

# ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION



## Conditions of contest for Simultaneous Pairs

### 1 General

The purpose of publishing Conditions of Contest in Simultaneous events is to provide unified regulations in circumstances which will otherwise be infinitely variable. No one can hope to arrive at a situation where heats are conducted in accordance with a strict pattern but at no time should circumstances be allowed in which a participant could be said to have potential access to the hands, or information concerning them, prior to the heat. It is not supposed that advantage might be taken of such a possibility, but it is important that players should be protected from any suspicion by means of security measures that are plain for all to see. These regulations apply to events organised or licensed by the English Bridge Union but are also intended to be in force whenever not superseded by regulations published by another body. These regulations are required to be available at the club on the occasion of the heat, for any participating players to study.

### 2 Conditions of Contest

Club rules will apply to Simultaneous Pairs events except where these are superseded by any Regulations published by the Sponsoring Organisation. Clubs are encouraged to accept entries from non-members of the club.

See **Instructions for Clubs** on the EBU webpage - <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/general-sim-pairs-instructions.pdf>

### 3 Eligibility

The Sponsoring Organisation reserves the right to refuse entry to the competition by any non-member of the relevant Union. Unless otherwise stated, a person who in consequence of the prescribed disciplinary procedures of any National Body is suspended from membership thereof, or from participation in one or more of its sponsored or licensed bridge competitions or is expelled from its membership, shall not participate nor be connected with any activity or competition of the English Bridge Union during the period from commencement to the termination of such suspension or expulsion. Unaffiliated clubs may participate in the EBED Sims at no extra cost. Unaffiliated clubs may participate in the British, Club Stratified and Bridge England Sims on payment of an additional 50p per player.

### 4 Systems

The systems policy of the club in which the event is to be played shall prevail.

### 5 Date of the Event

The event must be played on the date specified by the sponsoring Organisation.

### 6 Procedure

- The hands for setting in the boards and the books of the hands shall be packed as two separate sealed packages and sent to a named official of the club.
- The sealed package of the books of hands shall remain unopened until conclusion of the play of the heat.
- The hands for setting in the boards will be printed on travelling score slips, and will be contained in the second sealed package if required.

### 7 Making up the Boards

a) The sealed package containing the hands for setting in the boards shall be taken unopened to the heat [unless c) below applies], when it should be opened by the Director or other responsible person, and the travellers distributed to the players who shall then make up the boards.

b) The participants making up the boards shall only see the hands that are being made up at their own table, and they will not then play these particular boards during the course of the event.

c) Alternatively (usually in the case of a club wishing to use a Howell, rather than a Mitchell movement), the package containing the travellers/curtain cards is to be delivered sealed to a **non-participant** in the event, who shall set the hands in the boards and retain the boards and the hand records in a place of security. If a Duplimate file is requested, then it may be sent by email or on diskette to the person who is to deal the boards, who must be a non-participant in the event. The boards must then be retained in a place of security; no information shall be divulged to any third person, and no access shall be allowed to the boards or hand records.

## **8 Security**

No person shall participate in the competition who has had access to the hands; this shall mean in particular that no member of a household in which, or by members of which, the boards have been made up. Arrangements shall be made for the made-up boards to be delivered securely to the club in which the heat is to be played; this shall be done preferably by a non-participant, but should this not be possible, then by members of more than one participating partnership.

As it is permissible to play your heat of the Sim Pairs during the afternoon, it is important that you take necessary steps to ensure that the hands are not known by those playing the evening. Therefore please observe the following protocols:

- Do not upload sessions to your own website until the evening. This ensures that nobody playing in the evening could look at your website to find out the hands, or see the contracts which do or don't make. If something must be displayed online that afternoon, please post only a simple list of names and percentages. Ideally you should only upload the full results once the evening sessions have concluded.
- If your club is holding other playing sessions that afternoon, which may be attended by members who will be playing at other sessions that evening, you should ensure:
  - that any hand records are kept private;
  - that discussion of the hands should not take place within earshot of those who may be playing in other heats later in the day;
  - that any results which are displayed in the venue and are visible to other members only show scores, and not contracts etc.

NB: The EBU's scoring system for the Sim Pairs will identify any members who play twice on the same day, so it is not possible for someone to play at your club in the afternoon, and then play the same hands at another club later in the day.

## **9 Scoring (after the end of the Play Period)**

Please see section 4, and section 7 if relevant, of this document -

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/general-sim-pairs-instructions.pdf>.

Also please note this information sheet on Sim Pairs scoring -

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/sim-pairs-scoring.pdf>

## **10 Master Points**

Affiliated Clubs are expected to award local points at local club duplicate rate. If for any reason they are not intending to do so it must be announced in advance to the competitors. Master Points on a specially formulated National Scale will be awarded by the English Bridge Union to the top third of the field on the overall ranking.

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