



“Bridge for Peace”

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**FOR THE 17TH WORLD BRIDGE SERIES
KATOWICE, POLAND**

20TH AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

Regulations issued by the World Bridge Federation
Lausanne, June 2026



Table of Contents

1. Preamble for the 2026 World Bridge Series Championships	4
2. Definitions.....	4
2.1 "2026 World Bridge Series".....	4
2.2 "these Championships"	4
2.3 "General Conditions of Contest" (GCoC)	4
2.4 "these Conditions of Contest"	4
2.5 "Organizing Committee"	4
2.6 "Credentials Committee"	4
2.7 "the Knockout Teams".....	5
2.8 "the Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed Pairs"	5
2.9 "direct Knockout"	5
2.10 "Official Coach"	5
2.11 "Transnational Event(s)"	5
2.12 "Senior"	5
3. Conditions of Entry	5
3.1 General	5
3.2 Commitment Forms	5
3.3 Anti-Doping Regulations.....	6
3.4 Submission of Entries.....	6
3.5 Entry Fees	6
4. Schedule of Events.....	6
5. Eligibility for Master Point Awards	6
6. Disclosure of Systems - WBF Systems Policy	6
6.1 Disclosure Requirements	6
6.2 Event Categories	7
6.3 Interpretation of the Systems Policy	7
6.4 Supplementary Sheets	7
6.5 Additional Systems Regulations.....	7
6.5.1 Registration of systems.....	7
6.5.2 System Card Programs	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
6.6 Penalties for a breach of the Systems Regulations	7
7. Teams Competitions	7
7.1 All Teams Events.....	7
7.1.1 Rosenblum Teams.....	7
7.1.2 McConnell Teams.....	7
7.1.3 Rand Cup Teams.....	8
7.1.4 Mixed Teams.....	8
7.2 Carryover and Ties in the KO stages	8
7.3 Brackets for the KO stage.....	8
7.4 Changes.....	8
7.5 Swiss Teams.....	8
7.6 The Knockout Phase	8
7.6.1 Two stanzas.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
7.6.2 Three stanzas	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
7.6.3 Four stanzas	8

7.6.4 Six stanzas	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
8. Adding Players to a Team.....	8
9. Pairs Competitions.....	9
9.1 Seeding.....	9
9.2 Substitutes and Alternates.....	9
10. Format & Drop in Regulations	9
10.1 Format.....	9
10.2 Drop-ins	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
10.3 Starting Time.....	10
11. Score Penalties	10
11.1 Victory Point Penalties.....	10
11.2 IMP Penalties	10
11.3 Failure to Submit Line-up on Time	11
11.4 Late Arrival.....	11
11.4.1 During a Swiss or a Round Robin	11
11.4.2 During the Knockout Phase.....	11
11.5 Slow Play	11
11.5.1 Excess time apportioned to a pair during the Swiss	11
11.5.2 Excess time apportioned to a pair during the Knockout Phase.....	11
11.6 Starting time and lateness fines in Pairs	12
12. Carryover	12
13. Contact Information.....	12
13.1 The President's Office:	12
13.2 For Anti-Doping information.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
13.3 To register Commitment forms.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
14. Official Websites:.....	12
15. Links to Specific Information	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
15.1.1 Participants Commitment Form.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
15.1.2 The WBF Anti Doping Regulations	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
15.1.3 The Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Application Forms.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
15.1.4 System card Editors.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
15.1.5 Registration Pages.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.

1. Preamble for the 2026 World Bridge Series Championships

The Conditions of Contest herein are supplemental to the General Conditions of Contest for World Bridge Championships, as issued by the World Bridge Federation and are specific for the 2026 World Bridge Series Championships to be played in Katowice, Poland, from Thursday the 20th of August – Thursday the 3rd of September 2026.

These Supplemental Conditions of Contest and the General Conditions of Contest together form the set of Rules and Regulations governing the 2026 World Bridge Series.

