

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

9th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026

Organized by the

Corporate Bridge Association of India

In collaboration with the

West Bengal Bridge Association

Under the aegis of the

Bridge Federation of India

1. PREAMBLE

These Supplemental Conditions of Contest are to be read together with the General Conditions and Regulations for National Tournaments contained in the *“Handbook”* of the **Bridge Federation of India**. They apply specifically to the **9th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026**, organized by the **Corporate Bridge Association of India** in collaboration with the **West Bengal Bridge Association** and under the aegis of the **Bridge Federation of India**, to be held from **30th April to 3rd May 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 event schedule will be as published in the tournament prospectus and on the WBBA tournament website: [9th Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - Schedule](#). If necessary, the Tournament Committee, in consultation with the Chief Tournament Director and the Technical Committee, may alter or revise the format of any event. The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the rules and provisions of the World Bridge Federation and the Bridge Federation of India. **The WBF 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge will apply.**

Important: Performance in the Team of Four and Matchpoint Pairs events will be considered for ranking points for Indian team selection under the **BFI Ranking Point Policy 2026-27**.

All participating players are expected to read these Supplemental Conditions of Contest and comply with them. The SCoC will be available on the tournament website from 21st April 2026.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – GENERAL RULES

- Participation in this tournament is open to resident Indian bridge players. Teams that include one or more non-resident Indians, OCI card holders, or players of other NBOs with foreign nationality may also participate. However, such non-resident Indian, OCI, or foreign players, and any Indian resident player partnering such a player, will not be eligible for ranking points from this tournament. If a non-resident or foreign player partners two or more different players in the team event, all such partners will be ineligible for ranking points. If more than one pair of non-resident Indian players represents a team in the team event, the entire team will be ineligible for ranking points. If there is only one such pair in the team, the remaining pairs will receive ranking points in accordance with the policy.

- Ranking Points Policy for Mixed Pairs in the Team of Four Event: Any mixed pair finishing within the top eight places in the Team of Four event will receive full ranking points in the Mixed category, provided the pair has played at least 50 percent of the total rounds in the Open category. In all other cases, the mixed pair will receive 50 percent of the ranking points otherwise applicable to its performance.
- Although a partnership involving a non-resident Indian or foreign player is not eligible for ranking points, it will still be eligible for prizes. Any rank achieved by such a pair will stand and will not be passed down. For example, if ranking points are awarded up to eighth place and fifth place is secured by a non-resident Indian player or pair, no Indian pair will receive ranking points for that position.
- All Indian players participating in the championship must be registered under the BFI Master Point Scheme and must satisfy the participation requirements specified by BFI for the relevant event.
- It will be assumed that all players entering the championship have read and agreed to comply with the Competitors Agreement Form available on the BFI website: <https://bfi.net.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BFI-Competitor-Agreement-Form.pdf>
- By participating in these championships, every member association, organization, and contestant agrees that any part of any championship event may be filmed, recorded, documented, or publicized at the discretion of BFI. By participating or intending to participate, each member association, organization, and contestant further agree not to claim compensation for any loss of earnings for any reason connected with the event against the organizers or BFI.
- All participants must play according to the schedule issued by the Chief Tournament Director or the CTD's representative. Refusal to play against any player or team, or withdrawal from an event at any stage without the CTD's consent, will result in disqualification from further participation in that event. The CTD and the Tournament Committee may also impose further disciplinary action on the offending player or players.
- English will be the official language for communication between players during play.
- Trios are not permitted in any pairs event.
- There is no rank restriction for participation in any pairs event.
- Teams in the Team of Four event must consist of at least four and no more than six players.
- In the Team of Four event, each player must play at least 25 percent of the boards at each stage to qualify for the next stage.
- Pairs eliminated at the knockout stages of the Team of Four event will receive seeding in the Matchpoint Pairs event in accordance with the SCoC.
- Carryover will apply at every stage, from elimination rounds to the final, in the Matchpoint Pairs event. However, no carryover will be given to players who qualify for the Matchpoint Pairs Strata event.
- Entries for all events will open on 1st March 2026 at: [9th Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - Registration](#)

3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ❖ Team of Four – Category A Ranking Point Event
- ❖ Matchpoint Pairs – Category A Ranking Point Event
- ❖ IMP Pairs

4. ENTRY FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Entries must be submitted online through the prescribed entry form on the tournament website, stating the full names and BFI Master Point registration numbers of all participating players within the applicable deadline shown on the website. Entries that do not include the names of all players in the team or pair, or that do not include the players' registration numbers, will be rejected. Acceptance of late entries will be entirely at the discretion of the CTD, and only where doing so does not disrupt the tournament schedule.

