

Bye-Laws of the London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association

General

1. In all competitions organised by the Association (other than friendly events) the players must be full and bona fide members of a member club in good standing.
2. All competitions shall be played under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge for the time being in force. All players competing shall be bound by the rules on systems and conventions currently promulgated by the English Bridge Union (EBU). Master Points may be awarded for all competitions at the discretion of the Committee.
3. Where not otherwise provided in the Bye-laws, all matches will consist of 24 boards, the Home team shall change tables and opponents after 12 boards have been played.
4. It is expected that matches will normally start by 18.30 hours. No team should be expected to begin a match before 18.00 or after 19.00 unless agreed otherwise by both captains or at the specific direction of the Committee.
5. In the event of a team including an ineligible player, the Committee may order the match to be replayed, award an adjusted score or otherwise determine the result.

League Competition

6. The number and composition of divisions in the League shall be as decided by the Committee at the start of each season. Promotion and relegation at the end of each season shall be based on the principle that from each division at least one team will be relegated and one team promoted; teams will be relegated even if vacancies occur due to withdrawals and additional promotions from lower divisions effected. The Committee shall, however, be empowered to vary the number of teams actually promoted or relegated as may be necessary having regard to the composition for the time being of the divisions of the League.
7. Where a club enters more than one team, they shall be designated as decided by the Committee.
8. When a player has played at least twice in one team in any one season they may not play for any team in a lower division. This rule also applies where a player is eligible to play for more than one member Club. Teams shall be required to name no more than 12 designated players at the commencement of each season and may add players during the season. Non-designated players may only play in a match with the consent of the opposing captain or with the permission of the Committee.

9. A team may consist of any number of players but only SIX shall play throughout any one match by substitutions at a suitable point to be agreed by the captains.
10. Before the commencement of each League season on a date to be determined by the Committee a FIXTURE MEETING shall take place which must be attended by at least one representative of each team in the League for the forthcoming season. Fixtures must be arranged between dates specified by the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to extend the season. All lists of fixtures must be handed to the Committee at the conclusion of the meeting, who must also be informed for any inability to complete fixtures due to the non-representation of any club. £10.00 shall be deducted from the subscription of each club which is represented at the fixture meeting in the following season. The Committee may arrange the fixtures of any team not represented at the fixture meeting, which has notified the Committee in advance of the dates on which it can play.
11. Matches should, whenever possible, be played on the dates agreed at the Fixture Meeting. Should a team however be unable to fulfil a fixture on the date agreed, as much prior notice as possible should be given, and a new date arranged by mutual agreement. The onus is on the team which has defaulted on the agreed date to offer dates to the other team and should suggest at least three dates not all of which should be in the same week or on the same day of the week. Where agreement cannot be reached, the matter must be referred in writing to the Secretary as soon as possible but no later than the end date of the League season. Where the result of any match has not been communicated in writing to the Results Secretary by the end date of the League season the Committee is empowered to determine the result. Matches should not be played after the end date of the season except with the agreement of the Committee. The Committee may impose a penalty on any team which has not arranged dates for and/or played a designated number of matches before 31 December in any season or has not completed its matches at the end of the season.
12. All matches should start by 19:00. A captain cannot be compelled to start a match half an hour later than the agreed start time or 19:00 (whichever is the earlier). A shortened match may be considered (and two boards removed per quarter hour is a reasonable guide) but teams should endeavour to play the full 24, perhaps in two unequal sessions, but in any case at least sixteen.
13. Twelve Victory Points will be awarded for each League match, divided in accordance with the following scale:

Total Difference in IMPs	Result in Victory Points
0 – 3	6 – 6
4 – 11	7 – 5
12 – 23	8 – 4
24 – 35	9 – 3
36 – 47	10 – 2
48 – 59	11 – 1
60 – over	12 – 0

The teams shall be ranked within their division in accordance with the total number of Victory Points gained in the season. In the event of two teams finishing the season with the same number of Victory Points the team having the greater IMP score or, if the IMP scores are also the same, the better quotient (i.e. IMPs for divided by IMPs against) shall take the higher position in the League. Notwithstanding this, any club winning all its matches shall be declared the winner of its division irrespective of the Victory Points gained.