2. Definitions

Expressions defined in the General Conditions of Contest shall have the same meaning where used in these Conditions of Contest. In addition, unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these Conditions of Contest shall have the following meanings:

2.1 “2026 World Bridge Series”

means the World Knockout Mixed Teams Championship, the World Mixed Pairs Championship, the World Knockout Open Teams Championship for the Rosenblum Cup (also known as the “Rosenblum Teams”), the World Knockout Women’s Teams Championship for the McConnell Cup (also known as the “McConnell Teams”), the World Senior Teams Championship for the Rand Cup (also known as the “Rand Senior Teams”), the World Open and Women’s Pairs Championships, the World Senior Pairs Championship for the Hiron Trophy (also known as the “Hiron Senior Pairs”), the World Swiss Open Teams I&II. It also includes the Board-A-Match I&II, all to be conducted under the auspices and organisation of the World Bridge Federation, from the 20th of August – the 3rd of September 2026, in the MCK – International Congress Centre or at such other time or place as the WBF may determine.

2.2 “these Championships”

mean the 2026 World Bridge Series and “championship event” means any of the events referred to in Section 2.1.

2.3 “General Conditions of Contest” (GCoC)

means the WBF General Conditions of Contest.

2.4 “these Conditions of Contest”

means the Supplemental Conditions of Contest herein contained.

2.5 “Organizing Committee”

means the Committee appointed by the WBF to organise these Championships.

2.6 “Credentials Committee”

Before the start of the tournament, this means the WBF Credentials Committee. During the Championships it means the Credentials Committee of three persons appointed by the President.

2.7 “the Knockout Teams”

means the Transnational World Knockout Open, Women’s, Senior and Mixed Teams Championships for the Rosenblum Trophy, the McConnell Cup, the Rand Cup, and the Mixed Trophy, respectively referred to in Section 2.1.

2.8 “the Open, Women’s, Senior and Mixed Pairs”

means the Transnational World Open, Women’s, Senior (Hiron Cup), and Mixed Pairs Championships referred to in Section 2.1.

2.9 “direct Knockout”

means the knockout segments of the Knockout Teams.

2.10 Swiss Teams

means the Transnational World Swiss Teams I and the Transnational World Swiss Teams II, respectively referred to in Section 2.1.

2.11 Board-A-Match (BAM) Teams

means the Transnational BAM Teams I and the Transnational BAM Teams II, respectively referred to in Section 2.1.

2.12 “Official Coach”

The Official Coach is the person registered with the WBF through the website as the Coach for the team. Only one official coach per team is permitted.

2.13 “Transnational Event(s)”

means an event in which players in partnerships or teams may be from different NBOs.

2.14 “Senior”

For the current Championships Senior players must attain the age of 65 during the year of the Championships.

3. Conditions of Entry

See also the section relating to these conditions in the General Conditions of Contest.

3.1 General

Since all events are Transnational, and Teams and Pairs may comprise players from different NBOs, the following procedures shall apply:

For all events, Pairs and Teams may consist of players belonging to the same or different NBOs, but each player must be in good standing with his or her NBO of origin and will also be subject to the approval of the WBF Credentials Committee.

Teams may consist of 4, 5, or 6 players.

3.2 Commitment Forms

All participants (players, NPCs, Coaches and other team officials) must electronically submit a Commitment Form (in case of a underaged – less than 18 years old – the Form includes a parental consent as well). The Form is to be found on the WBF website.

No player will be permitted to play, nor any Non-Playing Captain or Coach participate, in any of the Championship events without having first registered a Commitment Form in advance as required.

3.3 Anti-Doping Regulations

All participants are expected to comply fully with the WBF Anti-Doping Regulations.

Anti-Doping tests will be held during the Championships for players in the Open, Women's and Mixed tournaments. Players required to take any prohibited medication must apply for a Therapeutic Exemption Certificate no later than 30 days before the play begins in the event they plan to take part in.

3.4 Submission of Entries

Entries should be made through the WBF Website at **www.worldbridge.org**.

Players are requested to enter in advance, and entries should be received by the 12th of August, 2026. However, late entries will be accepted if there is sufficient space at the venue.

3.5 Entry Fees

Entry fees will be detailed on the WBF website.

Players are strongly encouraged to pay the entry fees for the main Championship events at the same time as they register.

4. Schedule of Events

Due to the uncertainty of entry numbers, all schedules of play and drop-in regulations etc., are subject to revision. Any such revisions will be published on the Championship's website.

5. Eligibility for Master Point Awards

WBF Master Points will be awarded for all Championship Events per the WBF Master Point Plan. **[Click here](#)** to go to the WBF Master Points Site.

