



**WBU COMPETITION  
JOURNAL  
2018 -19**

# WBU Competition Rules

1. This is the only set of competition rules for WBU events and should be read in conjunction with rules laid down for events shown under individual headings, save that:

a) The WBU Management Committee reserves the right to make emergency amendments to these rules, which will be notified to the relevant competitors and published on the WBU Website.

b) Where no rule is stated in this Journal or made under a) above, the EBU Tournament Director's Guide ("White Book") shall apply.

2. Copies of the English Bridge Union Blue and White books may be found at

<http://welshbridgeunion.org/publications/> (Link with permission from the EBU)

## General Rules

3. All competitors must have paid the current year's WBU subscription before entering competitions or trials. They must also conform to the eligibility conditions laid down in the Constitution of the WBU (see extract below). This does not apply in respect of the Simultaneous Pairs and School Teams Championship.

Extract from Constitution:

20.1 For International events, the eligibility rules of the organisers shall apply.

20.2 In representative matches between Areas or parts of Wales, only persons of Welsh birth or Welsh parentage or who are domiciled in Wales shall be eligible to play.

4. Master Point awards are shown for each event. Where the awards are shown as Local points, the events are not classed as of "National Standing". In team events, each member of a team must play at least one-third of the boards, or ten boards, whichever is the greater, to qualify for Master Point awards. Awards for Area competitions are listed in the Master Point Handbook.

5. a) No player may enter a in more than one team or pair in any one competition.

b) Area championships: Qualification criteria are subject to the jurisdiction of Areas.

Members of more than one Area may enter for Area championships in each Area, but Green points will be awarded only in the first Area final played. A player who is a member of a team that plays in an Area final is considered to have played in that final.

**6.** Entries for the Welsh Cup & Cambria Cup must be submitted to the organiser by 3rd September. Early entries are appreciated. Entries will be accepted only when the appropriate fee is forwarded simultaneously. Payment methods are described on the entry forms. Late entries may be accepted if they do not disrupt the arrangements made.

**7.** Entry fees & table money are as follows:

**Graded Masters:** £15 per player

**Ladies' Weekend:** £20 per player per day

**Welsh/Cambria Cup:** £40 per team

**Simultaneous Pairs:** £2.50 per player or £3.00 including booklet (+ usual club table money)

**Teams of Eight**

First qualifying round: £2 per player (plus normal area table money)

Final £20 per player

**Webber Cup**

Final £35 per player

Heat organisers of the Teams of Eight must inform the NTO of entry numbers by the dates given in the competition details. All entry fees, except for the

WBU simultaneous pairs entries, should be sent to the NTO. Entry fees for the WBU Simultaneous are to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, banked in WBU account using the reference: Sims or via WBU Paypal Account. Cheques should be made payable to the WBU.

**8.** Unless specified in the rules relating to a particular competition -

i) Ties will be decided in accordance with rules laid down in section #143 of the current EBU White Book;

ii) Allocation to the Teams of Eight National Final will be based on the entry to each Area Competition.

Areas will find reserves from within their own area qualifying event. Where an area is unable to fill its allocation, places will be offered to other areas.

Priority will be given in allocating spare places to the area(s) with the lowest percentage of qualifiers compared with their allocation.

**9.** The Management Committee will take disciplinary action against any player, pair or team that withdraw(s) either before or during a WBU event without due notification to the NTO and/or adequate reason. Appeal against such action may be made to the Executive Council.

**10.** A substitute must not have already been eliminated from the event and must not subsequently play in the event in another team or pair (but see Teams of 8 regulations). In Men's, Ladies and Mixed Pairs, the substitute must be the same sex as the absent player.

**Pairs Events:**

a) Area and National Finals: no substitutes are allowed except in an on-the-spot emergency when the director will use his discretion.

b) Club championships: for one and two-round heats, no substitute is allowed; for three-round heats a substitute is allowed for one round only and the other player must play throughout.

**Teams:**

An additional member may be enrolled at any time under the conditions of rule 12, provided there are fewer than six players already in the team. The exception being the Welsh Cup where no players may be added after the Quarter Finals except in exceptional circumstances.

