



2016 CANADIAN WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (CWTC) **CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

I. SPONSORSHIP, SANCTION AND OPERATION

A. SPONSORSHIP

The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) is the sponsoring organization for this event. These conditions of contest have been determined, and will be administered, by the sponsoring.

B. SANCTION

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) is the sanctioning organization for this event. The sanctioning organization shall issue Masterpoint awards to participants.

The CWTC will be run under the overall control of a National Coordinator, appointed by and responsible to the Board of Directors of the CBF.

II. GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Competition will be held as a National Final only.
2. Club games may be held but impose no restrictions on who may enter the National Final. If a club game is held the sanction fee will be \$4 per team per session.
3. Unit or Zone Finals may be held as fund raising events. The results of a Zone or Unit Final do not affect who may enter the National Final. Sanction fee for such events is \$4.00 per team entered per session.

B. NATIONAL FINAL

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- a) All teams wishing to take part in the CWTC National Final must submit their team entry to the National Coordinator no later than March 21, 2016. This official team entry must include the following:
 - Team Captain's name, ACBL number along with mailing address, phone number and email address
 - Name and ACBL numbers for all other team members
 - Non-refundable Round Robin entry fee.
- b) Late entries may be accepted ONLY to improve the movement. (i.e.: if an odd number of teams or pairs have entered by the deadline)
- c) Changes to a team's roster may be made for any reason up until May 6, 2016.
- d) Screens and bidding boxes will be used for the entire National Final.
- e) There are no seeding rights in the Round Robin stage of the team competition. Should any question arise, it will be resolved by having each captain submit to the DIC the precise geographic lineups of his/her team.
- f) In the Knock-Out portion of the event, the team with the higher finishing position in the Round Robin will be the seeded team in each match. The seeded team will choose which segments (1st & 4th or 2nd & 3rd) they wish to exercise their rights. In the segments not chosen by the seeded team, the non-seeded team has rights. In the CWTC Final which has 8 segments, the team with the higher Round Robin finish will select which segments on Day 1 (1st & 4th or 2nd & 3rd) they wish to choose. On Day 2 of the final, teams will just switch which segments they are the seeded team in. This means that if the team that ranked higher in the Round Robin chooses to be seeded in segments 2 & 3 on Day 1 - they will be the seeded team in segments 1 and 4 on Day 2.
- g) Fifth and sixth members of teams may kibitz only at tables at least two tables removed from each table of their own match.
- h) Pairs are expected to know their methods. Procedural penalties may be given to pairs who do not give substantially the same explanation on one side of the screen as on the other side. The penalties will be automatic if the opponents may have been damaged by the differing explanations. These penalties will NOT be appealable.
- i) There will be no penalty for an established revoke unless attention is first drawn to it before a member of the non-offending side has made a call on the next board played at the table (or as provided in Law 64). For the last board

of a match, the round will be deemed to have ended when the non-offending side leaves the table, or their partners arrive at the table.

- j) Any team which fails to seat a complete team within ten minutes of the announced starting time of a match will be penalized three IMP's in the net score of that match and further 1-IMP for each two minutes thereafter. If a full team is not seated within 20 minutes, the team will forfeit the match in question. Should a team be penalized for tardiness, no indemnity points are to be awarded to the non-offending team. Victory Points assigned to the non-offending team are computed as though there had been no penalty imposed on their opponents. The assignment of a penalty for tardiness does not preclude the application of a further adjustment in accordance with the CBF Slow Play Regulations.
- k) In the event that two teams in a match fail to seat themselves properly, and no result is possible for the match, both teams receive zero Victory Points for the match.
- l) In the event of a forfeited match, for overall ranking and/or qualification purposes, the loser is assigned Zero Victory Points and the winner is awarded the maximum of:
 - 60% of the available Victory Points for the match,
 - The average number of Victory Points won per match excluding the forfeit,
 - The average number of Victory Points won against the forfeiting team in all matches, excluding forfeited matches.
- n) An appeal of the Director's ruling must be made not later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was made.
- o) There will be no carryover from the Round Robin to the KO portion of the event.
- p) Ties for qualification into the KO phase of the event will be broken using the Tie-Breaking Formula below.
- q) During the Round Robin stage all matches will be scored using the new WBF 20 point Victory Point Scale (See Appendix A).
- r) During the Round Robin stage every effort will be applied to try to limit the maximum number of boards per day to 60.

