

Midland Counties Congress & National Swiss Teams Congress



Terms and Conditions

Agreed to upon entry to, or playing in, any part of the Congress.

The Congress Organiser reserves the right to change the published format if conditions dictate the need so to do. Definitions as per the Oxford English Dictionary.

In the absence of any specific condition, EBU regulations will apply. Where conflicting regulations occur priority will be given in the following order:

- i. Specific Event Information Leaflet/Itinerary
- ii. Other displayed notice
- iii. These Terms and Conditions
- iv. EBU Regulation

1. Entries

- a) Upon payment of entry/meal fees, or playing in any part of the Congress, players agree to the Terms & Conditions.
- b) Full Congress entry (MCC) is only available if made as a single transaction/booking. Ie a player cannot upgrade to Full Congress status once entered for one, or more, other events.
- c) Players who choose to enter as an individual (MCC), as being part of a pair or team, or as a pair, as being part of a team, must be aware that there may be insufficient space to accommodate a later entry from other players. It is recommended that players enter either as pairs/teams, or at the same time as other members of the partnership/team.
- d) Should the need arise for a waiting list (MCC) for one, or more, event(s), priority of entry will always, at the point of availability, be given to entries as follows: Full congress, two full days, 1 + events. Otherwise, spaces will be awarded in rotation, according to agreed timescales. Please note that no refunds are available if entry is accepted under this clause.
- e) The [WCBA Privacy Policy](#) forms part of these Terms and Conditions.

2. Appeals

- a) Appeals are in accordance with EBU procedures except that:
 - i) An appeal against a TD's ruling during a session must be made before the start of the next session (ie before the end of a published break).
 - ii) Appeals on the Sunday must be lodged with the TD within 5 minutes of both tables finishing the match in which the ruling was given.
 - iii) Appeals will be arranged at the venue by the Director in Charge.

- a) If a suitable appeals committee cannot be arranged then the Congress Organiser will act as referee.
- b) The appeals committee, or referee's, decision will be final in terms of the event and prizes/trophies.
- c) Appeals to the National Authority are in accordance with EBU regulations, but will not affect the final event result.

3. Licence

- a) The Congresses are licensed by the English Bridge Union and the Midland Counties Congress (MCC) is a Level 4 event and the National Swiss Teams (NST) is also a Level 4 event.

4. Master Points

- a) Master Points for MCC Friday (Blue Points) Events are awarded at County Level. Master Points for Saturday and Sunday will be Green Points

5. Photographs

- a) Photographs will be taken of prize winners and published on the Internet. In addition, general photographs will be taken and published. Photos may be used in promotional material. Anyone not wishing to have their photograph taken should speak to the photographer, or congress organiser.

6. Prize Money/Wine Prizes

- a) The value, and number, of prizes will depend on the overall entry to each Congress, and the entry into individual categories (eg Mixed Pairs).
- b) Cash prizes are awarded per pair, or team, as detailed in appendix I.
- c) Only one prize (the higher in value) is awarded to any pair, or team, in any one event.
 - i. Where a pair in a stratification category wins an overall prize they will receive the higher value prize, with the lower value prize being awarded to the next highest pair in the stratification category.
- d) In the event of a tie the prize money will be shared, eg a tie for 2nd place will share the prizes for 2nd and 3rd places equally. The prize for the final prize position will be shared equally between all those tied for that position.
- e) Prize money for Friday and Saturday events will be awarded during the following day. Prize money for Sunday events will be paid by BACS, to one player (usually the person named as captain on the entry form) of the pair/team, within two days of receiving the relevant banking details. In the event of hosts being part of a pair/team, or pairs being paired up at the event, prize money may be distributed individually.
- f) The Congress Organiser reserves the right to make changes to the above prize structure should the need arise.
- g) Prize money must be claimed within 30 days of the event. Any unclaimed prize money will be donated to charity (Warwickshire's annual charity). The responsibility for claiming a prize lies with the person who made the entry of the pair/team.

- h) Wine prizes
 - i. Must be claimed on the day of the event.
 - ii. Any tie for wine prizes will be resolved by coin toss, with the lowest numbered team calling.
 - iii. In Swiss Teams events where a triangle exists, scores for the purposes of wine prizes are taken from the round in which the North/South pairs played the boards.

