

BRIDGE FEDERATION OF ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

FOR THE ASIA & MIDDLE EAST BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Issued under Article 10 of the BFAME Constitution)

BRIDGE FEDERATION OF ASIA & MIDDLE EAST

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR THE BFAME CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. DEFINITIONS

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, the following expressions where used in these Conditions of Contest shall have the following meanings:

- 1.1 **"BFAME Championship"** means any event so designated by the BFAME from time to time and if the context permits, also means the totality of such events scheduled for play at a particular site.
- 1.2 **"THE INTERNATIONAL CODE"** **means** the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge as revised and promulgated by the WBF in 2008, and includes any subsequent amendments thereto authorised by the WBF.
- 1.3 **"NBO"** **mean** a National Bridge Organisation that is a member of the WBF and the BFAME.
- 1.4 **"BFAME"** **means** the Bridge Federation of Asia & the Middle East, the Zonal Conference of the WBF Zone 4, as established under its Constitution and By-Laws and approved by the WBF Executive Council.
- 1.5 **"THE HOST NBO"** **means** the NBO which hosts a BFAME Championship.
- 1.6 **"ZONAL CONFERENCE" OR "ZC"** **means** a union of NBOs as described in the Constitution and By-Laws of the WBF.
- 1.7 **"THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST"** **mean** these General Conditions of Contest.
- 1.8 **"PRESIDENT"** **means** the President of the BFAME.
- 1.9 **"TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE", "TOURNAMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE" AND "CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE"** **mean** the respective committees constituted either generally or for these championships pursuant to the By-Laws of the BFAME.
- 1.10 **"THE COUNCIL"** **means** the Council of the BFAME established under the Constitution and By-Laws of the BFAME.

- 1.11 **"DIRECTOR" OR "TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR"** means a "Director" as defined in the International Code appointed for a BFAME Championship.
- 1.12 **"CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR"** means the Director so designated by the BFAME for a Championship.
- 1.13 **"WBF CONVENTION CARD" OR "CARD"** means the convention card, as authorised by the WBF and as adopted by the BFAME, for the disclosure of systems used by contestants in a BFAME Championship and includes Supplementary Sheets.
- 1.14 **"SYSTEM"** means all special agreements and understandings a pair has as to the meaning of any "call" or "play", as those respective expressions are defined in the International Code.
- 1.15 **"HIGHLY UNUSUAL METHODS" (HUM)** means any of the systemic agreements so described in WBF Systems Policy.
- 1.16 **"HUM SYSTEM"** means a system that utilizes Highly Unusual Methods.
- 1.17 **"WBF SYSTEMS POLICY"** means the general systems policy that regulates the use of Systems in a World Championship and a BFAME Championship, as issued by the WBF from time to time.
- 1.18 **"GUIDE TO COMPLETION"** means the publication of that name, as issued by the WBF and adopted by the BFAME, to instruct players in the correct completion of WBF Convention Cards for a BFAME Championship.
- 1.19 **"SUPPLEMENTARY SHEETS"** means such additional pages containing system details as are annexed to and form part of WBF Convention Cards in accordance with these and Supplemental Conditions of Contest.
- 1.20 **"SCHEDULE OF PLAY"** means the schedule for the play of each championship event, either as contained in these Conditions of Contest or as subsequently determined by the BFAME.
- 1.21 **"APPEALS FORM"** means the form prescribed by the BFAME for the lodging of appeals at a BFAME Championship.
- 1.22 **"LAW"** means a Law contained in the International Code, being numbered from 1 to 93 inclusive.

- 1.23 **"CONVENTION CARD DESK" means** the facility set up at the site of a BFAME Championship for the filing of Systems and for the provision of other services relating thereto.
- 1.24 **"SESSION" means** a segment of play (as described in the Schedule of Play) after which scores are computed.

Expressions used in these Conditions of Contest and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the International Code). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the BFAME President, in consultation with Chief Tournament Director, shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa and reference to one gender shall include the other gender.