**11.** Players will be considered to have expressed their primary allegiance to the Area through which they have paid their WBU subscription. If any player has paid a subscription through more than one Area, the area of their Club as recorded on the WBU online database shall be considered their area of primary allegiance.

**12.** In open teams events, teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players, this limit applying for the duration of the competition. An entry will not be accepted unless at least 4 players are nominated. Additional members must be nominated to the NTO before they play. In an emergency such additional members may be declared to an ATO and the entry fee paid.

In knock-out events, captains must designate a town in Wales as the home base at the time of entry; this will be regarded as the venue of the team's home matches

**Knock-out Teams Events:**

**13.** In team events, on receipt of the draw it is required that the home captain contact his opponent, preferably the same day and by telephone or email. If the away captain has not been contacted within one week of receiving the draw, he should attempt to contact the home captain (this in no way absolves the home captain from the requirement to telephone first).

During this conversation, a selection of suitable dates should be proposed by each Captain, one of which will be confirmed as soon as possible. If a date cannot be agreed and the match has to be awarded, then it will generally be awarded to the away captain, provided that:

- a) He has not asked for a halfway venue;
- b) He has not broken a previously-arranged date;
- c) He has offered three dates, one of which must be a Sunday, and no more than two of which fall within one 7-day period.
- d) He has not failed to give adequate dates because of having fewer than six nominated players

If any of a), b) and c) above applies, the match will be awarded to the home captain unless b), c) or d) applies to the home team, in which case the matter will be referred to the organiser who will, in consultation with the CEO and President if necessary, award the match on the facts or, as a last resort, by the toss of a coin.

**14.** Teams will be zoned in the early rounds, but the away team captain may demand a halfway venue if the distance between the two home bases is greater than 75 miles. The responsibility for organising the halfway venue is that of the away captain, but expenses shall be shared.

**15.** Team changes may be made whenever a group of boards (a stanza) is scored. Each team will, in turn to be decided by the toss of a coin, have the right to seat its players last, alternating after each group of boards.

**16.** Late matches disrupt the competition. The dates given by the organiser at the start of the competition constitute the final dates for each round. An extension (max. 7 days) will only be given if both captains request it before the date. Where an extension is granted, the winning captain's chance of a favourable adjudication on an inability to agree dates in the subsequent rounds will be seriously prejudiced.

**17.** Winning captains must email the organiser within 24 hours, with names of those who played in the match in both teams and the number of boards played by each player and the number of stanzas won or drawn by each player.

**18.** Should a team arrive more than thirty minutes late, its opponents have the right to curtail the match by four boards for every half-hour of lateness, which right they may legitimately exercise or renounce after 16 boards of play (one-third of the boards in the Cambria Cup).

Where opponents have failed to notify of lateness, the match may be claimed after one hour, or where the opponents have notified, after two hours, subject to appeal to the Management Committee. A team, on receipt of notification that their opponents are going to be more than one hour late, may decline to play on that date.

**19.** In any dispute which does not concern laws, regulations, ethics, rulings or appeals, the ruling of the National Tournament Organiser or the WBU Management Committee, including the award of the match, shall be final.

**20.** In return for not having to travel, the home team is expected to provide refreshments for both teams. The scale on which this is provided should take into account the length of the match and the distance travelled by the away team.

### **Miscellaneous**

**21.** Mobile telephones and other electronic devices must be kept switched off at all times in the playing area from the start of play in each session until after the last player has finished playing in that session. It is not acceptable for such devices to be kept switched on "vibrate" or other silent setting. A fine of 2 Victory Points or 12 IMPs or 40% of a top (according to the form of scoring for the event in question) may be imposed on any pair or team if a mobile telephone or other device belonging to or carried by any player in that pair or team sounds during the session or if a player attempts to make a telephone call during the session.

A player who believes he has good reason such as family illness or medical alert to require that his telephone be kept switched on during a session may request that the Director keep charge of the telephone for the duration of the session.

### **Laws & Ethics Committee regulations**

**22.** The WBU has decided that a record should be kept of psychic bids made in National competitions, and players are requested to report such bids to the Tournament Director. All records of psychic bids and appeals forms should be sent to the CEO or NTO.

