

GOLD CUP REGULATIONS

1. AUTHORITY

1.1 General

These Rules and Regulations are established by the Core Committee of Bridge Great Britain. The Core Committee may make day-to-day amendments under its own authority, whether by its Chairman or otherwise.

All issues and difficulties raised in advance of an event will be resolved initially by the BGB Core Committee or its Chairman (or his nominee) whose decision shall be final. From the Quarter-finals onwards, the Chairman of Appeals will determine how any difficulties are to be resolved.

The Gold Cup is played under the International Code 'Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge - 1997' (hereinafter cited as 'the Laws'), with such modifications as have been approved by the WBF Laws Commission. These Rules and Regulations whose special provisions supplement the Laws as required will be interpreted, where necessary, as provided in the EBL Commentary on the Laws and the Commentary by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the English Bridge Union (EBU). In the case of conflict, and subject to Section 80F of the Laws, these Rules and Regulations will prevail.

1.2 Disciplinary Powers

The BGB Core Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon these Rules and Regulations. This shall be the case irrespective of the way in which such a matter has come to its attention.

The relevant National Authority as hereinafter defined may, at its discretion, investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws or the Proprieties of the Game.

Consequent upon its findings following investigation in such manner as it shall think fit, the National Authority is empowered

- a) to impose such penalty as it shall decide on any party in respect of the score or the participation of any individual, a pair, or a team in that event,
- or
- b) to award thereupon an adjusted score on any board that is involved in the matter.

The powers shall extend to suspension or disqualification of any player or players, or disqualification of a team. This rule does not in any way affect the powers of the Director under Sections 81 and 91 of the Laws or his duty to maintain discipline.

1.3 The Relevant National Authority

The relevant National Authority shall be:

- a) The NBO of which all the parties concerned are members; or
- b) The NBO of which the majority of the parties concerned are members; or
- c) Where there is no majority, the NBO chosen by the participants; or
- d) In the absence of agreement under c) above, the NBO nominated by the Chairman of the Core Committee.

1.4 Definition of Session and Play Period

Throughout these Regulations a session is defined as an extended period of play during which a specified number of boards is scheduled to be played before comparison of scores, and after which the ranking of contestants may be established. A play period unless otherwise announced by the Director may comprise one or more sessions and will occupy a period between major meal breaks (an afternoon, evening etc.).

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 Eligibility to enter

The competition is open to members of the Home Unions, in good standing, who are either British nationals or ordinarily resident in the UK and each match is between head to head 'teams-of-four' scored by IMPs.

2.2 Master Point Awards (per match)

The Winners of	Green Points
Rounds 1 & 2	2
Round 3	3
Round 4	4
Round 5	6
Round 6	8
Quarter-finals	12
Semi-finals	16
Finals	24

In order to qualify for master points a player must have played at least one third of the total number of boards played in the match except that, where a match in play is conceded before conclusion, players in the winning team will earn their full entitlement to any award if they have already played in the match and could have earned their entitlement by playing the remaining boards.

2.3 Team Members

Teams may consist of four, five or six players. A player may not register for more than one team. Teams having fewer than six members may add members who have not registered for another team up to and including 'Round 4' and not thereafter.

2.4 Death or Serious Incapacity

In circumstances where a team is not normally permitted under these Regulations to add a player and when the team is reduced by the death or serious incapacity of one of its members, the Chairman of the BGB Core Committee in consultation with his colleagues - if the majority is of the opinion that the team is substantially handicapped because of this - may authorise that a substitute player take the place of the player who is not available for the remainder of the competition. In exercising this power, the said Officers may make conditions as to the player who may substitute.

2.5 Gold Cup Holder

In order to be classified 'Gold Cup Holder' and qualify for an individual prize a player must participate in one third of the total number of boards played in Rounds 7-9. Boards played to break a tie do not count as the total number of boards played by a team. However, they shall count as boards played by those who participate in them.

2.6 The Trophy

BGB shall be responsible for insuring and the cost of engraving the Trophy which each year shall be returned to the custody of BGB Secretary following presentation to the winners. Medals will be provided to the winning team.

3. GENERAL REGULATIONS

The following shall apply to all Rounds of the Gold Cup as appropriate

3.1 Length of Matches

Matches in Rounds 1 & 2 shall consist of 32 boards. This may be increased to 40 boards if both Captains agree before the start of the match. Matches in Rounds 3 to 6 shall consist of 48 boards. This may be reduced to 40 boards if both Captains agree before the start of the match. Matches in the Quarter-Final should be 64 boards, but with the agreement of both captains this number may be reduced to 48. Matches in the Semi-Final and Final shall be 64 boards.

Matches shall be played in sessions of 8 boards (unless both Captains agree to a higher number).

3.2 Dates for Completion of Rounds

Round 1 shall be played by a specific date (determined annually by BGB Core Committee) or before by mutual agreement. For the 2007 season this date will be Sunday 19th November 2006.

Round 2 shall be played by a specific date (determined annually by the BGB Core Committee) or before by mutual agreement. For the 2007 season this date will be Sunday 14th January 2007.

