

ONLINE

Midland Counties Congress



Terms and Conditions

These terms and conditions relate to the Midland Counties Congress (MCC) and are 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. Another displayed notice/website
- ii. These Terms and Conditions
- iii. EBU Regulation

In the event of a matter occurring that is not covered under any set of regulations, the Congress Organiser's decision shall be final.

1. Entries

- a) Upon payment of entry fees, or playing in any part of the Congress, players agree to these Terms & Conditions.
 - a. **MCC** - Pairs shall consist of 2 players. Teams shall consist of 4 players. Substituted players/pairs may be used with the Congress Organisers/Chief TD's approval.
- b) Where applicable, a pair entering the wrong event will automatically be ineligible to win that event (eg in the MCC, a Mixed Pair entering the Men's or Ladies' Pairs will not be able to win that event).
- c) The [WCBA Privacy Policy](#) forms part of these Terms and Conditions.

2. Format

- a. **MCC**
 - i. Friday Events
 1. Afternoon Pairs – Matchpointed Pairs.
 2. Evening Pairs – Matchpointed Pairs.
 - ii. Saturday Events
 1. Swiss Pairs with Danish Assignments (rematches are possible; we have no control over this)
 - a. Matchpoints – No VP conversion
 - b. Pairs may play the same pair multiple times.
 2. Sunday Events

- a. Swiss Teams with Danish Assignments (rematches are possible; we have no control over this)
- b. IMPS to VPs using the ACBL 20-0 scale.

3. Appeals

- a) An appeal against a TD's ruling during a session must be made within 5 minutes of the end of the session.
- b) Appeals will be arranged with a single referee
 - a) If a referee on the EBU panel of referees cannot be contacted, then the Congress Organiser will act as referee.
 - b) The referee's, decision will be final in terms of the event and any awards.
 - c) Appeals to the National Authority are in accordance with EBU regulations, but will not affect the final event result.

4. Licence

- a) The Congresses are licensed by the English Bridge is a Level 4 event.

5. Master Points

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

6. Prizes

- a) Prize Money – In order to keep the entry fee low and to avoid the associated implications of awarding such, prize money will not be awarded.

7. Stratification

- a) In the event that only one pair/team exists in any one stratification category, that category will be merged into the next highest category.
- b) Data for Stratification purposes is taken during each event (eg, for a one-day Swiss Pairs, the data is taken on the day of the Swiss Pairs event, for a two-day teams event, the data is taken on the first day).

8. Refunds

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

9. Scoring

- a) Any scoring error must be communicated to the Tournament Director in Charge before the start of the subsequent round/match. Any scoring error in final rounds must be communicated to the Tournament Director in Charge within 5 minutes of the end of the player's final round/match. Scoring errors communicated outside of these times will only be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director in Charge, and Congress Organiser.
- b) For Sunday events players must be very careful to ensure claims are valid in the final match.

10. Split Ties

- a) Split ties shall be in accordance with EBU regulations, unless otherwise specified.

11. Trophies

- a) Trophies will not be awarded for online events. However, should the event move back to face to face (subject to any Executive Committee decision on trophies) names of intervening winners will be engraved.

12. General

- a) *Website Disclaimer*

Links contained on the Warwickshire CBA (WCBA) and associated MCC website 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.

- b) BBO/RealBridge

- a. **RealBridge**

- i. Screens will be used with self-alerts (ie no announcements)
 - ii. Use of Camera/Microphone is optional. The default form of communication is the text chat facility.
 - iii. At least one member of the pair must be able to answer questions in the general chat (general chat may be used if one of the opponents is unable to use chat, etc).

- b. **Alerting** (there is no announcing online) - In the absence of an alert or pre-announcement of system, a basic Acol system of weak NT, 3 Weak Twos, Stayman, Transfers may be assumed. At least one member of the partnership must be able to answer questions and use the chat facility.

- i. It is accepted that some players may miss this, in which case you should click on the call to ask for an explanation. Occasionally

your opponent cannot use the chat facility, and that is fine. In that case if you have any questions about your opponent's methods you should chat to your opponents, or the table, to ask those questions. The TD will not entertain any matters relating to a failure to alert if it is deemed that the player could have asked the opponents for an explanation (eg the meaning of doubles).

