

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

For

BCBA Annual Championship

1. **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY and GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.1 GENERAL RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

- a. **Participation in this tournament is open to resident/non-resident bridge players of Indian Nationality.** All participating players should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and also registered with the World Bridge Federation (Annual Registration fee of Rs. 200/-) and in good standing and should meet the requirement of participation of the particular event, as specified by BFI.
- b. 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: <http://bfi.net.in/wpcontent/uploads/internal/2021/02/19/BFI-Competitor-Agreement-Form-1.pdf>.
- c. Withdrawals are not permitted unless due to extreme unavoidable situations. Premature withdrawals will be reported to the BFI disciplinary committee for not adhering the Players Code of Conduct.
- d. Each player is required to play **minimum 25% of the stipulated rounds** (at least 2 rounds in the Elimination stage **and at least 3 rounds in the Final League(Gold/Silver)** in order to be eligible to participate in the next level as well eligible for BFI Federation points.

1.2 EVENT DETAILS

- a. **Length of Matches:** 6 board matches: 45 minutes.
- b. **Scoring** will be Cross IMPs converted to 20 - 0 WBF Continuous scale
The difference in cross IMPs earned by the two opposing pairs at the end of each round of the Swiss shall be converted into VPs, according to the WBF Continuous VP Scale (20-0)
- c. Eight Qualifying rounds of 6-boards each will be played on Saturday.

On Sunday, the TOP 50 pairs will qualify for Gold finals, the next 50 pairs (or more) to Silver finals. In case the number of entries is significantly larger, a Bronze group may be added with suitable groupings.

There will be carryover from the qualifying rounds to the finals for all groups.

There will be Carryover from elimination round to Final which will be calculated as specified in **Para 10** (below) as calculated and all other qualifiers will be given their carryover proportionately, with the topper getting the upper limit and the last qualifier zero.
- d. The finalists in the **Gold** Section will play 9 rounds of 6 boards each. All other group finalists will play 8 rounds of 6 boards each.
- e. In case of an odd number of Pairs in the event, one pair will get a bye. 12 VPs shall be awarded to such Pair in the Swiss Pair event.

- f. If a Pair is unable to play or to complete a match and the CTD/Tournament Committee may find that the pair is in default and declare the match forfeit (Walk Over), the other pair being declared winner.

The loser will receive zero VP and the winner shall receive the greatest of 12 VPs or average (at the end of all the Swiss rounds) of its VP, whichever is the higher.

The CTD may impose additional penalties on the forfeiting pair.

2. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The event will be played as per the schedule below.

Date	Time	Session
		Eliminations - 8 Rounds of 6 Boards each
Saturday, 16 October, 2021	10:00	Round 1
	11:00	Round 2
	12:00	Round 3
	13:00	Lunch Break
	14:00	Round 4
	15:00	Round 5
	16:00	Round 6
	17:00	Round 7
	18:00	Round 8
		Pairs shall be divided into Gold / Silver (and Bronze if needed)
		Finals - 9 Rounds of 6 Boards Each
Sunday, 12 September, 2021	10:00	Round 1
	11:00	Round 2
	12:00	Round 3
	13:00	Lunch Break
	14:00	Round 4
	15:00	Round 5
	16:00	Round 6
	17:00	Round 7
	18:00	Round 8
	19:00	Round 9 (for Gold only)

The 9th round will apply **only for Gold Section**. The Silver and any other section will play 8 rounds on the final day.

4 **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ON-LINE EVENTS**

4.1 **Playing environment**

- All matches will be played on "**RealBridge**" online platform.

To play on this 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

- 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.
- All players will be provided a direct link to enter the "Realbridge" platform.

Please give your real names at the time of registration as your login. Don't use your BBO Id or a nickname or an alias. So Mr. S.K. Kumar should login as "S K Kumar" or "S K Kumar1".

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.

4.2 **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.

4.3 **Alerts**

- An Artificial Call has to be ALERTED & EXPLAINED in writing **by the player himself**

AT THE TIME OF MAKING THE CALL. Later explanations are also possible, but it's advisable to provide complete explanation at the time of making the Call.

- The space for the Written Explanation is towards the bottom of the Bidding Box at the time of making the Call.

Delayed explanations may cause MI situations when the opponents make a Call before the explanation is provided.

The other side would be entitled to redressal of damage, if any, due to MI arising from a delayed explanation.

Alerts of Calls are visible to both opponents, but not visible to Partner.

One needs to click on the Alerted Call to get the Written Explanation, if any.

