

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

FOR

5th BALRAMPUR CHINI EAST ZONE OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Organized by

West Bengal Bridge Association

Under the aegis 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 “**Handbook**” of Bridge Federation of India, and are specific to the **5th Balrampur Chini East Zone Open Bridge Championships 2026** organized by **West Bengal Bridge Association** under the aegis of **Bridge Federation of India (BFI)** from **14th August to 16th August 2026 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Newtown Action area I, Kolkata, West Bengal.**

The Championship will be conducted under the technical management of the Bridge Federation of India. The schedule of events will be as published in the tournament prospectus and as given on the tournament website of WBBA [5th Balrampur Chini East Zone Open Bridge Championships 2026 - Schedule](#). If necessary, the Tournament Committee, in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director and the Technical Committee, may alter or 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 the Bridge Federation of India (BFI). ***The National Championships will follow the WBF 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.***

IMPORTANT – Performance in the Team of Four will be eligible for Ranking Points for Indian Teams selection as per the [BFI Ranking Point Policy 2026 - 27](#).

All participating players should go through the tournament SCoC and abide by it. SCoC will be available on the tournament web site from 1st August 2026.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – GENERAL RULES

- Participation in this tournament is open to resident bridge players of Indian Nationality. Teams with one or more **non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder / players of other NBO's of foreign nationality** are also eligible to participate. However, the non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder / foreign player(s) or an Indian resident player partnering a non-resident Indian / OCI Card holder / 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 disallowed any ranking points. **In case there are more than one pair of non-resident Indian player playing for a team in the team event, the whole team will be disallowed any ranking points. In case of 1 nonresident pair, the other pairs will get ranking points as per the scheme.**

Ranking Points Policy – Mixed Pairs in Team of Four Event: Any Mixed Pair finishing within the Top 8 positions of the Team of Four Event shall be eligible to receive full ranking points in the Mixed Category, provided that the pair has participated in at least 50% of the total rounds played in the Open Category. In all other cases, the Mixed Pair shall receive 50% of the eligible ranking points applicable to their performance.

- Though the partnership with non-resident Indian / foreign player is not eligible for the ranking points from this tournament but they will be eligible for the prizes. Rank secured by such pair will not get substituted. For e.g. If we are giving ranking points up to 8 positions and the 5th rank is secured by a non-resident Indian player(s), then no ranking points will be allocated to any Indian players for that rank.

- All Indian players participating in the championship should be registered under BFI Master Point Scheme and should meet the participation requirement of the 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 on the BFI web site. <https://bfi.net.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BFI-Competitor-Agreement-Form.pdf>
- By participating in these championships, each member Association/ Organization and contestants agree that all or portions of every championship event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the BFI. By participating and /or intending to participate in this championship each member Association/ Organization and contestants agrees that he/she shall not claim for any loss in earning for any reason connected with the event, against the organizers and /or BFI.
- All participants are to play as per the schedule drawn up by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or his representative. Refusal to play against any player(s) or any team or withdrawal from an event at any stage, without the consent of the CTD shall result in disqualification for further participation in that event. CTD and the Tournament Committee, in addition, may take further disciplinary actions against the offending player(s).
- English will be the official language for players to communicate with each other during the play in the championship.
- TRIOS are not allowed in any of the pairs events.
- There is no rank restriction for participation in any of the pairs events.
- Teams participating in Team of Four event can have a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 players in the team.
- For Team of Four event, each player must play a minimum 25% of the boards at each stage of the tournament to get qualified to play the next stage of the tournament.
- Entries for all events will start from 15th July 2026 on: [5th Balrampur Chini East Zone Open Bridge Championships 2026 - Registration](#)

3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Team of Four – Category B Ranking Point Event**
- **IMP pairs**
- **Match Point Pairs**

4 ENTRY FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Entries must be submitted online through the prescribed entry form on the tournament web site, stating the full names and BFI MP Registration Numbers of the participating players, within the prescribed timeline for the event as mentioned in the tournament web site. Entries not giving the names of all the players of the team / pair event, 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 website link for registration of entry is at: [5th Balrampur Chini East Zone Open Bridge Championships 2026 - Registration](#)

Please note that the payment of the entry fee for teams will have the facility for online mode as given on the registration page. Some of the pairs’ entry fees will have to be paid at the venue at the start of the event only; please follow the registration page for more details.

