

LEICESTERSHIRE PAIRS LEAGUE RULES

Competition Controller (CC)
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FRAMEWORK OF OPERATION

1 LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

- 1.1 The Tournament Sub-Committee (TSC) is responsible to the LCBA Executive Committee (the Tournament Organiser) for the proper administration of the LCBA Pairs League in accordance with EBU rules and guidelines.
- 1.2 The Competition Controller (CC) is responsible to the TSC for delegated functions and administration, but not policy.

2 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The League shall be organised in a hierarchy of Divisions.
- 2.2 Any appeal against the TSC allocations shall be to the LCBA Executive Committee and shall be submitted within five days of the publication of the League structure. Appeals shall be accompanied by a deposit of £20.00 which will not be returned if the LCBA Executive Committee determines that the appeal is frivolous or otherwise without merit.

COMPETITION RULES (First Series: 2011-12)

1. All competitors must be paid-up Player Members of the EBU who meet the general LCBA conditions for participation in the Association's Members-only competitions for the year 2011-12. If prime affiliation is not to the LCBA then dual membership (£4 per head) is required.
2. a) The competition shall consist of a Series of five heats of '*Teams IMPed*' Pairs. These will be held at the Rothley Centre on 20 October, 17 November and 15 December 2011 and 19 January and 16 February 2012.
b) By entering Pairs are making a binding commitment to the LCBA that if one or both are unable to play in any heat they will make every endeavour to find a substitute player or pair of broadly similar standard to play in their place. [see footnotes on page 2]
c) Entries should be sent to the CC by Thursday 22 September 2011, together with a cheque payable to the LCBA. The cost of entry is £35.00 per pair for the series. If initial entry is by telephone or email a cheque, thereby confirming the entry, must be received by at the very latest Wednesday 28 September 2011. Later entries will only be accepted if to the benefit of the 'movement' and thus to those who entered on time.
3. a) Each player must provide a completed EBU 20/20A/20B style system card and hand this to the opponents for their use throughout each round. Pairs not having completed such cards should be furnished with EBU 20B style (or original) LCBA Simple System (Standard English) Cards and required to play in accordance with these until personal EBU style cards are completed. WBF style cards may not be used.
b) Pairs with properly completed (2 paged) EBU 20 style system cards, may employ EBU Level 2 (and 3) Permitted Agreements, as detailed in Section 11 of the 2006 Orange Book, incorporating amendments as per subsequent LCBA Yearbooks.
c) However pairs having properly completed full (4 paged) EBU 20A or 20B style system cards may also employ any Agreements permitted at Level 4, as detailed in Section 11 of the 2006 Orange Book, incorporating amendments as per subsequent LCBA Yearbooks. [These amendments are consolidated on the LCBA website.]
4. a) Any pair either wishing to appeal, or reserve the right to later appeal, against a decision of the Director or Scorer should inform the Director and the other pair of this and ensure that all relevant details of the hand and decision etc. are recorded on a witnessed statement before leaving the venue. Whether the actual appeal is immediate, or made later after reflection or consultation, it must be sent in writing by email or post, in duplicate, to the CC and the LCBA General Secretary within two days of the event.
b) If a psychic bid is reported to the Director, he shall, on request, record the details of the board on which it occurred, and report the matter to the CC for the attention of the Laws & Ethics SC of the LCBA. The Director may also record and similarly report any departure from the system that he considers should be brought to its attention.
5. a) Pairs entering will be placed by the TSC into a number of hierarchical divisions based primarily on their record as a pair, but for relatively new pairs in the light of their individual standing.
b) Divisions may range in size from 6 to 12 pairs. Whilst divisions of 8 pairs may subsequently be the norm, it is likely that for the first series divisions of 6 will be best, in order to both provide divisions of pairs of similar strength, and also provide more flexibility for the subsequent series, by allowing new entries to be placed other than in the lowest division whilst preserving promotion rights.

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6. a) To enable a prompt start of play by at latest 7.15 p.m. pairs must arrive by 7.00 p.m. when starting positions and movements for the whole evening session will be issued.
- b) If a player/pair is delayed he must telephone the Director [insert mobile number]
7. a) A typical evening will comprise three 8 board matches; i.e. 24 boards in total. At the end of each match, each EW pair will score up in IMPs with each of the other NS pairs in their division, and convert their IMP score to Victory Points. EW pairs then return to their own table, and check the VP scores.
- b) The same computer-dealt hands will be played by all divisions, with hard copies available at the end of each evening. A commentary will subsequently be available on request via email.
- c) Over the series each pair will play against every other pair in the division at least twice and score up about six times with them. [details will depend on size of division]
8. All results shall be treated as provisional until confirmed by the CC after receipt of the event records and the determination of any appeal.
9. a) The top two* pairs from each division (except division 1) will be promoted to the next higher division. The bottom two* pairs from each division (except the lowest division) will normally be relegated to the next lower division. [* These key positions (and the prizes) will be reviewed in the light of substitutions used; e.g. if 'super-subs' are used it may be appropriate to rank a pair solely on their other scores.]
- b) A Monetary prize of £50 will be awarded to the pair placed first* in each division.
10. The LCBA will award local Master Points on the County scale..

Footnotes

1. Substitutes

It is essential for the successful running of this competition that each pair is represented on all five evening sessions in the series. A pair unable to play is required to field a substitute pair or player of broadly similar standard.

Substitutes may be as a pair or a single player and may substitute for a different pair or players later in the series; but not for member(s) of another pair in the same division.

It is the responsibility of the players, not the LCBA, to make these arrangements.

If notwithstanding the commitment they have made no substitute can be found by the players then the CC must be contacted in advance of the session.

2 Penalties

If a pair (or one of that pair) fails to turn up for a session without prior notice and without compelling reason then the pair will receive a score of 0 VPs for the session.

If a pair gives advance notice that they will be unable to play or provide substitute(s) they may receive a score of up to a maximum of 8 VP (40% of 20 VP) for each match not played.

Please note that unacknowledged emails or answer-phone messages left do not constitute 'prior notification'.

Pairs due to play against absent opponents will receive 14 VPs.