6. Disclosure of Systems - WBF Systems Policy

The WBF Systems Policy forms part of these Conditions of Contest and further regulates the use of Systems at these Championships.

6.1 Disclosure Requirements

Please make reference to the **WBF Guide to Completion** (of the System card and Supplementary sheets). Failure to comply with this obligation will result in penalties.

Unless repugnant to the context, Supplementary sheets are deemed to be part of the System card of a partnership.

All players will be responsible for ensuring that their partnership has two properly completed System cards in English at the table at the start of each session and each round. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in penalties.

The World Bridge Federation will provide no printing or photocopying facilities.

6.2 Event Categories

Per Section 3 of the WBF Systems Policy, all events at these Championships are Category 3 events. Consequently, neither HUM Systems nor Brown Sticker Conventions are permitted during any event. Players are responsible for ensuring that they have correctly categorised their system.

6.3 Interpretation of the Systems Policy

Should any question arise during these Championships as to the correct interpretation of the WBF Systems Policy, the decision of the Chairman of the WBF Systems Committee or his designee shall be final and binding on all contestants.

6.4 Supplementary Sheets

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the System Card, a reference number should be placed at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number and containing the complete explanation in English must be brought to the table along with the Card.

6.5 Additional Systems Regulations

Registration of systems

Players are required to upload their system cards on the WBF website:
<https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026-world-bridge-series/systems>

6.6 Penalties for a breach of the Systems Regulations

The Head TD and the Chairman of the Systems Committee or his designee are empowered to determine whether a partnership has breached any provision of the Systems Regulations. A decision on such a matter is final. Would there be a difference of opinion, the Chairman of the System Committee shall prevail.

7. Teams Competitions

7.1 All Teams Events

7.1.1 Rosenblum Teams

The Rosenblum Teams will play a two-day qualification phase with eight Swiss sessions of 14 boards each followed by a KO stage which starts from the round of 64 and up to the Final. All KO matches will be played over one day with four 14-board sessions (56 in total). There will be no play-off. Both Semi-Final losers will be classified third ex aequo and the players awarded the Bronze Medal, receiving the Masterpoints and Placing Points for third place.

7.1.2 Mixed Teams

The Mixed Teams will play a two-day qualification phase with eight Swiss sessions of 14 boards each followed by a KO stage which starts from the round of 32 and up to the Final. All KO matches will be played over one day with four 14-board sessions (56 in total). There will be no play-off. Both Semi-Final losers will be classified third ex aequo and the players awarded the Bronze Medal, receiving the Masterpoints and Placing Points for third place.

7.1.3 Rand Cup and McConnell Teams

In the Rand Cup and the McConnell Teams the teams will play a qualification phase over two, three or four days according to the number of entries, either Swiss or Round Robin (number of rounds and boards per round to be determined), followed by a KO stage which will start from the Round of 16, (two days qualification), or Quarter-Finals (three days qualification) or Semi-Finals (four days qualification). All KO matches will be played over one day with four 14-board sessions (56 in total). There will be no play-off. Both Semi-Final losers will be classified third ex aequo and the players awarded the Bronze Medal, receiving the Masterpoints and Placing Points for third place.

7.2 Carryover and Ties in the KO stages

There will be no carryover in any of the Team events. Ties will be resolved in favour of the higher-ranked team in the qualification stage.

7.3 Brackets for the KO stage

At the end of the qualification stage, the top 25% qualifiers will each, in turn, choose their opponent from among the bottom 50% (e.g. in the Mixed Teams the top 8 will pick amongst the bottom 16). The rest of the bracket will be assigned using the remaining teams' original seeding, based on the average WBF Master Points of the team's members for the respective category, e.g., Senior Master Points for the Senior teams. Seeding ties will be broken based on qualification rank.

7.4 Changes

According to the regulations in the General Conditions of Contest and to the number of entries, the Championship Committee reserves the authority to modify the rules above indicated at 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.6. before the beginning of the championships. The changes will be immediately communicated and published.

7.5 Swiss Teams

In each match of the Swiss Teams, the first named team will be the Home Team. Line-ups will not be submitted in advance.

7.6 The Knockout Phase

The scoring system will automatically assign seating rights for each stanza (set of 14 boards) using a random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

Four stanzas

- a) Each team will have seating rights in two stanzas.
- b) The four stanzas are divided into portions of two each: 1-2, 3-4; when a team is assigned seating rights in one stanza, the other team automatically gets seating rights in the other stanza of that portion.
- c) If a team gets seating rights in stanza four, the other will get seating rights in stanza one.