REGISTRATION PAGES:

Team of Four: (INCLUDES PAYMENT LINK)

<https://wbbridge.in/tournament/5th-east-zone-open-bridge-championship-2026/east-zone-open-championship-team-of-four-2026/register>

Matchpoint Pairs: (INCLUDES PAYMENT LINK)

<https://wbbridge.in/tournament/5th-east-zone-open-bridge-championship-2026/east-zone-open-championship-match-point-pair-2026/register>

IMP Pairs:

<https://wbbridge.in/tournament/5th-east-zone-open-bridge-championship-2026/east-zone-open-championship-imp-pair-2026/register>

5 Authority of the Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee reserves the authority to alter or modify this SCoC. In exercising this right, the committee shall also have the right to ratify any clear error in the SCoC as soon as it is brought to its notice, provided that the error is evident from the context or from its being against the laws.

Tournament Committee also reserves the right to alter the play format & schedule of an event; in case it is necessitated by less or extra ordinary high number of entries.

6 SYSTEM POLICY AND CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

THE BFI DISCIPLINARY CODE, 2025 (AMENDED) effective from 1st January 2025 will be implemented for all events mentioned below. There will be official Disciplinary Committee Observer and Yellow Cards will be given for violating the Disciplinary Codes

“**BFI System Policy 2021**” will be followed. The policy can be found on BFI web site <https://bfi.net.in/bfi-national-policies/> or on Tournament Web Site [BFI System Policy](#) note that the main events of the championship (Team of Four) have been categorized as **Category 1 event**.

Use of Innovative Systems & Special Methods

It has been observed that several Indian and overseas partnerships participating in National Premier events use complex, customized agreements. Non-disclosure of such methods places opponents at a significant disadvantage, making it difficult to prepare appropriate defenses. To address this, the Bridge Federation of India has adopted a progressive approach to system regulation.

The BFI Executive Committee may permit the use of innovative systems and special methods in:

- Gold / Open events in National Championships, and
- International events conducted in India.

1. The Addendum to the BFI System Policy, 2021 shall apply to all events except the **Team of Four Gold event**.
2. Partnerships playing **HUM, Brown Sticker conventions, RED systems**, or any specialized developed conventions in Gold events must submit their Convention Cards on the BFI website.
3. Submitted cards and system details will remain available online for reference by Tournament Directors and players.
4. Any system infringement may result in score adjustments, if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director or the Review Committee.
5. Players must keep their Convention Cards and system details updated on the BFI website whenever any changes occur.

The Matchpoint Pairs & IMP Pairs event of the tournament is categorized as **Category 2 event** and the use of **HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are totally prohibited in them.**

In Category 2 events, psychic artificial bids are prohibited in qualifying rounds, whereas psychic artificial opening bids are prohibited in KO stages. Psychic Artificial opening bids are prohibited in KO stages.

Please note that as of 1 January 2025, the use of a written defense against the Multi 2 Diamonds (or 2 Clubs) is no longer permitted.

7 Filling up of Convention cards and disclosure of systems

Fully filled System Card with supplementary sheets, if necessary, must be displayed at the table for all segments of all events. If any team does not have their convention card at the table, they may be penalized.

Players must disclose fully the meaning of their conventional agreements, particularly, conventions and treatments that may require defensive preparation by opposing pairs. In addition to system card, pairs shall use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve this objective. To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, the onus is on each pair to prepare for the information of opponents an accurate and comprehensive system card.

Understandings whereby there may be violations of the normal meaning of the call, and where the nature of violation may possibly be anticipated, must also be disclosed in the convention card with full detail in a supplementary sheet, wherever necessary. The understandings may be explicitly agreed, or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents.

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his system card (including supplementary sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to redress any damage. The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure, the CTD and the Review Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

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

Each pair of every team is required to present at the table two copies of convention cards from the beginning of any event. However, at the beginning of the pre-quarter final knock-out of the Team event, each pair of every team qualified for the pre-quarterfinal shall submit one copy of their convention cards to the CTD, before the commencement of pre-quarterfinals. Failure to follow any stipulation of this section may be subjected to penalty at the discretion of Review committee/CTD, in addition to restriction on use of certain methods.