**23.** Convention cards must be provided by all players at all stages of National and Area events, or the partnership will be assumed to be playing "simple systems". Acceptable convention cards are those in the format published by the English Bridge Union as EBU 20B. WBF convention cards are not acceptable for Welsh Bridge Union events with the exception of the Premier League and International Trials. Clubs are encouraged to follow the same principle, but this will be left to the discretion of the Clubs.

**24.** A contestant or his captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the Director. The appeal to a WBU Appeals Committee or Referee is subject

to a deposit of £20 for a pair and £30 for a team. This is returned at the discretion of the Appeals Committee, and its decision is based upon whether it considers the appeal to have been frivolous for the class of player involved. The test in the case of an experienced appellant would be if the Committee came to a unanimous decision with little or no discussion; the less experienced the player, the more understanding the Committee would be.

Appeals to the National Authority are settled by the WBU Laws and Ethics Committee, and must be submitted in writing to the WBU Chief Executive enclosing a deposit of £75. You should inform the Tournament Director of your intention to appeal, since the Committee may want information from him/her, as well as the comments of the Referee or Appeals Committee that heard the original appeal. The deposit will normally be returned only if the Laws and Ethics Committee considers the appeal to involve a question of principle, error of direction, or an error in the application of Law or Regulation. The Committee does not revise value judgments unless they are grossly inappropriate.

No appeal to the National Authority will be allowed if there was not a request for an Appeal against the Tournament Director's ruling under Law 92A.

The outcome of an appeal to the National Authority, or some other intervention by the Laws and Ethics Committee, will affect the result of a match in a knock-out competition only if the decision is made before the publication of the draw for the next round.

**25.** If a ruling of first instance is required in a match played privately, the procedures outlined below should be followed:

a) Captains agree upon an outcome – this is final.

b) Captains contact a WBU Tournament Director (TD):

Anne Jones 029 20651407

David Stevenson 01516 777412 mobile 07778 409955

Sarah Amos 07930 503746

Tony Haworth 01656 784425

c) Captains agree upon a suitable arbiter – his ruling should be treated as though it was from a TD.

Note that sometimes rulings are required late at night. The following TDs have indicated they are prepared to accept phone calls until 1.30 am:

Anne Jones 029 20651407

David Stevenson 01516 777412 mobile 07778 409955

**26.** If an appeal is required against a ruling of first instance in a match played privately, the Captains should contact a WBU Referee:

Anne Jones 029 2065 1407

David Stevenson 0151 677 7412 mobile 07778 409955

Glyn Williams 01656 667621

**27.** In any dispute that concerns laws, regulations, ethics, rulings or appeals, the decision of the Laws and Ethics Committee shall be final.

# Master Point Awards

## Welsh Cup

Early Round Winners	1 or 2 Green Points
Semi Final Winners	4 Greens
Final Winners	8 Greens

All players will receive 0.28 Green Point for each 8 board stanza won

Special scales will apply if final day is played

## Cambria Cup

Early Round Winners	1 or 2 Green Points
Semi Final Winners	3 Greens
Final Winners	5 Greens

All players will receive 0.35 Green Points for each 10 board stanza won

Special scales will apply if final day is played

## Champion of Champions Pairs

Direct Entry 10 – 14 tables	4, 3, 2, 1 Greens
-----------------------------	-------------------

## Mixed Pairs

Direct Entry 10 – 12 tables	2.5, 1.5, 1, 0.5 Greens
-----------------------------	-------------------------

## Perry Shield:

2 Green Points for winning each complete match.

1 Green Point for each complete match drawn.

Final ranking awards of 2, 1 Green Points.

## Spickett Bowl:

1.5 Green Points for winning each complete match

0.75 Green Point for each match drawn.

Final ranking awards of 1.5, 0.75 Greens Points.

## President's Cup:

.33 Green Point for winning each complete match

.15 Green Points for each match drawn

Final ranking award of 1, 0.5 Green Points.

