

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST
FOR
NATIONAL PAIRS ONLINE BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2021
(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 **National Pairs Online Bridge Championship 2021**, organized by **Karnataka State Bridge Association (KSBA)** and sponsored by **TTK Prestige**, under the aegis of **Bridge Federation of India**. The Championship will be played on online platform "**RealBridge**" from **29th April 2021 to 2nd May 2021**.

The Championship will be conducted under the technical management of Bridge Federation of India. The schedule of events will be as published in the web site <https://bridgefromhome.com/national-pairs-championships/>. 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 Bridge Federation of India (BFI). **The National Championships will follow the WBF – 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.**

The MP Pairs event of the tournament is eligible for **Master Points of BFI level-1 tournament** as per the "**BFI Master Point Policy**", which includes online events.

IMPORTANT – Performance in the MP Pairs event of this tournament will be eligible for BFI Ranking Points. The scale of Ranking Points for the event will be declared on BFI web Site www.bfi.net.in.

All participating players should go through the tournament SCoC and abide by it. SCoC will be circulated on the tournament web site from 16th April 2021.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – GENERAL RULES

- Participation in this tournament is open to all bridge players of Indian Nationality. Pairs with one or more non-resident Indian bridge player or player of other NBO's of foreign nationality are also eligible to participate. However, the non-resident Indian / foreign player or an Indian resident player partnering a non-resident Indian / foreign player will not be eligible for the ranking points from this tournament
- All participating players should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and also registered with the World Bridge Federation and in good standing. They should meet the requirement of participation of the particular 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: <http://bfi.net.in/wp-content/uploads/internal/2021/02/19/BFI-Competitor-Agreement-Form-1.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 contestant 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 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).

3 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE EVENTS

3.1 Playing environment

- The "Match Point Pairs" event will be played on "RealBridge" online platform. To play on Realbridge platform, players have to ensure that they have a laptop / desktop, I-pads or PC with camera, speakers & Microphone facility and a good internet connection. Phones are not advisable, and should be used only in emergency as a backup. This is a mandatory condition and players should ascertain that they are equipped with the required paraphernalia before entering the event. Players are requested to use updated browsers like Chrome, Edge, Mozilla, Opera & Safari. Make sure you are not using Internet Explorer as it is not supported by platform
- On Realbridge platform, the Audio and Video will need to be enabled and kept on throughout the play period. Please ensure you have a good and stable internet connection with sufficient data, and preferably a backup.
- Though the organizers will be using your name on the home page as link for you to directly land on the playing arena, however it may be noted that while logging in on the "Realbridge" (RB) platform, players have to use their real names, not an alias or nickname or their BBO Ids. RB logins are "Case Sensitive". If, in any Pairs event, a login id is assigned to the player, then s/he has to use the EXACT id with SPELLING and PUNCTUATION for all sessions and stages of the event. Note that the system in RB treats A K Sharma, a k sharma, A k Sharma, a k Sharma, A K sharma and various other combinations as different persons.

3.2 Laws & Policy

- The event will be conducted as per **WBF – 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge** and will follow BFI System and alert policy. In addition we'll be following [EBU Sky blue Book](#) for guidelines for online environment. All participants are requested to make themselves familiar with the governing laws and policies.

3.3 Alerts

- Please note that all bids need to be self alerted and explained. Please explain the bid using the text area in the bidding box. Not alerting clearly forces opponents to pause and wait for explanation, causing unnecessary UI scenarios. If for any reason you think that explanation is incomplete, call the director.

Please understand that you are entitled to the opponents' agreement, not their hand. So, if you are told no agreement, and you have a reason to believe that agreement may exist, call the director. Do not ask questions like "what did you mean by the bid". You may ask if there are any Meta rules that may apply in case of no specific agreement.

- A brief of your system & carding methods should be given in the comment box to your opponents before start of play on the online platform.

3.4 Undo, Director Calls

- Undos are available for genuine misclicks, not for change of mind. By and large Undo for play will not be awarded unless extremely obvious. Players should endeavor to request an undo at the earliest possible. At the very least they should inform their screen mate verbally and/or type undo or stop in play area, if they are not sure where undo button is

located. All players are seriously advised to make themselves thoroughly familiar with playing environment before the tournament commences.