The final dates for subsequent rounds are as follows:

Round 3	Sunday 11th March 2007
Round 4	Sunday 6th May 2007
Round 5	Sunday 1st July 2007
Round 6	Sunday 2 nd September 2007

Quarter-Final: to be played by Sunday 28th October or on Friday 7th December 2007 at Peebles

It should be noted that to play at Peebles is an option, not a right. Teams intending to travel to Peebles for their Quarter-Final match must inform the organisers by 29th October 2007 at the latest that it is their intention to play the match at that venue and stay overnight. Teams who do not notify the organisers of their intention to play the Quarter-Finals at Peebles by 29th October cannot be guaranteed accommodation. Teams wishing to play their Quarter-Final match beforehand should be aware that it is generally necessary to book flights / rail tickets at least two weeks in advance to ensure cheap travel. Quarter-final

matches played at Peebles will be played under the same conditions as matches played privately. Pre-dealt hands will be provided, but there will not be a Tournament Director assigned to the match, or table recorders.

Any disputes with regard to dates for arranging matches shall be resolved by the Chairman of the BGB Core Committee (or his nominee), whose decision shall be final and binding.

The Semi-finals and Final in 2007 will be played on the second weekend in December, at the Peebles Hydro Hotel, Scotland. Some travel expenses will be given to teams playing at Peebles. The amount has yet to be decided but will be at least £50 per player. If the Quarter- Finals are played in advance, only the players in the winning team(s) will receive this allowance.

3.3 *Extension of Times for Completion of Rounds*

Late matches disrupt the competition. However, an extension of one week will be readily given provided that both captains ask for it before the closing date, and also that they show evidence of a real difficulty in fixing a date. A further extension of one week may exceptionally be granted if both captains submit their request to the Secretary in writing before the final date, and the request shows good reason for the delay.

If the match is not played by the agreed date, in the event of a dispute as to which team is responsible for the failure to play the match, such dispute will be resolved by the Chairman of the BGB Core Committee (or his nominee), whose decision shall be final and binding.

For regulations concerning time extensions for teams wishing to play HUM systems for the Semi-Final or Final, see Section 5.5.1 below.

3.4 *Starting Times for Matches played Privately:*

- a) The recommended starting time for a 48 board match played on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday is not later than 3.00 p.m. (4.00 p.m. for a 40 board match).
- b) If the match is on a weekday the recommended starting time is 6.00 p.m. (for 48 boards), 7.00 p.m. (for 40 boards), and 7.30 p.m. (for 32 boards). If the Team Captains have agreed that a 48-board match shall be played in two equal parts, the recommended latest starting time shall be 7.30 p.m.

In the event of a dispute the BGB Core Committee (or its Chairman) shall impose such a starting time.

3.5 Seeding

A seeding Committee, appointed by the Core Committee of Bridge Great Britain, will select thirty-two teams to be exempted from the competition until the Round of 128 (normally Round 3). Of these thirty-two, sixteen will be seeded prior to the start of the Round of 128.

Any team beating a seed acquires that seed's position throughout.

3.6 The Draw

A separate draw is made for each round prior to the round of 32. So far as possible this would be made to avoid long journeys. The Draw for the Round of 32 shall include the draw for all remaining rounds. Once the draw for the first round has been made a registered player may not change to another team.

The draw for the Final Stages shall be as follows:

no team seeded 1 - 8 can meet before the Quarter-Final,
no team seeded 1 - 4 can meet before the Semi-Final and
no team seeded 1 or 2 can meet before the Final.

Subject to the foregoing there shall be a random draw as to which numbered seed plays another numbered seed. This will take place at the draw for Round 4.

3.7 Arranging Matches

Once a draw has been received, captains must make contact immediately, and reject or accept dates offered within three days. The away team shall offer four dates to the Home Team save when the Away Team exercises the option for a half way venue, when the Home Team shall offer four dates. Of these dates no more than two shall fall in any seven-day period. From Round 3 onwards, i.e. when 48-board matches become the norm, weekend dates must be offered. In the event that the dates offered for a 48-board match do not include at least three weekend dates, the Home Team may require the Away Team to offer additional dates which shall make up a total of three weekend dates.

In the event that captains cannot reach agreement, a date will be set by the BGB Committee on which the match must be played.

- a) Captains are required to confirm a starting time when agreeing a date. Breaking an agreement as to starting time is equivalent to breaking an agreement as to date.
- b) The draw in the early rounds (and in particular for Rounds 1 & 2) will be regionalised so as to seek to avoid excessive journeys for the Away Team, and to encourage the fixing of mid-week dates. However, at any stage the away captain may demand an intermediate venue if the distance between his normal home venue and the Home Team's proposed venue is more than 100 miles. In this case, the responsibility for organising the half-way venue is that of the away captain, but expenses shall be shared.
- c) 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.

3.8 *Exception Dates*

If a team has members participating in any event listed below and cannot field a team of four then if such a weekend is offered by the opponents this would not count as a valid offered date.

- (i) All Home International trials for International Competition and the Competitions themselves
- (ii) The Spring Foursomes

3.9 *Bidding Boxes*

Bidding boxes will be used for all matches played during the Final weekend, and their use is encouraged during all earlier rounds. The Tournament Director may instruct that the final contract be displayed on the board in the centre of the table when matches are played at the Finals venue.

3.9.1 *Regulations for use of Bidding Boxes*

Each player should place the selected call in front of him facing towards the centre of the table at his turn to call. Subsequent calls should be placed neatly - and in order - in a row from left to right with every call in sequence visible: nothing else should be seen and it is a player's duty to correct any irregularity instantly: Penalties may be applied if the Tournament Director judges that an incorrectly exposed call has misled an opponent.

