

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

for the



EA BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2025

*Under the aegis of
Bridge Federation of India*



September 15 to 20, 2025

Express Avenue Mall,
Central Atrium
Chennai, Tamilnadu, India

Contents:

1. Preamble	3
2. Schedule of Events.....	4
2.1. Gold Teams – 15 th to 20 th Sept 2025	4
2.1.1. Pre-Quarter Finals	4
2.1.2. Quarter Finals	4
2.1.3. Semi Finals, Final & Play-off	4
2.2. Silver Teams – 15 th to 20 th Sept 2025	5
2.2.1. Pre-Quarter Finals	5
2.2.2. Quarter Finals	5
2.2.3. Semi Finals, Final & Play-off	5
2.3. Open Match Point Pairs Event – 17 th to 19 th Sept 2025	6
2.4. IMP Pairs Event – 17 th Sept 2025	6
2.5. Swiss Pairs Event – 18 th Sept 2025	6
2.6. Swiss Teams Event – 19 th & 20 th Sept 2025	6
2.7. Ladies Pairs Event – 19 th Sept 2025	6
2.8. Swiss MP Pairs Event – 20 th Sept 2025	6
2.9. Mixed Pairs Event – 20 th Sept 2025	7
2.10. General	7
2.11. Seating Privileges in Swiss League	7
2.12. Giving Electronic Line Up and Seating Privileges in KO Matches	8
3. General.....	8
4. Entry Fee and Submission of Entries	9
5. Authority of the Tournament Committee	9
6. System Policy and Classification of Systems	9
7. Screen Regulations with Bidding Boxes	9
8. Convention Cards and Submission of Systems	9
9. Substitutes	11
10. Procedure for Forfeits & Withdrawals.....	11
11. Disciplinary Rules & Penalties	12
12. Tie Breaking Procedure	14
13. Review Procedure	14
14. Carry-Over	15
15. Length of Matches (Team Events)	16
16. Appeal on Scoring of Results	16
17. Ethics and Deportment.....	16
18. Spectators	16
19. Sponsor Quota	16
20. Minimum Play of Boards/Sessions	16
21. Disciplinary Powers.....	17
22. Tournament Schedule	17

1. Preamble

The conditions of contest herein set forth are supplemental to the General Conditions and Regulations for the National Tournaments as specified in the “Hand Book” of Bridge Federation of India, and are specific to the **EA Bridge International Bridge Championships 2025** organized by **EA Bridge under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India (BFI)** from 15th to 20th September 2025 at Express Avenue Mall, Tamilnadu, Chennai.

- The Championship will be conducted under the technical management of Bridge Federation of India. The schedule of events will be as published in the tournament brochure and as given in the tournament web site www.eabridge.in. In case of necessity the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director and Technical Committee may alter/modify the format of any of the events. The tournament will be played in accordance with the laws and provisions laid down by the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and Bridge Federation of India (BFI). ***The Championship will follow the WBF-2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.***
- The **Team of Four Gold event** and **Open Pairs event** of this tournament are **BFI Category - 1 Ranking Point events**, and hence performance in these events will be eligible for Ranking Points (as per the [National Ranking and Selection Policy 2024-25](#)), which is used for selecting pairs to participate in Selection Trials of Indian Teams.
- Participation in this tournament is open to resident bridge players of Indian Nationality. Teams having one or more non-resident Indian bridge player or players of other NBO's of foreign nationality are also allowed to participate. However, an Indian resident player partnering a non-resident Indian / foreign player will not be eligible for the ranking points from this tournament. In case, if the non-resident player has played with 2 or more partners in the team event, then all of them will be ineligible for the ranking points. ***In case there are more than one pair of non-resident Indian players or foreign players playing for a team in the team event, the whole team will be disallowed any ranking points.***
- The *partnership with non-resident Indian/foreign player* is not eligible for the **ranking points from this tournament** but *they will be eligible for the prizes*. Rank secured by such pair will not get substituted. For e.g. If ranking points are given up to 8 positions and the 5th rank is secured by a non-resident Indian player(s)/foreign player, then no ranking points will be allocated to any Indian players for that rank.
- All participating players from India should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and should meet the participation requirement of the event, as specified by BFI.
- It is presumed that all players participating in the championship have read and will abide by the required clauses in the “Competitors Agreement Form”, as given in the BFI web site: [Competitor-Agreement-Form](#).
- By participating in this championship, each member Association/ Organization and contestants agree that all or portions of every championship event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the BFI.
- By participating and /or intending to participate in this championship each member Association/ Organization and contestants agrees that he/she shall not claim for any loss in earning for any reason connected with the event, against the organizers and/or BFI.
- All participants are to play as per the schedule drawn up by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or his representative. Refusal to play against any player(s) or any team or withdrawal

from an event at any stage, without the consent of the CTD shall result in disqualification for further participation in that event. CTD and the Tournament Committee, in addition, may take further disciplinary actions against the offending player(s).

