



Rules & Regulations

Bridge

European Maccabi Games Berlin 2015
Organising Committee
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Foreword

Dear participants of the European Maccabi Games Berlin 2015,

The Rules & Regulations at hand, provide the guidelines of the European Maccabi Games 2015 in Berlin. The Rules & Regulations regulate the execution of the sports competitions.

The Organising Committee and the sports federations, in most cases the Berlin sports federations, execute the competitions at the European Maccabi Games in close cooperation with one another. Insofar, the Rules & Regulations at hand are a joint product of the EMG2015 Organising Committee and the implementing sports federations.

We hope that the Rules & Regulations at hand will be the basis for sportsmanlike and fair sports competitions and an unforgettable European Maccabi Games Berlin 2015.



Robert Cohen
Sports Director
European Maccabi Confederation



Alexander Sobotta
Sports Director
European Maccabi Games Berlin 2015



1. Organisation

- a. The Bridge Committee of the 14th European Maccabi Games will be responsible for the Bridge competitions of the 14th European Maccabi Games. The Bridge Committee will consist of four persons: the logistic organiser, the technical manager, the Championship Chairman and the Tournament Director.
- b. These Bridge Regulations and the General Conditions of Contest of the European Bridge League (EBL) (where applicable) together form the set of Rules and Regulations of the Bridge Competition of the 14th European Maccabi Games. In the event of a discrepancy between the General Conditions of Contest of the EBL and these Bridge Regulations, the provisions of these Bridge Regulations shall apply.
The bridge competition will be played under the International Code – Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 2007. Where these Laws provide an option, the option selected by the EBL shall apply.
- c. Participation in the championship is open to any player (male or female) who is in possession of a Participant Card, issued by the Organizing Committee of the 14th European Maccabi Games and registered for the Bridge competitions.

2. Venues & Times

- a. The Bridge Committee of the 14th European Maccabi Games will determine the venues and times of the Bridge competitions and teams will be notified accordingly.
- b. The Bridge Committee is authorized to change the venues and times of the competitions. These decisions will be final.

3. Teams

- a. Each participating country may enter one team for the Bridge Championship
- b. The team may consist of four to six members and a non-playing captain. A captain can be also a member of the team, in this case, a playing captain.

4. System of Competition

4.1 Format of Competition

- a. Prior to play an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and published.

- b. Based on 12-16 teams, a Round Robin of 12 board matches will be played. If the number of the participating teams will be higher than 16 or lower than 12, the number of boards will change accordingly. Results will be in Victory Points (VPs) according to the official scale of the EBL. The relevant scale will be published before the start of the competition.
- c. The 4 teams with the highest V.P. totals at the end of the Round Robin will qualify for the Semi Finals, which will be played as knockout matches of 24 or 36 boards in 12 board stanzas with IMP scoring. The first placed team in the round robin freely chooses its semi-final opponent among the other 3 teams that qualified. The other 2 teams must then play against each other. A final of 48 boards in 4 stanzas of 12 boards will be played among the 2 winners of the semi-final, the 2 losers will play 24 boards in 2 stanzas for the 3rd. place. There will be no carryover in any of the knockout matches.

4.2 Systems

- a. The Competition is a System Category 3 throughout (Highly Unusual Systems and brown sticker conventions are not allowed).
- b. Every System must be fully explained in English. The systems must be described on EBL System (Convention) Cards (and Supplementary Sheets if necessary). Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.
- c. Players are reminded that 2 copies of the System Card must be brought to each match and given to the opponents.

4.3 Rules for Running the Matches

- a. The teams meet according to the schedule published. In the round robin stage the team mentioned first in the schedule is the home team and sits throughout in the NS position in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room.
- b. During the knockout phase, in 2 or 4 stanza matches, the higher ranked team from the Round Robin phase may choose to be the home or visiting team in the first stanza. Home/Away seating will be reversed for the second stanza and so on. In a 3 stanza match, the higher ranked team from the Round Robin stage has seating rights for the first and third stanzas.
- c. Unless specific instructions for submitting line-ups are published, the visiting team must submit its line-up first at least 5 minutes before start of play.
- d. English playing cards (AKQJ) will be used.
- e. Screens, Bidding Boxes and Bridgemates will be used throughout.
- f. Playing time for 12 boards is 1 hour 45 minutes. Any team that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will receive a warning the first time, and thereafter will be fined 1 VP, and for each completed period of 5 minutes thereafter a further 1VP.
- g. If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the following penalties will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them:
 - from 0 to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.

- from 5 to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
 - from 10 to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs.
 - from 15 to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs.
 - from 20 to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs.
 - for delays of more than 25 minutes the Bridge Committee may impose a more severe penalty.
- h. Smoking and the use of mobile phones are prohibited in the playing area which is defined as the rooms where play takes place, the corridors surrounding them and the toilets.

4.4 Ties

- a. In the Round Robin stage a tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches against the same opponents will be taken into consideration to break the tie. Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained.
- b. In the knockout stages a tie between two teams at the end of designated number of boards will be decided by a 4 board playoff. If a tie still results one board “sudden death” matchups will be played.

4.5 Appeals and Review

- a. In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day’s play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony.
- b. The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends 30 minutes after the end of the round.
- c. There will be no appeals against decisions of the Tournament director but players will have a right to a review of the decision in accordance with the Review Procedure of the EBL. The Bridge Committee will appoint a Reviewer. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained, and check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

4.6 Official Language

English is the official language of the competition. During a match, the players may converse only in English unless both captains agree to use some other language at their own risk. If necessary, each captain is responsible for the provision of an interpreter for translation into English. No appeals due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

5. Ball Specifications & Equipment

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6. Draw

- a. The draw will be a public draw before the opening of the 14th European Maccabi Games.

7. Officiating

- a. The Bridge Committee will select the referees of the Championship.

8. General

- a. The Bridge Committee of the 14th European Maccabi Games has the authority to make changes in any of these regulations.
- b. These Regulations are but one part of the complete 14th European Maccabi Games Regulations and must be read along with the instructions found in “Basic Regulations and Disciplinary Procedures.”