



SF&OC 62nd Festival of Sport I8-District Bridge Championship 2019 Conditions of Contest



Background

The Hong Kong Contract Bridge Association (HKCBA) is introducing the first-ever I8-District Bridge Championship in Hong Kong. This Championship is organized by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC), co-organized by the HKCBA and subvented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In addition, this Championship is part of the 62nd Festival of Sport, which will be held from April to May 2019. The objective of this Championship is to promote bridge in the territory. We encourage athletes from different districts to form teams to participate in this event.

Preamble for the I8-District Bridge Championship 2019

The Conditions of Contest herein set forth are supplemental to the General Conditions of Contest issued by the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and are specific for the I8-District Bridge Championship 2019 to be played at Large Activity Room No 1 and 2, Kowloon Park Sports Centre, Kowloon Park, Kowloon on Saturday 20th April 2019.

These Conditions of Contest, the General Conditions of Contest and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 together form the set of Rules and Regulations governing the I8-District Bridge Championship 2019. The Tournament Directors will be arranged by the HKCBA and they will follow the above conditions. The HKCBA Council reserves the right to make any amendments to these Conditions at any time should it be deemed necessary to do so.

Tournament Information

Date: 20th April 2019 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Venue: Large Activity Room No 1 and 2, Kowloon Park Sports Centre, Kowloon Park, Kowloon

Limit: 20 teams, from 18 districts

Tournament Format

Teams will be played over one day with six Swiss sessions of 8 boards each. World Bridge Federation (WBF) continuous Victory Points (VPs) will be used. At the end of the Swiss, the team accumulating the most VP will be the winner. Medals and/or Trophies will be awarded to the top 3 teams from different districts.

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Schedule of Events

The tentative schedule will be as follows. It should be noted that due to the uncertainty of entry numbers, all schedules of play are subject to revision under the Conditions of Contest. Any such revisions will be published at the Bulletin boards on site.

Date	Time	Round
20th April 2019 (Saturday)	09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks
	09:15 – 10:15	Round 1
	10:30 – 11:30	Round 2
	11:45 – 12:45	Round 3
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
	14:00 – 15:00	Round 4
	15:15 – 16:15	Round 5
	16:30 – 17:30	Round 6
	17:45 – 18:00	Closing Remarks and Prize Presentation

Conditions of Entry

Each team should consist of 4 to 6 players belonging to the SAME district. The name of the team will be the district they belong to. The definition of a district will follow the current District Council Boundaries: https://www.eac.hk/en/distco/2015dc_boundary.htm.

In principle, each district can have one team participating in the Championship, by which the registration will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis among the teams from the same district. If there are vacancies, the second team from each district will be considered on a first-come-first-serve basis. If there are still vacancies, the third team from each district will be considered. The HKCBA Council reserves all rights in accepting the teams.

Submission of Entries

Registration should be sent by email to hkcbadm@hkcba.org. Players are encouraged to enter in advance, and entries should be received by 23:59 of Friday 5th April 2019.

Each registration should contain the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of all players in the team, together with the formal proof of every player's residential address (showing at least the name of the player, his/her postal address and the letterhead for verification). The HKCBA Council reserves the right of interpretation and approval of all registrations.

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Entry Fee

The entry fee of HK\$320 per team will be collected before the start of the first match on Saturday 20th April 2019. Subject to the foregoing provisions, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to bring in additional Teams, in any Championship Event, for the technical convenience of the movement. The HKCBA Council appreciates the support from the SF&OC and the LCSD.

Matching, Line-up and Seating

Teams from the same district will **not** meet throughout the event. Match assignments will be drawn according to the accumulated VPs of the teams. In each match, the first named team will be the Home Team, sitting NS in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room. Line-ups will not be submitted in advance. Teams failing to observe the above and causing a delay of the match will be subject to **Late Arrival** penalties.