The use of left-handed bidding boxes is permitted where the cards are placed in a row from right to left.

It is up to each player to ensure that opponents notice the alert of his partner's call.

The stop card should be placed on the table with any jump bid and stay there for about ten seconds. The next player may not bid until it is removed. It should not be removed prematurely.

At the end of the auction the bidding cards should remain in place until the opening lead has been faced and all explanations have been obtained, after which they should be returned to their boxes.

3.9.2 Call made

A call is considered to have been made when the call is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent (but the Director may apply Law 25). Players must make up their minds before touching any card in the box. Hesitating between calls while touching the cards, or removing cards from the box and then replacing them, may impart unauthorised information and be subject to penalty.

3.9.3 Application of the Laws

Calls made using bidding cards are treated under the Laws in the same way as spoken calls. For example, a call may be changed without penalty under Law 25A only if:

- a) the change is solely due to a player having taken out the wrong bidding card in error,
and
- b) he changes, or attempts to change it instantly when he realises that a wrong card has been removed by mistake

In other words, it may be possible to correct a mechanical accident; it is not permitted to change your mind about a call deliberately selected once it has been made.

Note that the fact that the card may have been released does not, in isolation, mean that it is too late to change the call under Law 25A - points (a) and (b) above refer.

3.10 Obligatory Pauses

If any player makes any opening bid at the level of two or more or any bid over a call of more than the minimum requirement to call in the selected denomination

there shall be a pause and the next call shall not be made until approximately ten seconds have elapsed or, where bidding boxes are used, when the opponent removes the 'stop' card (after ten seconds).

3.11 Dealing

A player of each side must be present at the dealing of every board except for the Final stages when Section 5.2 will apply. Any player in doubt at matches played privately may require a board to be re-dealt before it is first played.

3.12 Spectators

The Director (when one is present) is responsible for application of the requirements of Law 11B and Law 76. Spectators should be aware that during the round they must refrain from mannerisms or remarks, and must not converse with a player (as by contact with him, etc.), or displaying any reaction to bidding and play. Spectators are normally permitted to observe the cards of one player only, and should not seek to look at the cards in two hands.

Spectators are not allowed to draw attention to an irregularity or mistake, nor to speak on any question except by request of the Director.

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates playing at the table except that Section 3.15 will apply for matches played privately.

Subject to any requirements of the BGB Core Committee, the Director is empowered to control the presence of spectators, individually or collectively.

A player is responsible for the actions of any spectator who is associated with him (as distinct from any spectator casually attracted to the table by his presence there).

3.13 Seating rights

The two captains will toss a coin. The winner of the toss may elect to have seating rights (i.e. the right to seat his players after the opponents have seated theirs) in either the odd numbered or even numbered sessions.

3.14 Both pairs of a team playing at the same polarity

In the event that both pairs of a team play an 8-board stanza at the same polarity, a further eight boards will be played by the same four pairs.

3.15 Open and Closed Rooms

Either captain may opt before the start of a match to have a “Closed” Room, which will be specified by the captain who organised the venue. Spectators and team members may only watch in the Open Room which should be large enough to accommodate a reasonable number.

3.16 Smoking

There shall be no smoking in the playing areas in matches played privately or publicly, but a comfortable area should be provided in which the players may smoke if they wish. If all players are in agreement, then they may smoke in either one or both playing rooms.

3.17 ‘End of Round’ (Law 8b)

A ‘Round’ in a match played privately comprises a number of boards played without an interval in which scores may be compared. A pair which meets its colleagues and may compare scores is deemed to have completed the round in which it has been engaged.

3.18 Scoring

Scoring is by IMPs. In the event of a tie, (whether or not the result is the subject of an Appeal on any board or boards) a number of additional boards equal to one-eighth of the total number of boards must be played and, if necessary, this process should be repeated until the tie is broken. When playing extra boards, seating shall be decided by captains exchanging written nominations.

3.19 Results

- a) Winning captains should post the results sheet to the BGB Secretary within 24 hours of completion of the match. The sheet should be signed by both captains, name every member of the two teams, and indicate how many boards each member played in the match.
- b) Results may be faxed to the Secretary or be sent by email. In the event of email being used, please ensure that the names and, ideally, team numbers of both captains are given, together with the names of all players and the number of boards played by each player.
- c) Either captain has the right to lodge an Appeal to a National Authority, provided that such Appeal is forwarded with the result sheet. Subject to this, when both captains have signed the result sheet, the result is Final.

3.20 *Calling for a Ruling*

Problems often arise in matches played privately when there is a dispute that involves more than just the reading and application of the law. If you think an irregularity has occurred which has damaged your side, you should proceed as follows:

- a) raise the matter (by, say, reserving your rights) at the time, preferably before the board has finished, but certainly before you remove your cards from the next board.
- b) confirm your wish to have a ruling before your opponents have left the table to score up that set of boards; if after scoring you withdraw your request, that is an end of the matter.

A failure to take these steps puts you in the same position as a player in a public competition who fails to call the Tournament Director at the appropriate time.

You may still request a ruling as long as you do it within the protest period (up to when you have signed the final result sheet or within half an hour of scoring the set of boards in which the matter arose, whichever is earlier.) However, the longer the time lapse, the more difficult it is to establish the facts and Directors, like Tournament Directors in public competitions, may be less inclined to find damage which the player did not appear to be aware of at the time. However, the player who could not have known an irregularity had occurred will be in a stronger position than one who could or should have noticed it but did not mention it at the time.

