



THE 51ST INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL

JUNE 30TH – JULY 6TH , 2017

REGULATIONS

GENERAL

1. These regulations supplement the General Regulations of the Israel Bridge Federation.
2. Further regulations or instructions posted in writing, or announced by the Chief Tournament Director, will be considered part of these supplementary regulations.
3. The Hebrew version of the regulations is the Official Festival Regulations and will apply in case of conflict between the Hebrew and English versions.
4. All scoring in pairs events will be across the field, except for the final of the Open Pairs where scoring will be within each grouping of the final.

SYSTEMS AND CONVENTIONS

5. The use of “Brown Sticker “and HUM conventions is not permitted. Psyching of conventional opening bids is not permitted. In addition the Chief Tournament Director is empowered to restrict the use of conventions against which adequate defense cannot be reasonably expected, or whose main purpose is destructive. (Examples are suit openings showing shortage in the suit opened, and NT openings with less than 10 points.)
6. The use of the official convention card is obligatory.
7. The tournament director may restrict a pair without a convention card, or with an inadequate convention card, to playing *Standard Israeli System*.
8. When there is an inadequate, or no convention card, the director will assume “mistaken explanation” in instances of doubt.

OPEN PAIRS COMPETITION

9. The Open Pairs Competition consists of two stages, preliminary (2 sessions) and final. After the two preliminary sessions the field will be split (based on overall standings) as follows:
Final A: approx. 30%-50% of the pairs, subject to organizational considerations.
Final B: the rest of the pairs.
The number of pairs qualifying for Final A will be announced during the second session of the preliminary stage.
10. Pairs playing in the quarter finals of the teams event may drop in to the pairs event as described in Appendix A, on condition that they notify the chief tournament director of their intention during the first round of the pairs competition.



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11. Final A will play 50 boards consisting of 5 mini-sessions of 10 boards each. For purposes of Law 12C3 the whole final is considered a session.
12. Final B will play one session of 24 boards.
13. In final A the final result will be $\frac{1}{3}$ of the percentage result in the preliminary stage + $\frac{2}{3}$ of the percentage result of the final stage. In final B the final result will be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the percentage result in the preliminary stage + $\frac{1}{2}$ of the percentage result of the final stage.
14. To ensure balanced fields as far as possible, seating for the finals will be based on overall standings.
15. Prizes and Master points will be awarded to each group separately.

NOVICE PAIRS COMPETITION

16. This competition is restricted to players holding the rank of Silver Master or below as at 15 May 2016.
17. There are three separate single sessions (random seating, without movement of lines).
18. The final result will consist of the average of the highest two session scores. A result obtained with a substitute will not be taken into account.
19. Pairs playing at least two of the three sessions will be eligible for overall ranking and the master point bonus.

HANDICAP COMPETITION

20. This competition is scored by normal MP scoring with a deduction of 0.5% from a player for each rank level. See appendix B for a list of deductions.
21. The result will be factored to ensure that 50% of the participant pairs will be above average. See appendix B.

SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

22. A substitute is allowed in emergency situations. The substitution and the substitute player must get prior approval from the Chief Tournament Director. No substitute player will be allowed if the pair is thereby significantly strengthened (whether by master point ranking or by bridge experience).
23. The pairing that has played more than 50% of the boards will be eligible for the prize and master point bonus awards. For competitions consisting of 2 or more sessions, there will be no bonus or prize for a pair playing in only one session.
24. Any substitution not in accordance with the above will result in the disqualification of the pair, but not of the result obtained.



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SPLITTING OF TIES

25. Ties will only be split to determine the top 3 rankings, or qualification for a next stage. Ties will be split by the “Swiss Points” method. If this fails to split a tie for a qualifying position, there will be a random draw among the tied pairs.
26. Other ties will not be split and master points and prizes will be equally shared among tied pairs.

TEAMS EVENTS

27. The mixed teams, BAM teams and qualifying stage of the Open teams will consist of 8 matches of 6 boards each. Seating assignments for the first two rounds will be determined by random draw. The assignments from the 3rd match to the 7th match will be determined by the “Delayed Swiss” method.
28. If the conditions of the competition are suitable the seating assignments (including for the second match) will be determined by the regular Swiss system, and not by delayed Swiss. This will be announced by the Chief Tournament director before the start of the relevant competition.
29. In all cases, the assignments for the 8th match will be determined by the cumulative results after the 7th match (Regular Swiss).
30. Scoring in the mixed and open teams events will be in IMPs converted to VP. Scoring in the BAM teams will be in MPs.
31. Each match is considered a session for purposes of the Laws.
32. A player who has not participated in previous matches will not be allowed to play in the last two matches (emergency substitutions excepted).
33. Open teams:
 - a. The first 16 ranked Swiss Teams in the qualifying stage will qualify for the knock-out stage. The matchings will be assigned based on standings according to the table in Appendix C to these regulations.
 - b. Round of 16, quarter and semifinal matches will consist of 12 boards. In all stages of the knockout stage the higher Swiss ranked team will be the home team.
 - c. The losers in the quarter finals will play a further match to determine the 5-6 and 7-8 rankings.
 - d. The finals will consist of 2 segments of 12 boards each.
 - e. A tie in IMPs in a knock-out stage (except for the finals) will be determined by the results on all the boards played by the “board-a-match” system. A further tie will be determined by the higher ranking pair after the Swiss stage of the event.
 - f. In the event of a tie in the finals, a further 3 boards will be played until the tie is broken.