- c. **Undos** – Undos are permitted in the BIDDING AND PLAY. If you find you have clicked on a call or card you did not intend to select, then you can ask for an Undo. To do this click on the Options tab (the one with 3 bars) and select Undo as quickly as you can. Your opponents must then accept the Undo request. Use of the Undo facility is for a misclick only and are not acceptable for a change of mind. An Undo granted, which later looks like it could have been a change of mind, will likely result in an adjusted score.
- d. **Chat** - The chat facility is a great way to communicate. Players should take care not to make comments that may be interpreted as offensive and, equally, players should always avoid reading any negative intent into chat comments. We are all to assume that chat is meant to be jovial or informative, never accusational or critical.
- e. **Claims** - False claims can easily be rectified by the TD. When a player claims it is assumed that he or she is aware of the current position and will take all necessary steps to ensure the claim is valid. For example, drawing all but one trump before a claim is made. If you fail to draw the remaining trump(s), having already drawn some, then it is reasonable to assume that you have forgotten, or miscounted, and the TD may award the trick to the other side. Where claims are made it is expected that players will take care to check the claim before rejecting (ie rejecting for rejections sake is not in the spirit of our sessions). It is also expected that claims be made when the remaining tricks are clear. Equally, if anyone chats for clarity, that should be provided. If not, a rejection is made, and play continues, bearing in mind the above statement regarding trumps, etc. Please call the TD if this situation occurs, stating the Board Number, and at what trick the claim occurred.
- f. **Tournament Director (TD)** - To call the TD click on the TD button on the screen. Any matter requiring the TD's attention must be raised with the TD immediately or, if in the final round, within 5 minutes of the final board of the event being completed. Any appeals must be lodged within 5 minutes of the end of the session.
 - i. If a player fails to respond to a TD's chat (the TD will always chat both players of a partnership) request for information, then the TD will assume the player(s) have nothing to add and will rule based

on the available information. No appeal may be lodged where a player has failed to respond to a TD's chat.

- g. **Kibitzers** – This setting will be switched off. Only Players, TDs and Authorised Persons will be able to join the table.
- h. **Round Time** – No boards will be allowed to be started when the round ends. A pair persistently slow may lose board from the next round. If a player has been away for some time, please let the TD know and the score will be adjusted accordingly.
 - i. Prolonging play in order to obtain an average board (as opposed to the likely score) is not in the spirit of these guidelines and the TD will award an adjusted score accordingly.
- i. **Disconnects** occur for all manner of reasons, but it is always expected that a player will make every attempt to reconnect thereafter. Once reconnected, the player will automatically be re-seated. If all attempts at reconnection fail, please let your partner know, or email mcc@warwickshirebridge.co.uk or call 07977 481399. Where it is unlikely that a player will return, the TD may bring in a substitute player. As with any event, players must not leave the event without the express permission of the Tournament Director. If there are connectivity issues, then the TD will notify remaining players of the plan/procedure.

Last Updated: 2 May 2022

Appendix I – Event Awards

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Friday Afternoon Pairs

- **Mixed Pairs** (ie one male and one female): **Winners**
- **Fritch Married Couple** (Male and Female): **Winners**
A fritch pair winning the Mixed Pairs, will be deemed the winner of the Mixed Pairs, with the Fritch award going to the next highest ranked Fritch pair.
- **Ladies' Pairs** (two females): **Winners**
- **Men's Pairs** (two males): **Winners**

Championship Pairs

- **Winners**

Swiss Pairs

Overall and B & C Stratification Awards (where both players are at the stated NGS ranks, or below) will be awarded as follows:

- Stratification A – NGS A, K or Withheld: **Winners**
- Stratification B – NGS Q or J: **Winners**
- Stratification C – NGS 10 or below: **Winners**

Swiss Teams

Overall and B & C Stratification Awards (where no more than one player is above the stated NGS ranks) will be awarded, as follows:

- Stratification A – NGS A, K or Withheld: **Winners**
- Stratification B – NGS Q or J: **Winners**
- Stratification C – NGS 10 or below: **Winners**