8. Adding Players to a Team

Each team is entitled to have six members plus a non-playing captain and a coach. The non-playing captain and coach must be officially registered before the start of the first match of the competition and are subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee.

If only four or five members are registered at the time of the original entry, additional member(s) may be registered either before the start or after play has begun, by permission of the Championship Committee, subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee.

In the case of force majeure the Operations Director or the Head TD may seat a substitute player, specifically if the team has only four players and, if he considers it necessary, he may approve a substitution for other reasons, subject to the ratification by the Championship Committee.

9. Pairs Competitions

9.1 Seeding

The Chairman of the Championship Committee will appoint a Seeding Committee to assign starting positions for pairs in the first Session of play-through events and every phase of the Mixed, Open, Women's and Senior Pairs Championships. The committee will include the tournament's Operations Director. Seeding decisions of this Committee will be final.

9.2 Substitutes and Alternates

The Championship Committee may authorise the Operations Director or Head TD to make emergency substitutions necessary for the smooth running of the event. If this results in the disqualification of any contestant, that contestant will be ineligible to win Masterpoints from the time the substitution is made.

10. Format & Drop in Regulations

10.1 Format

In principle, all the Pairs Competitions will consist of qualification rounds followed by Semi-Finals and Finals. However, if the number of entries be too small to run three stages, in the Seniors and Women categories either a two-stages or even an all-play-through event will be organised.

In the Open Pairs, there will be two days of qualification, two of Semi-Finals and two of Final.

In the Women's and Senior Pairs there will be two days of qualification, two of Semi-Finals, and one of Final.

In the Mixed Pairs there will be two days of qualification, two of Semi-Finals, and one of Final.

In all categories, the number of qualified pairs in the Semi-Finals A & B will depend on the number of original entries.

The total number of pairs in the Open Final will be 52: some from Semi-Final A, some from Semi-Final B and, in addition, a maximum of 12 pairs coming from the corresponding team Quarter-Finals will be added. The total number of pairs in the Mixed Final will be 26: some from Semi-Final A, some from Semi-Final B and, in addition, a maximum of 6 pairs coming from the corresponding team Semi-Finals will be added.

In the Women's and Senior Pairs events, the number of participating pairs in each Final will depend on the number of original entries, drop ins included.

Players knocked out from the World Mixed Teams, Rand Cup, Rosenblum Trophy and McConnell Cup have the right to drop-in into an already started event, according to the table published here: <https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026-world-bridge->

series/after-event. However, these “duly entered pairs or teams” must meet the following criteria:

- a) Any pair or team wishing to drop-in MUST register and pay before the start of the qualification stage of the event they intend to drop-in into. The expiration time for registering will be announced on-site, but will certainly be no later than 10 pm on the day prior to the start of the qualification stage.
- b) A team that has been knocked out can drop-in a maximum of three pairs, or one team and one pair, regardless of their composition, but: a) each pair dropping-in must include at least one player from that team and/or b) each team dropping-in must include at least one player from that team. Neither NPCs nor Coaches are considered players. Each such player must have fulfilled the minimum play requirements for Masterpoints in the applicable team event.
- c) If a team has registered more than three pairs, or more than a team, or more than one team and one pair, it must elect who will drop-in no later than 10 pm on the day prior to the commencement of the corresponding stage. If this doesn't happen, the system will automatically pick, and no change will be allowed thereafter.
- d) If a duly entered pair or team is composed of two players from the same team, or if only one was a player in the team event, they will drop into the applicable stage of the corresponding event upon elimination from the team event. If both members of the pair or team are from different teams in the same event, they will drop into the applicable event upon the later elimination of the two players. If the pair or team is composed of players from different team events they may only drop into the applicable stage of the applicable event of that later eliminated player. For these purposes, “later” means dropping into a different stage of the event. (E.g.: if one member of the pair or team is eliminated in the Swiss qualifying stage of any category and the other member of a pair eliminated from the Open Teams in the Round of 16, that pair would be eligible to drop into the Semi-Final of the Open Pairs. This applies similarly to a participant in the Women's and Senior Teams who is otherwise eligible).

