

**SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**  
*FOR*  
**EA BRIDGE NATIONAL WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP - 2026**  
*Under the auspices of Bridge Federation of India*

**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 National Women Bridge Championship – 2026, a National Ranking Point event** being organized by **EA Bridge under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India** (BFI) at **E Hotel, Chennai** from **6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

The Championships will be conducted under the technical management of Bridge Federation of India. The schedule of events will be published in the Tournament brochure as well as on the tournament Web Site. In case of necessity the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director may alter/modify the format & schedule 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 National Championships will follow the WBF – 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.**

**IMPORTANT – This is a ranking point event and performance in this Women Pairs event will be eligible for Ranking Points for Indian Women Team selection, as per the BFI Ranking Point Policy.**

**2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

**2.1 GENERAL RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE**

- Participation in this tournament is open to all resident bridge players of Indian Nationality. Pairs with one or more **non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder/ players of other NBO's of foreign nationality** are also eligible to participate. However, the non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder / foreign player(s) or an Indian resident player partnering with a non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder / foreign player will not be eligible for the ranking points from this tournament.
- The ranking points will be given as per the current Ranking Point Policy of BFI.
- Though 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 we are giving ranking points up to 8 positions and the 5th rank is secured by a non-resident Indian player(s), then no ranking points will be allocated to any Indian players for that rank.
- All participating players should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and should meet the requirement of participation of the particular event, as specified by BFI.
- All participating players should go through and abide by the tournament SCoC, which will be circulated on the tournament web site.
- 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 at [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 contestant agrees that 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 is the official language of the Championship. During a match the players may converse only in English unless all four players at the table (in pairs events) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. 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.
- **TRIOS are not allowed in the event**

## 2.2 Entry Fee and Submission of Entries

Entries must be submitted in the prescribed Entry Form on the Tournament Web Site along with the online entry fee, giving details of participating players and their Master Point numbers before the stipulated last date which is as published in the Prospectus. CTD may accept late entries at his sole discretion, where such acceptance does not disturb the tournament schedule.

The tournament web site link for Registration is at:

<https://eabridge.in/ea-bridge-national-women-championships-march-6-7-2026/>

## 3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 3.1 EA BRIDGE NATIONAL WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Women Pairs will be played over 2 days. There will be an elimination round on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026 to be played in 5 Sessions of 10 boards each. Depending on the number of entries around **50% of the pairs or maximum 28 Pairs (whichever is less)** will qualify for the Final of the event. The all-play-all final (Max 54 boards) in barometer style will be played in 2 Sessions on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026.

There will be carryover from the elimination round to finals. **(See Section 14 - Carryover formula for IMP Pairs).**

Non qualifiers can play in the **Strata** event, which will be played in 2 sessions of 16/18 boards on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026.

**The scoring of both the events will be in IMPs.**

### 3.2 General

- In the highly unlikely event of a tie for the last qualifying position, tie will be broken as per BFI handbook, page No. 65.
- Pre dealt Computer deals will be used in this tournament for all events.
- Bridgemates will be used for the official recording of the scores throughout the championships. 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 scores received from Bridgemates are the official scores.**
- No player is permitted to leave the table without director's permission till all the boards are played in each session of the event. Violation of this clause will attract penalties. Repeated violation may lead to the disqualification of the pair.

#### **4. 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.

Tournament Committee also reserves the right to alter the play format & schedule of an event, in case it is necessitated by less or extra ordinary high number of entries.

#### **5. System Policy and Classification of Systems**

"**BFI System Policy 2021**" will be followed. The policy can be found on BFI web site [www.bfi.net.in](http://www.bfi.net.in).

Please note that this event has been categorized as **Category 1 Event. The use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are allowed in Final stage of the Pairs event.**

**Psychic Strong Artificial opening bids** are prohibited in qualification stage of this Pairs event. No restrictions in Final stage.

