide three copies of the Convention Card. The original must be handed to the Convention Cards Desk on Friday 30 June 2006 no later than 18.00 hrs. One copy of the Convention Card must be handed to each opponent before the start of each round.

Failure to complete the Convention Card in accordance with the above may give rise to the imposition of procedural penalties. In particular, the Chief Tournament Director has been instructed to impose a procedural penalty of 25% of the match points available on a board for each occasion an opponent is inconvenienced by a pairs' incomplete or inaccurate Convention Card. (The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score which the Chief Tournament Director deems appropriate because of the damage caused to the opponent.)

6. Assignment of Starting Positions

Pairs will be assigned starting positions so as to ensure, as far as possible, that pairs from the same NBO play, if necessary to do so, against each other in the early rounds of the competition.

Subject to the above, the assignment of starting positions shall be at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director.

7. Time allowed

All participants are required to be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time for each session of play.

Should either member of a partnership not be seated in his starting position at the announced starting time, the pair shall be penalized 10% of the match points available on a board. If a player is more than five minutes late, the penalty shall be 20% of the match points available on a board, and the offense shall be reported to the Tournament Appeals Committee for possible further penalty. If a player fails to arrive within thirty minutes of the announced starting time of the session, that pair shall be withdrawn from the Championship. In extenuating circumstances the Tournament Appeals Committee may reduce or eliminate any of the above penalties.

Players are expected to complete each two-board round in fifteen minutes and each three-board round in twenty one minutes (except when duplication is required in which case extra time will be made available). The Tournament Director may remove unplayed or partly played boards from pairs who are persistently slow.

- a. If an unplayed board is removed:
 - (i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded 40% of the match points available for the board; *and*
 - (ii) if the Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play, the non-offending pair shall be awarded 60% of the match points available for the board.

- b. If a partly played board is removed:
 - (i) the offending pair or pairs shall be awarded the lesser of 40% of the match points available for the board and the match point score for the result on the board which the Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed; *and*
 - (ii) if the Tournament Director determines that one pair did not contribute to the slow play the non-offending pair shall be awarded the greater of 60% of the match points available for the board and the match point score for the result the Tournament Director adjudges to be likely in the light of the bidding and play up to the time the board is removed.

8. Fouled Boards

- a. Each individual player is responsible for seeing that his own cards are returned to the proper pocket. A player responsible for fouling a board will be assessed a penalty of 50% of the match points available on a board during the session.

- b. At the start of each session of play, participants may be required to duplicate a hand or hands, in accordance with records provided by the Tournament Director. Each player is responsible for seeing that all hands are properly made and placed in the correct pocket in the duplicate board. If hands are improperly made, the responsible pairs at the table shall be penalized 50% of the match points available on the board during the session.

- c. If a board arrives at a table with the wrong number of cards in a pocket, the Tournament Director must be called before play commences. He will adjust the cards. Failure to notice an incorrect number of cards shall be penalized 10% of the match points available on the board during the session.

- d. If hand diagrams are in use, then immediately after play ends on each hand each player is required to check his cards against the hand diagram. North should then replace the hand diagram in the board. Failure to replace the hand diagram will be penalized up to 25% of the available match points. If the hands do not conform to the hand diagram, the Tournament

Director must be called immediately. Failure to do so will be penalized 25% of the match points available on the board during the session.

- e. When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. If guilt can be determined, penalties in accordance with the foregoing shall be assessed. Scores earned on the board are then divided into groups, each group containing all scores earned by pairs who played the same hands. Usually, there will be only two groups - 'fouled' and 'unfouled'; however, a subsequent foul of the same board could occur.
- f. 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 match points available.
 - (ii) Group contains two scores: if identical, both scores receive 60%; if different, the better score receives 65%, the lesser 55%.
 - (iii) Group contains three scores: best receives 70%, middle 60%, lowest 50%. Ties share the match points.
 - (iv) A fouled board discovered after four or more rounds will remain unchanged for the rest of the session.
- g. For all groups containing four or more scores match points shall be awarded in accordance with the formula:

$$S = S_1 \frac{N}{n} + \frac{m}{n}$$

based on 0,2,4,... match point scoring, where:

- S = final match point score to be awarded to 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.

For a board on which one or more contestants have been arbitrarily assigned match points, match points will be awarded to other pairs in accordance with the preceding formula when **m** is the number of averages.