3.20.1 *Drawing attention to a possible irregularity*

- a) Any comment at the table which points to the possibility of an irregularity draws attention to the irregularity within the meaning of Law 9B1(a). If no request for a ruling is then stated, the players are in the position generally of players when attention is drawn to an irregularity and the Director is not summoned forthwith. (Reservation of rights under Law 16A1 does not over-ride this condition if the request for a ruling is not then made within the time limit specified above).
- b) Except for any appeal on the ruling to a Referee and thence, if desired, to the relevant National Authority (see Section 1.3), any dispute should be referred to the Chairman of the BGB Core Committee (or his nominee), whose ruling shall be final.

In all respects not covered by these regulations, the current regulations of the Union from which the Home Team comes shall apply.

3.20.2 Whom to call (Ruling of the first Instance)

When a ruling is required, the Captains should, first of all, attempt to agree upon an outcome themselves. If they cannot do this, they should then agree upon a suitable Tournament Director, failing which they should contact one of the persons listed in Section 7: List of Tournament Directors for reference.

3.20.3 Appeals against a Tournament Director's Ruling

Such rulings may be appealed. If an appeal is to be made, it should be made by telephone to one of the Referees named in Section 8: List of Referees. If one of these persons has given the Ruling of the first Instance (see Section 3.20.2), then a different Referee must be consulted. Such a ruling must be obtained within 30 minutes of the end of the match, subject to the provisions of Section 3.20.4 here below.

The Referees listed by BGB are hereby empowered to make a decision alone or to consult if this is considered necessary. A notional deposit of £25 shall be required. The Referee shall have the power to decide that this deposit may be retained, in which case a cheque must be sent immediately to the BGB Secretary. All such Referees will be instructed to complete an Appeals form for submission to the BGB Core Committee following any ruling and will provide information concerning the withholding of such a deposit at that time.

If the result of an Appeal to a National Authority might give rise to a tie, the Referee may direct that the procedure in Section 3.18 herein be implemented.

3.20.4 Written submission to a Referee

When it has proved **impossible** (to the satisfaction of the Chairman of the Core Committee) to obtain a ruling from a Tournament Director, or for some other reason, the Captains may decide to let the matter be settled later by a Referee, in which case, the match result should be sent in, marked "Subject to ruling on board X", and accompanied by the full details as in sections a) to e) of Section 1.1 below together with a cheque for £25 payable to Bridge Great Britain. Such a ruling may be appealed to a National Authority.

3.20.5 Appeal to a National Authority

These are settled by the appropriate National Authority, and must be submitted in writing to the BGB Secretary, enclosing a deposit, currently of £75. The Tournament Director who gave the ruling of first instance, and the Referee who dealt with the original appeal should be informed of your intention to appeal, since the Committee may want information from them. No Appeal to the National Authority will be allowed if there was not a request for an appeal against the TD's ruling under Law 92A. (Law 93C).

Appeals to the National Authority must be submitted promptly. There is no specific time limit of general application, although a deadline may be imposed in a particular case. If the appropriate National Authority decides that you have not submitted your appeal within a reasonable time, it will be dismissed. If you require details of the original appeal in order to decide whether to appeal to a National Authority, or in order to prepare your case, you must request them from the Referee who dealt with the original appeal.

An Appeal to the National Authority is heard on its merits, and the deposit will only be returned if the appropriate National Authority considers the appeal to involve one or more of the following:-

- a question of principle;
- an error of direction;
- an error in the application of Law or Regulation; or
- a grossly inappropriate value judgement.

If none of these factors is present the appeal will be dismissed and the deposit forfeited. Note that a request to revise a value judgement which falls short of being grossly inappropriate is not a sound basis for an appeal to the National Authority. If one of the specified factors is found to be present, the appropriate National Authority will consider the matter afresh in the light of the submissions made, and it may revise a value judgement even if it does not consider it to have been grossly inappropriate. The deposit may still be forfeited if the National Authority considers the appeal to be without merit.

Appeals to the National Authority are almost invariably dealt with by correspondence. Only in exceptional circumstances will a National Authority allow a personal attendance by a party to the appeal. The outcome of an appeal to the National Authority, will affect the result of a match in a knock-out competition only if the decision is made in time for the result to be included in the draw for the next round without undue disruption to the progress of the competition.

3.20.6 Notice required for Appeals to the National Authority (Semi-Finals and Final)

In the case of the Gold Cup Semi-Finals and Final, and the Quarter-Finals when played at the Finals venue the Appeal must be submitted within one hour of any Appeal being determined. Such an appeal may be heard by telephone. If the Quarter-Final is played in the week preceding the Finals, any Appeal must be submitted to the National Authority concerned on the morning following the match by telephone, fax or email.

3.21 National Authority Addresses

EBU

Broadfields
Bicester Road
Aylesbury HP19 8AZ
Tel: 01296 317200
Email: john@ebu.co.uk

SBU

David Liggat,
56 Timber Bush
Edinburgh EH6 6ZH
Tel: 0131 555 2595
Email: davidliggat@aol.com

WBU

Ms Linda Greenland
31 Deri Road
Penylan
Cardiff CF2 5AH
Tel: 02920 255162
Email: deri31@ntlworld.com

3.22 Late Arrival

3.22.1 Up to and including Round 7

Should a team arrive more than fifteen minutes late, its opponents have the following rights:

- (i) After one hour of un-notified late arrival or two hours of notified late arrival, the match is awarded to the non-offending side.