7. Refunds

- a) Refunds of entry fees and meal orders are normally made in full to anyone who has entered and cannot attend due to unforeseen circumstances. In the event of an abnormal number of cancellations refunds will be made at the discretion of the Congress Committee.

8. Refreshments

- a) Refreshments are available at the venue, and dietary requirements can be accommodated. Only food and drinks purchased on the premises may be consumed on the premises.

9. Scoring

- a) Any scoring error must be communicated to the Tournament Director in Charge before the start of the subsequent event. Any scoring error in Sunday events must be communicated to the Tournament Director in Charge before leaving the venue. Scoring errors communicated outside of these times will be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director in Charge, and Congress Organiser.
- b) For Sunday events players must be very careful when entering, and checking, results in the final match, as trophies will be awarded based on this result. Errors resulting in the need to redirect a trophy awarded incorrectly may be charged against any prize money intended for one, or both, offending pairs/teams.

10. Split Ties

- a) Point a Board – In the event of a split tie in the Point a Board event the following shall be applied, in the order specified, to determine the trophy winner ((excluding prize money - see prize money):
 - a. Any Head to Head result
 - b. Number of Matches won (counting a draw as ½ a win)
 - c. Toss of a coin.
- b) Split ties, otherwise, (excluding prize money - see prize money, and wine prizes) shall be in accordance with EBU regulations.

11. Trophies

- a) Trophies are awarded to the winning pair, or team, as detailed in appendix I.

- b) Holders are asked to arrange the engraving (at a reasonable cost and with the Congress Organiser's prior agreement!) and to obtain a receipt. Please arrange reimbursement with the Congress Organiser.
- c) Holders are also responsible for keeping the trophy safe, and returning it, polished, and ready for presentation at the next congress. Please note that the County reserves the right to charge a fee of £10 per trophy that is returned unpolished and, therefore, not suitable for presentation.

12. General

a) Website Disclaimer

Links contained on the Warwickshire CBA (WCBA) and associated (MCC & NST) websites may lead to websites not under the control of WCBA and WCBA is not responsible for the contents of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site. Links provided on this website are provided to users only as a convenience and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by WCBA of, and WCBA accepts no liability in respect of the content of, any such linked site. Users link to any linked sites at their own risk.

Last Updated: June 2018

Appendix I – Prize Awards Midland Counties Congress

Friday Afternoon Pairs

Cash prizes* will be awarded for the overall ranking, and trophies will be awarded for the winners of the:

- Mixed Pairs (ie one male and one female) - **Peter Millar Plate & Fitch – Standish Salver**
 - The highest Fitch pair ie Married Couple (Male and Female) will receive the Fitch prize* and trophy (unless winning the Mixed Pairs, when they will receive the Mixed Pairs prize* and trophy only). In the case of the latter the Fitch prize* will go to the next highest ranked Fitch pair.
- Ladies' Pairs (two females) – **Allen Cup**
- Men's Pairs (two males) – **Hudson Cup**

Open Teams

Cash prizes* will be awarded for the overall ranking and, where appropriate, section winners not included in the overall prizes, and the **Hayward Bowl** trophy for the leading team.

Swiss Pairs

Overall Prizes* and Stratification Prizes* (where both players are at the stated NGS ranks) will be awarded along with the specified trophy, as follows:

- Stratification A – NGS A, K or Withheld - Edgar Foster Cup
- Stratification B – NGS Q or J - Cooke Porter Cup
- Stratification C – NGS 10 or below - West Midlands Trophy
- Per match wine prizes for the pair with the highest percentage (one prize per pair only)**

Swiss Teams

Overall Prizes* and Stratification Prizes* (where no more than one player is at the stated NGS ranks) will be awarded along with the specified trophy, as follows:

- Stratification A – NGS A, K or Withheld - Hayward Cup
- Stratification B – NGS Q or J – Littleford Healey Cup
- Stratification C – NGS 10 or below – Joyce Hare Plate
- Per match wine prizes for the team with the highest IMP score (one prize per pair only)**

* Please see prize money

**Any tie for wine prizes will be resolved by coin toss, with the lowest numbered team calling.

National Swiss Teams

As published in the event information leaflet.