The registration link is: https://www.wbbridge.in/tournament/9th-all-india-shree-cement-bridge-championship-2026-698b0428cbd70#wbid_list_of_all_events

Please note that online payment of the entry fee will be available for team entries as indicated on the registration page. Some pairs events will require the entry fee to be paid at the venue before the start of the event. Players should refer to the registration page for details.

Registration pages:

Team of Four (includes payment link): [9th Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - Team of Four Registration](#)

Matchpoint Pairs (includes payment link): [9th Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - MP Pair Registration](#)

IMP Pairs (does not include payment link): [9th Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - IMP Pair Registration](#)

5. AUTHORITY OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend or modify these Supplemental Conditions of Contest. In exercising this authority, it may also correct any obvious error in the SCoC as soon as such error is brought to its notice, provided the error is clear from the context or is contrary to the laws.

The Tournament Committee also reserves the right to alter the format of play or the schedule of any event if this becomes necessary because the number of entries is significantly lower or higher than expected.

6. SYSTEM POLICY AND CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

The BFI Disciplinary Code, 2025 (amended), effective from 1st January 2025, will apply to all events mentioned below. An official observer from the Disciplinary Committee will be present, and yellow cards will be issued for violations of the disciplinary code.

“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 & Match Point Pairs) have been categorized as **Category 1 Events**.

Use of innovative systems and special methods:

It has been observed that several Indian and overseas partnerships in premier national events use complex and customized agreements. When such methods are not properly disclosed, opponents are placed at a significant disadvantage because they cannot prepare suitable defenses. To address this issue, the Bridge Federation of India has adopted a progressive approach to system regulation.

The BFI Executive Committee may permit innovative systems and special methods in

- Gold or Open events at National Championships and in
- International events conducted in India.
- 1. Partnerships using HUM systems, Brown Sticker conventions, RED systems, or any specially developed conventions in Gold events must submit their convention cards on the BFI website.
- 2. Submitted cards and system details will remain available online for reference by Tournament Directors and players.
- 3. Any system infringement may result in score adjustments if considered appropriate by the Tournament Director or the Review Committee.
- 4. Players must keep their convention cards and system details updated on the BFI website whenever changes are made.

The IMP Pairs event in this tournament is classified as a **Category 2** event. **HUM systems and Brown Sticker conventions are completely prohibited in that event.**

In Category 2 events, psychic artificial bids are prohibited in qualifying rounds, and psychic artificial opening bids are prohibited in knockout stages.

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

7. FILLING IN CONVENTION CARDS AND DISCLOSURE OF SYSTEMS

A fully completed system card, together with supplementary sheets where necessary, must be displayed at the table for all segments of all events. A team that does not have its convention card at the table may be penalized.

Players must fully disclose the meaning of their conventional agreements, especially conventions and treatments that may require defensive preparation by opponents. Where necessary, supplementary sheets must be used in addition to the system card. To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, each pair is responsible for preparing a complete and accurate system card for the information of opponents.

Any understandings under which calls may depart from their normal meaning, and where the nature of that departure may reasonably be anticipated, must also be disclosed in full on the convention card and supplementary sheets where necessary. Such understandings may be

explicitly agreed or may arise from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge unavailable to opponents.

If a player uses any conventional call that is not adequately described on the system card or supplementary sheets, that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty under Law 90, disciplinary penalties, and score adjustments to compensate for any resulting damage. The responsibility for disclosure lies with the user of the method. If damage is claimed because of inadequate disclosure, the CTD and the Review Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

The normal range of a Weak Two opening must be stated, and any situations in which it may be below minimum strength must be alerted.

Each pair on every team must bring two copies of its convention card to the table from the start of any event. In addition, at the beginning of the pre-quarterfinal knockout stage of the Team event, each qualified pair must submit one copy of its convention card to the CTD before play begins. Failure to comply with any requirement in this section may lead to penalties at the discretion of the Review Committee or the CTD, in addition to restrictions on the use of certain methods.

