

**SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**  
*FOR*  
**FENESTA WOMEN PAIRS ONLINE NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2021**  
*Organized by 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 **Fenesta Women Pairs Online National Bridge Championship 2021** sponsored by **Mrs. Richa Shriram of Fenesta Group** and organized by **Bridge Federation of India (BFI)**. The Championship will be played on online platform "**RealBridge**" on **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022**.

The Championships will be conducted by "**Bridge from Home**" under the technical management of Bridge Federation of India. The **schedule of events** will be as published in the tournament web site <https://bridgefromhome.com/natwomens/>. In case of necessity, the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) 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.**

**IMPORTANT – The top performing pairs in the Women Pairs event will be eligible for Ranking Points for Indian Women Teams selection as per the Selection & Ranking Policy of BFI.**

**All participating players should go through the tournament SCoC, which will be circulated on the tournament web site.**

**2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

**2.1 GENERAL RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE**

- 2.1.1 This is one of the qualifying events under the "Indian Team Selection Policy" and hence will follow BFI's "Performance Ranking System". The top performing pairs of the event will be awarded performance points as per the prevailing **BFI Ranking Point Policy**.
- 2.1.2 **Participation in this tournament is open to resident bridge players of Indian Nationality. Pairs having one or more non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder/ foreign bridge player(s) are also eligible to participate. However the partnership with non-resident Indian / foreign player will not be eligible for the ranking points from this tournament but will be eligible for the prize.** Rank secured by such pair will not get substituted. For e.g. If we are giving ranking points up to 8 positions and the 5<sup>th</sup> rank is secured by a non-resident Indian player(s), then no ranking points will be allocated to any Indian players for that rank.
- 2.1.3 English will be the official language for foreign players to communicate with other players participating in the championship. It will be presumed that, while playing on RealBridge online platform, foreign Bridge players participating in the championship are able to communicate with other players in English. Those foreign players, who cannot communicate with other players in English are requested not to participate, as it will mean unnecessary calling of TDs, when other players are not able to understand the meaning of a call made by them and vice versa. CTD has full authority to exit such players from play, if it is found that it is creating problems in smooth running of the event. It may please be noted that no translators will be allowed to the RealBridge table in such cases.
- 2.1.4 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>.
- 2.1.5 All Indian players participating in the tournament should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and should meet the participation requirement of the event, as specified by BFI.
- 2.1.6 TRIOS are not allowed in the event.**
- 2.1.7 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.

- 2.1.8 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.
- 2.1.9 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 the 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 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **3.1 WOMEN PAIRS NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP**

##### **PLAY FORMAT – One qualifying round followed by an all-play-all Final.**

Qualifying Round will be played on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022. Depending on the no. of entries, It will consist of 48 / 54 boards to be played in 3 Sessions. **The scoring will be Cross-IMPs converted to IMPs.** TOP 50% or maximum 16 (whichever is lower) pairs will get qualified to the final.

The qualified Pairs will play an all-play-all 3/ 4 board matches (depending on the no. of qualified pairs) final on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan (Wednesday).

There will be Carryover as per the SCoC from qualification round to the Final. (**See Chap. 11 for Carryover formula**).

**NOTE: Tournament Committee reserves the right to change the play format, in case the entries are less than 24. The format in this case will be informed before start of play on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022.**

#### **3.2 PLATFORM – The complete event will be played on Realbridge platform on all days.**

#### **3.3 GENERAL**

- In case of odd number of Pairs in the event, one pair will get a bye and will be given an Avg+ score.

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

#### **4.1 Playing environment**

- For playing on "Realbridge" platform, players have to ensure that they have a laptop / desktop, I-pads or PC with Camera & 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.

#### **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 2021** (<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/skyblue-book.pdf>) for guidelines for online environment. All participants are requested to make themselves familiar with the governing laws and policies.

#### **4.3 Alerts & Explanation for RealBridge (Screens in Use)**

- An Artificial Call has to be ALERTED & EXPLAINED in writing by the player 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. To provide a delayed explanation/clarification, tap on the call made and write in the text box that opens.
- Alerts of Calls are visible to both opponents, but not visible to Partner. One needs to tap on the Alerted Call to get the Written Explanation, if any.

- Players should also verbally Alert and explain the meanings of ONLY their own Artificial Calls, to their screen-mates.
- 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.
- 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".
- General information like Bidding system, Conventions employed, Leads, carding etc MUST be obtained from one's own screen-mate.
- 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 in auction, not for change of mind. Undo for play will not be awarded.** 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 undo 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 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 ruling, the directors consult each other, 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 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.

#### 4.7 No Mobile

- Use of Mobile phone or of any other second 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.

#### 4.8 No Smoking

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

#### 4.9 Kibitzing

- Kibitzing will be available through delayed broadcast of RealBridge for the Pairs Final.

## **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 the 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/natwomens/>. Entries for all events will start from 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 on Tournament web site.

## **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 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 2 Event**, hence **The use of HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are prohibited.**

**Psychic Artificial bids** are prohibited in qualifying rounds where as **Psychic Artificial opening bids** are prohibited in Finals.

## **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.

The CC should be submitted by all pairs who have qualified for the Finals via e-mail to BFI Communication Manager (Mr. Srinivasan Iyengar- [cardpacker@gmail.com](mailto: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/1rQiUzaZBJQD6FJ4Kfkkh4w-iJmOHbah?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.

## **9. Substitutes**

TDs will not give any substitute 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 first 2 affected boards not played, the offending side will get AVG score, whereas the non-offending side will get AVG+ for each board.**
- **For all subsequent affected 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 Pair would be dropped 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 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 & 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. CARRYOVER:**

In case of IMP Pair event, the carryover from one qualifying session to the next till Finals will be one-fifth of the difference between the TOP & the last qualifying pair (rounded to 2 decimals) subject to a maximum of one-fifth of the total number of boards to be played in the next stage.

## **12. 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 or late start is reported and the Director is convinced about it, he may adjust the score accordingly.
- **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 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. Tie- breaking Procedures**

Tie in a Pair event will be broken as per BFI handbook - Page No. 65/66.

## **13. Length of Matches**

2 board matches: 16 minutes

3 board matches: 24 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 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.

## **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. 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.

## 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 FOR WOMEN PAIRS

***NOTE: If required, the tournament Committee has the right to change the tournament schedule and format of the event.***

Date	Time	Activity
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022, Tuesday		<b>Qualification Round - IMP Pairs</b>
	1000 Hrs	Session – 1 (18 Boards)
	1400 Hrs.	Session – 2 (18 Boards)
	1730 Hrs.	Session – 3 (18 Boards)
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022, Wednesday		<b>FINALS (IMP Scoring)</b>
	1000 Hrs	Session – 1 (16 / 18 Boards)
	1400 Hrs.	Session – 2 (16 / 18 Boards)
	1700 Hrs.	Session – 3 (16 / 18 Boards)