14. Notice of the results of each match and the names of team members shall be notified to the Honorary Results Secretary by the winning team as soon as possible after the match. In tied matches the Home team shall notify the result. Matches for which no results have been notified may be treated as unplayed. Teams may only submit a result based on a match played and completed in accordance with these Bye-laws.
15. Where any team withdraws during the season the results of that team may be expunged from the records at the discretion of the Committee.
16. At the conclusion of the season the winning teams from each division shall receive a trophy to be held for one year. If there are more divisions than the number of trophies the Committee may make provision for play off matches to be held within a time period to be decided by the Committee.

Knock-out Competitions: The Leslie W. Dodds Cup and Gainsborough Plate

17. There shall be a knock-out competition for the Leslie W Dodds Cup. A captain shall be nominated for each team and all players must be from the same club. Up to six players may play in any match by substitution at a suitable point to be decided by agreement between the captains. Teams which have played and lost a first round match in the Leslie Dodds Cup shall play in a knock-out competition, under the same bye-laws, for the Gainsborough Plate

NO PLAYER MAY PLAY FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM.

18. As soon as the draw is circulated each Home captain should submit four dates to the Away captain who should confirm one of the dates at the earliest opportunity. The dates offered shall neither be all for the same day of the week nor all in the same week.
19. All rounds shall be played by the dates specified. Any teams failing to play within the time fixed shall be liable to disqualification.
20. Scoring shall be by International Match Points. The team scoring the greater number of IMPs shall be the winner. Should the number of IMPs scored be equal, the team with the greater aggregate score shall be the winner. The winners of the final shall hold the Cup for one year.
21. Notice of the results of each match shall be posted or emailed to the Honorary Results Secretary by the winning team not later than the day following the match.

***Open Pairs Competition:
Selfridges Challenge Trophies (Formerly A. S. Todd Goblets)***

22. This competition shall be arranged annually by the Committee and shall be held at such venues and at such times as the Committee shall decide, having regard to the number of entries received.
23. Players in each pair need not necessarily be from the same club.
24. Eliminating rounds may be held at the discretion of the Committee, the qualifying pairs from each eliminator going forward to the Final (or Semi-Final if one is held). Substitutes will be allowed in accordance with EBU directives, but prior agreement must be obtained from the Tournament Manager at least 48 hours before play.
25. The winning pair of the Final shall hold the Selfridge Challenge Trophy (one each) for one year.

Multiple Teams of Four Competition: The Surdoc Trophy

26. This competition will be held on such date as the Committee shall decide. All four members of each team must normally be from the same club although the Committee at its discretion may allow a combined team of players from two clubs which would not otherwise have a participating team. The winning team shall hold the Surdoc Trophy for one year.

Representative Games

27. The Committee may, at its discretion, organise from time to time events to enable the members of the Committee to select a team to represent the Association. Notice of such an event will be given to such players as the Committee may decide to invite to participate.
28. In the event of the Association arranging representative games, the Association shall have first claim on players selected to take part in such games.

Other Competitions

29. Any other competitions arranged by the Committee will be subject to such rules as the Committee shall decide and will be notified to clubs in each case.

Entry Fees

30. Competition entry fees shall be payable as determined by the Committee.

Penalties

31. The Committee may impose any penalty it thinks fit upon any club whose team(s) does not comply with these Bye-laws.

Disputes

32. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretation of the Rules and Bye-laws shall be referred to the Committee.

33. Protests must be lodged with a member of the Committee within seven days of the match or occurrence to which they refer. No objections or protests shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Committee.
34. Any dispute between clubs in the Association shall be referred to the Committee for arbitration and their decision shall be binding on all parties.

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