It is mandatory for every pair to have a properly completed convention card at the table. If a pair forgets a convention or uses a psyche and has no convention card, the Director may assume there was a mistaken explanation and may award an adjusted score under Law 12C1. In addition, the offending pair may be barred from using that convention for the rest of the match. Frequent system violations amount to a private understanding and will be dealt with severely.

Failure to comply with any requirement in this section may result in a procedural penalty at the CTD's discretion, together with restrictions on the use of certain methods as specified in the BFI System Policy. Use of a HUM system or Brown Sticker convention contrary to what is permitted under this SCoC will be penalized.

Partnerships should clearly describe their third-hand opening strategy. Third-hand subminimum openings must be alerted, and the lower limit of such openings must be stated clearly. The conditions under which such subminimum openings may be made must also be explained. Partnerships are expected to use such calls consistently.

8. SUBSTITUTES

In team events, if a team cannot produce four players either at the start of a session or because of an emergency that arises during the session, the CTD may appoint a substitute to complete the team. The result obtained with the substitute will stand unless the Tournament Committee determines that the substitute's bridge ability was significantly greater than that of the replaced player or players, in which case an adjusted score may be assigned. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Committee may impose appropriate penalties if it considers the team to be at fault.

In pairs events, the CTD may make an emergency substitution whenever necessary for the smooth running of the game. If such a substitution may result in the disqualification of any contestant, that contestant must, 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, the CTD may declare that team to be in default and may award the match as a forfeit. A team that forfeits will score zero VPs and zero IMPs for that match. The team awarded the forfeited match will initially receive 10 VPs on the 20-VP scale, and all draws will be based on that result. At the end of the event, the CTD, in consultation with the Chairman of the Tournament Committee, may increase the awarded VPs on the basis of the overall average performance of the team receiving the forfeit, or may award a higher VP result if that is considered equitable in the circumstances.

10. WITHDRAWAL AND WALKOVER

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.

Pairs 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 penalty schedule below supplements the laws. All infringements will be dealt with according to the norms laid down by the 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 must be switched off during play. If players are seen making or receiving calls during play, the team or pair will be penalized as follows: for a first offence, 0.5 VP in team events, 2 IMPs in IMP Pairs, or 10 percent of the top earned in Matchpoint Pairs; for each subsequent offence, 1 VP in team events, 3 IMPs in IMP Pairs, or 20 percent of the top earned in Matchpoint Pairs. Repeated violations by any player may result in suspension of that player or pair at the discretion of the CTD and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee. In knockout matches, players may not carry mobile phones and must deposit them with the CTD or the organizers.

• Zero-Tolerance

A zero-tolerance policy will be strictly enforced. The mandatory penalty will be 1 VP for a first offence, 2 VPs for a second offence, 3 VPs for a third offence, and suspension thereafter.

• Alcoholic Influence:

Consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind in the playing area is prohibited. Any player who consumes alcohol before or during a session in the playing area, or who is found to be under the influence of alcohol during play, will cause the team to be penalized 2 VPs or 6 IMPs. The CTD may also substitute that player. Depending on the player's condition and behaviour at the table, further penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the CTD or the Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

• **Smoking:**

Smoking is prohibited in the designated playing area. Once play has started, no player may leave the table to smoke. Penalties will be 1 VP, 3 IMPs, or 20 percent of the top earned in pairs for the first offence, and 2 VPs, 6 IMPs, or 40 percent of the top earned in pairs for the second and each subsequent offence. Repeated violations may lead to suspension of the player or pair for the session at the discretion of the CTD and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

• **Movement of players:**

After completing play, players are expected to leave the playing area and not watch play at any other table.

• **ADDITIONAL POWERS OF DIRECTORS AND THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The BFI Disciplinary Code, 2025 (amended), effective from 1st January 2025, will apply to all events in this tournament.

The code is available at: [BFI Disciplinary Code](#)

Under Section XXXVIII of the Rules and Regulations of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of BFI, the Executive Committee has the power to expel, suspend, or otherwise discipline a player for any of the following reasons:

Impropriety, cheating, or fraud. Misconduct toward officials or fellow contestants during bridge competitions, meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, or any other bridge-related forum.

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 that may be imposed for misconduct include the following:

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:

Teams with identical scores after deduction of all penalties will be considered tied.