The **Strata** event of the tournament is categorized as **Category 2 event** and the use of **HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are totally prohibited in it.**

**In Category-2 events, Psychic Artificial bids** as well as **Psychic Artificial opening bids** are prohibited.

#### **6. Filling up of Convention cards and disclosure of systems**

Fully filled System Card 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 convention cards from the beginning of any event. However, at the beginning of the KO stage of the event, each pair of every team qualified to KO shall submit one copy of their convention cards to the CTD. 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.

## **7. Substitutes**

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.

## **8. Procedure for Forfeits & Withdrawals**

- If a pair withdraws after completing 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **9. Disciplinary Rules and 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** – TD may cancel the board and award an adjusted score of A+/A-.
- **Slow Play or Late finish**– If slow play is reported and the Director is convinced about it, he may impose penalty on the offending pair. TD may cancel the board and award an adjusted score.
- **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 in team / 2 IMPs in IMP Pair / 10% of top earned in MP pairs) for the first offence and (1 VP in team / 3 IMPs in IMP Pair / 20% of top earned in MP pairs) for any offence thereafter. Repeated violation by any player may mean suspension of that player / pair at the discretion of the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee. In KO matches, players will not be allowed to carry the mobiles phones. They should be submitted with the CTD / Organizers.

- **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). 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 / Chairman Tournament Committee.
- **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) for the first offence, 2 VPs (6 IMPs/40% of top earned MP in pairs) 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 and Chairman Tournament Committee.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 immediately.*

**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;

## **10. Tie- breaking Procedures**

***Tie in a IMP Pair event will be broken as per BFI handbook - Page No. 65.***

## **11. 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.

## **12. Appeal on Scoring of Results**

Appeal for correction of an error in Computing or tabulating the total point score of an agreed number of tricks on the hand must be made on the score appeal form which is to 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.

## **13. 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 is 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 Tournament / Review Committee in a sportsman like manner.

## 14. CARRY OVER – IMP PAIRS EVENT

There will be carryover from elimination round to finals, given to the qualified pairs.

In case of IMP Pair event, the carryover from qualifying session to the Finals will be one-fifth of the difference between the TOP & the last qualifying pair (Rounded to 2 decimal places), subject to a maximum of 10/10.8 IMPs (rounded to two decimals - one-fifth of the total number of boards to be played in the final, which is 50/54).

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

## 15. 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.

## 16. Disciplinary Powers

**THE BFI DISCIPLINARY CODE, 2024 (AMENDED) EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2024 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ALL EVENTS MENTIONED ABOVE.  
THE LINK FOR THE CODE IS AT: [HTTPS://BFI.NET.IN/WPCONTENT/UPLOADS/2024/01/2024-01-23-BFI-DISCIPLINARY-CODE-V9.PDF](https://bfi.net.in/wpcontent/uploads/2024/01/2024-01-23-BFI-DISCIPLINARY-CODE-V9.PDF)**

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 behaviour, 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.

## 17. Tournament Schedule

**Note: - May change at the discretion of the Tournament / Technical Committee**

Date	Time	Activity
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026, Friday</b>		<b>EA Bridge National Women Championship – Elimination Round (50 boards)</b>
	1000 – 1125 Hrs	Session-1 (10 Boards)
	1140 – 1305 Hrs	Session-2 (10 Boards)
	1305 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1525 Hrs.	Session-3 (10 Boards)
	1540 – 1705 Hrs	Session-4 (10 Boards)
	1705 – 1730 Hrs.	Tea Break
	1730 – 1900 Hrs.	Session-5 (10 Boards)
		<b>Nearly 50% of the Pairs or Max TOP 28 (whichever is less) will qualify for the Final</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026, Saturday</b>		<b>National Women Championship – Final (Max 54 boards) – All Play All – Barometer Scoring</b>
	0930 – 1315 Hrs	Session-1 (26 Boards)
	1315 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1800 Hrs.	Session-2 (24/28 Boards)
		<b>Strata Event - for non-qualifiers</b>
	1015 – 1300 Hrs.	Special Event – Session – 1 (16/18 Boards)
	1300 – 1400 Hrs.	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1630 Hrs.	Special Event – Session – 2 (16/18 Boards)
	1815 Hrs:	Prize Distribution