

Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association

COMPETITION RULES

Section A - ENTRY DETAILS FOR YCBA EVENTS

Dates and venues of competitions

1. The dates, venues and starting times of YCBA competitions are posted on the YCBA website

Entry forms

2. Entry forms for all events may be downloaded from the YCBA website

Entry fees

3. For any competitions devolved to clubs or that are part of the bridge development programme the entry fee will be decided by the organisers and published in the applicable entry form.
4. For other competitions the entry fees will be decided by the Management Board or Tournament Committee and stated on the applicable entry form
5. Junior players under 26 years of age on the 31 December preceding the date of the event will be allowed to play at half price irrespective of whether or not their partners or team-mates are also juniors.
6. Entry fees for non-qualification events may be paid as follows
 - in the case of devolved events, as decided by the organisers and specified in the applicable entry form
 - otherwise, using online banking to sort code 16-23-37, account number 00225326, quoting the event's reference number as stated on the entry form.
7. For events played face to face where there has been a club qualifier for a final, the table fees will be collected on the day of the final at the venue before play.

Closing dates for entries

8. Unless stated otherwise, the closing date for entries is two days before the date of the event. Late entries may be accepted at the organisers' discretion.

Inter-county competitions (Tollemache Cup, President's Cup, Pachabo Cup, Corwen Trophy and Northern League)

9. The YCBA may pay the whole or part of the entry fees for the above competitions, and the whole or part of the expenses incurred by players, as from time to time decided by the Management Board.

Section B – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The EBU means the English Bridge Union

The YCBA means the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association

Event Organiser is the person designated by the Management Board or the YCBA's Tournament Committee to organise the competition or event in question

Management Board is defined in the YCBA Constitution

Best Behaviour at Bridge means the code of conduct with that name published by the EBU (Link to current version: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/cmh/BBatB.pdf>)

Blue Book means the current edition of the Handbook of Permitted Understandings published by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU (Link to current version: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/blue-book/blue-book.pdf>)

White Book means the current edition of the White Book - Technical Matters published by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU (Link to current version: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/white-book/white-book.pdf>)

Section C - GENERAL RULES

Powers of the Management Board

1. The Management Board has the following powers:
 - to disqualify players who offend against any rules of the YCBA competitions
 - to refuse any entry for any of the YCBA competitions.
 - to make any alteration in the rules to facilitate the play of any competition, and to delegate this power to the tournament director
 - to delegate any of its powers relating to competitions, wholly or in part, to the Tournament Committee

Eligibility

2. Unless otherwise stated, all competitors must be members of the EBU.

Conduct of play; systems and conventions

- 3.1 Play in all YCBA competitions shall be conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2017), the regulations contained in the Blue Book, and the Best Behaviour at Bridge code of conduct.
- 3.2 The additional rules in section E apply to any competitions played online
- 3.3 In the following competitions, players may only use systems and conventions up to and including those having a Level Two licence as defined in the Blue Book:
 - any competition restricted to players with a NGS ranking of not more than Nine
 - any other YCBA competitions designated by the Management Board or the YCBA's Tournament Committee as Level Two events
- 3.4 In competitions other than those referred to in the previous rule, players may only use systems and conventions up to and including those having a Level Four licence as defined in the Blue Book.

Correction periods, appeals and dispute resolution

4. Any questions or disputes whether arising in a competition supervised by a tournament director or in a match played privately shall be determined as provided in the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 2017 and the White Book.

YCBA qualifying events played in clubs

5. Clubs hosting qualifying rounds of YCBA competitions should, if practicable, accommodate players from other clubs. It is not obligatory but desirable for such players to give the host club prior notice of their wish to play in the event.

Number of sessions and number of boards

6. Unless stated within the event description below the number of sessions and the approximate number of boards to be played will appear on the entry form. The exact number of boards will be decided by the Event Organiser or Tournament Director according to the number of entries received

Section D - CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

WADDINGTON SHIELD and YORKSHIRE TROPHY

1. The Waddington Shield is the major county teams-of-four competition. Subject to EBU rules on eligibility of individual players, the winners (or, if the winners decline the invitation, the runners-up) will represent the YCBA in the EBU Pachabo Cup competition (inter-county teams of four championship).
2. Entries should be submitted to the Event Organiser. The closing date will be specified on the YCBA website. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Event Organiser.
3. The competition will be knockout throughout. Teams which lose in round one or, in the case of those teams getting a bye, lose in round two, may enter, at no extra charge, a knockout competition for the Yorkshire Trophy. Teams not wishing to enter the Yorkshire Trophy should state their intention on the entry form.
4. Teams may enter the Yorkshire Trophy direct for a reduced entry fee. All players so entering must be below the rank of National Master and must not have played in the Waddington Shield in the same season. The closing date for direct entries into the Yorkshire Trophy will be specified on the YCBA website. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Event Organiser.
5. Teams may consist of up to six players. Teams containing fewer than six players may increase their number to five or six by registering additional players at any time up to and including the quarter finals, provided that notice is given to the Event Organiser before the player(s) concerned play in a match. Any player may withdraw from the registered team provided that the player has not represented that team in the competition. Notice of the withdrawal of a team member should be given to the Event Organiser.
6. By agreement between the teams matches may be played online, but otherwise matches shall be played face to face.