## **Directives and Conventions**

The WBU has decided to adopt the English Bridge Union's Directives and Permitted Conventions as contained in the "Handbook of EBU Directives and Conventions" (The Blue Book), published by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU. The WBU arranges for copies to be available for download all clubs. The WBU has also authorised the Newport Club system for Welsh events.

Most WBU competitions and events are Level 4, with the exception of novice events that may be held from time to time as Level 2 events, and the Llangollen Congress is Level 5.

## **Competition Prize Money**

All competition prize money will be announced once the number of entries are known.

Members are reminded that if competition entry fees are to be refunded, they will be refunded net of any irrecoverable expenses.

# Competition Rules:

## **PERRY SHIELD (Inter-Area Open Teams Championship)**

- Eligibility: Players may play only for their area of primary allegiance as specified in rules 3 & 11
- Format: To be played over three sessions. In each session, each team plays a complete set of ten boards against each of the other three teams.
- Scoring: Each ten-board set to be scored in VPs according to the relevant WBF scale.
- Master Points: As above
- Start time: Saturday: 11am, Sunday: after the completion of the Annual General Meeting (which starts at 11.00 am).
- Venue: Rotates around the Areas
- Closing date: Determined by Area Committees.

## **SPICKETT BOWL (Inter-Area Ladies' Teams Championships)**

Details as for the Perry Shield except Master Point awards.

Master Points: As above

## **PRESIDENT'S CUP (Inter-Area Teams Championship)**

Eligibility: All players in the team must be below the rank of Regional Master i.e. hold less than 25 green points

Details as for the Perry Shield except Master Point awards.

Master Points: As above

To be played over three sessions. In each section each team plays a complete set of ten boards against each of the other three teams.

## **WELSH CUP (WBU Open Teams Championship)**

- Eligibility: Open teams of four to six players (preferably six).
- Format: Double elimination KNOCKOUT principally then a final.
- Preliminary rounds 32 boards; followed by a final day to avoid excessive travelling. The actual format for the final will be decided at a later date.
- Should it prove impractical to have a final day then semi-final of undefeated teams 48 boards; semi-final of last two once defeated teams 48 boards; final 48 boards but undefeated team can claim a further 16 boards if they are losing.

Matches will be played in stanzas of 8 boards. In the event of a tie, further sets of 4 boards (6 boards in semi-finals or final) will be played until the tie is broken with no seating rights in these extra boards: captains should write their line-ups down. Players may not be added after the Quarter Finals except in exceptional circumstances.

The draw is zoned to avoid travel up to the semi-finals. Teams will play at least two matches before being eliminated. Venues to be arranged according to rule 13.

- Scoring: Net IMPs
- Master Points: As previously stated
- Closing date: Entries must be sent to the Organiser by 3rd September together with the entry fee of £40.00 per team.
- Final: Final will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## **CAMBRIA CUP (WBU Mixed Teams Championship)**

- Eligibility: Each team of four to six players (preferably six) must contain at least one woman and one man, and all members playing in a match must play in partnership with at least three others.
- At no time is it permitted for an all-male or all-female team to play.
- Format: Double elimination KNOCKOUT principally then a final.

Preliminary rounds 30 boards; followed by a final day to avoid excessive travelling. The actual format for the final will be decided at a later date.

Should it prove impractical to have a final day then semi-final of undefeated teams 36 boards; semi-final of last two once defeated teams 36 boards; final 42 boards but undefeated team can claim a further 18 boards if they are losing.

Except for the final day (or the final if appropriate) each team consists of four players only. Rules for the final day or final for teams with more than four players may be had on application to the Organiser.

Matches will be played in stanzas of 10 boards. In the event of a tie, further sets of 3x2 boards (3x3 boards in semi-finals or final) will be played until the tie is broken with no seating rights in these extra boards: captains should write their line-ups down. Players may not be added after the semi-finals except in exceptional circumstances.

Scoring: Aggregate.

Master Points: As above

Closing date: Entries must be sent to the Organiser by 2nd September together with the entry fee of £40.00 per team. The final may be held at any location in Wales convenient to both parties, bearing in mind that members of the WBU have the right to attend as spectators.