- English will be the official language for players to communicate with each other during the play in the championship.

2. Schedule of Events

2.1. Gold Teams – 15th to 20th Sept 2025

The Gold Team event will be played over Six days as given in the brochure. The first two days will consist of the qualifying Swiss, in which all contestants will play a total of 10 rounds (10-boards per round). 5 rounds each on day-1 (15th Sept 2025) and day-2 (16th Sept 2025) will be played.

The difference in IMPs earned by the two opposing teams at the end of each round of the Swiss League shall be converted into VP, according to the WBF Continuous VP Scale (20-0).

2.1.1. Pre-Quarter Finals

The Top 16 teams will qualify for the knock out Pre-QF stage to be played on day-3 (17th Sept 2025). The top seven teams in the Swiss League, in order of their rank (1 – 7), will have the right to choose its Pre-QF opponent from amongst the teams placed 9th to 16th in the Swiss League.

Each pre-quarterfinal match shall be played as a direct knockout match of 56 boards in four sessions (14 boards per session). IMPs would score each pre-quarterfinal; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match. The eight pre-quarterfinal losers would be ranked joint 9th to 16th for the Gold Teams event prizes.

If the lower ranked team defeats a higher ranked team, then it will assume the position of the higher rank team for the quarter-final. The KO Quarter-finals will be played between #1 Vs #8, #2 Vs #7, #3 Vs #6 and #4 Vs #5.

2.1.2. Quarter Finals

Each quarterfinal match shall be played as a direct knockout match of 56 boards in four sessions (14 boards per session) on day-4 (18th Sept 2025). IMPs would score each quarterfinal; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match. The four quarterfinal losers would be ranked joint 5th to 8th for the Gold event prizes. If the lower ranked team defeats a higher ranked team, then it will assume the position of the higher rank team for the semi-final. The KO Semi-finals will be played between Winner of table 1 Vs winner of table 4 and winner of table 2 Vs winner of table 3.

2.1.3. Semi Finals, Final & Play-off

The Semifinal and Final KO matches will be played in 4-sessions of 14-boards each on day-5 (19th Sept 2025) & day-6 (20th Sept 2025) respectively. The losing semi-finalists will also play the play-off matches on day-6 (20th Sept 2025) consisting of 3-sessions of 14-boards each to ascertain the 3rd & 4th prize of the Gold Teams event. IMPs would score each Semi final / Final / Play-off; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match.

2.2. Silver Teams – 15th to 20th Sept 2025

A team participating in Silver Teams event can consist of four, five or six players. **Maximum two player of the team can be of the rank of National Masters or above.** Also, they can't play as partners in any of the match.

All the foreign team by default should be playing in GOLD Teams event. However, a foreign team interested to participate in SILVER event will be screened by Technical Committee. Only after the committee's approval the foreign team can participate in SILVER Teams.

The Silver Teams event will be played over Six days. The first two days will consist of the qualifying Swiss, in which all contestants will play a total of 10 rounds (10-boards per round). 5 rounds each on day-1 (15th Sept 2025) and day-2 (16th Sept 2025) will be played.

The difference in IMPs earned by the two opposing teams at the end of each round of the Swiss League shall be converted into VP, according to the WBF Continuous VP Scale (20-0).

2.2.1. Pre-Quarter Finals

The Top 16 teams will qualify for the knock out Pre-QF stage to be played on day-3 (17th Sept 2025). The top seven teams in the Swiss League, in order of their rank (1 – 7), will have the right to choose its Pre-QF opponent from amongst the teams placed 9th to 16th in the Swiss League.

Each pre-quarterfinal match shall be played as a direct knockout match of 56 boards in four sessions (14 boards per session). IMPs would score each pre-quarterfinal; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match. The eight pre-quarterfinal losers would be ranked joint 9th to 16th for the Gold Teams event prizes.

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Each quarterfinal match shall be played as a direct knockout match of 56 boards in four sessions (14 boards per session) on day-4 (18th Sept 2025). IMPs would score each quarterfinal; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match. The four quarterfinal losers would be ranked joint 5th to 8th for the Gold event prizes. If the lower ranked team defeats a higher ranked team, then it will assume the position of the higher rank team for the semi-final. The KO Semi-finals will be played between Winner of table 1 Vs winner of table 4 and winner of table 2 Vs winner of table 3.

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The Semifinal and Final KO matches will be played in 4-sessions of 14-boards each on day-5 (19th Sept 2025) & day-6 (20th Sept 2025) respectively. The losing semi-finalists will also play the play-off matches on day-6 (20th Sept 2025) consisting of 3-sessions of 14-boards each to ascertain the 3rd & 4th prize of the Gold Teams event. IMPs would score each Semi-final / Final / Play-off; with the team having the greater IMP-score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match.

2.3. Open Match Point Pairs Event – 17th to 19th Sept 2025

The Open Match Point Pairs event will be played over 3 days from 16th to 19th Sept 2025. Except for the Team Quarter-finalists of both GOLD & SILVER Teams event, all the other team players plus any new partnership who wants to participate in the event can play after giving the required entry fee.