- Whenever an undo is requested, a director must be called. Undos must be given only on director's assent. Any Undos given without director's assent, both parties lose the right of adjustment, appeal, or UI based on UNDO.
- Even if director allows an undo, there may be implications related to UI because of the bid taken back. Please note that bid or play that is allowed to be undone is unauthorized information to the partner of offender but authorized information to opponents.

3.5 Review Requests

- The directors consult each other, the reviewer, and if needed other senior players before giving a ruling. So please ask for a review only and only if you believe certain facts didn't come to director's notice, or a law has been applied incorrectly. All review requests will attract a fee (Rs. 1000), which will be refunded unless the review request is found to be baseless and/or frivolous.

The reviewer's decision is final and binding. There will be no further appeal against reviewer's decision

3.6 Behaviour & Presentation

- All contestants are expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament / Review Committee in a sportsman like manner.
- Please maintain a courteous attitude towards your partner, teammates, directors, game hosts etc. Please refrain from using foul language, even as a joke. Repeated misbehavior will lead to ban from the event and disciplinary action by Tournament Committee.
- Please be suitably attired. You are on camera, and may be on a telecast to the world. Smart casuals are suggested, bare torsos and undershirts etc are a strict No.

3.7 No Mobile

- Use of Mobile phone or of any other secondary device is strictly prohibited during play. Director will immediately penalize the offender.
- If required, Director can allow the usage of mobile phone in his presence for a player to find out the status of his partner, in case of disconnections.

3.8 No Smoking

- Please note: strictly no-smoking on camera. Penalties will apply.

3.9 Kibitzing

- Kibitzing and watching are an essential part of the game. We certainly want everyone to be involved. But, given the security considerations in an online environment, the kibitzing will only be available for certain matches through delayed broadcast.

4 ENTRY FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Entries must be submitted online through the prescribed entry form on the tournament web site, accompanied by the requisite entry fees to be submitted online through the payment gateway, stating the full names and MP Registration Numbers of the participating players, within the prescribed time for each event as mentioned in the tournament web site. Entries not accompanied by the entry fee or not giving the names of the players of the team (at least four players) or pairs, or without the players' M.P. Registration numbers will be rejected. Acceptance of late entries shall be at the sole discretion of the CTD, 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 pages is at:

<https://bridgefromhome.com/national-pairs-championships/>

5 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5.1 OPEN MATCH POINT (MP) PAIRS EVENT

The Open Match Point Pairs event will be played over 4 days from 29th April 2021 to 2nd May 2021. Any pair who wants to participate in the event can play after giving the required entry fee by the due date as specified on the web site.

TRIOS are not allowed in the event.

The event format is as follows:

Elimination-1 Round: All participating Pairs will play Elimination -1 round consisting of 2 Sessions of 20 Boards each on Thursday, 29th April & Friday, 30th April 2021.

After playing Elimination-1, TOP 40 % pairs or a minimum of 44 pairs (depending on total no. of entries) will qualify for the Elimination-2 GOLD event, while the rest of the pairs will qualify for Elimination-2 SILVER Event.

There will be Carryover as per the SCoC from elimination-1 to elimination-2 round.

Elimination - 2 Round: The elimination-2 round will be played in 2 different categories viz. GOLD & SILVER on Saturday, 1st May 2021. It will consist of 3 Sessions of 18 Boards each.

The TOP 28 pairs in Gold category will get qualified to the Gold Pairs Final at the end of elimination-2. There will be Carryover as per the SCoC from elimination-2 round to the Final.

The pairs ranked 29th to 44th (total 16 pairs) from the Gold elimination-2 round and the TOP 12 pairs from the Silver elimination-2 round will get qualified to the Silver finals with no carryover.

Finals: 28 qualified Pairs in GOLD & 28 pairs in SILVER will play an all-play-all finals of 54 boards (2 boards against each contestant) in 3 Sessions of 18-boards each on 2nd May (Sunday).

6 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.

7 SYSTEM POLICY, THIRD HAND OPENINGS & PSYCHIC BIDS

"*BFI System Policy 2021*" will be followed. The policy can be found on BFI web site www.bfi.net.in.

Please note that the MP Gold Pairs event has been categorized as Category 1 Event. The use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are allowed only in final of MP GOLD Pair event.

Psychic Strong Artificial opening bids are prohibited in elimination rounds of MP Pairs event.

Use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are prohibited in elimination rounds of MP Pairs event and even in the final of MP SILVER Pair event, which is categorized as Category-2 event.