- (ii) For each completed 15 minutes delay within a scheduled play period, the match is to be reduced by two boards, awarding the non-offending side 3 IMPs per board. A short play period is to be played, removing board one onwards, in order to produce sets of 8 boards thereafter.
- (iii) If both teams are late the match shall be curtailed according to the time of the latest arrival and 3 IMPs awarded for each 15 minutes difference in arrival time. If the time difference is greater than one hour un-notified or two hours notified, the match will be awarded in accordance with item (i) above.

3.22.2 *For the Semi-Final (Round 8)*

Should a team arrive more than 15 minutes late, its opponents have the following rights:

- (i) if late arrival has not been notified, then, after the time allotted for the first session, the match is awarded to the non-offending side. Where late arrival has been notified before the end of the first session then, after the commencement time of the third session has passed, the match is awarded to the non-offending side.
- (ii) for each completed 15 minutes delay, the match is to be reduced by two boards, awarding the non-offending side 3 IMPs per board. A short play period is to be played, removing board one onwards, in order to produce sets of 8 boards thereafter.
- (iii) if the time difference is greater than that defined in sub-clause (i) hereof, the match will be awarded in accordance with that sub-clause.

3.22.3 *For the Final (Round 9)*

After commencement time of the second session has passed, the match is awarded to the non-offending side.

4. SYSTEMS AND CONVENTIONS

4.1 *General*

Level 3 and Level 4 permitted conventions as defined by the English Bridge Union shall be used for Rounds 1-7 of the Gold Cup. The Semi-Final and Final are deemed to be Category 1 events as defined by the WBF Systems Policy, a copy of which is available at: www.bridgegreatbritain.org.

In the case of conflict between these Regulations and the WBF Systems Policy, these Regulations shall apply.

Opponents should not be disadvantaged by lack of information about your system. Inaccurate, inadequate, or late disclosure, or use of methods not permitted by regulation, can all give rise to a successful claim of damage on a deal. If unusual methods are in use, where advance notice may be appropriate, it is the team captain's responsibility to provide opponents with full information.

4.1.1 Restrictions in all Rounds of the Competition

- a) The two members of any partnership are restricted to a single system in any one match and both must play the same system and the same conventions in bidding and play.
- b) A team of four players is restricted to a maximum of three systems, a team of five or six layers to four systems.
- c) All systems of leads, discards and signals are permitted providing that reasonable details can be completed on the convention card and no signal is given to partner which is based on information not available in principle to declarer. Thus, encrypted leads, signals and discards are not permitted.

4.2 Alerting Procedures

These regulations require that the following alerting procedures be observed and no player shall request his opponent not to alert as provided.

ALERT any call which is:

- .. Conventional
- .. Natural but carries either an 'unexpected' partnership treatment in regard to whether it is forcing or non-forcing or is affected by other system agreements in any way that may not be reasonably anticipated.

- a) In the absence of an alert opponents are entitled to assume that the bid is natural - i.e. a suit relates solely to the suit named; no-trump indicates a balanced hand, non-forcing and does not convey special information about suit holdings; a pass does not convey values - and carries the normal expectations as to its forcing or non-forcing nature and is not subject to further refinement of meaning.
- b) 'Double' of a natural suit bid at the one, two or three levels before the bidding has reached partner, or after he has done no more than pass without indicating values, is defined as 'take out'. All other doubles are defined as 'penalty' - including an expectation that a double of a conventional suit bid will show the named suit held. Any deviation from these practices requires an alert.

- c) 'Redouble' is expected to show strength and a willingness to play in the contract.
- d) Do not alert any play of the cards.

England has adopted a system of announcements, which is another form of alerting. Announcements do not apply in either the Gold Cup or the Silver Plate, but there will be no redress if they are made by mistake. English/Welsh teams who wish to comply with the practice of announcements may do so if they wish.

4.3 Convention Cards

4.3.1 For Rounds 1 - 7 inclusive

Systems should be accurately and legibly typed or printed on one Convention Card as provided by the Secretary to the Core Committee.

4.3.2 For the Semi-Finals onwards:

- a) Three copies of each convention card (and supplementary sheet if appropriate - see Section (b) below) must be sent to the Secretary of the Core Committee, to arrive no later than 1st December. All participants are advised to obtain proof of posting on a date which would normally ensure receipt in due time. In the event of non-arrival of systems they will not be permitted to be played unless accompanied by such proof. Pairs who fail to post as aforesaid will not be allowed to use systems or conventions other than those which currently have a Level 3 or Level 4 Licence issued by the EBU.

From the Quarter-finals onwards, even where played privately, rulings of the Director as to use of a system or convention may be appealed forthwith to the Chairman of Appeals acting alone in person or alternatively at the end of the session to the Appeals Committee. Teams who have not played their Quarter-Final match at that time must both submit their convention cards and supplementary sheets in accordance with this regulation.

The Secretary shall dispatch one set of convention cards and supplementary sheets to each Captain of the teams in the Semi-Finals as soon as possible following completion of the Quarter-Finals, or earlier if the Quarter-Final matches are played late. The Secretary shall also supply one set of convention cards and supplementary sheets to the Director in Charge and one to the Chairman of Appeals.

