

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST
FOR
4th EAST ZONE OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2025
BFI RANKING POINTS: CATEGORY-2 TOURNAMENT
Under the aegis of WBBA & BFI

PREAMBLE

The Conditions of Contest herein set forth are supplemental to the General Conditions of Contest for Bridge Championships of the Bridge Federation of India and are specific to the 4th East Zone Open Bridge Championship 2025. These Supplemental Conditions of Contest and the Rules and Regulations of BFI form the set of Rules & Regulations governing this tournament.

The Championships will be conducted under the technical management of the West Bengal Bridge Association. The Tournament Committee will be the sole authority in determining alterations/modifications in the format. The events will be played following laws and provisions governed by the World Bridge Federation & Bridge Federation of India. In case of any discrepancy, the provisions in this Supplemental Conditions of Contest will apply.

Conditions of Entry to Championship

Participation in this championship is open to all registered Bridge players in India. Registered players of other NBOs are also eligible to participate. However, an Indian resident player partnering a non-resident Indian / foreign player will not be eligible for the ranking points from this tournament. In case, if the non-resident / foreign player has played with 2 or more partners in the team event, then all of them will be ineligible for the ranking points. In case there are more than one pair of non-resident Indian player or foreign players playing for a team in the team event, the whole team will be disallowed any ranking points.

All registered players who are participating in the tournament are to keep their registration up to date. In addition to a non-playing Captain, each team may have four, five, or six members. All Captains are to note that any addition or alteration of the players of the team should be done only before the start of the tournament. Once the event starts, no alteration in the team members will be allowed. CTD, at his discretion, may allow the addition of a new player for a four or five-member team, but only before the end of the second session.

By participating in this Championship, each contestant agrees that all or portions of every Championship event may be filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the West Bengal Bridge Association or BFI.

By participating and/or intending to participate in this Championship each contestant agrees that he/she shall not make any claim for any loss in earning for any reason connected with the event against organizers, WBBA, or BFI. After entering in any event, a subsequent refusal to play against any pair/team as required by the schedule of play or withdrawal during any round without the consent of CTD shall result in disqualification in participating in the event and will be liable for further disciplinary action by WBBA/BFI.

Submission of entries

Entries must be submitted in the prescribed form with the requisite entry fees and giving details (MP nos.) of participating players within the prescribed date and time.

Type of Contest

4th East Zone Bridge Championship 2025 is a Category-2 Event.

Team of Four Duplicate for the 4th East Zone Bridge Championship 2025 will be played in two stages:

Stage I: Qualifying Swiss league of 8 Rounds of 10 Boards. Top 8 teams will qualify.

The difference in IMPs earned by the two opposing teams at the end of each round of the Swiss League shall be converted into VPs, according to the WBF Continuous VP Scale (20-0).

Stage II: The 8 qualified teams will play a Quarter Final Knock Out, followed by a Semi-Final Knock Out and a Final and 3rd/4th Place Play-off.

IMPs would score each KO stage; with the team having the greater IMP score (after deducting penalties, if any) at the end of the match being winner of the match.

If a lower ranked team defeats a higher ranked team, then it will assume the position of the higher rank team for the subsequent stage of the KOs.

Note: If more than 44 teams play in the Swiss League, 16 Teams will qualify for a Pre-Quarter Final KO.

Carry-Over in Teams

In case of a Direct Knock-out matches (PQF, QF, SF, Final & Play off), the Teams will carry forward part of their difference of the Swiss league match, if any, between the two teams. The part shall be one half of the difference in the direct match between teams, if the team that won the direct match finishes higher than their opposing team at the end of qualifying league and one third otherwise, subject to maximum of one fourth of the total boards to be played in that KO stage. So, for a 30 board KO match, the maximum carryover will be 7.5 IMPs

Sitting Privileges in Swiss League and Knock-out matches

The sitting privileges both in Swiss League and Knock Out matches will be as per BFI guidelines.

Minimum Play Requirements

Players need to play at least 25% of the Sessions in the current stage to be eligible for the subsequent stage of the event.

In the Swiss League, they must play at least 2 Sessions out of 8.

In the KOs and Play-off, they must play at least 1 Session out of 3 or 2.

Further any player that fails to meet the minimum play requirements, she/he shall not be eligible for master points / Ranking Points for that stage and will be awarded master points up to the previous stage.

Draw and Time Schedule

The draw and all-time schedules will be announced before the start of the event. The Chairman Tournament Committee or the Chief Tournament Director may alter the program from the earlier announced one depending on exigencies.

Tie-breaking Procedures

Team Event:

The teams with identical scores after deducting all penalties will deem to have tied.

In case of a tie for the last qualifying position in a Swiss league, determinations of rank will be broken on VP product of all rounds as per BFI handbook, page No. 66. But for all other qualifying positions, tie is broken by draw of lots, as per BFI handbook
- Page No. 66.

Pair Event:

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

Forfeiture of Teams Matches

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, CTD may find the 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.

Withdrawal

If utmost necessary, a team is permitted to withdraw only with the expressed consent of CTD after the completion of any Swiss round, but not after the beginning of a match during any stage. 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.

PAIRS EVENT

IMP Pairs: It will be played in two sessions of 18 boards each.

MP Pairs: It will be played in two session of 22/24 Boards each.

Disclosure of System Policy and Classification of Systems

BFI System Policy will be followed.

The Knockout stage of the Team event and Pairs will be considered a Category 2A event. Teams using the HUM system or Brown Sticker Conventions must submit their system card and Brown Sticker Announcement Forms at least two hours before the start of the match and get it approved by CTD before the start of the match. In case of a Pair using the HUM system or Brown Sticker Convention in the Pairs Event, they must submit their system card with the Brown Sticker Announcement form before the event commences and get it approved by CTD before the start of the Final.

