



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

Regulations for the Registration and Use of Systems at WBF Championship Events

Date of update: June 2023

1. Publication of Systems

Registration of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets with the WBF gives the WBF the right to publish such System Cards via the Internet or to any parties at the Championship in such form as it sees fit. Once all the system cards are registered for an event, they will be publicly displayed on a website and retained for general download by interested parties thereafter.

2. Requirements

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The Supplemental Conditions of Contest (SCoC) will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, per the WBF Systems Policy and rules established in these Conditions of Contest.

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the WBF System Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their System Cards and Supplementary Sheets no later than the date and time specified in the relevant SCoC or published on the [Championship website for the event](#)

No more than four systems may be registered for a team

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purpose of this section unless:

- a) all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the [Guide to Completion](#), these Conditions of Contest, and the SCoC;
- b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the WBF that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction, may be omitted from the Card without such omission constituting a breach of the requirement that the Card contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System;
- c) the type of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card;
- d) any appropriate Brown Sticker or other forms required by the WBF Systems Policy are fully completed and appended to the Card.

3. Supplementary Sheets

- a) The addition of Supplementary Sheets may supplement the WBF System Card. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card



Headquarters:
Maison du Sport International – 54 av. de Rhodanie – 1007 Lausanne – Switzerland
Tel. +41 21 544 7218
email: president@worldbridgefed.com



should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet;

- b) Supplementary Sheets consist of one or more pages used to expand conventional sequences inadequately described on the WBF System Card. A reference number should be placed at the appropriate place on the System Card, and all such references should be marked on the Supplementary Sheet along with the complete explanation. Supplementary sheets must be submitted at the same time as the System Card;
- c) No more than six pages of Supplementary Sheets may be used.

4. Approved System Card Editors

Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel may be used, and [blank templates are available on the WBF website](#) or from the Systems Administrator.

Cards must NOT be edited using mobile phones, as when this is done, the formatting changes, and the symbols will often appear as small squares. Editing must be done using a computer. Players are strongly advised to send the original Word or Excel files in addition to any PDF that they may have created in case of any issues with the font used. PLEASE NOTE that when registering cards before a Championship, image files of any type are not acceptable (i.e. files in formats such as .jpg, .tif or .bmp.), nor are pdf files created from scanned documents or images. Files sent in these formats are likely to be rejected unless the original Word/Excel file is included.

Players using Mac computers should be aware that Mac Numbers and Pages must not be used.

The Systems Administrator will convert registered cards to PDF files which can be read and printed using Acrobat Reader, which is available as a free download from www.adobe.com.

5. Distribution of Systems

Following registration of the systems for all pairs in a team, the systems will be displayed on a website designed for the purpose, and the URL (Internet address) sent by email to the captain of the team making the registration and, if required, and providing email addresses are provided for the team members, also to them individually. If captains have queries concerning other teams' systems, they should email the Systems Administrator (systems@worldbridgefed.com) who will pass the query on to the team concerned.

The WBF deems the publication of the URL of the private website to the Captains of all teams submitting systems in accordance with the regulation detailed above to constitute the distribution of systems. All teams should download and print sufficient copies of their opponents' systems for their own use. Should there be any changes to systems uploaded, the WBF Systems Administrator will ensure that these are indicated as REV1 (2, etc.) on the website. The files will also be date stamped. Teams are expected to check the website regularly to ensure they are aware of any revisions posted. No changes will be made to any systems on the website after a date to be set in the SCoC, except in cases of emergency, in which event notification will be sent by email to the other teams.

Captains with any queries concerning the systems provided by other teams are asked to email the [WBF Systems Administrator](#), who will direct the enquiry.

