

1. Disclosure Of Systems And Conventions

1.1 *WBF Systems Policy*

The WBF Systems Policy forms part of these Conditions of Contest. The Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup (including the respective Play-offs) are Category 1 events. In Category 1 events all Systems are allowed but see Section 1.2 below for restrictions during the Round Robin Phase.

The d'Orsi Seniors Bowl and the World Transnational Open Teams are Category 3 events, thus no HUM or Brown Sticker systems are permitted at any stage. Any pairs competing in the WTOTC and intending to play Red Sticker systems must register these in advance (see Section 1.13) and they will require the approval of the Chairman of the Systems Committee. Players should note that very complex systems are unlikely to receive such approval.

If a pair in the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup is found to have used a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of up to two VPs deducted from the team's score. In addition, the Tournament Director gives an adjusted score if he deems that the opponents are damaged by the use of such an unknown convention.

The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director.

If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event. The same penalties will apply to pairs in the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl and the WTOTC and, in addition, such penalties will be applied should any pair in either of these events be found to have used a Brown Sticker Convention.

1.2 *General Regulations*

During the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup HUM systems and Brown Sticker Conventions will be prohibited

HUM Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions will be authorized for use in the Knock Out stages in both the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup but not for the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl and only provided additional, separate convention cards, including separate forms for each Brown Sticker Convention to be played, together with viable proposed defences are submitted in full accordance with the regulations below.

Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker Conventions

1.3 *Submission of Systems for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & d'Orsi Seniors Bowl*

Each team captain is responsible for ensuring that the convention cards for his team are sent, by email to the WBF Systems Administrator as soon as possible, but in any event before 31 July 2011. The Systems for every partnership that will play in these Championships must be described on the official WBF Convention Card, completed in accordance with the Guide to Completion, plus Supplementary Sheets, as necessary to describe conventional sequences in detail, together with Brown Sticker Forms as appropriate. Programs for the preparation of the Cards and Supplementary sheets are listed in Section 1.3.1. Penalties for failure to submit Convention Cards and Supplementary in time are (in addition to Section 1.3.2) are specified in the Supplementary Regulations.

1.3.1 *Programs permitted for the preparation of Convention Cards*

The Convention Cards may be prepared using any of the following programs:

- the WBF Convention Card Editor (Windows Version), which is available for free download from www.worldbridge.org or www.ecatsbridge.com.
- the Convention Card Editor written by Lee Edwards, available for free download from www.acbl.org or www.ecatsbridge.com
- Microsoft Word (a blank template is available from www.ecatsbridge.com)
- Microsoft Excel (a blank template is available from www.ecatsbridge.com)

NOTE : Pairs submitting Brown Sticker Systems for use in the KO stages **MUST** use the special forms provided which can be obtained from www.ecatsbridge.com or by email from anna@ecats.co.uk

When sending cards generated by the WBF CCE, pairs should ensure that if they have supplementary notes, the notes file, which is generated separately by the program, is also included. If using the Lee Edwards program it is important that the original files are sent (**NOT** bitmaps or jpg files) and that both files are included. The Lee Edwards files end .05w and _.05w

The Convention Card may also be sent in Acrobat (PDF) Format PROVIDED the file size is small. **Picture formats (.jpg, .bmp etc) will not be accepted, nor will pdf files created from scanned documents**

If programs other than the approved WBF Convention Card Editor are used, players are responsible for ensuring that the formatting is such that all the information lies within the printable area of the page.

On receipt of the cards, the Systems Administrator will, if necessary, convert the format to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com. It is advised that the latest version should be obtained.

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) will be sent by email to the captain of the team and to the individual team members providing their email address has been advised to the Systems Administrator.

Pairs are responsible for checking their own convention cards on line, to ensure that the card displayed is complete, correct and has any supplementary notes that are required.

Following the event, the WBF reserves the right to display the Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets in a public area for interested parties to see them. If a full system is submitted, this will not be included on such pages of the site.

1.3.2 *Convention Cards not received in due time*

Any partnership whose duly completed original Card and Supplementary Sheets have not reached the WBF Systems Administrator by 31 July may, in addition to the penalties referred to in the Supplementary Regulations, be required by the Tournament Appeals Committee (unless it rules otherwise) to use the system described on the World Standard Card for not less than the first two days of play. It will not be permitted to use HUM or Brown Sticker Conventions for the duration of the Championship. A copy of the World Standard Card can be obtained from www.ecatsbridge.com

1.3.3 *Contact Information*

Should captains have any queries concerning the systems provided by other teams, they should email the WBF Systems Administrator (anna@ecats.co.uk) who will forward them to the appropriate person for response.

The fact that Cards and Supplementary Sheets are circulated by the WBF (see 1.3) does not mean that the WBF has considered such Cards as completely acceptable; systems although accepted as registered, may require amendments after being circulated.

1.4 **Supplementary Sheets**

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the WBF Convention Card, a reference number should be placed at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number, and containing the complete explanation must be submitted along with the Card.