Defense against HUM system and Brown Sticker Conventions are to be prepared and copies to be given to the opponent as specified in BFI System Policy before the match. These written defenses will form a part of the opponent's system card.

3rd Seat One Level Suit Opening bids: The hand should have a Near Average Strength – at least 8 HCP or meets the rule of 17 (addition of numbers of high cards and length in two longest suits).

FILLING UP OF COVENTION CARDS AND SUBMISSION OF SYSTEMS

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 cards, 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.

All systems and treatments requiring defensive preparations must be listed in the front right part of the Convention card. They must be fully explained either in the appropriate section of the Convention card or in the supplementary sheet.

Understandings whereby there may be violations of the normal meaning of the call, and where the nature of violation may 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 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 will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents. Each pair of every team is required to present at the table two copies of convention cards from the beg inning of any event.

The team qualified for the KO stage must submit a copy of their Convention card to CTD before the event. Failure to follow any stipulation of this section may be subject to penalty at the discretion of CTD, in addition to the restriction on the use of certain methods. Any problem with the system will be referred to the Chairman of the System Committee or his nominee or CTD.

ALERT POLICY

Alert policy as specified by BFI will be followed

AUTHORITY OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee reserves the authority to modify /alter the SCoC preferably in consultation with CTD. 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 notice, provided the error is evident from the context or it's conflicting with the law.

YELLOW CARD

The Yellow Card policy is applicable as per the norms set by the Bridge Federation of India (BFI).

GENERAL

Pre-Dealt Boards

Pre dealt boards will be used in this tournament wherever possible.

Recording of Scores, Computing, and Reporting

Unless otherwise instructed, North / South players at each table must properly fill in the table score sheets / cards. This official form must show the names of players and the final result of each board played in the session and wherever instructed, must be initiated by North and East. The North / South players in the open room should hand over the official table score sheet / card to the director within the allotted time for the session. After the close room play is over, the open room table score will be handed over to the close room players for comparing the scores and computing the results. The official table score sheet along with the official table result card duly filled in and

initialed by both teams is handed over to the director within the stipulated time for the session.

If **Bridgemates are used**, the official score is as keyed in by the NS Pair and confirmed by the EW Pair.

Penalties

The schedule of penalties that follows is supplemental to the laws. All infringements of the law will be dealt with following the BFI handbook.

1. Lateness

• Late Start

Penalties will be imposed on teams not seated and ready to start play at the announced starting time of the session according to the following scale:

1. 0+ to 5 minutes - late warning
2. 5+ to 10 minutes – 1 VP
3. 10+ to 15 minutes – 2 VPs
4. 15+ to 20 minutes - 3 VPs
5. A team may forfeit its match, if late by over 20 minutes at the discretion of the CTD / Chairman Tournament Committee.
6. In KO matches after 5 minutes, a penalty of 1 Imp per minute will be imposed for up to 20 minutes and CTD may also reduce the number of boards. A team may forfeit its match, if late by over 20 minutes at the discretion of the CTD / Chairman Tournament Committee.

• Late Finish:

Slow play or late finish slow play is reported, and the Director is convinced about it, the Director will impose a penalty on the offending side as per the below chart.

1. 0+ - 5 minutes – 1 VP
2. 5+ - 10 minutes – 2 VP

In case any match is not finished within the stipulated time, the Director may stop play after 5 minutes and declare results on the boards played.

2. Smoking

Smoking in the designated playing area is prohibited. Once the play starts no player shall leave the playing table to smoke. Any violation will be subject to penalties: 1 VP (3 IMPs/15% of a Board in Pairs) for the first offense, 2 VPs (6 IMPs/30% of a Board in Pairs) for the second offense, 3 VPs (9 IMPs/50% of a Board in Pairs) for the third offense. In case of further violation, the player / Pair may be suspended for the session at the discretion of the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee.

3. Mobile Phones

Mobile Phones are required to be switched off during the play. The team from which a player is observed calling or receiving a call during the play will be penalized 1 VP or 3 Imps for the first offense and further additional penalties for any subsequent offense thereafter. In the case of a Pairs event, a penalty of 5 IMPs or 25% of the match points available in a board of the session will be imposed for the first offense. Additional penalties will be imposed for a subsequent offense. Repeated violation by any player may mean suspension of that player / Pair by the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee.

4. Alcoholic influence / Misbehavior in the playing arena

Consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. Any player consuming alcohol before or during the session in this area or is observed to be under the alcoholic influence during the play will result in his team being penalized 3 VPS (9 Imps in KO match or 30% of the match points available on a board during the session in a Pairs event). However, further penalties or even suspension from further participation in the tournament may be imposed, by the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee, depending on the condition and behavior of the player at the table.

Review Procedure

Players have the right to bring to the notice of the Director any irregularity on the table, during play, and during the match. Directors will give a ruling on such irregularities, if necessary, after consultation with a panel of experts. There will be no Appeal Committee in the tournament. As per the latest WBF rules, after a director has given a ruling, a 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. If the tournament reviewer determines that it is a frivolous appeal and there is no merit in it, the deposit of Rs.1000/- will be forfeited.

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 15 minutes of the end of the respective session (10 minutes for the last session). An appeal fee of Rs.50/- per appeal will be charged if more than two appeals are made by any pair.

Ethics and Deportment

All contestants are required to always conform to the highest standards of ethics and deportment. BFI expects all teams and partnerships to play to always win 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 Committee in a sportsman-like manner.

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 mannerisms 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.

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: [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 depend 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.

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