2. **PURPOSE**

These Conditions of Contest are regulations which apply to all BFAME Championships.

The BFAME may also issue Supplemental Conditions of Contest further to regulate particular BFAME Championships in accordance with their characteristics.

In the event of any inconsistency between the Conditions of Contest and any Supplemental Conditions of Contest, the Supplemental Conditions of Contest shall prevail.

3. **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:**

- 3.1 BFAME Championships are conducted under the auspices, and technical management, of the BFAME. All Championship events will be played in accordance with the International Code and these Conditions of Contest, whose special provisions for these Championships supplement the International Code as required.
- 3.2 By participating in a BFAME Championship, each NBO and its players agree that all, or portions, of every championship event may be filmed, recorded, or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the BFAME.
- 3.3 Each NBO agrees that in the interest of promoting goodwill in the Zone, and for the proper conduct of a BFAME Championship, it shall instruct its players that they must, in each championship event in which they have accepted an invitation to play, compete against all other players and teams. Entry in a championship event and subsequent refusal to play against any other team as required by the Schedule of Play shall result in immediate disqualification which shall extend for the balance of a BFAME Championship. Furthermore, the offending players and/or their NBOs shall be subject to suspension from participation in any BFAME contest for such period as the BFAME Council in its discretion shall determine.

- 3.4 Participation in a BFAME Championship is by BFAME invitation only. Furthermore, no player shall be eligible to compete unless his name has been submitted for invitation by the BFAME, in writing, by his NBO - see, inter alia, Section 3.5(a).
- 3.5 Pursuant to the By-Laws of the BFAME, the President has appointed a Credentials Committee, whose functions shall be (subject to these Conditions):
- a) To determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players and non-playing captains whose names have been submitted by NBOs for invitation to compete in a BFAME Championship, taking into account reports received from NBOs (if any) regarding previous proceedings involving suspension or disciplinary proceedings against players under their jurisdiction. The names of players and non-playing Captains submitted by the eligible NBO for invitation to a BFAME Championship must be transmitted to the President, or his designee, in writing, as prescribed by the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest.
 - b) In its discretion, to refuse to invite any player or non-playing captain nominated by a NBO to participate in a BFAME Championship. In any such case of refusal, no reason shall be given by the Credentials Committee.
- 3.6 The Credentials Committee must be satisfied that each nominated contestant:
- a) was born in the country of NBO nominating him, or was a citizen or a bona fide resident of the country of such a NBO at the time he qualified for such nomination as well as at the time he is nominated and plays; and
 - b) Has not, during the period of two-and-one-half years immediately preceding the date of commencement of a BFAME Championship, represented a different NBO from that which nominated him for such BFAME Championship, in any Zonal Championship held by a Zonal Conference or in any WBF competition.
- 3.7 Entries may be rejected if the nominating NBO is in arrears in the payment of moneys due to BFAME for annual dues or for entry fees to any BFAME event as to which circumstance the decision of the BFAME President shall be final.
- 3.8 No male shall be a playing member of or a substitute player in a team or pair competing in a women's event.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS**

The BFAME may establish for each BFAME Championship a scale of BFAME Master Points Awards in accordance with the BFAME Master Point Plan - as and when established.

5. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:**

English is the official language of a BFAME Championship. During a match players may converse only in English unless both captains (in team games) 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. The Laws printed in English will be used by the Tournament Directors to adjudicate irregularities. No appeals due to misunderstanding in a language other than English will be heard.

6. **COMPLETION OF WBF CONVENTION CARD:**

- 6.1 Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their System and also to make a full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The Supplemental Conditions of Contest will set forth detailed procedures for that disclosure, in accordance with the WBF Systems Policy and in addition to rules established in these Conditions of Contest.