It is mandatory for all the pairs to have in their possession a duly filled convention card at the table. If a pair forgets a convention or resorts to a psyche, and there is no convention card, director is empowered to assume mistaken explanation and may award an adjusted score [Law12C1]. In addition to this the offending pair may not be allowed to use that convention in the rest of the match. Frequent violations of the system, amounts to a private understanding and will be dealt severely.

Failure to follow any stipulation in this section may be subject to procedural penalty at the discretion of CTD in addition to restrictions on the use of certain methods as specified in the BFI system policy. Use of HUM system and/or Brown Sticker conventions in violation of what is permitted as per this SCoC will be penalized.

Partnership may clearly describe their strategy of third hand openings. Third hand subminimum openings are required to be alerted, and lower limit of such opening should be specified very clearly. It is also essential to clarify conditions of such subminimum openings. Consistency in such calls by partnerships is expected.

8 Substitutes

In Team events, if for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a session or because of an emergency that develops during the session, the CTD may designate a substitute to complete the team. The result obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Tournament Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skill was considerably greater than those of the players replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.

In Pairs events, the CTD may make emergency substitution, whenever it is necessary for the smooth running of the game. If this emergency substitution may result in disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be informed by the CTD, at the time of the substitution.

9 Forfeits in Team Tournaments

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

10 Withdrawal and walk over

If necessary, a team is permitted to withdraw only with the express consent of the CTD after the completion of any Swiss round, or after a direct knock-out match, but not after the beginning of a match during any stage or in the middle of a knock-out match. In case a team withdraws without such express consent, the members of the team may be disqualified for the rest of the championship by the CTD and the Tournament Committee and may also face disciplinary proceedings by the BFI Disciplinary Committee.

Two walkovers by the same team will mean a compulsory withdrawal of that team from the Competition. The Tournament Committee or the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional penalties to the forfeited team.

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

If any team would like to withdraw during the middle of the event should have proper accepted reasons like physical fitness, serious health problems or any other important practical reasons.

However, teams deciding of mutual walk over decisions without the consent of the proper authority will have to face disciplinary procedures.

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

Pair Events:

- If a pair withdraws after completing 1/3rd of the session all scores obtained against the withdrawn pair stand. Any pair required to 'sit out' because of the withdrawal receives AVE+ for the first sit-out board and AVE for each subsequent board.

- If a pair withdraws before 1/3rd of the session has been completed all scores against that pair are cancelled. Pairs at any resulting half-table receive their own average (=not played).

Note: In a multi session event, all scores obtained in previous session/s stand, and any half tables in further sessions are treated as not played.

- In a Howell type event (all play all) the above applies but a pair required to sit out receives the higher of Ave+ or the converse of the withdrawn pairs average.

IMPORTANT: Teams / Pairs giving walk over or forfeiting the match at any of the knockout stage of the team event or finals of the Pairs 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 Team / 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.

- **Lateness** – In the Swiss League, penalty will be imposed on any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time of the session according to the following scale.

0+ to 5 minutes – late warning [1st Offence].

0/5+ to 10 minutes – 1.0 VP.

10+ to 15 minutes – 2.0 VPs.

A team may forfeit its match if it is late by over 15 minutes, at the discretion of the CTD/ Chairman Tournament Committee.

In a knock-out match after 5 minutes of grace time, a penalty of 1 Imp per minute will be imposed up-to 30 minutes and CTD may also reduce the number of boards. A team may forfeit its match, if it is late by over 30 minutes, at the discretion of CTD.

- **Slow Play or Late finish**– If slow play is reported and the Director is convinced about it; he may impose penalty on the offending side.

0+ to 5 minutes late – 1 VP.

5+ to 10 minutes late – 1½ VPs.

Over 10 minutes late – 2.0 VPs.

In case any match is not finished within the stipulated time, the Director may stop play after 10 minutes and declare result on the boards played. The result may be adjusted to bring equity to the non-offending side in case of reduction of boards.