The Elimination-1 round of the event will be played in 3 sessions of 18 Boards each on Day-3 (17th Sept 2025) as per the details given on the tournament website. Approximately 35-40% pairs will qualify to the next stage of Elimination-2 round.

The pairs of pre-quarter finalist losers of both Gold & Silver team events can join the event at the elimination-2 stage, provided they have given the entry fee for the Open Pairs event as per deadline of the entry. The Elimination-2 round will be played in 3 sessions of 18 Boards each on Day-4 (18th Sept 2025). Top 26 pairs along will qualify for the finals.

The 26 finalists will be joined by 2 sponsored pairs to play the 2 sessions final of 54 boards (All play all – 2 boards against each opponent) with barometer scoring.

2.4. IMP Pairs Event – 17th Sept 2025

Those pairs, who do not want to play Open Match Point Pairs event can play this event.

The IMP Pairs event will be played on day-3 of the championship (17th Sept 2025) in parallel to Match Point Pairs event. It will be played in 2 Sessions of 24 boards each.

2.5. Swiss Pairs Event – 18th Sept 2025

The Swiss Pairs event will be played on day-4 of the championship (18th Sept 2025) in parallel to Match Point Pairs event – Elimination 2. All those, who fail to qualify for the Elimination-2 round of Open MP Pairs or any new entrant who wish to participate can take part in this event after paying the prescribed fee as per the tournament prospectus within the stipulated date of event entry.

The Swiss Pair event will be played over 7 Rounds of 8 Boards each. The IMP score of each match will be converted to VPs as per WBF Continuous scale of 20-0 (for 8 Boards).

2.6. Swiss Teams Event – 19th & 20th Sept 2025

The Swiss Team event will be played over two days on 19th and 20th September. All those, who fail to qualify for the Open MP Pairs Final, or Gold/Silver Teams Semi-Final or any new entrant who wish to participate can take part in this event after paying the prescribed fee as per the tournament prospectus within the stipulated date of event entry.

The qualifying stage (Swiss league) will be played over 7 rounds of 8 Boards each on Day-5 (19th Sept 2025). Top 8 teams will qualify for final on day-6 (20th Sept 2025) which will be played over 7 rounds of 8 Boards each.

2.7. Ladies Pairs Event – 19th Sept 2025

The Ladies Pairs event will be played on day-5 of the championship (19th Sept 2025) in parallel to Swiss Teams. It will be played in 2 Sessions of 22/24 boards each. The scoring will be IMP.

2.8. Swiss MP Pairs Event – 20th Sept 2025

The Swiss MP Pairs event will be played on day-6 of the championship (20th Sept 2025) in parallel to Swiss Team final and Mixed pairs.

The Swiss MP Pair event will be played over 2 sessions of 20/22 Boards each.



2.9. Mixed Pairs Event – 20th Sept 2025

The Mixed Pairs event will be played on day-6 of the championship (20th Sept 2025) in parallel to Swiss Team final and Swiss MP Pairs event.

The Mixed Pairs event (IMP scoring) will be played over 2 sessions of 20/22 Boards each.

2.10. General

- In the event of a tie for the last qualifying / Prize position in a Swiss league, determinations of rank (i.e. 1st to 16^h position) will be broken on VP product of all rounds as per BFI handbook, page No. 66. Rank position in final shall be in accordance with IMPs earned including carry over, if any, and less penalties, if any.
- In case of odd number of teams in Swiss League, one team will get a bye. 12 VPs shall be awarded to all such teams in Gold, Silver and Swiss Teams events.
- A pair will be allowed to participate at any stage of a pairs event, independent of whether one or both players of the partnership are qualified to KO stage (i.e. Seeded) or not. Even a player, who has not participated in the team event, will be allowed to play the pairs event with another player, who is qualified to any KO stage of team event. However, the following conditions will be applied for allowing such partnerships:
 - The pair should have given their entry before the start of the first elimination round of the Pairs event.
 - Not more than 3 pairs of a team will be allowed to play as seeded pairs, when they join from a KO stage to a Pairs elimination round. As the onus will be on the team captain to inform about the 3 pairs being allowed from the team, hence each pair of the team should inform their captain and take his permission beforehand about playing with a player outside the team.
 - If a seeded pair who has given the pair event entry before start of the event, and is joining the pair event after getting knocked out of the team event, wants to change his partnership due to certain reasons, he / she will only be allowed to change the player either from their own team, or with a player of other team, which has got eliminated at the same KO level of team event as his / her level.
 - A player in a team qualifying for KO stage will be considered as “Seeded” only if he/she has played a minimum of 25% of the boards in every stage of the KO.
- There will be no seeding of teams in Team events. The first round will be by random draw. Thereafter the usual Swiss league draw will be followed.
- In case of a sit out (bye) due to the movement in any Pairs event, the score of Pairs who will be playing less no. of boards will be factored to the total boards, which are supposed to have been played. e.g. A pair plays 16 Boards instead of 18 boards due to sit out in the movement. His score (Match Points or IMPs) will be multiplied with a factor of 18/16.
- In case of a Pair(s) withdrawal midway in the event, the TD will award Avg+ (60%) score on the first board and Avg (50%) on the subsequent boards to the non-offending side.