If there is a tie for the last qualifying place in a Swiss League, the tie will be broken by VP product over all rounds as provided in the BFI Handbook, page 66. Ties for all other qualifying places will be broken by lot, also in accordance with page 66 of the BFI Handbook.

Ranking in knockout matches will be determined by IMPs scored, including carryover if any, after deduction of penalties.

In knockout matches, even a difference of 0.01 IMP arising from carryover will count as a win. If a knockout match is tied, there will be a four-board playoff match with fresh line-ups permitted. If the tie remains, one-board sudden-death matches will be played, with the same pairs continuing. A difference of 1 IMP will decide the winner.

Pairs event:

Ties in a pairs event will be broken in accordance with **page 65 of the BFI Handbook**.

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-board matches with screens: 2 hours

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.

This will be strictly followed during the conduction of the tournament.

15. APPEALS ON SCORING OF RESULTS

Any appeal for correction of an error in computing or tabulating the total point score for an agreed number of tricks on a board must be made on the score appeal form and submitted to the CTD within 20 minutes of the end of the relevant session, or within 10 minutes for the last session. However, if there is a discrepancy in the official results on any board, the CTD may extend the correction period.

16. ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT

All contestants must always observe the highest standards of ethics and deportment. BFI expects all teams and partnerships always to play to win in every situation. Although a team may rest players or make strategic decisions, a partnership may not deliberately seek a session result inferior to that of its opponents.

All contestants, including non-playing captains, are expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Director, Reviewer, and Tournament Committee in a sporting manner.

17. OPEN TEAM EVENTS – DETAILS

17.1. Open Team Event:

In addition to a non-playing captain, each team may have four, five, or six members. Any change in player names may be made only before the start of the event and only with the consent of the CTD. A team with fewer than six members may add a member before the start of the third session of the Swiss League, again with the CTD's consent.

The Team of Four Duplicate event will be played in two stages.

Stage I: A qualifying Swiss League of 8 rounds of 10 boards each will be played over one and a half days. 6 rounds will be played on 30th April and 2 rounds on 1st May 2026. The top 8 teams will qualify for the quarterfinal stage. If there are more than 36 entries, the Swiss League will still consist of 8 rounds of 10 boards, but the top 16 teams will qualify directly to the Round of 16. Home and away teams will be shown in the draw for each round. The home team will sit North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room.

Stage II: Knockout matches will begin from the quarterfinal stage where there are fewer than or equal to 36 teams, and from the pre-quarterfinal stage where there are more than 36 teams. Carryover will apply at every knockout stage.

PRE-QUARTERFINAL (for more than 36 teams)

The top 16 teams, ranked according to their Swiss League performance, will qualify for the pre-quarterfinals to be played on the afternoon of 1st May. The team finishing first in the Swiss League may choose its opponents from among the teams placed ninth to sixteenth. The team finishing second may then choose from the remaining teams, and so on. The pre-quarterfinal will be played in 3 sessions of 10 boards each. If a lower-ranked team defeats a higher-ranked team, it assumes the status of the higher-ranked team.

QUARTERFINAL AND SEMIFINAL

The quarterfinal line-up will be 1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6, and 4 v 5. The semifinal line-up will be 1 v 4 and 2 v 3. If there is no pre-quarterfinal, teams ranked 1 to 4 will choose their opponents from teams ranked 5 to 8.

If there are more than 36 teams, the quarterfinals will be played in 3 sessions of 10 boards each on 1st and 2nd May, and the semifinals will be played in 4 sessions of 10 boards each on 2nd May.

If there are 36 teams or fewer, the quarterfinals will be played in 3 sessions of 12 boards each on 1st May, and the semifinals will be played in 4 sessions of 12 boards each on 2nd May.

FINAL AND PLAYOFF MATCHES

The final and playoff will be played on 3rd May in four sessions and three sessions respectively. Each session will consist of twelve boards.

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).

- If there is a tie for the last qualifying place in the Swiss League, the rank will be determined by VP product over all rounds as provided in page 66 of the BFI Handbook.
- If there is an odd number of teams in the Swiss League, one team will receive a bye. Such teams will receive 12 VPs in the Team of Four Gold and Silver events.
- There will be no seeding of teams in Team of Four events. The first round will be drawn at random, and normal Swiss League pairing procedures will then be followed.
- **Computer pre-dealt boards** will be used throughout the Team event. In the qualifying Swiss, seating rights will be such that the home team sits North-South 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.