- **Mobile Phones** – Mobile phones shall be switched off during the play, Team from which the players are observed calling or receiving call during the play will be penalized (0.5 VP in team / 2 IMPs in IMP Pair / 10% of top earned in MP pairs) for the first offence and (1 VP in team / 3 IMPs in IMP Pair / 20% of top earned in MP pairs) for any offence thereafter. Repeated violation by any player may mean suspension of that player / pair at the discretion of the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee. In KO matches, players will not be allowed to carry the mobiles phones. They should be submitted with the CTD / Organizers.
- **“Zero tolerance”** policy will be strictly implemented. Mandatory penalty of 1 VP for first offence, 2 VP for second offence, 3 VP for third offence and thereafter suspension.
- **Alcoholic Influence** – Consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. Any player consuming alcohol before or during the session in play area or is observed to be under alcoholic influence during the play, will result in his team being penalized 2 VPs (6 IMPs). CTD may also decide to substitute such a player. However further penalty may be imposed depending on the condition and behavior of the player on the table at the discretion of the CTD / Chairman Tournament Committee.
- **Smoking:** Smoking in the designated playing area is prohibited. Once the play starts no player shall leave the table to smoke. Any violation will be subject to penalties: 1 VP (3 IMPs/20% of top earned MP in pairs) for the first offence, 2 VPs (6 IMPs/40% of top earned MP in pairs) for the second and any subsequent offence. For repeated violation the player/pair may be suspended for the session at the discretion of the CTD and Chairman Tournament Committee.
- **Movement of Players:** Once the play is over, players are expected to go out of the playing area and not to watch the play at any other table.

- **ADDITION OF POWERS TO DIRECTORS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:**

The BFI Disciplinary Code, 2025 (amended) effective from 1st January 2025 will be implemented for all events of this tournament.

The link for the code is: [BFI Disciplinary Code](#)

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) Yellow Card will be issued for the violation of WBF Laws 73, 74 and 89. If a player receives 2 Yellow Cards in the same tournament/championship, that player will be expelled from the tournament.
- (c) On repeated misconduct in the same/later appearance, a penalty of 2 VPs/5 Imps
- (d) 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:

- (e) 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.
- (f) Suspension for a given period 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.

12 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.

Rank position in KO matches shall be in accordance with IMPs earned including carry over, if any, and less penalties, if any.

In Knock-out matches, even a difference of 0.01 IMP (accrued due to carry-over) will be considered a win. In case of a tie break in knock out matches, there will be play off extra four board matches for the tie break. Fresh Line up of pairs will be allowed at this stage. If the tie persists, tie breaking will be done by one board ("sudden death") matches to determine the winner with same pairs to continue. Difference of 1 IMP is a win.

Pair Event:

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

13 Length of Matches

10 board matches (without screens): 1 hour 15 minutes

10 board matches (with screens): 1 hour 25 minutes

12 board matches (with screens): 1 hour 40 minutes

14 Review Procedure

At BFI events, appeals of a tournament director's ruling will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the Tournament Committee in accordance with law 80B2(k).

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review. In a pairs event both members of a partnership must concur. In a team event the team captain must concur. Unless specified otherwise, the time limit for seeking a review is in accordance with Law 92B (30 minutes). Time limit for last session may be reduced by CTD.

The tournament director will fill in details of the decision on the review form prescribed by BFI. Then, the player will complete the form stating his reasons for asking for a review and hand it to the tournament director, who will arrange for the review. A monetary deposit of Rs 1000 must accompany the form.

The Reviewer will check that the tournament director has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer must then be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other tournament directors were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement exercised by a player following unauthorized information, incorrect explanation, or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally, the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the tournament directors was within the bounds of reasonableness.

The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be a good reason to vary the ruling. If the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the CTD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

If, in the opinion of the Reviewer, there is insufficient basis for requesting the review, one or both of the following sanctions may be applied:

- (i) Forfeiture of the monetary deposit.
- (ii) A Sanction quantified in VPs, MPs or IMPs, as appropriate to the type of event being played.

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 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 Director / Reviewer / Tournament Committee in a sportsman like manner.

17 OPEN TEAM EVENTS – DETAILS

17.1 OPEN TEAM EVENT

In addition to non-playing captain each team may have four, five or six members. Any alteration in the names of the players can be done only before the start of the event with the consent of CTD. In case a team having less than six members wishes to add a team member, such addition can be done before the start of the 3rd session of the Swiss league with the consent of the CTD and paying the extra amount if applicable.

Team of Four Duplicate will be played in two stages.