- Players should also verbally Alert and Explain to their screen-mates the meanings of ONLY their own Artificial Calls.

During the Auction and Play, a Player can always ask for and provide Explanations to one's screen-mate, BUT only about the screen-mates' CALLS.

For information about the other opponent's Calls, s/he has to ask the other opponent in written **private** chat.

- General information like Bidding system, Conventions employed, Leads, carding etc MUST be obtained from one's own screen-mate.
- A Player CANNOT ask both opponents about the same Call.
- 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".

- Refrain from writing on Table Chat during Auction & Play as the Chat is visible to the full table including the other side of the Screen.

The only time you MUST use table chat is when you want an UNDO in a Pass-out and lead situation.

- 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.

4.4 Undo, Director Calls

- Undos are available for genuine misclicks, not for change of mind.

Undos will not be allowed for play.

Players should endeavour 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 a bid that is allowed to be undone is unauthorized information to the partner of offender but authorized information to opponents.

- **NO UNDO will be allowed after an opening lead is made and the dummy is visible**

4.5 Review Requests

- Before giving a ruling, the directors consult each other, the reviewer, and if needed other senior players.

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

4.6 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 misbehaviour 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.
A penalty may be levied on repeat offenders from previous events as well

4.7 No Mobile

- Use of Mobile phone or of any other second device **is strictly prohibited during play.**
This is irrespective of whether the player is talking about the game or any other topic.
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.

4.8 No Smoking

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

5 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 both the players of the pair, 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 & Entry Payment is at:
[https://bridgefromhome.com/bcba-annual-swiss-pairs /](https://bridgefromhome.com/bcba-annual-swiss-pairs/)

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.

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 this event has been categorized as **Category 2 Event**, hence **The use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are prohibited.**

Psychic Artificial bids are prohibited in qualifying rounds. In the finals, only **Psychic Artificial opening bids** are prohibited.

7 Substitutes

In the event of severe inability to continue, a TD may allow the third member of the trio to substitute the affected member. However, once this is done, the originally disconnected player will not be allowed to return for the round.

TDs will not give any substitute to the trio, 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 all boards not played, the offending side will get -2 IMPs score, whereas the non-offending side will get +2 IMPs for each board.
- In case, the complete round is not played, the offending side will receive zero VPs, whereas the non-offending side will receive the greater of 12 VPs or average (at the end of all the Swiss rounds) of its VP, whichever is the higher.
- If a Pair is not able to play three consecutive rounds, the Pair would be dropped for the forthcoming rounds of the event. In case of a bye, due to non-availability of the pair, the non-offending side will receive the greater of 12 VPs or average (at the end of all the Swiss rounds) of its VP, whichever is the higher.

8 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 Swiss 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 or forfeiting the match at any stage of the event will not be eligible for Master Points

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** – Penalty will be imposed on the pair 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 pair may forfeit its match, if it is late by over 15 minutes, at the discretion of the CTD/ Chairman Tournament Committee.
- **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 Swiss Pair/ 2 IMPs in IMP

Pair) for the first offence and (1 VP in Swiss Pair / 3 IMPs in IMP Pair) 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 misbehaviour 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;

Tie- breaking Procedures

The Pairs with identical scores after deducting all penalties will deem to have tied. In case of a tie, determinations of rank will be broken on VP product of all rounds as per BFI handbook - Page No. 66.

Length of Matches

6 board matches: 45 minutes

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 judgement 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.

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

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

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.

10. CARRYOVER:

The carryover at Final League (A/B/C) of the event will be equivalent to "the difference between the Qualification Score of the topper and the last qualifier" with a max upper limit to be calculated with the following formula:

*Max CO = $N + 2 * \text{SQRT}(N)$ where N = No of rounds in the next stage, in which CO to be given*

The maximum carryover given from Elimination to Final will be:

$(9+2\text{Sqrt}(9)) = 15$ VPs*

All other qualifiers will be given their carryover proportionately, with topper getting the upper limit and the last qualifier zero.

PRIZES:

NOTE: If required, the CTD has the right to change the tournament schedule.

Rank	Gold	Silver
1	50,000	15,000
2	40,000	12,000
3	25,000	12,000
4	15,000	8,000
5	10,000	6,000

In addition, the winners and runners up of the Gold event will also be awarded trophies.

The winner shall receive the **Murli Deora Trophy** courtesy Mrs. Hema Deora. The runners up shall receive the **Girdharilal Agrawal Trophy** courtesy Mrs. Sushila Agrawal.

The prizes may be revised if the number of entries increase beyond a certain level at the discretion of the organizers.