9. Scoring

- a. Scoring in each series shall be 'over the field', in match points.
- b. Rank positions for all purposes in each series shall be in accordance with the match points earned, with any margin determining.
- c.
 - (i) Scores are tied only if they are identical. When it is necessary to break a tie (or ties), every board each tied contestant played is considered. On each of these boards, a tied contestant is awarded two points for every other tied contestant he beat, and one point for every other contestant whose score on that board was the same. On any boards that the tied contestants did not play in common, each contestant will receive two points for each board on which his score was greater than average and one point for each board he scored exactly average. The tied contestant with the greater number of points figured by this method, earns rank priority.
 - (ii) If a tie (or ties) still exists the remaining tie (or ties) shall be broken in favor of the pair who scored the most match points against the highest ranking pair or pairs that all the tied pairs played against. Should a tie still exists, the foregoing procedure shall be used with the next highest ranking pair or pairs and so on until the tie is broken.

10. General Rules during the Play

- a. The **official language** of this Tournament is English. Once cards have been removed from the board no language other than English may be used at the table without the agreement of all four players. No appeals due to a misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.
- b. **Comparison of scores** or discussion of hands with other contestants during a session is illegal. Offending pairs may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or the Tournament Appeals Committee.
- c. **Leaving the table** needlessly before the round is called is a breach of Proprieties. Players guilty of this impropriety may be liable to a penalty of up to 50% of the match points available on a board during the session.

11. Bidding Boxes and Alerting

- a. *Bidding Boxes*. Bidding boxes are supplied and their use is obligatory. No screens will be used.

Calls are made by the player placing the bidding card showing his selected call in front of him. A player's first call should be to his left with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Once the auction has been completed and all four players have had an opportunity to review the auction the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

b. *Alerting*. Preamble:

1. The WBF policy applies to this event.
2. Players who participate in these events are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter. Full disclosure is vital.
3. The policy, has been made as simple as possible. Players, however, are expected to alert whenever there is doubt.

WBF Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

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

The following calls should not be alerted:

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

Players are expected to alert whenever there is a doubt.

The *alert procedure* is as follows:

Each player is supplied with an alert card in his bidding box. Immediately upon his partner making a 'conventional call' the player alerts his opponents by pointing to the alert card in a clear and visible way. It is the obligation of the player making an 'alert' to ensure that his opponents have noticed that an 'alert' has been made.

At the time when it is his turn to call a player can ask for the explanation of an opponent's call. He does this by asking for an explanation from the partner of the player making the call.

12. Withdrawal from the Competition

After the Tournament has started no pair may cease participation in the competition at any time without the permission of the Chief Tournament Director. Such permission shall only be given after consultation with the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee if the pair can show good cause.

13. Ethics and Deportment

- a. The privilege of representing one's country as a player in a World Bridge Championship is not an inalienable right; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics. In the absence of penalties expressed in match points, and because participants appear as public representatives rather than private individuals, observance of the highest standard becomes the more imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties.

Players are expected to accept the decisions of the Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner. Violations may result in the suspension or disqualification.

- b. Players are requested not to look at their partners during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.
- c. As a matter of propriety, and in order to save time, players are enjoined during play to avoid discussion with partner or argument with opponents. In case of dispute a player's proper recourse is to refer to the Tournament Director in charge.
- d. 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 Convention Card (see §5). Detailed explanation may be deferred until the call of play is actually made.

Psychic bids are permissible (except of conventional opening bids - see §4.d), but at all times should have the same element of surprise for partner as for the opponents.

14. Appeals

- a. A pair may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director who ruled, provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes of the end of the session in which the board was played that is the subject of the ruling.

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

The Appeals form must be filled out completely and correctly. The Tournament Director states the facts (board identification and bidding), what happened at the table, his ruling and who made the appeal. Each pair may add its remarks to the explanation of the Tournament Director and may state whether they want to make an oral statement to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals form must be signed by the Tournament Director and the members of both pairs involved. After signing, no corrections are allowed.

A deposit of 700 Slovak crowns or €20 must accompany each appeal. This deposit will be returned unless the appeal is judged to be without merit.

One or more of the pair appealing must present himself at the hearing of the appeal. If no one from the pair appealing presents himself at the hearing the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeited.