1.5 **Changes to Cards/Supplementary Sheets**

- a) Any changes to the duly submitted (as per section 1.3) Card and/or Supplementary Sheets must be submitted in official form (see (e) below) as early as possible for everyone's benefit, but in any event no later than 01 September 2011. These changes may only be clarifications, amendments, minor additions, and/or cosmetic revisions in accordance with the WBF Systems Policy. **NOTE THAT NO CHANGES** may be made to Brown Sticker or HUM Systems. If these are not correctly submitted in the first instance, they may not be played.
- b) On site, changes to systems will be approved or required by the Chairman of the WBF Systems Committee or his nominee(s).
- c) In order for a change to be implemented, it will be uploaded to the website and an email sent to all captains to inform them that the Convention Card has been altered. Any essential changes (for example caused by the necessary change to a partnership as a result of withdrawal of a player) made to Convention Cards up to 2 weeks prior to the event will be relayed to all Captains by email. If such change is made after that time, the information will be made available to the Captains at the Captains' Meeting or by email – it will be assumed that at least one member of each team will be accessing his or her emails on site.
- d) Approval for a change requested once teams have reached the venue may be given or refused in whole or part by the Chairman of the WBF Systems Committee and may be given subject to conditions. One such condition will usually be that any such change cannot be implemented in the course of a particular round robin or in the course of a particular stage of the event, with possible prejudice to unprepared opponents being a particularly important negative factor. Clarifications and improvements to presentation will not be considered as substantive changes.
- e) Official format for changes:
 - i) The new Convention Card/Supplementary Sheet that reflects the proposed change
 - ii) A separate text document describing completely the proposed change and referring to the place(s) on the new pages where they can be found and any cross-references to Supplementary Sheet notes.

1.6 Special Responsibility for BROWN STICKER Systems and Conventions

Pairs wishing to play Brown Sticker conventions (maximum of three per pair) in the Knock Out Stages must register a separate card together with the relevant forms at the same time as they register their card for the Round Robin (i.e. by 31 July 2011).

With regard to BROWN STICKER systems/conventions, there is a special responsibility for users to explain their methods in sufficient detail (as per the Guide to Completion and the CCE), the first time that Cards are submitted.

Explanations and continuations for Brown Sticker Conventions, together with a viable defence, must be presented using the Brown Sticker Convention Announcement form or the Brown Sticker Convention Overcall forms which are available in Word Format for download from www.ecatsbridge.com or by email from anna@ecats.co.uk. If these submissions are inadequate, or a defence is not proposed, the pair may be barred from using those badly or inadequately described methods for the entire tournament.

Failure to comply with the above requirements concerning BS Conventions or Systems will result in the pair or pairs not being permitted to play these conventions/systems.

These penalties are quite severe, but with the duly executed distribution of these Conditions and all significant materials by the WBF, no pair will be permitted to claim ignorance of this special responsibility. The NBO, the Captains and the players are jointly responsible for contacting the WBF should there be any problems in obtaining the necessary tournament information in timely fashion.

If these materials are received prejudicially late, it is the responsibility of the jointly responsible parties to so inform the WBF as soon as possible.

1.7 Defences to Brown Sticker Conventions

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Stickers elements of any system (see the WBF System Policy,). These defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' Systems

1.8 Seating Rights for Pairs using Brown Sticker Conventions

Teams will be awarded seating rights if they are playing against a pair or pairs using two or more BS Conventions but not if both teams have a pair using 2 BS Conventions.

1.9 Special Regulations For Teams Using HUM Systems

1.9.1 Highly Unusual Methods

Highly Unusual Methods are defined in the WBF Systems Policy.

1.9.2 Submission of HUM Systems

Any pair intending to use a HUM System shall send a full copy of any HUM System in English, together with the Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets, to the WBF Systems Administrator by 31 July 2011.

Failure to comply with this regulation or poor presentation of the System may result in such pair or pairs not being permitted to use HUM System, as the Tournament Appeals Committee shall in its discretion determine. In making any such determination, the Tournament Appeals Committee may apply Section 1.10.

Furthermore, it is obligatory that a full printed copy of a HUM System, **in English**, also be filed at the Convention Card Desk, at the Championship site, by the time of the Captains' meeting at the start of the tournament.

1.10 Regulations for Pairs using HUM Systems

If a team includes any pair using a HUM System, it will be subject to the following regulations:

The pairs using HUM Systems should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of matches or sessions, to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by the opponents.

When a team that includes a pair using a HUM System (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM System team will always be the Visiting Team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM Systems (regardless of line-up) oppose one another.

The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM System will submit three copies (clearly legible) of their defences (if any) to the HUM System in writing, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled line-up time for the match; these defences shall be filed at the Convention Card Desk and supplied by the captain to the captain of the opposing team. In preparing these defences pairs using Green, Blue or Red Systems are allowed to change their systems including opening calls. Pairs using HUM Systems are not allowed to change their opening calls.

The pair using a HUM System must inform the opponents in writing (hand-written, 2 clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using the HUM System is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

1.11 Written Defences

Written defences against HUM Systems and on defence against the defences as well as written defences against Brown Sticker conventions may be used as permitted against unusual methods in Law 40 (footnote)

1.12 Submission of Systems for the WTOTC

Pre-registration of Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets is mandatory for any pairs in the World Transnational Open Teams who are playing Red Sticker Systems.

1.12.1 Registration of Red Sticker Systems

Convention Cards and Supplementary Sheets for these pairs must be registered with the WBF Systems Administrator by 1 October 2011 in accordance with the instructions contained in Sections 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 and a web site will be set up for such registered systems with the URL (web address) being emailed to any players or captains participating in the WTOTC who request it.

1.12.2 Approval of Red Sticker Systems

Even though Red Sticker Systems have been registered and displayed on the Web-site they may still be restricted on site at the discretion of the Chairman of the Systems Committee (or his designee).

If Red Sticker Systems are not registered in advance, then pairs will not be permitted to play these systems for the duration of the relevant championship.

1.12.3 *Registration of other systems*

While it is not mandatory to register systems other than Red Sticker for the WTOTC, pairs are encouraged to do so, and any registered systems will be displayed on the site for other teams to download. Please ensure that email addresses for as many team members as possible are supplied to the WBF Systems Administrator in order to facilitate communication.