6. Failure to File Systems in a Timely Fashion

Any team containing a partnership that, for any reason, has failed to comply with the time requirements as required by the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the event will:

- a) not be sent the information regarding the website containing the systems of opposing teams until the whole team has submitted its System Cards in accordance with these regulations; and
- b) be subject to a decision of the Systems Committee, who may forbid the team to use specific conventional understandings not submitted in accordance with these Conditions of Contest. Additionally, the partnership will not be permitted to use HUM or Brown Sticker Conventions for the duration of the Championship.
- c) The Systems Committee may require any partnership whose System Card and supplementary sheets have not reached the WBF Systems Administrator on the date and time indicated in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the event may be required to use the system described on the WBF World Standard Card for the first two days of play

6.1. Changes to Cards/Supplementary Sheets

- a) Official format for changes: The new System Card/Supplementary Sheet that reflects the proposed change must be submitted, with any changes highlighted to make what has been altered readily identifiable. Even if the Supplementary Sheets remain unaltered, they must be re-sent together with the card.
- b) Any changes to already submitted cards and/or sheets must be submitted as early as possible and no later than the date and time stated in the relevant SCoC. Changes may only be clarifications, amendments, minor additions, and/or cosmetic revisions in accordance with the WBF Systems Policy. NO CHANGES may be made to Brown Sticker or HUM Systems. If these are not correctly submitted in the first instance, they may not be played.
- c) All changes must be highlighted on the revised card to enable other teams to see what has been altered.
- d) On-site system changes will be approved or required by the Chairman of the WBF Systems Committee or a nominee(s).
- e) For a change to be implemented, it will be noted as a revision and uploaded to the website. All files will be date-stamped and captains and players must check the website for new or updated systems. Any essential changes made to System Cards after the stated date will be advised at the Captains' Meeting or by email.
- f) Only the Chairman of the WBF Systems Committee or his designee will consider requests for a change once a team has arrived at the venue. Any such request may be approved, refused in whole or in part, and/or subject to conditions. Clarifications and improvements to presentation will not be considered substantive changes.

7. Special Responsibility for BROWN STICKER Systems and Conventions

Note that the regulations for Brown Sticker Systems and Conventions only apply to Category 2 and Category 3 Championship Events. See the [WBF Systems Policy](#)

Pairs wishing to play Brown Sticker conventions (maximum of three per pair) in the knockout stages must register a separate card together with the relevant forms at the same time as they register their card for the round robin.

With regard to BROWN STICKER systems/conventions, there is a special responsibility for users to explain their methods in sufficient detail (as per the Guide to Completion and the CCE), the first time that cards are submitted.

Explanations and continuations for Brown Sticker Conventions, together with a viable defence, must be presented using the Brown Sticker Convention Announcement form or the Brown Sticker Convention Overcall form which are available in Word Format for download from the [WBF Website](#). If these submissions are inadequate, or a defence is not proposed, the pair may be barred from using those methods for the duration of the Championship.

Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in the pair or pairs not being permitted to play these conventions/systems.

These penalties are designed so that no pair will be able to claim ignorance of their special responsibility if they wish to play Brown Sticker methods. The NBO, the captains, and the players are jointly responsible for contacting the WBF should there be any problems in obtaining the necessary tournament information in a timely fashion.

7.1. Defences to Brown Sticker Conventions

A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker elements of any system (see the WBF System Policy). These defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card, so the pair may consult their written defence at the table.

7.2. Seating Rights for Pairs using Brown Sticker Conventions

Teams will have seating rights if they are playing against a pair or pairs using two or more Brown Sticker conventions but not if both teams have a pair using two or more such conventions.

8. Special Regulations for Teams Using HUM Systems

Note that the Regulations for HUM Systems only apply to Category 3 events

8.1. Highly Unusual Methods

Highly Unusual Methods are defined in the [WBF Systems Policy](#).

8.2. Submission of HUM Systems

Any pair intending to use a HUM System must send a complete copy of any HUM system in English and their System Card and supplementary sheets, to the WBF Systems Administrator by the date and time designated in the SCoC.

Furthermore, a complete copy of a HUM System must be printed in English and filed at the System Card desk on site at the start of the tournament before the Captains' Meeting.

The Systems Committee may decide that pairs who fail to comply with these special regulations or present their system poorly, will not be permitted to play the HUM System.

8.3. Regulations for Pairs using HUM Systems

Any team with a pair using a HUM System (whether or not the pair will play):

- Should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for a stanza to supply information and clarification as requested by their opponents.
- Due to oppose a team that has no such pair, they will always be the AWAY Team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM Systems (regardless of the line-up) oppose one another.