- A pair may participate at any stage of a pairs event regardless of whether one or both players are qualified for a knockout stage of the team event. Even a player who did not take part in the team event may play in a pairs event with another player who has qualified for a team knockout stage.

However, the following conditions will be applied for allowing such partnerships:

- The pair should have given their entry before the start of the first elimination round of the Pairs event.
- Not more than 3 pairs of a team will be allowed to play as seeded pairs, when they join from a KO stage to a Pairs elimination round. As the onus will be on the team captain to inform about the 3 pairs being allowed from the team, hence each pair of the team

should inform their captain and take his permission before hand about playing with a player outside the team.

17.3. SEATING PRIVILEGES IN THE SWISS LEAGUE

In the Swiss League, the home team, that is the team shown first in the draw, will sit North-South in the Open Room, while the away team, shown second in the draw, will sit East-West in the Open Room. The reverse will apply in the Closed Room, where the away team will sit North-South and the home team East-West. If any dispute arises regarding seating rights during a Swiss League match, both teams will submit blind line-ups.

17.4. LINE-UPS AND SEATING PRIVILEGES IN KNOCKOUT MATCHES

From the pre-quarterfinal stage onward, all teams in knockout matches must submit their line-ups either electronically or on paper, as instructed by the CTD. If electronic line-ups are used, team captains will receive passwords for submitting them at the captains' meeting held after the Swiss League. Line-ups must be submitted at least 10 minutes before the start of the session. Failure to submit a line-up may attract a penalty as decided by the CTD. If paper line-ups are required, captains must report to the Director's desk for exchange of line-ups at least 10 minutes before the session starts.

Players must be in their seats at the scheduled starting time. If the captain fails to report to the Director's desk on time, a penalty of 3 IMPs will apply. If both teams play a session on the same axis despite having submitted line-ups, that session will be treated as void and the match will be reduced by the corresponding number of boards.

In each knockout match, the higher-ranked team, meaning the team with the lower serial number, will be the home team. If a lower-ranked team defeats a higher-ranked team, it will automatically assume the higher-ranked position and become the home team in the next knockout round. The home team will sit North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room.

Seating rights will be decided by a coin toss. The winner of the toss may choose in which session it will have seating rights, and the opposing team will automatically have seating rights in the other session. The team with seating rights will require its opponents to submit their line-up first. In a four-session knockout match, the team winning the toss may choose to have seating rights in either the first and third sessions or the second and fourth sessions, and this choice must be communicated to the CTD before the match begins. In a three-session match, the team leading at the end of the second session will have seating rights in the third session.

Changes of player, pair, or partnership may be made only at the start of a session. There will be no restrictions on which pair may play against which pair in any session of the match.

Any pair using Brown Sticker conventions must be available 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the match to present its system and answer opponents' questions.

18. OPEN MATCHPOINT PAIRS

The Open Matchpoint Pairs event will be played over three days, on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd May 2026.

The first elimination round will be played on 1st May 2026 over 40 boards in 2 sessions, subject to the number of entries received. Approximately 40 to 45 percent of pairs will qualify for the second elimination round, while the non-qualifiers will play in the Matchpoint Pairs Strata event.

Pairs from Teams of Four pre-quarterfinal losers will be seeded into the second elimination round of the Matchpoint Pairs provided they have entered in advance.

The second elimination round of the Matchpoint Pairs will be played on 2nd May 2026 over 54 boards in 3 sessions. The Strata Matchpoint Pairs event for non-qualifiers will consist of 22 or 24 boards per session in 2 sessions.

Quarterfinal losers will enter Matchpoint Pairs Elimination 2, Session II, with predefined carryover.

Carryover will apply for qualifiers from each elimination round through to the final, as described in Section 20.2 dealing with the carryover formula for Matchpoint Pairs. Each seeded pair will receive carryover according to a prescribed formula, as set out in Section 20.3

The top 26 or 28 pairs in the Matchpoint Pairs final will play two boards against each opponent, totalling 50 or 54 boards in two sessions, on 3rd May 2026, in an all-play-all barometer format.

Final rankings will be determined by matchpoints scored, including carryover, after deduction of penalties if any.

19. OPEN IMP PAIRS

The Open IMP Pairs event will be played on 3rd May 2026. This one-day event will consist of two sessions of 22 or 24 boards.