2.11. Seating Privileges in Swiss League

In Swiss League, the HOME Team (team shown first in the draw) will sit NS in the OPEN room and the AWAY Team (team shown second in the draw) will sit EW in the OPEN room. It will be reverse in the CLOSED room, where the AWAY team will sit NS and HOME team will sit EW. In case of any dispute regarding seating rights, arising during any match in Swiss League, both the teams will submit blind line-up for the match.

2.12. Giving Electronic Line Up and Seating Privileges in KO Matches

For all KO matches in team event (Pre-QF onwards), teams of both GOLD & SILVER event will have to give their line-up electronically. In case of electronic line-up, team captains will be given a password for entering their electronic line-up at the captain's meet at the end of Swiss league. The line-up should be given 15 minutes before start of the session. Failure to submit line up may attract penalty as decided by the CTD. If due to some reasons, the line-up is required on paper, then Captains should report to the director desk for exchange of line up at least 10 minutes before the starting time of the session.

In each of the KO matches, Team ranked higher (lower serial number team) will become home team. Lower ranked Team winning against higher ranked team will automatically occupy the higher ranked position to become "Home Team" in further knock out matches. The team which is Home Team will play as NS in the open room and EW in the closed room.

There shall be a coin toss for exercising the seating rights. The winner of the toss elects in which session it wants to have the seating rights; the opponents then automatically have seating rights in the other session. The team with "Seating rights" will ask their opponents to give their line-up first. In a 4-Session KO, the winner of the toss will have the right to exercise the seating rights for either 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th segments, which need to be communicated to the CTD before start of the KO match. In case of 3 segments, the leader at end of 2nd segment will have the seating privilege in the 3rd segment.

A change of player, pairs or partnerships can be made only at the beginning of the session and no restrictions of any pair playing against another pair apply for any of the sessions of the match.

If there is any pair who uses Brown Sticker conventions, they should be available 10 minutes before the schedule beginning of the match to present their system and answer questions by the opponent.

3. General

1. Pre dealt Computer deals will be used in this tournament for all events.
2. Bridgemates will be used for the official recording of the scores throughout the championships (as far as possible). The N/S pair at each table will be responsible for keying of the scores into the Bridgemate. The E/W pair will be responsible for agreeing the score by keying in their acceptance.

The official score will be that keyed in by N/S and agreed by E/W.

The players must compare their scores with official scores displayed on the screen. Any discrepancy must be brought to the notice of the Directors immediately. The scores received from Bridgemates are the official scores.

3. English is the official language of the Championship. During a match the players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team events) 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 request for review due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be entertained.

4. No player is permitted to leave the table without director's permission till all the boards are played in each session of an event. Violation of this clause will attract penalties. Repeated violation may lead to the disqualification of the pair.

4. Entry Fee and Submission of Entries

Entries must be submitted on the EA Bridge Tournament website (www.eabridge.in) with the requisite entry fees, giving details of participating players and their **Player ID** within the specified time as mentioned in the tournament brochure. CTD may accept late entries at his sole discretion, where such acceptance does not disturb the tournament schedule.

5. Authority of the Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee reserves the authority to alter or modify this SCoC. In exercising this right the committee shall also have the right to ratify any clear error in the SCoC as soon as it is brought to its notice, provided that the error is evident from the context or from it's being in conflict with the laws.

6. System Policy and Classification of Systems

"BFI System Policy 2021 (Updated)" will be followed. The policy can be found on BFI web site <https://bfi.net.in/bfi-national-policies/> as well as on tournament web site www.eabridge.in.

Please note that the main events of the championship (Gold Teams & Open Match Point Pairs) have been categorized as Category 1 Events. The use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are allowed only in KO stages of team event.

Psychic Strong Artificial opening bids are prohibited in Swiss League stage of category-1 Team event and elimination stages of Match Point Pairs event. No restrictions in KO stage & Open MP Pair Finals.

The Silver Teams, Swiss Teams, Mixed Pairs, Ladies Pairs, IMP Pairs and Swiss Pairs events of the tournament are categorized as Category 2 event and the use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are totally prohibited in them.

In Category-2 events, Psychic Artificial bids are prohibited in qualifying rounds whereas Psychic Artificial opening bids are prohibited in KO stages.

7. Screen Regulations with Bidding Boxes

WBF Regulation "Using Bidding Boxes with Screens" published **February 2024** shall be used. In the events where screens are not in use, WBF Regulation "Playing and entering scores when screens are not in use" published **February 2024** shall be used.