The full written disclosure referred to in the above paragraph is made by the completion in due form of the WBF Convention Card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Partnerships are required to file their Convention Cards and Supplementary sheets in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

- 6.2 A card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form for the purposes of Section 6.1 unless:

- (a) All sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the

Guide to Completion, these Conditions of Contest, and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest;

- (b) the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the System used, including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings, it being accepted by the WBF that the full particulars of some sequences (such as relays) which occur in later rounds of the auction, may be omitted from the Card without such omission constituting a breach of the requirement that the Card contain clear and sufficient explanation of the System;

- (c) The type of System and its appropriate colour are duly indicated in the prescribed place on the Card.

- 6.3 The WBF Convention Card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of the Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate the full disclosure of Systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card

should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet.

- 6.4 The number of Supplementary Sheets allowed, as well as the procedures for amendment and variation of Convention Cards will be set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.
- 6.5 If a player makes use of any conventional call not sufficiently described on his Card (including Supplementary Sheets), that player's partnership may be subject to a procedural penalty (Law 90) for the infraction and/or to disciplinary penalty as well as to score adjustments to correct the damage.
- 6.6 The onus of disclosure is on the user. When there is a chain of damage through inadequate disclosure, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Appeals Committee will give the benefit of any doubt to the opponents.

7. **WBF CONVENTION CARDS**

A reference on the Card to the name of a convention described in the WBF Convention Booklet shall be deemed to incorporate on the Card the full text of the relevant convention as described in the WBF Convention Booklet. Should any modification of the description contained in the WBF Convention Booklet be used, sufficient details of such modification must appear on the Card in the appropriate section where the subject convention is named. No modification should be written on the WBF Convention Booklet itself.

8. **USE OF CONVENTION CARD AT TABLE**

- 8.1 Unless otherwise set forth in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, each member of a pair must hand to one of his opponents at the table during each session of an event his duly completed Card and Supplementary Sheet(s) (incorporating any variations made pursuant to the provisions of the Supplemental conditions of Contest for a specific BFAME Championship) which shall contain in the designated place on the Card an indication of the appropriate colour. These are to be reclaimed at the end of the Section.
- 8.2 After withdrawing his cards from the board and until they are restored at the conclusion of the play, a player may not consult his own Card or Supplementary Sheets. He may consult the WBF Convention Booklet in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner, or one made or contemplated by himself.

9. **ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS**

- 9.1 An alertable call is (i) an artificial call other than a simple take-out double, Blackwood or simple (non game-forcing) Stayman, or (ii) any call whose partnership meaning is so unexpected that it may not be understood by the opponents.

- 9.2 Subject to the provisions of Section 16 when screens are in use, the partner of a player who has made an alertable call must immediately alert his opponents unless they have stated, before the auction started on the first board of the set, which they do not wish to be alerted. 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.

10. **SUBSTITUTES IN TEAMS**

- 10.1 If, for any reason, a team is unable to produce four players, either at the start of a Session or because of an emergency that develops during the Session, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the captain of the team, may designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute need not be a member of the NBO represented by the team on which he or she substitutes, but must not be a player from another team and may not be a male in the case of an event restricted to women.
- 10.2 The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform the Chairman of the Appeals Committee or his designee as soon as practicable. The results obtained by the substitute shall stand unless the Tournament Appeals Committee judges that the substitute's bridge skills were considerably greater than those of the player replaced, in which case an adjusted score may be determined. Whether or not the result stands, the Tournament Appeals Committee may impose appropriate penalties when it judges a team to be at fault.
- 10.3 The Tournament Appeals Committee shall have authority to determine whether, and to what extent, a substitute may become a permanent replacement.

11. **SUBSTITUTES IN PAIR TOURNAMENTS**

The Chief Tournament Director may make emergency substitutions whenever they are necessary to the smooth operation of the game. If this will, or may, cause the resultant disqualification of any contestant, the contestant shall, where practicable, be notified at the time the substitution is made.