Adding Players to a Team

Each team is entitled to have a maximum of six members. If only four or five members are registered at the time of the original entry, additional member(s) may be registered before the commencement of play, but no later than Monday 15th April, and with the approval of the Organizing Committee. After play has begun, additional member(s) may be added to the four or five originally registered only by permission of the Organizing Committee. In the case of force majeure the Chief Tournament Director may seat a substitute play, specifically if the team has only four players and, if he considers it necessary, he may approve a substitution for other reasons, subject to the ratification by the Organizing Committee.

Smoking

Smoking in the venue is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke before completion of play in a session. Any player smoking in a prohibited area will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. The use of electronic cigarettes is governed by the same regulations.

Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area and the toilet area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to consume alcohol. Any player consuming alcohol during or after the round in the playing area or the toilet area will result in his team being fined 2 VPs. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation of this regulation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing.

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Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices must be switched off in the playing area and toilets. Any player being caught with a mobile phone and or electronic device that rings in the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs. The penalty is mandatory. The Chief Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Disclosure of Systems – WBF Systems Policy

The WBF System Policy forms part of these Conditions of Contest and further regulates the use of Systems at these Championships.

- **Disclosure Requirements**

Contestants in all Championship Events are required to make full written and oral disclosure of their systems. Failure to comply with this obligation will result in penalties being imposed. For the purpose of these Conditions of Contest, unless repugnant to the context, Supplementary sheets are deemed to be part of the Convention Card of a partnership. All players will be responsible for ensuring that their partnership has two properly completed Convention Cards in English at the table at the start of each session. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in penalties being imposed. Players are advised that there will be no photocopying facilities provided at the venue. Players are encouraged to call the Tournament Director if they consider that their opponents are playing an unauthorized system. Players discovered to be playing systems that are not authorized, will be subject to penalty and required to stop playing such systems with immediate effect. Repeated offences may result in expulsion from the event.

- **Systems and Conventions**

Neither HUM Systems nor Brown Sticker Conventions are permitted at any time during any event. Players are responsible for ensuring that they have correctly categorized their system.

- **Interpretation of the Systems Policy**

Should any questions arise during these Championships as to the correct interpretation of the WBF Systems Policy, the decision of the Chairman of the Organizing Committee or his designee shall be final and binding on all contestants.

- **Supplementary Sheets**

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the WBF Convention Card, a reference number should be placed at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number, and containing the complete explanation in English must be brought to the table along with the Card.

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- **Registration of systems**
There is no requirement to register systems in advance for any event.
- **Convention Card Programs**
The Convention Cards may be prepared using either Microsoft Word or Excel. Blank templates can be downloaded from the following WBF website:
<http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/competitions/wbf-convention-card-editors>
Players using MACs are advised not to use “pages” as it is not possible for these to be printed accurately. Players should note that their card should print on two pages ONLY.
- **Penalties**
The Chief Tournament Director or his designee are empowered to impose penalties for any breach of this Section. A decision on such a matter is final.

Alerts and Explanations

An alertable call is defined in the WBF Alerting Policy. The partner of a player who has made an alertable call must immediately alert his opponents. It is the responsibility of the alerting player to alert clearly. No explanation of the meaning of the alertable call should be made unless requested by an opponent. Request for explanation of an alertable call may be deferred until later in the auction, or until after the auction has closed in accordance with Law 20.

Penalties

The following schedule of fines is supplemental to the International Code. All infringements of the International Code will be dealt with in accordance with the International Code.

- **Victory Point Penalties**
Victory Point penalties, where applicable, shall be deducted from the score of the offending team at the conclusion of the relevant Swiss match. These Victory Point penalties shall not affect individual matches for the purpose of tie-breaking procedures, but may determine a team’s ranking.
- **IMP Penalties**
Penalties assessed in IMPs shall be deducted from the score of the offending team at the conclusion of the match during which the penalty was imposed, before its VP score is calculated. However the score of the non-offending team shall not be affected.

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Late Arrival

Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time of a session of a match will be assessed penalties according to the following scale.

0 - 5 mins.	1st offence: warning (after the 2nd warning the provision for 5+ minutes late shall apply)
5+ - 10 mins.	1 VPs
10+ - 15 mins.	2 VPs
15+ - 20 mins.	3 VPs
Over 20 mins.	minimum 4 VPs plus 1 VP for every 5 minutes thereafter, but after 30 minutes the match is cancelled and is considered a walkover.