10.2 Starting Time

All participants must be in their proper seating position five minutes before the announced starting time for each play session.

11. Score Penalties

11.1 Victory Point Penalties

Victory Point penalties, where applicable, shall be deducted from the score of the offending team at the conclusion of the relevant Swiss match or Round Robin. These Victory Point penalties shall not affect individual matches for the purpose of tie-breaking procedures but may determine a team's ranking.

11.2 IMP Penalties

In the knockout phase a penalty fully affects the match score at that time (e.g., if the score between teams A and B is 32 to 29 before calculating any penalty, and team A has been penalised 3 IMPs, the final score will be 29-29, and the tie-breaking rules would apply).

11.3 Failure to Submit Line-up on Time

A Captain who fails to submit line-ups for KO matches in accordance with the Regulations will be subject to:

- a) for the first such offence - a warning from the TD;
- b) for the second offence - a penalty of 1 IMP;
- c) for the third offence - a penalty of 2 IMPs;
- d) for each subsequent offence - a penalty of 3 IMPs.

If the offender is the team which should line-up first, the Captain of the team with seating rights will have time up to five minutes before the start of the next stanza.

11.4 Late Arrival

Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time of a session or a match will be assessed penalties according to the following scale:

11.4.1 During a Swiss or a Round Robin

- 0+ – 5 minutes late - 0.2 VP per minute or part thereof
- 5+ – 10 minutes late - 0.4 VP per minute or part thereof
- Over 10 minutes late - The match is cancelled and is considered a walkover. The Head TD may include, at his discretion, a recommendation for more severe action by the Championship Committee.

11.4.2 During the Knockout Phase

- 0+ – 5 minutes late - warning to captain(s): from the second offence and onward, the provision for 5+ minutes late shall apply.
- 5+ – 25 minutes late - 1 IMP for each minute or part thereof beyond 5 minutes.
- Over 25 minutes late - 30 IMPs plus 2 IMPs for each minute thereafter, but after 40 minutes the round is cancelled. The Head TD may include, at his discretion, a recommendation to forfeit the match or more severe action by the Championship Committee.

The Qualification and Knockout phases are considered separate events for the above purposes. Thus, any late arrival warnings issued during the Qualification phase are not carried over into the Knockout phase.

11.5 Slow Play

The time allowed for each match or session shall be computed starting when the TD announces the commencement of play. If play continues beyond the time allowed, either one or both of the pairs will be subject to penalty, according to the amount of delay for which such pair was judged responsible, as follows:

11.5.1 Excess time apportioned to a pair during the Swiss or Round Robin

- 0+ – 5 minutes after time - 0.2 VP per minute or part thereof
- 5+ – 10 minutes after time - 0.4 VP per minute or part thereof

If the delay is such to cause organising problems (e.g. making impossible to timely publish starting positions) the Operations Director or the Head TD may terminate the match forthwith.

11.5.2 Excess time apportioned to a pair during the Knockout Phase

- 0+ – 15 minutes late - 1 IMP for each minute or part thereof.

More than 15 minutes late - The Head TD will shorten the match.

A TD or an official appointed by the Head TD shall determine responsibility for slow play inspecting the video. In case of forfeiture of a match, the Head TD may recommend more severe action by the Championship Committee.

11.6 Starting time and lateness fines in Pairs

All participants are required to be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time for each session of play. Should either member of a partnership not be seated in his starting position at the announced starting time, the pair will receive an official warning for a first offence during that phase of the event for being up to 5 minutes late, then 10% of a top for each period of 5 minutes or part thereof up to 20 minutes, after which penalties shall be at the discretion of the Championship Committee. These may include disqualification from the event.

If a player fails to arrive within 20 minutes of the announced starting time of the session, that pair shall be withdrawn from that Championship Event. The Head TD may seat a substitute in case of emergency.

12. Carryover

There might be a carryover in some of the Pairs events. The decision will be taken on-site.

13. Contact Information

13.1 The President's Office:

WBF President, Mr Franck Riehm Maison du Sport International

54 av. de Rhodanie 1007 Lausanne Switzerland

Email: president@worldbridgefed.org / info@worldbridgefed.org

14. Official Websites:

The official WBF Website

The WBF Master Point website, with details of the Master Point Regulations together with Master Point Ranking lists.

The World Anti-Doping Organisation (WADA)

The WADA Prohibited List