2. FORMAT

- a) The National Final will be held in Toronto, ON starting on May 21, 2016. The event will conclude on May 24 or May 25 depending on the number of teams participating in the event. It will consist of two stages:

- (i) **Stage I - Round Robin**

Stage I will be a complete Round Robin played over two (2) days.

- (ii) **Stage II - Knock-Out**

Should eight or more teams compete in Stage I of the event, the top four teams from Stage I will advance to the knockout stage, which will consist of:

- Semi-Final - 60 board match
- Final - 120 board match (played over 2 days)

The team finishing first in the Round Robin will have first pick from the teams finishing 3rd and 4th for their Semi-Final match. The team finishing second in the Round Robin will play the other team.

Should fewer than eight teams compete in Stage I of the event, the top two teams from Stage I will advance directly to a two-day 120-board Final match.

- b) The entry fee per team, is as follows:

- Round Robin - \$360
- Semi Finals (if required) - \$180
- Finals - \$360

III. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

1. To be eligible to play in the National Final of the CWTC, a player **must be a female paid up member, in good standing, of the Canadian Bridge Federation.** Additionally, a player must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:
 - i) be a Canadian Citizen on August 15, 2015; OR
 - ii) be a landed immigrant resident in Canada on August 15, 2015

These restrictions do not apply to players used as temporary substitutes.
2. A player may not play in the CWTC if they have already played in another NBO in an event that was for qualification to the same WBF event (same event and year) as the CWTC is qualifying a team for.

3. A team may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players. A player is deemed to have become a member of a team if they are listed on the team's entry on May 6, 2016.
4. Every team that enters the CWTC must name a Team Captain, who shall represent the team in all official capacities.
5. In the National Final, each member must play at least 50% of the boards, including 50% of the Round Robin and also 50% of each of the semi-finals and finals. A player who does not play the required number of boards at the National Final will be deemed to have withdrawn from the team at the point where it becomes impossible for her to meet the playing requirements, and may not play beyond that point.

In the exceptional case of a medical problem occurring during play at the National Final, the DIC may give permission for a player to continue in the event even if she has been unable to play 50% of the boards in a given stage. Failure to play the appropriate number of boards in the National Final may result in disciplinary action.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

A. DIRECTORS

The director in charge of the National Final will be appointed by the National Coordinator.

B. CONVENTIONS

1. Conventions in the ACBL General Convention Chart will be allowed at all stages of competition.
2. In the National Final Stage I and II, ACBL Superchart will be permitted. Pairs using a Superchart or a Midchart convention must electronically submit a description of the convention to the National Coordinator by May 6, 2016 for posting online. A suggested defense must also be submitted if an approved defense is not included in the ACBL approved defences database.
3. In the Knockout portion of the CWTC National Final qualifying a team for the Venice Cup, any system or convention **including HUM systems**, will be permitted if a description and suggested defences are submitted electronically to the National Coordinator by May 6, 2016. Any team playing any different systems during the Knock Out phase of the CWTC **MUST** announce this to the other team captains prior to the selection of opponents at the captain's meeting at the end of the Round Robin.

In non Venice Cup years HUM systems will not be allowed during any stage of the National Final.

4. Definition of Highly Unusual Methods (HUM Systems): - allowed only in Venice Cup years.
A system which exhibits one or more of the following features as a matter of partnership agreement is deemed to be a HUM system.
 - a) A pass in the opening position does not imply absence of the qualifications generally understood for an opening bid of one, and the player who passed will or may hold 12 high card points (or any greater number the partnership may settle on), in a hand that would be judged worthy of initial action at the one level in a natural system.
 - b) The partnership employs an opening bid at the one level which in principle is or may be weaker than "pass"; or which is a suit bid that is or may be made on a hand not meeting normal expectations for a natural opening bid of one - namely: may contain fewer than 8 HCP; or which is a bid of One No Trump which shows neither a balanced hand of at least 9 HCP, nor an unbalanced hand guaranteeing at least 17 HCP.
 - c) The partnership employs an opening bid at the level of one which has more than one potential meaning (e.g. Shows either length or shortness in the suit; or is two-suited, suit not specified). This rule does not apply to club systems where one club shows either a strong club opener or other naturally included or balanced one club openers.
 - d) Except for bids of one club or one diamond in a strong club or strong diamond system, or as allowed in c) above, a one level opening suit bid is employed which does not relate to a single specified suit.