8. Convention Cards and Submission of Systems

Fully filled System Convention Card (CC) with supplementary sheets, if necessary, must be displayed at the table for all segments of all events. If any team does not have their convention card at the table, they may be penalized.

Players must disclose fully the meaning of their conventional agreements, particularly, conventions and treatments that may require defensive preparation by opposing pairs. In addition to system card, pairs shall use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve this

objective. To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, the onus is on each pair to prepare for the information of opponents an accurate and comprehensive system card.

Understandings whereby there may be violations of the normal meaning of the call, and where the nature of violation may possibly be anticipated, must also be disclosed in the convention card with full detail in a supplementary sheet, wherever necessary. The understandings may be explicitly agreed or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents.

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his system card (including supplementary sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage. The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure, the CTD and the Review Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

Opening bid of 2 Diamond, which shows weak in either major with or without the possibility of any other strong hand has to be explained in detail with responses and subsequent rebids.

Normal range of Weak Two opening should be specified and situations where it can be below minimum need to be alerted.

Use of up-to two Brown Sticker conventions per partnership are allowed in direct knock out matches subject to filling up such system card and submitting a copy to the Director before the last round of Swiss league and getting it approved. At the same time a viable suggested defense to any Brown Sticker convention must be filed. This will be deemed to be a part of the system card and may be referred to by the opponents at the table. A pair which has not submitted the convention card (system card) as above would be debarred from using such conventions till three hours after the pair has submitted its properly filled card. Any of these conventions / systems needs to be approved by the CTD before they can be used.

Each pair of every team is required to present at the table two copies of System Cards from the beginning of any event. However, at the beginning of the pre-quarter final knock-out of the Team event, each pair of every team qualified for the pre-quarterfinal shall submit one copy of their convention cards to the CTD, before the commencement of pre-quarterfinals. Failure to follow any stipulation of this section may be subjected to penalty at the discretion of Review committee /CTD, in addition to restriction on use of certain methods.

It is mandatory for all the pairs to have in their possession a duly filled convention card at the table. If a pair forgets a convention or resorts to a psyche, and there is no convention card, director is empowered to assume mistaken explanation and may award an adjusted score [Law12C1]. In addition to this the offending pair may not be allowed to use that convention in the rest of the match. Frequent violations of the system, amounts to a private understanding and will be dealt severely.

Failure to follow any stipulation in this section may be subject to procedural penalty at the discretion of Appeals Committee/CTD in addition to restrictions on the use of certain methods as specified in the BFI system policy. Use of HUM system and/or Brown Sticker conventions in violation of what is permitted as per this SCoC will be penalized.

Partnership may clearly describe their strategy of third hand openings. Third hand subminimum openings are required to be alerted and lower limit of such opening should be specified very clearly. It is also essential to clarify conditions of such subminimum openings. Consistency in such calls by partnerships is expected.

9. Substitutes

In Team events, 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 CTD may designate a substitute to complete the team. The result obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Tournament Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skill was considerably greater than those of the players replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

In Pairs events, the CTD may make emergency substitution, whenever it is necessary for the smooth running of the game. If this emergency substitution may result in disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be informed by the CTD, at the time of the substitution.

10. Procedure for Forfeits & Withdrawals

If utmost necessary, a team is permitted to withdraw only with the expressed consent of CTD after the completion of any Swiss round, or after a direct knock out match but not after the beginning of a match during any stage or in the middle of knock out match. In case a team withdraws without such expressed consent, the members of the team may be disqualified for the rest of the championship by the CTD & the Tournament Committee may also have to face the disciplinary proceedings by BFI Disciplinary Committee.

Walkover should be reported to the director before the start during KO matches. Two walkovers by the same team will mean a compulsory withdrawal of that team from the Competition. The Tournament Committee or the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional penalties to the forfeited team.

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, CTD may find the team in default and declare the match forfeited. The scoring will be done as follows:

❖ **Swiss Teams:** In this case

- The non-offending team will receive 12 VPs.
- The forfeiting team will get a maximum of 8 VPs. Depending on circumstances, this result may be reduced by the Technical Committee.

❖ **Pair Events:**

- If a pair withdraws after completing 1/3rd of the session all scores obtained against the withdrawn pair stand. Any pair required to 'sit out' as a result of the withdrawal receives AVE+ for the first sit-out board and AVE for each subsequent board.
- If a pair withdraws before 1/3rd of the session has been completed all scores against that pair are cancelled. Pairs at any resulting half-table receive their own average (=not played). **Note:** in a multi session event, all scores obtained in previous session/s stand, and any half tables in further sessions are treated as not played.
- In a Howell type event (all play all) the above applies but a pair required to sit out receives the higher of Ave+ or the converse of the withdrawn pairs average.

IMPORTANT: Teams / Pairs giving walk over or forfeiting the match at any of the knock out stage of the team event or finals of the Pairs event will not be eligible for Master Points & ranking points under the BFI ranking Policy. The Tournament Committee has the discretion to award negative ranking points equal to the eligible points at the stage the Team / Pair has forfeited.