All **Psychic Artificial bids** are prohibited in Category-2 events.

8 Filling up of Convention cards and disclosure of systems

It is mandatory for all the pairs to have in their possession a duly filled convention card with supplementary sheets, if necessary. A partnership not having their convention card may be penalized.

CC should be submitted by all pairs who have qualified for the final of MP Gold Pairs via e-mail to CTD (Mr. S.G. Aggarwal - sgaggarwal@gmail.com) or to BFI Communication Manager (Mr. Srinivasan Iyengar- cardpacker@gmail.com). The cards will be uploaded on to the tournament / BFI web site for opponents to refer in case they want to go through opponent CC.

Please visit the CC depository on the google drive at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/121kz9AAk4eFVLboTNNH3eXiFOKosgop?usp=sharing>

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.

As the game is to be played online, hence a brief of your system & carding methods should be given in the comment box to your opponents before start of play on the online platform.

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

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 final of the MP Gold Pairs event subject to filling up such system card and submitting it for approval to CTD (Mr. S.G. Aggarwal) on his e-mail sgaggarwal@gmail.com. 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.

9. Substitutes

In Pair events, no substitute will be provided by TDs to the pair, in case of disconnection. A disconnected player would be re-seated once the TD is intimated. TDs will adjust the scores of the affected boards (not played due to unavailability of player) as follows:

- For the boards not played, the offending side will get AVG- score, whereas the non-offending side will get AVG+ for each board.
- If a Pair is not able to play two consecutive rounds, the TD may drop the Pair for the forthcoming rounds of the event.

10. Withdrawal and Walk over

It is advisable not to withdraw or give Walk over in ONLINE playing environment as the online software platforms usually do not support that.

However, if utmost necessary, a pair is permitted to withdraw only with the expressed consent of CTD after the completion of a round. In case a pair withdraws without such expressed consent, the pair will be disqualified for the rest of the championship by the CTD and may also have to face the disciplinary proceedings by BFI Disciplinary Committee.

IMPORTANT: Pairs giving walk over at any stage of the 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 pair has forfeited.

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.

- **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. In case any round is not finished within the stipulated time, the Director may stop play 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. The players observed calling or receiving call during the play will be penalized (10% of top earned in MP pairs) for the first offence and (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.
- **ADDITION OF POWERS TO DIRECTORS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:**

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 5 IMPs or 20% of Match Points on the board in MP Pairs event.

(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. Tie- breaking Procedures

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

13. Length of Matches

2 board matches: Max 16 Minutes

14. 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.

15. 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

16. Carry Over in MP Pairs event

- There will be carryover from the first qualifying elimination round to the next stage till final of the Open Match Point Pairs. ***Carryover to the next elimination round or final will be calculated based on the following formula:***

$C = (M - m) [(Q/E)(AxBxQ)/S]$ 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 cannot be greater than equivalent to four boards score. 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.

17 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.

18 **Tournament Schedule**

Date	Time	Activity
29 th Apr 2021, Thursday	1830 Hrs.	S1 of Elimination-1 – 20 Boards
30 th Apr 2021, Friday	1830 Hrs.	S1 of Elimination-1 – 20 Boards
		After playing Elimination-1, the TOP 40% Pairs (Min 44, depending on total no. of entries) will qualify for the Elimination-2 GOLD event, whereas the remaining participants will participate in the Elimination-2 SILVER event
1 st May 2021, Saturday	1000 Hrs.	S1 of Elimination-2 GOLD / SILVER event – 18 Boards
	1400 Hrs.	S2 of Elimination-2 GOLD / SILVER event – 18 Boards
	1700 Hrs.	S3 of Elimination-2 GOLD / SILVER event – 18 Boards
		TOP 28 Pairs from the Gold event will qualify for an All Play All FINAL in GOLD category, whereas the 29 th to 44 th ranked pairs (16 pairs) from the Gold event along with the TOP 12 pairs from elimination-2 round of Silver event will qualify for the SILVER category final.
2 nd May 2021, Sunday	1000 Hrs.	FINAL GOLD / SILVER event – Boards 1-18
	1400 Hrs.	FINAL GOLD / SILVER event – Boards 19-36
	1700 Hrs.	FINAL GOLD / SILVER event – Boards 35-54

NOTES:

- Schedule can be changed by the organizing committee, if required.
- Tournament format can be changed based on the number of entries.