Convention cards for opposing teams **will not be dispatched** to teams who have not submitted their systems to the Secretary of the Core Committee at that time.

- b) Where a conventional system (e.g. a HUM system) cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the Convention Card, a card of the WBF type must be used with supplementary sheets, crossed referenced as appropriate, containing the complete explanation. Such a card may be produced using the Convention Card Editor program produced by the WBF.
- c) For special regulations relating to HUM systems as permitted from the Semi-Final stages onwards, see Section 5.5 below.

A change of basic system, or material changes to a system during an event, needs the approval of the Director in Charge (or Chairman of the Core Committee in matches played privately) before it can be used. Permission will usually be given provided that the relevant person is assured that neither the original submission nor the change is made to gain an unreasonable advantage of the opponents and provided that the change is to a system with a Level 3 or Level 4 licence as issued by the EBU.

5. QUARTER-FINALS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL (The Final Stages)

5.1 Venue for the Finals

The 2007 Finals will be held at the Peebles Hydro Hotel in Peebles (“the Venue”).

5.2 Duplicated Boards

Pre-duplicated boards will be used for the Semi-Final and Final matches played at the Venue.

5.3 Recording of Hands

In the Final, each hand shall be recorded in a separate recording area to which no member of the public or press shall be admitted without the permission of the Director in Charge. No less than four sets of hand records and four running scores shall be produced and forwarded to the Secretary of the Core Committee.

5.4 Systems

Subject to any provisions set out in Section 4, the Gold Cup Semi-Final and Final are considered to be a Category 1 event as detailed in the WBF Systems Policy. These shall apply save where they are inconsistent with any other regulations contained herein.

5.5 Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs)

A definition of HUMs is contained in the WBF Systems Policy, which can be found on the website at: www.bridgegreatbritain.org.

Not more than one HUM is permitted per team, and the Convention Card should clearly designate the pair(s) which will adopt it.

5.5.1 Restrictions on the use of HUMs in the Final stages

HUM systems will not be permitted in the Quarter-Finals. At the commencement of Round 6 any pair intending to play a HUM System in the Semi-Finals and Final must submit a copy of the Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets to the Secretary of the Core Committee for circulation to prospective opponents.

5.5.2 Seating Regulations when HUMs are in use

- a) A team having a HUM pair(s) when its opposing team does not must seat the HUM pair(s), when they are to be used, before the other side seats any pair. Opponents may then seat their pairs freely according to their seating rights. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing HUM Systems Pairs oppose one another.
- b) No changes in nominated line-up may be made unless authorised by the Director in Charge. Such permission shall only be given in the case of compelling circumstances.

5.6 Closed Room (Semi-Finals and Final and Quarter-Finals if played at Peebles)

5.6.1 Authorised Personnel

The following are authorised to be present in the Closed Room:

- (i) Participants assigned to play in the Room;
- (ii) Tournament Directors on duty;
- (iii) Personnel needed to operate the Tournament;
- (iv) Time monitors appointed by the Tournament Director in Charge;
- (v) Members of the Appeals Committee;
- (vi) Hotel staff for the provision of refreshments etc.;

- (vii) A maximum of two journalists who are expressly accredited by the Chairman of Appeals, and who must remain in the Closed Room for the duration of the Session.

5.6.2 General

No player may leave the Closed Room until play is finished in the Open Room unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may he watch play at other tables. If any player leaves the Closed Room without the permission of the Director, his team will be fined 5 IMPs. This penalty is automatic.

5.7 Timing Procedure – Semi-Finals and Final

5.7.1 Starting and Finishing Times

The recommended starting and finishing times for 64 board matches are:-

10.00-11.05; 11.10-12.15; 12.20-13.25;

14.00-15.05; 15.10-16.15;

16.45-16.50; 17.55-19.00; 19.05-20.10

These times may be varied by the agreement of all participating parties, including the Director in Charge.

5.8 Playing Time

The time schedule for the duration of a Session shall be 65 minutes per session of 8 boards.

At approximately half-time and approximately 10 minutes before the end of play, the Director is required to notify each table of the time remaining. Failure of the Director to meet this requirement will not absolve players from penalty.

5.9 Late Arrival - See Section 3.22

The session time allowance, 65 minutes, for the offending team shall commence at the official starting time and for the non-offending side at 'start of play'. The regulations governing the rate of play shall then apply.

5.10 Slow Play – Semi-Finals and Final

At the end of the allocated time the Director must impose, at any table still in play, a fine of 3 IMPs for any delay up to five minutes, and an additional fine of 3 IMPs for each further delay of five minutes or part thereof.

Where the Director deems one pair only to be guilty of slow play, their team shall suffer the whole of this fine. Where the Director deems both pairs at a table to be at fault, he shall divide the fine between the teams according to his assessment of the degree of fault, with a minimum of 3 IMPs for both teams.

Where the same pair incurs a fine in consecutive stanzas of the same play period, each of these penalties shall automatically be increased by 50% and the Director will normally exercise his authority (hereby confirmed) to require the withdrawal of that partnership for the next session. To give effect to such a decision the Director shall inform the team Captains of it. For substantial or repeated delays the Director should impose a more severe penalty or refer the facts to the Appeals Committee which shall have the power to do so.

The stated penalties may not be waived or reduced; any Appeal against them may only be based on a question as to the Director's findings of fact.

5.11 Appeals at the Finals Venue

As provided by the Laws a player (or Non-Playing Captain) may appeal against a Ruling given by the Director. To be heard the Appeal must meet the conditions specified in Law 92.