11. Disciplinary Rules & Penalties

The schedule of penalties which follows is supplemental to the laws. All infringements of the law will be dealt with in accordance with the norms laid down by Bridge Federation of India.

- **Lateness** – In the Swiss League, penalty will be imposed on any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time of the session according to the following scale.

0+ to 5 minutes – late warning;

5+ to 10 minutes – 1.0 VP;

10+ to 15 minutes – 2.0 VPs;

a team may forfeit its match if it is late by over 15 minutes, at the discretion of the CTD/Chairman Tournament Committee.

In a knock-out match after 5 minutes of grace time, a penalty of 1 IMP per minute will be imposed up-to 30 minutes and CTD may also reduce the number of boards. A team may forfeit its match, if it is late by over 30 minutes, at the discretion of CTD/Chairman Tournament Committee.

- **Slow Play or Late finish** – If slow play is reported and the Director is convinced; he may impose penalty on the offending side.

Swiss League (or Round-Robin) Stage

- 0+ – 5 minutes late - 1 VP
- 5+ – 10 minutes late - 1½ VPs
- Over 10 minutes late - 2 VPs

Knockout Stage

- 1 IMP for each minute or part thereof

In case any match is not finished within the stipulated time, the Director may stop play after 10 minutes and declare result on the boards played. The result may be adjusted to bring equity to the non-offending side in case of reduction of boards.

- **Mobile Phones** – Mobile phones shall be switched off during the play, Team from which the players are observed calling or receiving call during the play will be penalized 0.5 VP (2 IMP) for the first offence and 1VP (3 IMPs) for any offence thereafter. Repeated violation by any player may mean suspension of that player / pair at the discretion of the CTD and Reviewer. In KO matches, players will not be allowed to carry the mobiles phones.
- **“Zero tolerance”** policy will be strictly implemented. Mandatory **penalty** of 1 VP for first offence, 2 VP for second offence, 3 VP for third offence and thereafter suspension.
- **Alcoholic Influence** – Consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. Any player consuming alcohol before or during the session in play area or is observed to be under alcoholic influence during the play, will result in his team being penalized 2 VPs (6 Imps in a KO match). CTD may also decide to substitute such a player. However further penalty may be imposed depending on the condition and behavior of the player on the table at the discretion of the CTD.
- **Smoking:** Smoking in the designated playing area is prohibited. Once the play starts no player shall leave the table in order to smoke. Any violation will be subject to penalties: 1 VP (3 IMPs/20% of top earned MP in pairs or KO matches) for the first offence, 2 VPs (6 IMPs/40% of top earned MP in pairs or KO matches) for the second and any subsequent offence. For repeated violation the player/pair may be suspended for the session at the discretion of the CTD.
- **Movement of Players:** Once the play is over, players are expected to go out of the playing area and not to watch the play at any other table.

- **ADDITION OF POWERS TO DIRECTORS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:**

The BFI Disciplinary Code, 2024 (amended) is effective from 1st January, 2024 and will be implemented for all events of this tournament as well.

The link for the code is: [BFI Disciplinary Code](#)

In accordance with Section XXXVIII of the Rules and Regulations of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of BFI

XXXVIII. CODE OF DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, suspend or otherwise discipline a player for any of the following reasons:

- (i) In case of any impropriety / cheating / fraud committed by the said player.
- (ii) In case of misbehavior with officials or fellow contestants during various bridge competitions or contests or during meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, or any other bridge related forum.

*With respect to the above clause, if any competitor is found guilty of **Improper conduct, including without limitation, acts of aggression, violence or intimidation, on the part of an individual towards any director/s in preview of their ruling against any individual where such nominated director is in performance of his/her BFI duties or functions, whether within the context of laws and bye laws of BFI rules and regulations and WBF Laws for Duplicate Bridge will be seriously taken for procedural penalty and disciplinary action.***

Penalties liable to be imposed for misconduct:

Procedural Penalty: Notwithstanding any penalties which have been empowered to a Director as per WBF Law of Duplicate Bridge 2017, the director may depending on the gravity of the reprehensible conduct, impose one or more of the following penalties in respect of reprehensible conduct:

- (a) Warning;
- (b) Yellow Card will be issued for the violation of WBF Laws 73, 74 and 89. If a player receives 2 Yellow Cards in the same tournament/championship, that player will be expelled from the tournament.
- (c) On repeated misconduct in the same/later appearance, a penalty of 2 VPs/5 Imps
- (d) Where Reprehensible Conduct occurs frequently at or in connection with a BFI Event, disqualification of all results (including, at the discretion of the hearing panel, the results of the team) at such BFI Event, including forfeiture of any points, prizes and medals;

Disciplinary Action:

- (e) Suspension for a given period of at least 3 to 6 months from the day of adjudication of final verdict of violation to participate in any national federation recognized events or minimum 2 federation events whichever is later.
- (f) Suspension for a given period of time of at least 1 year from the day of adjudication of final verdict of violation to participate in any national federation recognized events or minimum 4 federation events whichever is later.
- (g) Permanent ban on the person concerned (excluding STATES) from attending and/or participating in BFI Events and/or activities;

12. Tie Breaking Procedure

❖ Team Events:

The teams with identical scores after deducting all penalties will deem to have tied.