12. **FORFEITS IN TEAM TOURNAMENTS**

If a team is unable to play or complete a match, the Tournament Appeals Committee may find that team to be in default and declare the match forfeited. The team in forfeit shall score zero Victory Points and zero IMPs for that match. The team winning the forfeited match shall be credited with such number of victory Points as the Tournament Appeals Committee shall consider being equitable in all the circumstances. If it is, or becomes, necessary also to assign an IMP score for tie-breaking or carry-over purposes, the winning team shall be credited with the average number of IMPs, rounded up, which earn the assigned Victory Points score.

13. **FOULED BOARDS**

A board is considered "fouled" if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 of the International Code applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board.

13.1 **Fouled Boards in Team Matches**

A board is not considered fouled if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, a fouled board should be replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a match may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. That match is scored as though the board had never been played*. The same rules apply whenever a substitute board would normally be played, for example, when a board is nullified by the Tournament Appeals Committee. When the Tournament Director has reason to believe the Tournament Appeals Committee may wish to have a substitute board played in the final Session of a match, he should have a provisional board played during the Session with an extra time allowance of 8 minutes. The Tournament Director, on his own volition, may instruct that a provisional board be played pending a future decision.

*Example: if the 7th board in a 16-board match is fouled and the error is discovered when the contestants are computing the result of the match, the board is disregarded and the match is scored as though it consisted of only 15 boards.

13.2 **Fouled Boards in Pair Games**

When a board has been fouled, the Tournament Director shall determine where the foul occurred. If guilt can be determined, penalties should be assessed in accordance with the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. Procedures for scoring fouled boards are contained in the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

14. **SUBSTITUTE BOARDS IN TEAM MATCHES**

A "substitute board" is one introduced into play in a Session or a match, to replace a board already played at one or both tables. Depending upon the decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee, the results of a substitute board may, or may not, be counted as part

of the Session or match. Substitute boards are put into play by the Tournament Director either on his own volition or by direction of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

15. **BIDDING BOXES**

Bidding boxes will be used throughout a BFAME Championship.

- 15.1 When removing the bidding cards from the box and when placing them on the tray, each player should make every effort to see that these actions are performed as quietly as possible.
- 15.2 Any call selected and taken from the bidding box may be changed provided it has not been placed in position and released from the hand (but Law 73F2 may apply).

A call placed and released may be changed if:

- (a) see 16.3 for procedures when screens are in use.
- (b) Either (i) it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screen mate is aware of this; or (ii) it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected.

16. **SCREENS**

Screens will be used whenever possible in a BFAME Championship.

16.1 **Description of the Operation**

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick.

16.2 **Alerts and Explanations**

A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Section 9 must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.

16.3 Modifications of Penalties when screens are in Use

(See APPENDIX II - SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO THE USE OF SCREENS, as recommended by WBF Laws Commission).

17. **RULINGS AND APPEALS**

The Tournament Director shall be summoned to a table as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. After the Director has given the ruling, any appeal against such ruling must be lodged in accordance with Section 19.

18. **TOURNAMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE**

18.1 For the purposes of Sections 18, 19, 20 and Appendix I of these Conditions of Contest:

"Committee" means the Tournament Appeals Committee appointed for the BFAME Championship by the President.

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, and also means, where applicable, the designated chairman referred to in Section 18.2.

18.2 All appeals of the rulings of the Tournament Director shall (subject to Sections 21 and 22, and where applicable, subject also to section 18.3) be heard and decided by the Committee. The Chairman shall convene the Committee at the conclusion of Sessions or at any other time he deems appropriate, and may divide the Committee into smaller committees each having no fewer than three members; and each such smaller committee shall be deemed to be the Committee for the purposes of deciding the matter in question. If the Chairman is not a member of such smaller committee, he will designate a member of that smaller committee to act as its chairman.

18.3 The decision of the Committee in any appeal shall be determined by the vote of the Chairman, except in circumstances where all other members of the Committee support a

specific contrary decision, in which case such specific contrary decision shall be the decision of the Committee.

