

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

FOR

8th ALL INDIA HIMACHAL OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

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 **8th All India Himachal Open Bridge Championship 2024** organized by **Himachal Pradesh Bridge Association** affiliated to **Bridge Federation of India (BFI)** from **2nd to 4th August 2024 at Himani Resorts, Solan (H.P.)**.

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. In case of necessity, the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director 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 BFI. **The National Championships will follow the WBF – 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.**

2. **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – GENERAL RULES**

- Participation in this tournament is open to all.
- All Indian players participating in the championship should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme.
- 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 on the BFI web site at <https://bfi.net.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BFI-Competitor-Agreement-Form.pdf>.
- By participating in this championships, 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 tournament.
- All participating players should go through and abide by the tournament SCoC, which will be put up on the notice board at the venue.

3. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **Team of Four event with Swiss League & Last 3 rounds with Danish Draw**

4 ENTRY FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Entries along with the entry fee of the event must be submitted through the prescribed entry form at the tournament venue, stating the full names and BFI MP Registration Numbers of the participating players, within the prescribed time line for the event 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. 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.

6 SYSTEM POLICY AND CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

"**BFI System Policy 2021**" will be followed. The policy can be found on BFI web site <https://bfi.net.in/bfi-national-policies/>

Please note that the Team of Four 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 are prohibited in qualifying / elimination rounds.

7 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.

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

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. A written defense is to be provided as mentioned in the system policy.

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 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.

8. 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 were 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.

9. Forfeits in Team Tournaments

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, CTD may find that team in default and declare the match forfeited. The team in forfeit shall score Zero VP and Zero IMPs for that match. The team winning the forfeited match shall be credited 10 VPs (in new 20 VP scale) initially and all draws will be based on that. At the end CTD in consultation with the Chairman Tournament Committee, may increase the VPs credited based on the overall average performance of the team winning the forfeited match, or credit a higher VP if they consider it to be equitable in all circumstances.

10. Withdrawal and Walk over

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.

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.

Walkover should be reported to the director before the start during KO matches.

If any team would like to withdraw during the middle of the event should have proper accepted reasons like physical fitness, serious health problems or any other important practical reasons. However teams deciding of mutual walk over decisions without the consent of the proper authority will have to face disciplinary procedures.

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

IMPORTANT: Teams giving walk over or forfeiting the match will not be eligible for Master Points.

11. 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** – 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.

- **Slow Play or Late finish**– If slow play is reported and the Director is convinced about it, he may impose penalty on the offending side. The penalty will be same as in case of "Lateness" clause above. In case any match is not finished within the stipulated time, the Director may stop play after 5 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 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 mobile 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 1st January, 2024 and will be implemented for all events of this tournament as well.

The link for the code is at: <https://bfi.net.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-01-23-BFI-Disciplinary-Code-V9.pdf>

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) On repeated misconduct in the same/ later appearance, a penalty of 2 VPs/5 Imps
- (c) 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:

- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Permanent ban on the person concerned (excluding STATES) from attending and/or participating in BFI Events and/or activities;

12. Length of Matches

10 board matches : 1 hour 15 minutes

13. Review Procedure

Players have the right to bring to the notice of the Director any irregularity on the table, during play and the match. Directors will give ruling on such irregularities, if necessary, after consultation with a panel of experts.

As per the latest WBF rules, after a Director has given a ruling, request for a review may be made to the CTD by players/ Team along with a review fee of Rs. 1000 to the Tournament Director.

A request for a review of a Tournament Director's ruling must be lodged within 30 minutes of the first posting of the official score for the Session in which the board was played that is the subject of the ruling. All such requests must be lodged by the team's Captain or his designee, or by one member of the pair in the Pairs events. However the time required for the review procedure will not hold-up the play of the subsequent round.

The recipients of a ruling will be entitled to ask for the matter to be reviewed by a reviewer who was not involved in the original decision. The reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgment that was exercised by a player following unauthorized information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players were consulted. Finally the Reviewer will check that ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. OPEN TEAM EVENT

Each team may have four, five or six members. Any alteration in the names of the players can be done only before the start of the event with the consent of CTD. In case a team having less than six members wishes to add a team member, such addition can be done before the start of the 3rd session of the Swiss league with the consent of the CTD.

The Open Team event will be played over three days as given in the prospectus. All the contestants will play 3 rounds of Swiss league on day-1 (from afternoon of 2nd Aug 2024) & 6 rounds on day-2 (3rd Aug 2024). This will be followed by 3 rounds of Danish league on day-3 (4th Aug 2024). Each round will be of 10-boards each.

The leaders after completion of 12 rounds (9 rounds of Swiss league & 3 rounds of Danish league) will be declared as the winner of the tournament. The other positions will also be based on the total VPs accrued by a team after 12 rounds.

16.1 GENERAL

- **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).**
- In the event of a tie for a prize position at the end of the Swiss / Danish League, determinations of rank will be broken on VP product of all rounds as per BFI handbook, page No. 66.
- 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 Team of Four event.
- There will be no seeding of teams in Team of Four event. The first round will be by random draw. Thereafter the usual Swiss league draw will be followed.

16.2 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.

17. **ELIGIBILITY OF MINIMUM PLAY CONDITIONS**

Each player of the participating teams shall play at least 25% of the played deals to become eligible to play the following next stage of the team event. If not, such player will be disqualified from remaining stages of the event. The minimum play requirements will be as follows:

- Swiss & Danish league – 30 Boards or 3 Matches (out of 12 Swiss / Danish League matches).

Further any player that fails to meet the minimum play requirements shall not be eligible for master points.

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. **Disciplinary Powers**

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.