In case of a tie for the last qualifying position in a Swiss league, determinations of rank will be broken on VP product of all rounds **as per BFI handbook, page no. 66**. But for all other qualifying positions, tie is broken by draw of lots, as per BFI handbook - Page No. 66.

In Knock-out matches, even a difference of 0.01 IMP (accrued due to carry-over) will be considered a win. In case of a tie break in knock out matches, there will be play off of extra four board match for the tie break. Fresh Line up of pairs will be allowed at this stage. If the tie persists, tie breaking will be done by one board ("sudden death") matches to determine the winner with same pairs to continue. Difference of 1 IMP is a win.

❖ Pair Events:

Tie in a Pair event will be broken **as per BFI handbook - page no. 65**.

Tie break in IMP Pair events is done as per page 65 of BFI Handbook. In case the players have not played in the same direction or if the tie still persists, we will be using the Session Scores for breaking the tie. A contestant getting higher scores in more sessions will be the winner. However, if the tie still persists, it will be broken by draw of lots.

13. Review Procedure

At BFI events, appeals of a tournament director's ruling will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the Tournament Committee in accordance with law 80B2(k).

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review. In a pairs event both members of a partnership must concur. In a team event the team captain must concur. Unless specified otherwise, the time limit for seeking a review is in accordance with Law 92B (30 minutes). Time limit for last session may be reduced by CTD.

The tournament director will fill in details of the decision on the review form prescribed by BFI. Then, the player will complete the form stating his reasons for asking for a review and hand it to the tournament director, who will arrange for the review. A monetary deposit of Rs 1000 must accompany the form.

The Reviewer will check that the tournament director has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer must then be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other tournament directors were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement 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 tournament directors was within the bounds of reasonableness.

The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be a good reason to vary the ruling. If the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the CTD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

If, in the opinion of the Reviewer, there is insufficient basis for requesting the review, one or both of the following sanctions may be applied:

- (i) Forfeiture of the monetary deposit.
- (ii) A Sanction quantified in VPs, MPs or IMPs, as appropriate to the type of event being played.

14. Carry-Over

- In case of a Direct Knock-out matches (Pre-QF, QF, SF, Final & Play off), the Teams will carry forward part of their difference of the Swiss league match, if any. The part shall be one half of the difference in the direct match between teams, if the team that won the direct match finishes higher than their opposing team at the end of qualifying league and one third otherwise, subject to maximum of one fourth of the total boards to be played in that KO stage. So, for a 56 board KO match, the maximum carryover will be 14 IMPs.
- There will be carryover from the first qualifying session to the next stage till final of the Open Match Point Pairs event.
- In case of Match Point Pairs event, the carryover to the next elimination round or final will be calculated as follows:

Carryovers will be based on the following formula:

$$C = (M - m) \left[\frac{Q}{E} \left(\frac{A \times B \times Q}{S} \right) \right] \text{ where}$$

C = carryover

M = matchpoints of a given pair

m = matchpoints of lowest qualifying pair

Q = pairs to be qualified

E = number of pairs who played in the round from which carryover is calculated

A = average on each board in the round for which carryover is calculated

B = number of boards played in qualifying session(s)

S = sum of the scores of all qualifiers

The maximum carryover limit for the event has been set equivalent to maximum two boards score from one elimination round to the next till the final of the event. If the formula determines the high carryover to be above the allowable limits, the formula is abandoned and the following procedure is followed: Subtract the low-qualifying score from the high-qualifying score and divide this number into the maximum allowable carryover. The resulting factor is multiplied by the difference of the high qualifying score and the low-qualifying score. Thus the low qualifier will have a carryover of zero, and the high qualifier will have the maximum allowable carryover.

When a qualified pair is replaced by a reserve pair, the carry-over is computed using the actual score of the reserve pair.

- For giving Carryovers for those, who are entering at any elimination stage of the MP pair event after losing in the KO stage of team event, the following rule will be followed:

$$x = (Q \cdot T) / (T + D); \text{ where}$$

T – No. of qualified pairs;

D – No. of drop in seeded pairs;

Q – No. of the qualifying spots at the end of the current phase.

x - Carryover to be given to seeded pair equivalent to the carryover of the qualified pair whose rank is the calculated value (rounded to integer)

For e.g. if 60 (T) pairs qualify and 12 (D) seeded pairs join a new Elimination round, and out of these 72 pairs, we want to qualify 32 (Q) pairs for next elimination or final, then $x = (32 \cdot 60) / (60 + 12) = 26.67 \sim 27^{\text{th}}$ position. So, the carryover of the 27th position qualifier will be given to all the seeded pairs. Please note, if we would have given the average median value, then we would have given all seeded pairs the carryover of the $(60/2) = 30^{\text{th}}$ ranked pair. This formula improves the CO position based on the no. of qualifiers in the round.

