



## EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Jan Kamras  
*President*

To: NBO Presidents  
NBO General Secretaries  
EBL EC Members

Lausanne, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

### **EBL QUALIFIER FOR THE NEXT WORLD TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS (the “WTC”) AND THE 2021 CHAMPIONS’ CUP**

Dear Presidents and friends,

As advertised earlier the EBL will arrange an online Qualifying event, on the RealBridge platform, for the “2021” WTC scheduled to be held in February/March 2022. It will start no earlier than August 23rd and end on August 28th.

We have provided some very general information, mainly about the “safety protocol” that will be followed, but here follows some more detailed information.

#### **Duration**

The number of playing days in each category (Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed) will be four (Aug. 25-28), five (Aug. 24-28) or six (Aug. 23-28), depending on the number of entries in each category. In order for you, your players and the EBL to be able plan ahead it will be much appreciated if you can advise us by email to [secretariat@europeanbridge.org](mailto:secretariat@europeanbridge.org) **as soon as possible** if, and in which categories, you intend to send teams. The final deadline for registering a team on the designated website is July 12th.

#### **Entry Fees**

The entry fee will be **€100 per team and playing day**. To illustrate; if you participate in the Open and Women categories and the Open plays 6 while the Women play 4 days, you will pay a total of €1.000 for both teams.

#### **Other Costs for the NBO**

You will be responsible for:

- all local costs for the venue and equipment,
- all costs related to the players’ presence,
- the accommodation (can be arranged privately if you so choose) of the Observer(s) allocated by the EBL to your playing venue(s), and
- the travel and per diem/compensation for an eventual third/fourth Observer needed at your venue to comply with the required protocol.

#### **Costs covered by the EBL**

- all costs related to the RealBridge platform,
- all costs for Tournament Directors,
- a per diem/compensation of €100 per day per Observer,
- reasonable travel costs from the Observers’ home to the playing venue, and
- all costs of EBL staff.



### **The Playing Venue(s)**

- Attached you will find some example drawings of permissible lay-outs of a playing space. They should serve as a guide and illustrate the principles of the protocol. Latest by the time you register your participation you must present to the EBL your actual planned lay-out for approval.
- It is the NBO's responsibility to provide a fast and stable internet connection at the venue(s).
- Players' stations must be spread out so that players cannot see their partner.
- If more than one category team is sharing the same playing area players' neighbours should be from a different category. **Each category will play different boards.**
- Players' stations must face "outward" (wall, window) so that their screens can be easily seen by the Observer.
- Players may use their own computers (no "tablets" or similar devices with touch screen keyboards), with sound and microphones turned off.
- Players must use a keyboard for communication and a mouse for entering calls made and cards played. The RealBridge platform must be in full screen mode at all times, and no other program or applications can be open in the background.
- The only objects allowed at the players' stations are the monitor, keyboard and mouse used, the opponents' System Card and Supplementary Notes, a private score sheet, a writing utensil and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Players will be provided with detailed instructions in good time before the start, and will be required to participate in at least one practice session on RealBridge (organised and paid for by the EBL), unless they have experienced it already in the modes that will be used for this event.
- No person other than the players and the official Observer(s) may be in the playing area during the playing session, i.e. not even NPCs or Coaches.

### **Official Observers**

- Observers will be allocated to the various venues by the EBL, once all venues have been identified and approved.
- Observers will be from a different NBO than the venue observed, with the exception of EBL EC members and employees. Efforts will be made to minimise traveling distances.
- Every participating **NBO is required to nominate**, for approval by the EBL, at least as many **Observers** as the number they require at their own venue(s). More nominations are much appreciated. The Observers must be NBO members in good standing and with an impeccable reputation.
- The Observers **will not** perform any TD functions during play. The active TDs will operate within the RealBridge platform, from where they can communicate with the players (and each other). Of course, nothing prevents a TD from being nominated as an Observer.
- Observers will supervise compliance with the above and other instructions at all times, according to a separate protocol to be published later.

### **Number of teams qualified**

As usual, Europe (Zone 1) qualifies a minimum of eight teams per category to the WTC. N.B. that it is quite common that Europe also gets one or two further spots in some categories due to cancellations from other Zones. Europe has the right to the first and third such reserve spots.



For the Champions' Cup, the top ten NBOs in the Open category qualify its national champion club/team, to join the defending champions and the host NBO's national champions in Pezinok/Slovakia November 11-13, 2021.

Other details of a more technical nature can be found in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest, soon to be published on the EBL event website.

Our hope is that this will be a very successful, "clean" and enjoyable event for all involved. Registration of players' names shall be made on the designated website as usual, and invitation is subject to the approval of the EBL Credentials Committee. We take it for granted that you will only nominate players in good standing with your NBO and in strict compliance with the EBL Eligibility Code. All players must have signed the Player's Commitment Form.

Finally, I ask you again to be so kind and notify us of your intended participation at your very earliest opportunity. The earlier we can determine the number of playing days per category the better for all involved, not least for your players' planning of vacation days, etc.

Sincerely,

Jan Kamras