



## **ONLINE CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE**

### **GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST for all Online Championships and other Tournaments held under the auspices of the Online Contract Bridge League**

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## 1. **General Conditions of Contest**

OCBL will load the pre- duplicated boards on the system and invite every member to the pertinent Team Match.

Results and butler scores will be available on the site of the event: [www.ocbl.org](http://www.ocbl.org)

The tables will not allow kibitzers except for the Vugraph tables that will start with a 15 minute delay.

Scoring system in use will be the WBF Victory Points

Players are required to be online 10 minutes previous to the starting time of the match.

Teams will be composed of a maximum of 10 players.

## 2. **Conditions of Entry**

Participation in all OCBL Events is only for WBT members (all players on the team required to hold a WBT Membership).

## 3. **Ethics**

There is a Zero Tolerance policy for political statements, rude behaviour and any unsportsmanlike conduct.

It is expected that Players and Teams will receive all decisions of the Director in a sportsmanlike manner.

Playing bridge online offers a lot of ways of communicating non authorised information and that is why we rely on our invited participants on keeping the levels of correctness to the highest possible standard.

It shall be a violation for any person related to a player or team participating in any OCBL event to wager on the results of any such event or part thereof.

Self-kibitzing and communication with partner is strictly forbidden.

Any complaint regarding ethics may be done through: <https://ocbl.org/report/>

We will cooperate with the WBT (World Bridge Tour) with all the information necessary to detect and prevent serious violations.

#### **4. Length of Matches**

10 board matches: 1 hour 15minutes

12 board matches: 1 hour 30 minutes

14 board matches: 1 hour 45 minutes

16 board matches: 2 hours 00 minutes

24 board matches: 3 hours 00 minutes

Average Time per Board for longer and shorter matches: 7,5 minutes.

Tournaments are clocked and Teams judged guilty for slow play will be subject to penalty.

#### **5. Policies, Codes and Regulations**

##### **i. Alert Regulation**

i1. Players alert their own bids and write their explanations in the «alert box» before they bid (and not just alert).

i2. Your opponents are entitled to know whatever your partner knows about your bid. This includes a specific agreement, style, but not what you actually have in your hand or that you and your partner are having a mix-up. (Ex. Range of 1NT opening should be alerted unless it shows 15-17 hcp)

i3. Online there is no difference between an alert and an explanation. Whether you believe your bid is alertable or not, you should fully explain it.

i4. Whenever you make a bid about which you believe your partner has information that does not come from general bridge knowledge, you should type a clear, concise explanation of the meaning of your bid in the alert box.

i5. If you want more information about an opponent's bid, whether or not it was explained, you should send a private message to the opponent who made the bid asking for clarification.

Requesting information may be made at any time, at the time the bid is made, when the auction concludes, or any time during the play as long as it is a private chat between one opponent and the bidder.

If players explain bids via chat they should set the recipients to Opponents, not Table, so that only opponents see the explanation, not the partner. But the best way is to explain the bids via the BBO alert mechanism.

ii. Systems Policy: Forcing Pass Systems, Random Openings, HUMs, and Encrypted Signals are prohibited.

ii1. Players can't consult their system cards or notes between the start of the auction period until the end of the play. Exception: players may consult their defense notes vs 2d multi-opening

ii2. Psychic Bidding: psychic conventional opening bids are forbidden.

iii. Undos: are allowed and encouraged especially in case of :

- a misclick but not due to inattention

- misinformation or lack of information

iii1. If there is a case such as the one where an undo is refused a player gets a "challenge" where the TD can be summoned to the table. Play at the moment of the refusal must be stopped until the TD arrives. The TD is the one who can assess the situation, and if he believes the undo is justified by an obvious misclick that no reasonable player should refuse, the undo has to be accepted by the opponents.

iv. UI: Long hesitations that are bridge-related require hesitator's partner to consider UI has been passed and act accordingly. However, shorter hesitations that would pass UI in face-to-face events are to be ignored as not bridge related.

v. In cases when the interpretation of the Laws is unclear the Head Tournament Director should consult the WBF Laws.

**6. Substitutes and Forfeits in Team Tournaments**

Team substitutions may be made at the end of a session if the session is a 12 board match. For longer team matches substitutions may be made after the completion of 50% of the session. If a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a match or during the match due to an emergency the Tournament Director, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team.

**7. Slow Play and Unplayed Boards**

The Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards if a delay in finishing the match will interfere with the smooth running of the competition. An assigned adjusted score will be awarded to each board that has already been played in the other room.

**8. Rulings and Appeals**

This invitational tournament will be played with the utmost respect towards players and organisers.

OCBL will provide the tournament with a Tournament Director for circumstances that require a ruling.

If scores are adjusted there will always be an explanation by the Tournament Director.

Any further appeal should be filed by the Team Captain within 30 minutes after the last board is played via email at: [info@ocbl.org](mailto:info@ocbl.org) and will be decided by a qualified director; no further appeal will be possible after his/her decision.