IF A TEAM INCLUDES ANY PAIR USING A HUM SYSTEM, IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:

- i) The pair using a HUM system should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of matches, to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by the opponents
- ii) When a team which includes a pair using a HUM system (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM team will always be the Unseeded team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM systems (regardless of line-ups) oppose one another.
- iii) The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM system will submit three copies of their defences (if any) to the HUM system in writing at least thirty minutes before the scheduled line up time for the

match; in preparing their defences, pairs not using HUM systems are allowed to change their opening bids. Pairs using HUM systems are not allowed to change their opening bids.

- iv) The pair using a HUM system must inform the opponents in writing (handwritten, 2 copies) about their defence against the defence, at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their defence to the defence, the pair using the HUM system is not permitted to change any of the highly unusual aspects of its system.
 - v) Notes on the defence against HUM systems (up to three pages), and on defence against the defence (not exceeding one page) are deemed to be part of the opponents' system, and may be used by both pairs at the table, during the period when the aperture of the screen is closed, and also, for responding to a question, when the screen is open.
5. Systems and conventions will not be permitted if the above conditions are not met.

C. TIE-BREAKING FORMULA

The following Tie-Breaking formula will only apply to ties at the end of the Round Robin phase.

1. A two-way tie is broken by:
 - a) All matches played will be scored on the basis of:
WIN - 1 point; TIE - ½ point; LOSS - 0 points.
 - b) The result of the match between the tied teams.
 - c) A playoff between the tied teams. The playoff will be five boards. If still tied after five boards, continuing sets of five boards will be played until the tie is broken.
2. A multi-way tie is broken by:
 - a) All matches played will be scored on the basis of:
WIN - 1 point; TIE - ½ point; LOSS - 0 points.
 - b) Matches played between all tied teams will be scored on the basis of 2 a).
 - c) Victory Points of matches between all tied teams.

In the event a multi-way tie is reduced in number by one of the foregoing steps, only the remaining teams will be considered in tie-breaking procedures for succeeding steps. In the event a multi-tie is reduced to two teams, the procedures for two team ties are applied.

The Tie-Breaking Formula will be used at the National Final Rounds solely for the purpose of deciding the last qualifying spot(s) in the Round Robin stage.

Ties at the end of any KO matches will be decided by playoffs. The playoff will be 8 boards. If still tied at the end of the extra boards, continuing sets of 8 boards will be played until the tie is broken.

D. MASTERPOINT AWARDS

For the National Final masterpoints will be awarded by the ACBL in accordance with the latest ACBL Masterpoint Awards handbook.

E. WINNING TEAM

Subject to meeting the eligibility requirements to represent Canada, the winner of the 2016 CWTC National Final will represent Canada in the National Women teams championship at the 2016 World Bridge Games to be held in Wroclaw, Poland September 2 - 17, 2016.

The Team representing Canada will receive a financial subsidy from the CBF in the amount of \$21,000. The subsidy amount includes the event entry fee, coaching amount, and an amount for team uniforms which must conform to the WBF Dress Code.

F. PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS

- 1) **BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT EACH PLAYER AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST, THE LAWS OF BRIDGE, THE REGULATIONS OF THE SANCTIONING BODY, AND THE CBF POLICIES.**
- 2) Procedural and legal matters (other than cases which would normally be heard by a Bridge Appeal Committee at a tournament) are in the hands of Local Coordinators and the National Coordinator. Their decisions while the event is in progress are binding. Questions of residency, health or other extraordinary circumstances may be submitted to the National Coordinator.
- 3) An appeal at any level below the National Final shall be handled as all club appeals are handled under ACBL regulations.
At the National Final, the appeal will go to the CBF Board of Directors, which may designate an on-site committee to act on its behalf.

4) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the CBF Board of Directors has final authority on any matters of appeal.

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

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