Final: Final will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019

### **WEBBER CUP (and PHILIP ANGEL CONSOLATION CUP)**

Eligibility: Open teams of 4-6 players.

Format: Wales National Teams competition is by direct entry to the National Tournament Organiser.

Scoring: Net IMPS converted to Victory Points.

The Philip Angel Cup will be awarded to the runners-up.

Start time: 1pm Saturday, 11am Sunday.

Venue: East Wales

Entries to NTO by 7th April

## **NATIONAL CLUB TEAMS OF EIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Eligibility:** This is an event with area qualifying heats leading to a nine team one day final. If your club cannot field a team then it can combine with another club to form a team. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish in the qualifier but may not have more than two teams going forward to the final.

**Format:** The team can consist of up to a maximum of 16 players all of whom must be paid up members of the WBU at the time of the qualifier. Once a player has played in a qualifying heat he/she is not allowed to join a different club for the final but players from a B or C team who did not qualify may join the A team.

Any substitutions must be from the same area.

If a substitute is brought in for the Final who did not play in the Qualifier, he/she must be a current WBU member for the new financial year.

If the situation should arise in an area where only one team has entered, thus ruling out a qualifier, then the team captain should contact the NTO, or apply to another area for permission to play in their heat.

**Scoring:** Teams of four scores within each section will be converted to IMPs, and after both sessions are completed, the IMPs will be aggregated and converted to VPs.

**Master Points:** Heats: 10 local points x Number of boards in match per match won, plus final ranking of 200 and 100.

Final: half green for each match won and a quarter for each match drawn, plus final ranking of 2 Greens and 1 Green.

**Starting time:** 12.00 noon

**Venue:** Mid Wales

**Closing date:** Heat organisers must inform the NTO of their entries by 1st May, and forward the total entry fee (see Rule 7) with a list of all team members and results. The NTO will inform heat organisers of qualifying numbers as soon as possible thereafter.

## **NATIONAL CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

- Eligibility: Winners or runners up of the most recently completed Club Championship of a WBU affiliated club. Clubs should use their usual method of deciding Club Champions whether by dedicated competitions or by the best scores over a given period/sessions. One pair per club. If the Championship winners are unable or do not wish to go to the final then the runners-up may take their place. If a pair qualify from more than one club they may choose which club to represent and the runners-up from the other club will qualify.
- Format: A one day two session pairs event – all play all if possible.
- Master Points: Green Points will be awarded depending on entry
- Scoring: Match-pointed pairs.
- Starting times: 12.00 noon
- Venue: The Metropole, Llandrindod Wells

## **LADIES WEEKEND**

### **SATURDAY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (The Jessie Newton Shield)**

- Eligibility: Ladies' Pairs.
- Format: One-day, two-session open-entry event.
- Scoring: Match-pointed pairs
- Starting times: 11:30 Saturday
- Master Points: Ranking Green points will be awarded dependant on entries
- Venue: TBC
- Closing date: TBC

### **SUNDAY LADIES WELSH CUP**

- Eligibility: All-female teams of 4-6 players.
- Format: 1-day teams competition.
- Scoring: Net IMPs converted to VPs
- Starting time: 11:30
- Master Points: Green points will be awarded for each match won plus ranking points dependant on entries
- Venue: TBC

## **MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (The Sidney Hoffman Memorial Cup)**

Eligibility:	Mixed Pairs.
Format:	One day two session pairs, played in areas and scored across the field as a simultaneous event.
Scoring:	Match-pointed pairs
Starting time:	12.00 noon
Venue:	North, East and West
Closing date:	TBC

## **GRADED MASTERS PAIRS**

Open to all members of the WBU. To encourage people to enter this competition it is now Green Pointed through all sections.

Eligibility:	SECTION 1. Premier Grand Masters, Grand Masters, Senior Life Masters
	SECTION 2. Life Masters, Premier National Masters, National Masters
	SECTION 3. Premier Regional Masters, Regional Masters, Premier Masters
	SECTION 4. Tournament Master, Local Master and Unranked

Section 1 will be played as a separate event and scored by x-imps as one field.