Within the terms of Law 79C the time limit within which an Appeal may be lodged may be specified by the Core Committee or by the Director in Charge, and failing specification, the 30-minute provision of Law 79C shall apply.

When it appears an irregularity may have occurred the Director should be called in accordance with Law 9B1(a). Players who are conscious of circumstances which may be questioned should recognise that, apart from the possibility that the Director may later be unable to satisfy himself as to a question of fact, they may also place in jeopardy the extent to which rectification or adjustment is available to them if they fail to summon the Director at the time.

Under Law 92B a request for a ruling (as for an Appeal) may be entertained up to the time limit specified above. After he has communicated a ruling, the Director must ensure that, as required by Law 92A, opportunity exists for it to be appealed.

No matter may be the subject of an Appeal if the ruling of the Director has not been duly obtained in the first place. Notification of intention to appeal must be given to the Director and in the first instance such notification does not need to be in writing, but it should be committed to the official Appeals Form as soon as is practicable. The Director will hand the Form to the Chairman of Appeals once it

has been signed by himself and both Captains, together with a deposit of twenty-five pounds. The deposit may be retained or returned at the absolute discretion of the Referee or Appeals Committee.

The Appeals Committee is empowered to review any decisions made on matters arising under these Regulations to ensure that a non-offending side is equitably treated; to remedy inequity as it thinks fit, and to report thereon to the Core Committee.

5.11.1 Procedure

The Statement of Procedure for Appeals Committees will be followed as closely as possible (See Section 6).

5.12 Appeals to a National Authority

See Section 1.1 Appeals to a National Authority.

5.13 Public Presentation when appropriate

A form of public presentation is encouraged by the BGB in which all teams must participate when and as often as required. The presentation room shall be the Closed Room.

The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play will apply to the players in both rooms. However, the Director may add such further time as is in his opinion clearly attributable to delay in delivery of hands or to the operation of the presentation.

When an event is presented the last two boards of the session should be shown first to the viewing public so as to give ample time for continuity of display thereafter.

During the presentation of an event, no player may leave the Closed Room until play is finished in the Open Room unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director, nor may he watch play at other tables. If any player leaves the Closed Room without the permission of the Director, his team will be fined 5 IMPs. This penalty is automatic.

No player may leave the Open Room until play there is completed, unless accompanied by a person designated by the Director. If a spectator leaves the Open Room while play is in progress, he may not return thereto until play has

been completed. No spectator may enter the Open Room after play has commenced.

6. PROCEDURE IN APPEALS COMMITTEES

6.1 Statement of Procedure in Appeals Committees held on site

A copy of this procedure should be handed to the Appellant Pair, Responding Pair, respective Captains and members of the Appeals Committee.

The procedures of the Appeals Committee are not intended to be over-formalised. The objective is to ensure that the parties to the Appeals receive a fair hearing.

Appellants and Responders should be received in a friendly and courteous manner and put at ease. No member of the Committee should at any time act discourteously, with aggression or hostility towards a player or official appearing at its proceedings. The members of the Appeals Committee should be introduced to the players before the Appeal is heard. The procedure should be briefly explained if necessary.

The Director should then be asked to state the facts insofar as he ascertained them, the agreement of the players being obtained by the Chairman to the facts as stated, or where there is disagreement, the nature of it clarified. The Director shall be asked to state what his ruling was, and the basis of it.

If there is any particular matter of Law of which the Committee should be aware, the Director (or the Director in Charge, if in attendance) should be asked to enunciate such matters of Law or Regulation as are relevant.

The Director shall not be permitted to state his arguments of a judgmental nature, nor to comment on the grounds of Appeal, except where the Committee put a direct question at a later stage.

The Chairman shall direct the Committee that it is bound by the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge and by these Regulations (which includes its interpretation of the Laws). Where Regulations are not specified, those of the Home Union in which the event is held shall be deemed to apply.

The Appellants are then invited to express the nature of their Appeal. The Committee may ask questions after the completion of the representation of the appeal.

The Responders shall be invited to express their opinions and to comment on the matters raised. Again the Committee will follow with such questions as it may have.

Under the control of the Chairman, any further questions, answers or comments which could help the Committee may be heard. There should be orderly discussions with each speaker listened to in turn. The Chairman shall not allow any offensive terms to be used. Any question, by whomsoever it is put should seek to be neutral in manner and objective in expression.

After ensuring that no player has any final point to make, and that there is no further matter in which the Committee should be assisted further by the Director, the players and the Director should be invited to withdraw. Usually the players will be invited to remain close by or not as they wish, but the Director should hold himself available.

The decisions of the Committee are reached and recorded, along with other details on the Appeal Form, including whether the deposit is to be returned or forfeit. This information is conveyed to the players by the Director.

No player, Captain or Official should be permitted to harangue or argue with any member of the Appeals Committee or the Director upon any matter related to the Appeal or the Committee's decision. It must be understood that to do so is discourtesy amounting to a breach of the Proprieties.

6.1.1 Persons entitled to appear before the Committee

The persons entitled as of right to appear before the Committee are:

- (i) The Appellant Pair
- (ii) The Responding Pair, i.e. the opponents at the table of the Appellant Pair.
- (iii) The Captain of a team for which either pair was competing
- (iv) The Director who gave the ruling
- (v) The Director in Charge
- (vi) The Appeals Committee.