A team opposing a team with a pair using a HUM System will submit three legible copies of any defence methods to the HUM System, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled line-up time for the match to the System Card Desk and given by the captain to the captain of the HUM system team. In preparing these defences pairs using Green, Blue or Red Systems may change their systems including opening calls. Pairs using HUM Systems are not allowed to change their opening calls.

The pair using a HUM System must inform the opponents in writing (hand-written, 2 clearly legible copies) about their counter-defence at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using the HUM System is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

9. Written Defences

Players may refer to written defences to HUM Systems and Brown Sticker conventions and to written defences to those defences.

10. General

If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his System Card (including Supplementary Sheets), and the opponents are damaged as a consequence, the pair will be subject to a score adjustment with any benefit of doubt resolved in favour of the opponents. If a partnership is found to be using agreements not permitted at that particular event, the pair may also be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction.

In addition, penalties may be applied if a pair is found to be playing a system not permitted within the regulations for the event in question as detailed in the SCoC. Furthermore, that player will not be permitted to continue using their system until it has been altered to the full satisfaction of the Chairman of the Systems Committee. In the meantime, they may be required to play the WBF Standard Card.

11. Use of System Cards at the Table

Unless otherwise set forth in the SCoC, each member of a pair must hand to one of their opponents at the table at the start of each Session of an event their duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the SCoC for a specific World Bridge Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the Session. Failure to provide copies of the System Card in accordance with this regulation may lead to a procedural penalty.

After withdrawing their cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, players may not consult their own Card or Supplementary Sheets except as permitted under Law 40B2(b).

A written question may be posed to an opponent and written defences against Brown Sticker conventions and HUM aspects in an opponent's system consulted.

12. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE SYSTEM CARD

All teams must submit a filled-out WBF Systems (Convention) Card for each pair by the date specified in the SCoC. The System Card is for the benefit of your opponents and poor or lacking information may be to your disadvantage in TD rulings. Non-compliance with these instructions may incur a VP fine and/or require the use of the WBF Standard Card.

Put the player names (and team name) both on the front and back of the card and also on each Supplementary Sheet *.

Follow the instructions in the [Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card](#) as well those detailed above. Note the update to the WBF Systems Policy.

You are expected to inform opponents as fully as possible of your methods. Your own “standard” or “normal” may not be theirs. Pay special attention to the following items which are frequently neglected.

(You may, if necessary, refer to Supplementary Sheets. *)

- DO NOT USE terms such as “weak”, “light”, “preemptive”, “destructive”, “optimistic”, “normal” etc. Instead, state (at least approximately) the HCP range. If this depends on position and/or vulnerability, explain this.
- Clarify responses to all openings, and to all overcalls (such as new suit, jump new, cue, jump cue, jump support). Just “Relay” or “Enquiry” is not sufficient.
- Under Defence to 1NT explain if, how and when your methods differ for different strengths.
- Be specific about how and when you use relays, transfers and “switch” agreements with or without competition.
 - With what does partner accept a transfer?
 - Does the transfer promise a suit, a suit plus values, or just values with later support of partner’s suit?
 - Do the transfers include NT or cue bids?
- AVOID USING NAMES of methods.

If you use a name, there may be more than one meaning. Explain yours.

Don’t use words such as “standard”, “reversed”, “modified”. If space is needed refer to a numbered note in the Supplementary sheets.

For example:

Don’t use “Smith”, “modified Smith”, reverse “Smith”. Instead say for example, “Smith, LOW enc by both”.

“Gazilli”; explain the way you play it, also continuation by opener and responder

Other names needing clarification include Cappelletti, Drury, Ghestem, Hamilton, Kaplan, Kokish, Lebensohl, Muiderberg, Niemeyer, Rosenkranz, Rubensohl, Truscott, Turbo, Wilkosz, Woolsey etc

12.1. Supplementary Sheets:

- Any item on the Card that is clarified in the Supplementary sheets must have a reference to a numbered note.
- Explanations of developments not directly connected to a bid or overcall may be referenced using an extra heading under Special bids:

12.2. ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Provide the sheets with names and page numbers!