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g. Open Teams Rankings:

- Rank 1 : according to the results of the finals.
- Rank 2 : according to the results of the finals.
- Ranks 3-4 : losers of the semifinals.
- Ranks 5-6 : winners of the play-off of the quarter final losers.
- Ranks 7-8 : losers of the play-off of the quarter final losers.
- Ranks 9-16 : losers of the round of 16.

SPLITTING TIES IN TEAMS EVENTS

- 34. Ranking of tied pairs in the “Swiss” stages of all the relevant team events will be determined by the “Swiss Points” method. A further tie will be determined by IMP ratio.
- 35. Ranking of tied pairs in the BAM teams will be determined by “Swiss Points”. Further ties will be broken by the product of the MP obtained against an opponent times the total MPs of that opponent.
- 36. Prizes and master points awards for equal rankings (see 33_g) will be shared equally.

MOBILE PHONES

- 37. Mobile phones may not be used in the playing area. Any player whose phone rings, or uses his phone in any manner, will be fined 4%, 12 IMPs or 2 VP depending on the scoring method for that competition.

NO SMOKING

- 38. Smoking in the playing area is prohibited. Smoking by any player before, during or after the round in the playing area will result in being fined 4%, 12 IMPs or 2 VP depending on the scoring method for that competition. Constant violation of this regulation will cause the player being prohibited from playing.



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PRIZES (monetary, special and trophies) and MASTER POINT AWARDS

39. Prizes and master points will be awarded according the publication of such on the website and in the special festival booklet. In case of conflict, the website publication takes preference.
40. In the teams events, only players who have played at least 40% of the boards in each stage (including the knock-out stage) will be eligible for prize and master points awards.
41. When these regulations do not split a tie, the prizes and awards will be shared equally.

APPEALS

42. A player can request a review of a tournament director ruling by lodging the request, approved by his/her partner (pairs) or captain (teams) within 30 minutes from the end of the session. Such request is only permissible if it concerns a question of law or a flaw in the procedure.
43. Appeals for session and overall score changes, and mistakes in names or seating must be lodged as follows:
 - a. Weekday morning event – until the start of the event that evening.
 - b. Two-session events or Men/Ladies event (session or cumulative result) – until the start of the afternoon event on the next day.
 - c. Three-session open pairs event – for the first two sessions until 13:00 on the next day, for the final sessions and cumulative scores until 30 minutes from the end of the session.
 - d. Thursday one-session event – until 30 minutes from the end of the session.
 - e. Non-expert pairs event - 30 minutes from the end of the third session.
 - f. Teams events – until 30 minutes after the publication of the match result.
44. A deposit of 100 NIS is required for an appeal under sections 44-45. The deposit will be forfeited if the request for review is considered frivolous or without sufficient basis. In addition the deposit will be forfeited if it turns out that the mistake was made by the appellant.



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SUMMARY OF APPENDIXES to THE REGULATIONS

APPENDIX A:

DROP INS FROM THE TEAMS TO THE PAIRS COMPETITIONS

1. A pair consisting of at least one eligible player eliminated from the teams quarter final or semifinal can drop in to the second pairs qualifying session on condition that the pair registered for the pairs event before the start of the first qualifying session. The second player can be any player (including a player who did not take part in the teams event). Such pair will receive a carryover based on each player's final ranking in the teams, as detailed in the Official Festival Regulations.
2. A pair consisting of at least one eligible player eliminated from the teams final can drop in to the first Final A session of the pairs on condition that the pair registered for the pairs event before the start of the first qualifying session. The second player can be any player (including a player who did not take part in the teams event). Such pair will receive a carryover based on each player's final ranking in the teams, as detailed in the Official Festival Regulations.

APPENDIX B:

PAIRS HANDICAP COMPETITION

A participating pair receives a percentage handicap based on the master point ranking of **each** player.

An overseas player of a representative team will receive a handicap of 9%. Other overseas players will receive a handicap of 5%.

See Appendix B of the Official Festival Regulations for a detailed list of handicaps.

APPENDIX C:

SEEDING TABLE FOR THE TEAMS KNOCK OUT STAGE

See the Official Festival Regulations.