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

The Appeals Committee will be entitled to interview and to take into account the statements or representations of any person and any documentary matter which it considers may assist the Committee to reach a decision.

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

15. Appeals Committee

- a. All appeals against the ruling of Tournament Directors shall be dealt with by an Appeals Committee appointed by the WBF. The Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee and the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, before the commencement of or during the tournament, appoint additional members of the Appeals Committee who shall have full voting powers. Three members of the Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Appeals Committee whose nationals are concerned shall abstain from taking part.
- b. The Appeals Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws or these *Conditions of Contest*, which may arise during the course of the Championship, irrespective of the way in which such a matter has been brought to its attention, either by way of an appeal against a Tournament Director's ruling or on its own initiative or otherwise howsoever.
- c. The Appeals Committee, also acting as the national authority as meant in Law 93.C, shall have the power to determine all facts and decide all questions of Law, whether under the Laws or these *Conditions of Contest*, arising from any appeal or investigation and its findings and decisions will be final.

The Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse, vary or modify the findings or decisions of a Tournament Director, and remove, increase or vary any penalty which may have been imposed, or substitute a different class of penalty or an adjusted score.

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

In any case, whether on an appeal or otherwise, where circumstances are considered by the Committee to justify or require it, the Appeals Committee may recommend to the Executive Council (represented by its present members) to disqualify a pair. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to a Tournament Director under the Laws.

16. Appeals on Scoring

Any protest against a score, or against the total score attributed to a pair, must be made within one hour of the start of play of the next session, and, in the case of the final session, within 30 minutes of the publication of the ranking list at the end of the final session. A deposit of 350 Slovak crowns or €10 should accompany each protest. The deposit will be forfeited:

- a. if there is no error in the published score; *or*
- b. if the error is the fault of the competitor.

17. Journalists and Spectators

- a. (i) All Journalists are invitees of the WBF and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these *Conditions of Contest*, to which they are subject.
- (ii) All Journalists present at the Championship must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the WBF and by the proper Committee Official of the *International Bridge Press Association* (IBPA). In the event of disagreement over accreditation between the WBF and the IBPA, the view of the WBF shall prevail.
- b. (i) All Spectators are considered invitees of the WBF and their presence at the Championship is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these *Conditions of Contest*, to which they are subject.
- (ii) Depending upon constraints of space and the judgement of the Chief Tournament Director (whose overriding duty is to protect the integrity of the Championship) it is hoped (but not guaranteed) that a limited amount of watching at table by spectators will be permitted. In which event the following shall generally apply, subject to the right reserved to the Chief Tournament Director to prescribe more restrictive regulations.
 - a. No more than eight spectators (including journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where 'pits' are in use a larger number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)
 - b. Spectators must remain at one table. The observance of this regulation is particularly important. Any spectator who attempts to move to a second table (for example, to follow a moving East-West pair) will be required to leave the room for the remainder of the session and at the discretion of the Appeals Committee may be subject to greater penalties.
 - c. Spectators are requested to remain quiet and to refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.
 - d. Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident, no special interest must be shown.

18. Non smoking

Smoking in the playing area and toilets is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke, unless it is announced otherwise. Any player smoking during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

19. Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and toilets is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol. Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session. Repeated violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

20. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones may not be brought into the playing area and toilets. Any player bringing a mobile phone into the playing area or toilets will result in his partnership being fined 100% of the match points available on a board during the session. This penalty is automatic.

21. IOC Compliance

- a. **Dress code.** NBOs are asked to take note of the recognition of bridge as a sport by the International Olympic Committee ('IOC') and request that players should, at all times, be dressed appropriately.
- b. **Antidoping regulation.** The procedures provided by the antidoping policy of the IOC will be followed and enforced. Players are requested to submit themselves to the antidoping test on request. If any player takes substances that might result positively when tested he is required to hand in the respective prescription or doctor's certificate in a sealed envelope on registration. This envelope will be opened only if the player concerned is drawn for the antidoping test. Otherwise, at the end of the Championships the sealed envelope may be collected from the organizers or may be destroyed unopened. Refusal to subject to the test or non-appearance will attract penalties decreed by the IOC policy.

22. Authority and Responsibility of the WBF

- a. The WBF reserves the authority to modify or supplement these *Conditions of Contest*.
- b. The WBF has scheduled this Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the WBF makes no warranty to any participating NBO, pair or person that this Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense arising should it not do so.