Stage I: Qualifying Swiss league of 8 rounds of 10 Boards to be played over 1&1/2 days. 6 rounds will be played on 14th August & 2 rounds on 15th August 2026. The Top 8 teams will qualify for Quarter Final stage. In case there are more than 44 entries in the team of four event, then the Swiss League will be of 8 Rounds of 10 Boards each and TOP 16 teams will qualify directly to Round of 16. Home and Away teams will be displayed along with the draw for each of the round. Home team to sit North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed

room.

Stage II: Knock out matches will start from Quarter final stage till **44** teams and Pre-Quarter Final for **45** or more teams. There will be carry over at all stages of the KO.

- **PRE-QUARTER FINAL (in case of more than 44 teams)**

The top 16 teams (Ranking based on merit achieved in the Swiss league completion) will qualify to play the pre-quarterfinals, which will be played on 15th August afternoon. The team finishing as #1 in the Swiss league may choose their opponents from among the teams placed from 9th to 16th position. Subsequently the team finishing 2nd in the Swiss league may choose their opponent from among the remaining teams from 9th to 16th position and so on. ***The Pre-QF round will be played over in 2 sessions of 10 boards each.*** A lower ranked team's win over a higher ranked team will attain the status of the higher ranked team.

- **QUARTER FINAL & SEMI-FINAL**

QF lineup will be (1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6 & 4 vs. 5) and SF lineup (1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3). If No Pre-QF then 1-4 position team will have to choose their opponent from 5-8 position.

For more than **44** teams The quarter final knock out matches will be played in 2 sessions of 10-boards each on 15th August and Semi-Final will be played in 2 sessions of 10 boards each on 16th August.

For less than or equal to **44** teams, the quarter final knockout matches will be played in 3 sessions of 10 boards each on 15th August and Semi-Final will be played in 3 sessions of 10 boards each on 15th and 16th August.

- **FINAL / Play-off Matches**

The Final and play-off match will be played in 3 & 2 sessions respectively on 16th August. Each session will be of 12 boards each.

17.2 GENERAL

- **The difference in IMPs earned by the two opposing teams at the end of each round of the Swiss League shall be converted into VP, according to the WBF Continuous VP Scale (20-0).**
- In the highly unlikely event of a tie for the last qualifying position in Swiss league, determinations of rank will be broken on VP product of all rounds as per BFI handbook, page 66.
- In case of odd number of teams in Swiss League, one team will get a bye. 12 VPs shall be awarded to all such teams in Team of Four Gold and Silver events.
- There will be no seeding of teams in Team of Four events. The first round will be by random draw. Thereafter the usual Swiss league draw will be followed.
- ***Computer Pre dealt boards*** will be played throughout the Team event. Seating privileges for the qualifying Swiss will be that the home team will play as NS in the open room.
- In case of a sit out (bye) due to the movement in any Pairs event, the score of Pairs who will be playing less boards will be factored to the total boards, which are supposed to have been played.
e.g. A pair plays 16 Boards instead of 18 boards due to sit out in the movement. His score (Matchpoints or IMPs) will be multiplied with a factor of 18/16.

In case of a Pair(s) withdrawal midway in the event, when TD awards A+ (60%) score, this will be given for maximum 2 boards in a session. After that A= (50%) will be given

17.3 SEATING PRIVILEGES IN SWISS LEAGUE

In Swiss League, the HOME Team (team shown first in the draw) will sit NS in the OPEN room and the AWAY Team (team shown second in the draw) will sit EW in the OPEN room. It will be reverse in the CLOSED room, where the AWAY team will sit NS and HOME team will sit EW. In case of any dispute regarding seating rights, arising during any match in Swiss League, both the teams will submit blind line-up for the match

17.4 LINE-UPS AND SITTING PRIVILEGES IN KNOCK OUT MATCHES

For all KO matches in team events (Pre-QF onwards), all teams will have to give their line-up either electronically or on paper as instructed by CTD. In case of electronic line-up, team captains will be given a password for entering their line-up at the captain's meet after end of Swiss league. The line-up should be given minimum 10 minutes before start of the session. Failure to submit line up may attract penalty as decided by the CTD. If the line-up is required on paper, then the captains should report to the director desk for exchange of line up at least 10 minutes before the starting time of the session.

Players should be in their seats by the starting time. Failure on the part of the captain to report to the director's desk in proper time will attract a penalty of 3 IMPs. If the two teams play a session on the same axis despite line-up submissions, the session will be treated as void and the match will be reduced to the remaining number of boards.