- Sponsored pairs entering in the finals of the MP Pair event will be given zero carry-over.

15. Length of Matches (Team Events)

- Swiss Teams – **8** board matches: 1 hour
- Gold/Silver Teams – **10** board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Gold/Silver Teams – **14** board matches: 2 hours

16. Appeal on Scoring of Results

Appeal for correction of an error in entering score of a Board in Bridgemates should be submitted to CTD within 20 minutes of the end of the respective session. (10 minutes for the last session). However, in case of discrepancy between official results on any board, correction period may be extended by CTD.

17. Ethics and Deportment

All contestants are required to conform at all times to the highest standards of ethics and deportment. BFI expects all teams and partnerships to play to win at all times and in all circumstances. While a team may rest its players and make other decisions for strategic reasons, it not permissible for a partnership to play by design to obtain a session score inferior to that of its opponents.

All contestants (including non-playing captains) are expected to accept the decisions of the Reviewer in a sportsman like manner.

18. Spectators

Any person in the playing area, other than a player or a tournament official, has the status of a spectator unless the Director specifies differently. A spectator may not look at the hand of more than one player. During a round a spectator must refrain from mannerism or remarks of any kind and must have no conversation with a player.

A spectator at the table shall not draw attention to any aspect of the game.

19. Sponsor Quota

Sponsor will have a **QUOTA OF 2 PAIRS**, directly seeded to the **OPEN MP PAIRS FINAL**.

20. Minimum Play of Boards/Sessions

Each player of the participating teams shall play the following minimum no. of deals to become eligible to play the next stage of the event. If not, such player will be disqualified from remaining stages of the event.

- ❖ Gold/Silver Teams Swiss league – 30 Boards or 3 Matches (out of 10 matches)
- ❖ Gold/Silver Teams PQF/QF/SF – 14 Boards or 1 Session of PQF (out of 4 Sessions)
- ❖ Gold/Silver Teams Final/Play-off – 14 Boards or 1 Session (out of 4 / 3 Sessions)
- ❖ Swiss Teams Qualification – 16 Boards or 2 Matches (out of 7 matches)

Further any player that fails to meet the minimum play requirements shall not be eligible for master points / Ranking Points for that stage, and will be awarded master points up to the previous stage.

21. Disciplinary Powers

The [BFI Disciplinary Code](#), 2024 (amended) is effective from 1st January, 2024 and will be implemented for all events mentioned above.

There will be official Disciplinary Committee Observer and Yellow Cards will be issued for Disciplinary Code Violations.

For any BFI event, the entry of any player, pair, or team may be rejected. If this occurs the affected party or parties will receive, in writing, the reasons for the rejection. The offenders will be given reasonable opportunity to answer the allegation in person or in writing. The Governing Council of BFI, has constituted and empowered a “Disciplinary Committee”, which will exercise these disciplinary powers. Typical causes of disciplinary action are:

Any breach of the Laws or proprieties of bridge as set out in the Code or in these regulations, Offensive behavior, Withdrawal or non-attendance from an event without good reason.

EVENT RECORDER OR COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee shall nominate a person of high standing in the bridge community or a committee of three members to the position of Event Recorder. The person /persons so nominated, and accepting the position, shall perform the following functions.

1. The Event Recorder will receive verbal or written complaints.
2. The Event Recorder will decide, if a complaint is serious or trivial (in which case the complainant is told immediately the reasons for not pursuing it).
3. If the complaint is serious, the Event Recorder will inform the complainant that he will approach the person(s) concerned and advise them of the complaint and the names of the complainant.
4. The complainant will be asked if there were any witnesses and the Recorder will note their names.
5. The Recorder will discretely approach the person concerned (and their playing partner) and advise them of the complaint, and ask the partner if it is true. If the partner says it is true, various actions are open to the Recorder.
 - Warning (if not too serious)
 - Advise the person(s) that the Tournament Committee will be contacted to recommend suspension for X games. If the Recorder is present during the competition where the alleged offence took place, he may put the player on a "good behavior bond" for the rest of the competition, and if no further complaints are received, decide to drop the matter.
 - Advise the Tournament Committee that the person is suspended for all or part of the event. In the most serious cases, advise the Tournament Committee that the person be banned for an extended period.
6. Where there is no admission of guilt, bring all parties together and try and ascertain the truth. All incidents, with full details, shall be kept in the RECORDER BOOK, which is cross-indexed by name. Only the Recorder and the President of BFI shall be permitted to see the Recorder Book.

22. Tournament Schedule

As given in the Tournament Web Site www.eabridge.in under “SCHEDULE”.