Slow Play

The time allowed for each match or session shall be computed from the moment when play in a match or session is announced by a Tournament Director. If play continues beyond the time allowed, either one or both of the pairs will be subject to penalty, according to the amount of delay for which such pair was judged responsible, as follows.

0+ - 5 mins.	Warning
5+ - 10 mins.	2 VPs
Over 10 mins.	Beyond 10 minutes following the scheduled finish time, the Chief Tournament Director will terminate the match forthwith and the result will be scored using the VP table for 7 boards, irrespective of how many boards were actually played.

Walkover

If a team, by its own fault, is unable to play against another team, it will score zero VP. Its opponents will receive the best score between (a) 12 VP using the 20-0 VP scale, or the equivalent according to the VP scale adopted, (b) the teams average (c) the average score obtained by all the other opponents against the team at fault, whichever is greater. A second walk-over by the same team will be referred to the Disciplinary Commission which can apply further sanctions including disqualification of the team.

Other Penalties

The foregoing penalties are supplemental to the Laws. All infringements of the Laws will be dealt with in accordance with the International Code.

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Duplicated Boards

Duplicated boards will be used throughout all Championships whenever possible.

Recording of matches

The recording of scores will normally be done using the Bridgemate computer system. When Bridgemates are in use, the NS pair at each table will be responsible for the keying of the bidding, play and scores into the Bridgemates board by board. The EW pair will be responsible for agreeing the score by keying in their confirmation. The official score will be that keyed in by NS and agreed by EW. Players are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores. Violation of correct entering procedures is subject to penalties.

Verification of Scores

The correction period in Law 79C expires upon the commencement of the next match or segment, or – in respect of the final match or segment of any phase of the event only – 30 minutes after the final result has been posted and thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- awaiting a review
- completion of play or a replay of boards where such replay has been directed by the Tournament Authorities

Score Corrections

Score corrections may be made as sanctioned in Law 79 and in Laws 69 and 71. An agreed-upon score that is proven to be erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director may be corrected up to 30 minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

Tie Breaking

A tie in the Swiss teams at any given time will be resolved by Swiss points, these being the sum of the VP scores obtained by each and every direct opponent of any given team. If Swiss points are inconclusive, then the following procedures will apply (in the sequence shown).

Two teams

- IMPs earned between the tied teams
- IMP quotient (total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost) in all matches
- Total points earned between the tied teams

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Three teams

- If one of the teams earned more VPs against each of the other two among the matches they played against each other, it shall be declared winner.
- IMP quotient in all matches
- If one of the teams earned more VPs against one of the remaining teams and tied with the other among the matches they played against each other, it shall be declared winner.
- If one team has been beaten by the other two teams among the matches they played against each other, it shall be ranked third in the tied positions.
- IMPs earned among the tied teams
- Total points earned among the tied teams

Four teams or more

- If one of the teams earned more VPs against each of the remaining tied teams among the matches they played against each other, it shall be declared winner.
- If one of the teams has, uniquely, tied one (by VPs) and defeated the other tied teams, it shall be declared winner.
- IMP quotient in all matches

If the tie remains, then:

- Total points quotient in all matches
- One-board (“sudden death”) matches will determine the winner.

Request for a Review

A request for a review of a Tournament Director’s ruling must be lodged within 30 minutes of the first posting of the official score for the Session in which the board was played that is the subject of the ruling. All such requests must be lodged by the team’s Captain or his designee. When lodging a Request for Review the appellant must make a monetary deposit with the Tournament Director. The amount of deposit required is HKD 500. This deposit will be refunded unless the Appeal Committee determines that the request was without merit, in which case the deposit will be forfeited.

Rights of the Championship

The HKCBA Council will have the final rights to all arrangements of the Championship.

Enquiries

If you have any further enquiries, please feel free to contact Mr. Leo Cheung or Mr. Ronald Hui by email: hkcbaadm@hkcba.org.

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