**9. Agreement to abide by the Conditions of Contest**

Entering or being accredited to attend an Online Contract Bridge League Tournament means that everybody concerned with such entry knows and agrees to abide by these General Conditions of Contest.

## 10. Appendix I: OCBL Monthly Open Teams with 16+ participating teams

### 10.1 Qualifying Stage

The qualifying stage will be played in the form of a "Round Robin" divided in two groups (Group A/ Group B)

This stage will consist of 112 boards played in 7 matches of 16 boards each.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In case of having a tie between two teams, the mutual results will decide and if there are still tied the team that has the most wins (BAM style) will qualify.

### 10.2 Final Stage

The top 8 teams from the qualifying stage will advance to the Final stage.

The final stage will consist of 3 matches of swiss by 16 boards each

The qualified teams will bring all the VPs earned during the qualification stage as carryover.

The draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Final Stage will be:

#1 vs #8

#2 vs #7

#3 vs #6

#4 vs #5

The draw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the final will be swiss according to the ranking

## 11. Appendix III: OCBL Monthly Cup with 20 + participating teams

### 11.1 Qualifying Stage

The qualifying stage will be played in the form of a “Round Robin” divided in groups or a “Delayed Swiss” in a single group.

Teams seating in the first two rounds will be drawn randomly and onwards it will be Delayed Swiss by 1 round meaning that on round 3 the seating will be based on the ranking after round 1, round 4 based on the ranking in round 2, etc.

This stage will consist of 108 boards played in 9 matches of 12 boards each.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In case of having a tie between two teams, the mutual results will decide and if there are still tied the team that has the most wins (BAM style) will qualify.

### 11.2 Knockout Stage

The top 8 teams from the group of the Qualifying Stage will advance to the knockout stage.

At the end of the qualifying stage a fixed bracket will be created:

#1 vs #8  
#2 vs #7  
#3 vs #6  
#4 vs #5

Quarterfinal semifinal and final will be played over 2 segments of 12 boards each.

There will be the following carry over:

in the quarterfinal no. #1 & # 2 get a carryover of 8.1 and no. #3 & #4 get a carryover of 4.1 IMP's.

#### **Semifinals & Finals:**

In the semifinals and the Final there will be a carry-over of 0.1 IMP's as a tiebreaker

## 12. Appendix IV: OCBL Open League with 36 Teams participating

### 12.1 Qualifying Stage

Phase 1: will be played in the form of a "Round Robin" divided in 3 groups: 11 matches of 20 boards

Phase 2: At the end of the Round Robin the teams, according to the ranking, will be divided in 2 groups: A,B

Swiss A: Will be formed by the top 4 teams from each group and will be played over 3 matches x 20 boards (Swiss)

Swiss B: Will be formed by the remaining teams and will be played over 3 matches x 20 boards (Swiss)

The teams will bring all the VPs earned during the round-robin as a carryover from Phase 1 to Phase 2

This stage will consist of 280 boards played in 14 matches of 20 boards each

Substitutions are allowed at the half of the match

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In case of having a tie between two teams, the mutual results will decide and if there are still tied the team that has the most wins (BAM style) will qualify.

### 12.2 Knockout Stage

The top 8 teams (7 teams from Swiss A and 1 teams from Swiss B) will advance to the knockout stage.

Before the start of the knockout stage a fixed bracket will be created:

#1 vs #8

#2 vs #7

#3 vs #6

#4 vs #5

Quarterfinal semifinal and final will be played over 2 segments of 24 boards each

Substitutions are allowed at the half of the match

There will be the following carry over:

in the quarterfinal no. #1 & #2 get a carryover of 8.1 and no. #3 & #4 get a carryover of 4.1 IMP's.

#### **Semifinals & Finals:**

In the semifinals and the Final there will be a carry over of 0.1 IMP's as a tie-breaker.

## **13. Appendix V: OCBL Mixed League**

### **13.1 Qualifying Stage**

The qualifying stage will be divided in two phases:

Phase 1: will be played in the form of a "Round Robin" divided in groups and will play 7 matches of 20 boards each

Phase 2: At the end of the Round Robin the teams, according to the ranking, will be divided in 2 groups: A and B and will play 2 separate Swiss A and B (3 matches of 20 boards each)

This stage will consist of 200 boards played in 10 matches of 20 boards each.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

In case of having a tie between two teams, the mutual results will decide and if there are still tied the team that has the most wins (BAM style) will qualify.

### **13.2 Knockout Stage**

The top 8 teams (6 teams from Swiss A and 2 teams from Swiss B) will advance to the knockout

Before the start of the K.O. a fixed bracket will be created:

#1 vs #8

#2 vs #7

#3 vs #6

#4 vs #5

Quarterfinal and semifinal will be played over 2 segments of 16 boards each

Final will be played over 2 segments of 24 boards each with a possible change of the line-up after 12 boards

There will be the following carry over:

in the quarterfinal no. #1 & #2 get a carryover of 8.1 and no. #3 & #4 get a carryover of 4.1 IMP's.

#### **Semifinals & Finals:**

In the semifinals and the Final there will be a carry-over of 0.1 IMP's as a tie-breaker.