No other person should normally attend, although exceptionally the Chairman of Appeals may authorise an observer to be present for such part of the proceedings as he may designate (or throughout). The proceedings are private.

6.2 Following the Appeal

The completed Appeals Form is lodged with the Chairman of Appeals, who will forward it along with his additional comments to the Secretary of the BGB for the consideration of Core Committee. All such Appeals forms and any reports appertaining thereto should be typed or legibly printed in black ink to facilitate photocopying.

7. LIST OF TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS FOR REFERENCE

Name	Home Phone	Work Phone	Mobile
Mike Amos	01691 662213		077 2040 1067
Max Bavin	01296 485503	01296 317223	07958 394747
Stephen Brown	01865 881185		
David Jones	02476 463111		
Ian Muir	01670 715172		077 7829 1649
John Pain	01296 334584	01296 317218	07749 159514
Jim Proctor	01723 364788		
John Pyner	02476 693785		07947 604837
Ian Spoor	0191 285 1291		
David Stevenson	0151 677 7412		07778 409955
Mike Swanson	01928 790080		07976 379059

8. LIST OF REFEREES

Please note that those marked with a ** have requested that they are not telephoned after 10 pm

Name	Home Phone
John Armstrong	01335 348238
Jimmie Arthur	01786 825485
**Steve Barnfield	01892 534055
David Burn	020 8749 3716
Jeremy Dhondy	020 8203 2119
Grattan Endicott	0151 724 1484
**Richard Fleet	01442 875968
Anne Jones	02920 627193
Patrick Jourdain	02920 628839
Graham Kirby	01509 670824
Glyn Liggins	020 8451 5804
Russell McClymont	01671 402566
Liz McGowan	0131 667 2432
Eric Steel	01224 314486

SILVER PLATE REGULATIONS

1. AUTHORITY

Paragraphs 1.1-1.4 of the Gold Cup Regulations also apply to the Silver Plate.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(These are fundamentally the same as the General Provisions for the Gold Cup)

2.1 *Eligibility to enter*

The Silver Plate competition is open only to teams eliminated from the first round of the Gold Cup. A team of four may add up to two members who have not registered for another team in the Gold Cup or Silver Plate up to and including Round 3 of the Silver Plate.

Gold Cup provision 2.4 applies in the event of death or serious incapacity.

2.2 *Master Point awards (per match)*

The winners of	Green points
Rounds 1, 2 & 3	1
Round 4	1½
Round 5	2
Quarter-final	3
Semi-final	4
Final	6

In order to qualify for master points a player must have played at least one third of the total number of boards played in the match except that, where a match is conceded before conclusion, players in the winning team receive their full entitlement if they have already played in the match and could have earned their points by playing the remaining boards.

2.3 *Silver Plate Holder*

In order to be classified as 'Silver Plate Holder' and to qualify for an individual prize, a player must play at least one third of the total number of boards played in the last three rounds. See section 2.5 of the Gold Cup Regulations.

2.4 *The Trophy*

Bridge Great Britain shall be responsible for insuring and the cost of engraving the Trophy which each year shall be returned to the custody of the BGB Secretary following presentation to the winners.

3. GENERAL REGULATIONS

(These are fundamentally the same as the General Regulations for the Gold Cup)

3.1 *Length of matches*

Matches in Rounds 1-4 shall consist of 32 boards. Quarter-finals and Semi-finals shall consist of 32 boards, which may be increased to 40 boards if both Captains agree before the start of the match. The Final shall consist of 48 boards.

3.2 *Dates for completion of rounds*

Entry to the Silver Plate must be confirmed to the Secretary of Bridge Great Britain by 24th November 2006.

The final dates for each round are as follows:

Round 1	14 th January 2007
Round 2	11 th March 2007
Round 3	6 th May 2007
Round 4	1 st July 2007
Quarter-finals	9 th September 2007
Semi-finals	28 th October 2007

The Final may be played at Peebles at the same time as the Gold Cup Semi-finals if both teams agree. If the finalists agree to play at Peebles, the captains must inform the Secretary by Monday 29th October at the latest that it is their intention to play the match at Peebles and stay overnight. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed unless the Secretary is notified as above. Please note that it is generally necessary to book flights/rail tickets at least two weeks in advance to ensure cheap travel.

3.3 *Seeding*

There will be no seeding in the Silver Plate. Draws for early rounds will be made so far as possible to avoid long journeys.

Gold Cup Regulations 3.3-3.4, and 3.7-3.22 also apply to the Silver Plate.

4. SYSTEMS & CONVENTIONS

Gold Cup regulations apply except that Level 3 and 4 conventions as defined by the English Bridge Union shall be permitted throughout. The later stages are deemed to be Category 3 events as defined by the WBF Systems Policy, a copy of which may be found at www.bridgegreatbritain.org.

Gold Cup Regulation 4.3.1 regarding convention cards applies throughout the competition.

5. THE FINAL STAGES

Scotland has its own plate competition, and the winners of that event shall automatically qualify for one Quarter-final place.

Teams are expected to make their own arrangements up to and including the Semi-final. They may also arrange to hold the Final at a mutually satisfactory time and place, such arrangements to be notified to the Secretary of Bridge Great Britain. If it is the wish of both teams to play the Final at Peebles, the match will be overseen by Bridge Great Britain in the same manner as the later stages of the Gold Cup.