In each of the KO matches, Team ranked higher (lower serial number team) will become home team. Lower ranked Team winning against higher ranked team will automatically occupy the higher ranked position to become "Home Team" in further knock out matches. The team which is **Home** team will play as NS in the open room and EW in the closed room.

There shall be a coin toss for exercising the seating rights. The winner of the toss elects in which session it wants to have the seating rights; the opponents then automatically have seating rights in the other session. The team with "Seating rights" will ask their opponents to give their line-up first. In a 4-Session KO, the winner of the toss will have the right to exercise the seating rights for either 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th segments, which need to be communicated to the CTD before start of the KO match. In case of 3 segments, the leader at end of 2nd segment will have the seating privilege in the 3rd segment.

A change of player, pairs or partnerships can be made only at the beginning of the session and no restrictions of any pair playing against another pair apply for any of the sessions of the match.

If there is any pair who uses Brown Sticker conventions, they should be available 10 minutes before the schedule beginning of the match to present their system and answer questions by the opponent.

18 OPEN MATCH POINT PAIRS

The Matchpoint Open Pairs will be played over 1 day on 16th August 2026. Total 54 boards will be played in 3 sessions.

Scoring, ranking and tie breaking will be as per provisions of BFI Handbook.

Rank position shall be in accordance with Match points earned including carry over, and less penalties, if any.

19 OPEN IMP PAIRS

The Open IMP Pairs event will be played on 15th August 2026. The One-day event will consist of 2 sessions of 18/20 boards.

20 Carry Over

20.1 Carry Over – Team Events

In case of a Direct Knock-out matches (Pre QF, 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 56-board KO match, the maximum carryover will be 14 IMPs.

20.2 Carry Over – MP Pairs Events

Carryover for MP Pairs event for each elimination / final stage will be computed as per the formula below:

$$C = (M - m) [(Q/E) (AxBxQ)/S] \text{ where}$$

C = carryover

B = number of boards played in qualifying session(s) S = sum of the scores of all qualifiers

M = match points of a given pair

m = match points of lowest qualifying pair E = pairs entered in the event

Q = pairs to be qualified

A = average on each board in the final session(s)

The maximum carryover cannot be greater than or equivalent to **two boards** score from one elimination round to the next till the final of the event. 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.

20.3 General Rule for giving Carryovers to Seeded Pairs

For giving Carryovers for those seeded pairs, who will join in a new elimination round or Final of IMP / MP Pairs, the following formula will be applied:

$$x = (Q*T) / (T+D); \text{ where}$$

T – No. of qualified pairs.

D – No. of drop in seeded pairs.

Q – No. of the qualifying spots at the end of the current phase.

x - Carryover to be given to seeded pair equivalent to the carryover of the qualified pair whose rank is the calculated value (rounded to integer)

*For e.g. if 60 (T) pairs qualify and 12 (D) seeded pairs join a new Elimination round, and out of these 72 pairs, we want to qualify 32 (Q) pairs for next elimination or final, then $x = (32*60) / (60+12) = 26.67 \sim 27^{th}$ position. So, the carryover of the 27th position qualifier will be given to all the seeded pairs. Please note, if we would have given the average median value, then we would have given all seeded pairs the carryover of the $(60/2) = 30^{th}$ ranked pair. This formula improves the CO position based on the no. of qualifiers in the round.*

21 ELIGIBILITY OF MINIMUM PLAY CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATION

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

- Team of Four – 20 Boards or 2 Matches (out of 8 Swiss League matches).
- Team of Four – 10 Boards or 1 Session of PQF (out of 2 Sessions)
- Team of Four – 10 Boards or 1 Session of QF (out of 2/3 Sessions)
- Team of Four – 10 Boards or 1 Session of SF (out of 2/3 Sessions)
- Team of Four – 12 Boards or 1 Session of Final / Playoff (out of 2/3 Sessions)

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

22 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 around a spectator must refrain from mannerism or remarks of any kind and must have no conversation with a player. A spectator at the table shall not draw attention to any aspect of the game.

23 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.

24 Tournament Schedule

As given in the Tournament Web Site under "Tournament Schedule" and as under:

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE - subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament / Technical Committee

Please follow the website link for the updated schedule.

<https://wbbridge.in/tournament/5th-east-zone-open-bridge-championship-2026/schedule>