7. In the Waddington Shield, matches prior to the final shall be decided over 32 boards and the final over 48 boards. In the Yorkshire Trophy, in rounds preceding the semi-final, 24 board matches shall be played. In the semi-final and the final, 32 boards shall be played.
8. Scoring shall be by International Match Points. If there is a tie, a number of boards equal to one eighth of the original number of boards scheduled for the match shall be played and, if necessary, this process shall be repeated until the tie is broken.
- 9 The Waddington Shield is a green point event.

NELSON ROSE BOWL

This is a women's teams of four competition, The organisation of this event has been devolved to Wetherby Bridge Club.

WADDINGTON CUP

1. This is a teams of four competition. Qualifying events may be organised by affiliated clubs. Players must be members of the clubs they represent.
2. Each affiliated club shall have the right to enter one team to compete in this competition. Additional entries pro rata according to the number of teams taking part in the qualifying event may be accepted at the discretion of the Event Organiser.
3. Names of the captain and personnel of qualifying teams, along with notification of the total number of the original entry, shall be notified to the Event Organiser not later than seven days before the date of the event,
4. The final shall be a two session multiple teams competition.

YORKSHIRE CUP

1. This competition will be a teams of four event and is open to all players below the rank of Regional Master as at 1 September.
2. Each affiliated club shall have the right to enter one team to compete in this competition. Additional entries pro rata according to the number of teams taking part in the qualifying event may be accepted at the discretion of the Event Organiser.
3. Secretaries shall, as soon as their qualifying round has been played, and in any case not later than seven days before the date of the final, send to the Event Organiser the full chart of results.
4. Teams may register no more than six players - no player shall be registered for more than one team.
5. The final shall be a two session multiple teams competition.

AFFILIATED CLUBS TEAMS OF FOUR

This event is open to all affiliated clubs in Yorkshire. Players must be members of the club they represent. Clubs may enter more than one team at the discretion of the Event Organiser.

YORKSHIRE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. This is the major Open Pairs competition in the county.
2. Subject to compliance with EBU rules on eligibility of individual players, the leading five pairs are invited to represent Yorkshire in the Corwen Trophy (inter-county pairs championship of the EBU).
3. The event will comprise two or more sessions.
4. This is a green point event.

YORKSHIRE MIXED PAIRS

Qualification for this event may be through club heats and/or direct entry. Details will be posted on the YCBA website. This event will be played online in 2023.

CASTLE SWISS PAIRS

This is a two session one-day event. The organisation of this event has been devolved to Huddersfield Bridge Club.

PETER LITTLEWOOD TROPHY

The organisation of this pairs event has been devolved to Sheffield Bridge Club

Section E - Additional Rules for events and matches played online

1. Regulations

- (a) The current editions of the EBU Online Knockout Match Regulations and the Blue Book apply, except where clearly inapplicable or inconsistent with these rules. The following important points should be noted:
- (b) Undos are allowed only for mechanical errors (misclicks) or misinformation during the auction. An undo may not be granted during the play of the hand.
- (c) Players should disclose their agreements properly to their opponents, in one or more of the following ways:
 - (i) exchange EBU20 system cards with each other before the start of play by email
 - (ii) at the start of match post in the chat function a link to the EBU repository where the partnership's EBU system card may be found
 - (iii) use the chat function to give brief details of their system
- (d) Matches may be played using Bridge Base Online (BBO) or, by agreement between the teams, RealBridge.
- (d) In matches played using BBO, any artificial call at any level, as well as any call that would be alerted or announced in a face-to-face game, should be explained by the player making the call

- (e) In matches played on RealBridge, the rules for alerting or announcing calls made by a player's partner are the same as in a face-to-face game.
- (f) Players may consult their own system card and other notes at any stage

2. Setting up matches on BBO

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed, online matches will be played using the platform chosen by the Home Team
- (b) Matches are set up by the Home Captain, or any other person to whom the Home Captain has delegated this responsibility
- (c) No later than the day before the match day, the Away Captain must send the Home Captain by email the following information: the names and, if applicable, BBO usernames of the Away Team
- (d) Unless otherwise agreed or specified in the competition rules, the Home Captain has seating rights for all stanzas of the match
- (e) For matches played using BBO, the scoring barometer and the option for kibitzers to chat to players must be switched off. Unless otherwise agreed, the option for kibitzers to view should be switched off.