- 18.4 The BFAME expects all teams and partnerships to play to win at all times and in all circumstances. While a team may rest its players and make other decisions for strategic reasons, the failure to play anything less than as good bridge as possible is not permitted, and the Committee shall have the authority to determine whether there has been such a failure. Teams may submit particular proposed strategies to the Committee in advance to determine compliance with this provision. Any non-compliance will be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the Committee, including recommendation that the BFAME Council disqualify or suspend any team.
- 18.5 During the course of any BFAME Championship the Committee may in its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the International Code, or these Conditions of contest, or the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, however that matter may have come to the attention of the Committee; and the decision of the Committee in respect of any such matter shall be arrived at in the manner referred to in Section 18.3, and shall, subject only to Section 20.2 of these Conditions, be final in all cases.

19. **LODGING OF APPEALS:**

- 19.1 An appeal of or for a ruling of the Tournament Director must be lodged within 30 minutes of the posting of the official score for the session in which the ruling was made. All appeals must be made in writing on an Appeals Form and turned over to the Tournament Director for delivery to the Chairman or his designee.
- 19.2 All appeals must be lodged by the team's captain or his designee.
- 19.3 When lodging an appeal, the appellant must deposit an amount of money, as determined by the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, with the Tournament Director. This deposit will be refunded unless the Committee determines that the appeal was without merit, in which case the deposit will be forfeited and paid to a charity nominated by the President.

20. **HEARING OF APPEALS**

- 20.1 On receipt of the duly completed Appeals Form the Tournament Director shall as soon as possible inform the Chairman or his designee. The Chairman shall schedule the time and place for the hearing of the appeal and shall so advise the Tournament Director, who in turn shall advise all parties involved of such time and place.
- 20.2 Guideline for the hearing of appeals and other proceedings of the Committee are set out in Appendix "I". Failure to observe such guidelines shall not of itself vitiate any decision of the Committee. However, if in the opinion of the President or the Chairman there may have been non-observance of the guidelines capable of seriously prejudicing the rights of any party appearing before the Committee, then

the President or the Chairman may, in his discretion, direct that the proceedings in question be reheard, in which case the decision of the Committee on the rehearing shall replace the decision on the first hearing.

- 20.3 On an investigation made otherwise than on appeal, the Committee may impose such penalty on any party, or direct that an adjusted score be entered for any boards, as it shall deem proper. In any case in which it considers the circumstances to justify or require it, the Committee may (in addition to any other penalty imposed) suspend any player for one or more sessions of the event. To declare the forfeiture of a match, or the qualification of a pair or team.
- 20.4 If any party to an appeal or other proceeding of the Committee, or any other person whose attendance is required by the Chairman, having been given notice of the time and place of the hearing, fails to appear, the Chairman may:
- (i) Re-schedule the hearing;
 - (ii) Proceed to a decision of the Committee in the absence of the party who failed to appear;
 - (iii) If the party who failed to appear is the appellant, dismiss the appeal without a hearing, and confirm the ruling of the Tournament Director.
- 20.5 A party to an appeal or other proceeding of the Committee or any other person whose attendance is required by the Chairman, who fails to appear, having been given notice of the time and place of the hearing, may be penalized by the Committee.
- 20.6 In addition to the powers conferred by these Conditions of Contest, the Committee has those powers assigned to it in the International Code.

21. **APPEALS TO THE BFAME LAWS COMMITTEE**

An appeal of the Tournament Director's ruling on a point of Law may be taken to the BFAME Laws Committee. Such appeal shall be made in writing by the team's captain, or his designee, and turned over to the tournament director, who will then file the appeal with the Chairman of the BFAME Laws Committee, or the President. At least two members of the BFAME Laws committee shall constitute a quorum, and there is no further appeal on matters of Law.