Sections 2 – 4 will play as one field, at 4 venues one in each WBU area. The competition will be scored by x-imps across the field with a winner calculated for each flight.

Masterpoints:	Ranking Green Points will be awarded for each section plus a match award
Prizes:	There will be a cash prize for the overall winner of each section
Note:	Players may partner a player of lower rank but will play (or be counted) in the section of the highest rank. For example a Grand Master may play with a Local Master but they must play in Section 1.

## **ST DAVID'S DAY SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS**

- Eligibility:** Open. Simultaneous Pairs competitions to be held during the week containing 1<sup>st</sup> March. No pair may play in more than one heat of the same competition.
- Format:** Simultaneous pairs scored across the field, separate sets of hands for each day from Monday to Friday.
- Scoring:** Match-pointed pairs.
- Master Points:** Winners 600 local points, with successive reductions. Green points will be awarded to the top 10% of the field. Prizes to the first five pairs plus the leading pair of WBU ranked players, neither having a rank higher than District Master
- Start time:** As for normal club nights unless otherwise specified.
- Venue:** Clubs
- Contact:** Clubs must notify the NTO of their intention to hold a heat by the date advised.

## **AUTUMN SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS**

- Eligibility:** Open. Simultaneous Pairs competitions to be held at the beginning of September.
- No pair may play in more than one heat of the same competition. Supporting the Welsh Air Ambulance' and WBU tuition and education initiatives.
- Format:** Simultaneous pairs scored across the field; separate sets of hands for each day from Monday to Friday
- Scoring:** Match-pointed pairs.
- Master Points:** Winners 600 local points, with successive reductions. Green points will be awarded to the top 10% of the field
- Start time:** As for normal club nights unless otherwise specified.
- Venue:** Clubs
- Contact:** Clubs must notify the NTO of their intention to hold a heat by the date advised.

## **WELSH FOURSOMES**

Eligibility:	Open entry - Teams of Four
Format:	Two Day Multiple Teams Competition
Scoring:	IMPs to VPs
Start time:	12:00 noon
Venue:	TBC

## **WBU PREMIER LEAGUE**

The Premier League is the trial to aid selection of the Welsh Open team for the Camrose Trophy (the international matches between the home nations). It is a teams competition (maximum six players) held over two weekends.

Venue: Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells.

Closing date: Entries to the WBU Selectors by 14th August.

Acceptance of entries for the Premier League is at the discretion of the selectors. All team members must be WBU members and eligible to represent Wales in that season's Camrose Trophy.

The Premier League is an all play all teams competition. Each team plays every other team over the course of a single weekend, with the pattern being then repeated over the second weekend in order to arrive at a final victory pointed result. As a further aid to selection, each pair's results are 'X impeded' in order to arrive at a pairs ranking in addition to a teams ranking.

Seating rights: Teams are allocated numbers by a random draw which will determine seating rights. These will be reversed for the second weekend. The draw will be published on the WBU website.

Entry Fee : There is no entry fee for the Premier League, but table money is payable at the rate of £40 per player per weekend.

Green Points: Green Points will be awarded per (14 board) match as follows:  
0.5 for a win 0.25 for a draw

To be eligible for 'match awards' a player must have played in the match in question. The player will normally have played the entire match.

Bonus awards will be awarded to the top four teams: 8, 4, 2, & 1 respectively.

To be eligible for 'bonus ranking awards' a player must have played at least one-third of the boards that their team was scheduled to play over two weekends (i.e. the equivalent of 5 complete matches out of 14).

If a player plays only part of a match, the Green Point award will be reduced pro rata.

For a player to be eligible to represent the WBU at international level they must have taken part in at least 50 % of the matches played.

### **Team Changes**

A team must consist of more than half of the members who played the previous year.

So:

Last year 4 members, this year same 4 members (100%) you can add 1 or 2 new players

Last year 4 members, this year 3 of those 4 members (75%) you can add 1, 2 or 3 new players

Last year 5 members, this year 4 members (80%) you can add 1 or 2 new players

Last year 5 members, this year 3 of those 5 members (60%) you can add 1, 2 or 3 new players