20. CARRYOVER

20.1. Carryover in team events:

In direct knockout matches, including the pre-quarterfinal, quarterfinal, semifinal, final, and playoff, teams will carry forward part of the IMP difference from their direct Swiss League match, if any, against the same opponent. The carryover will be one-half of that difference if the team that won the direct match finishes above the opponent at the end of the qualifying league, and one-third otherwise, subject in all cases to a maximum of one-quarter of the total number of boards in that knockout stage. Thus, in a 56-board knockout match, the maximum carryover is 14 IMPs.

20.2. Carryover in Matchpoint Pairs events:

Carryover for each elimination stage and for the final in Matchpoint Pairs will be computed using the following formula:

$$C = (M - m) [(Q/E) (A \times B \times Q)/S]$$

Where:

C = carryover

B = number of boards played in the qualifying session or sessions

S = sum of the scores of all qualifiers

M = matchpoints scored by the pair concerned

m = matchpoints of the lowest qualifying pair
E = number of pairs entered
Q = number of pairs qualifying
A = average on each board in the final session or sessions

The maximum carryover from one elimination round to the next, including the final, may not exceed the score equivalent of two boards. If the formula produces a carryover above the permitted maximum, the formula will not be used. Instead, the score of the lowest qualifier will be subtracted from that of the highest qualifier, and the resulting difference will be divided into the maximum allowable carryover. That factor will then be multiplied by the difference between each pair's qualifying score and the lowest qualifying score. As a result, the lowest qualifier will receive zero carryover and the highest qualifier will receive the maximum permitted carryover.

If a qualified pair is replaced by a reserve pair, the carryover will be computed on the basis of the reserve pair's actual score.

20.3. General rule for carryover to seeded pairs:

When seeded pairs join a new elimination round or the final of an IMP or Matchpoint Pairs event, carryover will be determined by the following formula:

$$x = (Q \times T) / (T + D)$$

Where:

T = number of qualified pairs

D = number of seeded pairs dropping in

Q = number of qualifying places at the end of the current phase

x = the rank of the qualified pair whose carryover will be awarded to the seeded pairs, rounded to the nearest whole number

For example, if 60 pairs qualify, 12 seeded pairs join the next round, and 32 pairs are to qualify from a total field of 72, then $x = (32 \times 60) / (60 + 12) = 26.67$, which rounds to 27. Therefore, all seeded pairs will receive the carryover of the pair that qualified in 27th position. This formula improves the carryover position as compared with simply using the median qualifier.

21. ELIGIBILITY, MINIMUM PLAY REQUIREMENTS, AND QUALIFICATION

Each player on a participating team must play at least 25 percent of the boards played in order to be eligible to play the next stage of the event. A player who fails to meet this requirement will be disqualified from the remaining stages.

Minimum play requirements are as follows:

- **Team of Four Swiss League:** 20 boards or 2 matches out of 8 Swiss League matches.
- **Team of Four Pre-Quarterfinal:** 10 boards or 1 session out of 3 sessions.
- **Team of Four Quarterfinal:** 10 boards or 1 session out of 3 sessions.
- **Team of Four Semifinal:** 10 boards or 1 session out of 4 sessions.
- **Team of Four Final or Playoff:** 12 boards or 1 session out of 4 sessions.

Any player who fails to meet the minimum play requirement will not be eligible for Master Points for that stage and will receive Master Points only up to the previous stage.

22. SPECTATORS

Any person in the playing area other than a player or tournament official is deemed to be a spectator unless the Director decides otherwise. A spectator may not look at more than one player's hand. During a round, a spectator must refrain from gestures or remarks of any kind and must not converse with any player. A spectator at the table must 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 refused. If this happens, the affected party or parties will be informed in writing of the reasons. The offenders will be given a reasonable opportunity to answer the allegation, either in person or in writing. The Governing Council of BFI has constituted and empowered a Disciplinary Committee to exercise these powers. Typical grounds for disciplinary action include breach of the laws or proprieties of bridge as set out in the Code or in these regulations, offensive behaviour, and withdrawal from or non-attendance at 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.
 - i) Warning (if not too serious)
 - ii) 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
 - iii) 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

The schedule is as shown on the tournament website under “Tournament Schedule” and may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Committee or the Technical Committee.

Please refer to the website for the updated schedule:

[9th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championships 2026 - Schedule](#)