22. **APPEALS OF THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

Appeal of the tournament Director's ruling on, or an interpretation of, these Conditions of Contest or any Supplemental Conditions of Contest or any technical operation of a BFAME Championship, shall be made in writing by the team's captain or his designee. Such appeal shall be turned over to the Tournament Director who will then file the appeal with the chairman of the tournament Rules and Regulations Committee or the President. Unless the Chairman and the President are of joint opinion (which shall be final) that the

appeal has no merit, the appeal shall be heard by the members of the BFAME Council and the members of the Tournament Rules and regulations Committee present at the site of the BFAME Championship, sitting as a single body. The President shall preside over this meeting and decisions reached shall be final.

23. **ETHICS AND DEPORTMENT**

All contestants in BFAME Bridge Championships are required to conform at all times to the highest standards of ethics and deportment. All contestants (including non-playing captains) are also expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Appeals Committee in a sportsmanlike manner.

24. **VU-GRAPH**

All contestants are required to play on Vu-Graph whenever assigned to do so by the President or his designee. In the absence of any contrary stipulation, the room from which play is broadcast to the Vu-Graph audience shall be the Open Room of the match.

25. **NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS IN TEAM TOURNAMENTS**

A non-playing captain (NPC) may observe his team during play subject to the rules set forth in this Section and to any supplementary regulation made from time to time by the BFAME before a BFAME Championship begins. The NPC must enter the room before play begins at the start of a Session, and if the NPCs of both teams are in the room, they shall sit on the same side of the screen. In case of dispute the "Home Team" captain shall decide on which side of the screen they will sit.

25.1 An NPC who leaves the room, except as provided in this Section, cannot return during that Session. Exceptionally, if the NPC is requested to leave the playing room (for the purpose of consultation or for whatever reason) by a Tournament Director, the President, the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee, or the Chairman of the Tournament Rules and regulations Committee, he may (but need not) be permitted to return to that playing room at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

25.2 Once any player at the table has withdrawn a hand from the board, and until all four players have returned their hands to the board, an NPC is bound to the same restrictions as spectators (Law 76), except that he may intervene to restrain misbehaviors or curtail unnecessary discussion on the part of his team members, and may with the concurrence of the Tournament Director speak to question of fact or law, after the Tournament Director has been called to the table, but may not call the Tournament Director.

25.3 During the time allowed for a session, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, an NPC should not address members of his team at the table in any but the English language or in a language understood by the opponents. If it is desired to use a language other than English, the permission of the opponents should be sought, and, where reasonably possible, should be given. If difficulty arises, an NPC wishing to speak to his team in a language not known to the opponents should do so through an interpreter or team member who can translate for the benefit of the opponents.

25.4 NPCs are responsible for the performance of various functions detailed in the Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. While the BFAME recognizes the importance of other team officials (such as deputy-captain, coach, etc.), it is only when they are specifically named by the NPC, and have been invited to participate in the relevant BFAME Championship by the BFAME, that they may perform certain of the official functions assigned to the NPC. Such additional team officials may not enter the playing rooms unless they obtain the permission of the Tournament Appeals Committee and such Committee may impose conditions on such entrance in its discretion.

26. **AUTHORITY OF THE BFAME COUNCIL**

The BFAME Council reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Conditions of Contest and the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, at any time. This authority is to be exercised through BFAME President, in consultation with Chief Tournament Director.

27. **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BFAME**

The BFAME schedules a BFAME Championship to occur at a particular time and place. However, the BFAME makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person, that any particular BFAME Championship will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense should it not do so.

Issued at Amman
April 2009

GHASSAN GHANEM
BFAME PRESIDENT

APPENDIX I

Guidelines for Hearing Appeals and Other Proceedings Of the Tournament Appeals Committee

(Section 20.2 of these Conditions of Contest)

1. An appeal shall consist of hearing of evidence and arguments; the deliberations of the Committee, and the announcement of the Committee's decision.
2. The Chairman may in his discretion require the attendance of specified parties at the hearing of an appeal. The parties otherwise entitled to be present during the hearing of evidence and arguments shall be:
 - (a) The appellant pair;
 - (b) The respondent pair;
 - (c) The respective captains;
 - (d) An interpreter, if in the judgment of the chairman this is necessary to ensure adequate comprehension of the proceedings by any party thereto;
 - (e) The Tournament Director who gave the ruling appealed against, and the senior Tournament Director on duty;
 - (f) Any other person who in the judgment of the Chairman is able to assist the Committee in determining the facts;
 - (g) The members of the Committee hearing the appeal.
3. Once the hearing of evidence and arguments has begun, no additional member of the Committee shall join the Committee hearing the appeal.
4. The Chairman shall preside over the appeal, and the order of proceedings shall be:
 - (a) distribution of copies of the relevant Appeals Form (the Tournament Director shall, prior to the hearing, have whenever practicable given the respondent a copy of the Appeals Form);
 - (b) Identification of the appellant and the respondent; and the introduction of all present to the Chairman;
 - (c) Statement of facts by the Tournament Director who gave the ruling appealed against;
 - (d) Questions of the Tournament Director from the Committee.
 - (e) Opportunity for the appellant and the respondent to register agreement or disagreement with the Tournament Director's statement of facts;

- (f) The testimony of any special witness invited by the Chairman to assist the Committee: then as in (d) and (e), above;
 - (g) The case for the appellant;
 - (h) Questions from the Committee;
 - (i) The case for the respondent;
 - (j) Questions from the Committee;
 - (k) Any further question or comment elicited by the Chairman;
 - (l) After the hearing of evidence and arguments, all persons other than the members of the Committee shall leave the appeal room, unless the Chairman requests the Tournament Directors to remain during all or part of the Committee's deliberation;
 - (m) The Committee, having reached its decision by majority vote, shall communicate this to the parties (if still present) and the Tournament Director, together with a brief statement of reasons by the Chairman. It shall be responsibility of the Tournament Director to communicate the decision to any absent party.
5. These guidelines are intended to assist the Committee to conduct appeals fairly and courteously.
 6. If the Committee is conducting a proceeding which is not an appeal of a ruling of the Tournament Director, the above guidelines may be modified by the Chairman as appropriate to achieve fairness.
 7. Reference in these guidelines to the "Chairman" includes the Chairman, and any designated Chairman referred to in Section 18.2 of these Conditions of Contest.

APPENDIX II

SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO THE USE OF SCREENS

(Section 16.3 of these Conditions of Contest)

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screen mates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.

Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but law 25 may apply). North and south pass the tray under the screen after their screen mate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards. At this point, the declaring side may exchange written information about their own explanations.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screen mate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards. The International Code of Duplicate laws is in effect except as specified below:

LAW 9A2 (b) (1); LAW 42B (3); LAW 43A (1) (b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed by his screen mate. But he should try to avoid having a premature opening lead exposed.

LAW 13:

The artificial adjusted score and penalty prescribed in the first paragraph apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.

LAW 20:

Review of the Auction:

Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screen mate.

Explanation of calls:

1. during the Auction:
At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screen mate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.
2. during the Play Period:
Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.

LAWS 26 THROUGH 32; LAW 34; LAWS 36 THROUGH 39:

For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

- A. Tray not passed:
Before the tray is passed, the offender's screen mate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the director. The director shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. The infringing calls may not be accepted.
- B. Both Sides at Fault:
When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the director. The director shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These Infringing calls may not be accepted.
- C. Only One Side at Fault:
When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction - East or West - also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the director. The director shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.
- D. Irregularity not noticed:
When the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

LAW 73 D:

A delay of bidding tray on one side of the screen upto 15 seconds (at any time during auction and whether or not out of tempo) shall not give rise to any inference of unauthorized information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses upto 15 seconds can be considered normal.