



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

Gianarrigo Rona
President

Presidents of the WBF Zonal Conferences

c/c Members of the WBF Executive Council
WBF Championship Committee Members
CCBA President
LOC Chairman
WBF Operations Director
WBF Communication & General Liaison Manager
WBF Secretariat

Lausanne, 8th January 2019

Information Letter n.1

Dear President and Friend,

44th WORLD BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Senior Trophy, Mixed Teams
12th WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Organised by the World Bridge Federation
In cooperation with the Chinese Contract Bridge Association

I am very pleased to confirm that the 44th World Bridge Teams Championships and the 12th World Transnational Open Teams Championship will be held and every competition will be played at

Wuhan International Convention Center
Wuhan, Hubei Province, China
14th – 28th September 2019

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Mixed Teams

Format of the Championships

All four Championships will be played as a single complete round-robin with all teams playing each other. At the end of the round-robin the first eight best ranked teams will qualify for the knock-out stages. Quarter-final, Semifinal and Final KO matches will be played.



Timetable

- Teams Registration Saturday 14th September (starting 10.00 hrs.)
- Captains meeting Saturday 14th September at 16.00
- Opening Ceremony Saturday 14th September at 18.30
- Round Robin 1st Match Sunday 15th September at 11.00
- Round Robin Last Match Sunday 22nd September at 14.30
- Captains Meeting (Qualified Teams) Sunday 22nd September at 17.20
- Quarter-final Monday 23rd – Tuesday 24th September
- Semi-final Wednesday 25th – Thursday 26th September
- Final & Playoff Friday 27th – Saturday 28th September
- Prize-giving & Closing Ceremony Saturday 28th September at 19.30 hrs.

The complete schedule will be published on the WBF Website.

Right to enter

Zonal Qualified teams for all three championships (in addition to the Host Teams):

- Zone 1 – 8 teams
- Zone 2 – 3 teams
- Zone 3 – 2 teams
- Zone 4 – 2 teams
- Zone 5 – 1 teams
- Zone 6 – 3 teams
- Zone 7 – 2 teams
- Zone 8 – 2 teams

If any Zone does not fill its quota the first berth will be offered to Zone 1 the second to Zone 6. Each participating member NBO must play against all other participating member NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

To be eligible for participation in the 2019 World Teams Championships each player, non-playing captain, coach, trainer and other team official **must comply with the Competitors Commitment & the WBF Laws and Rules & Regulations**. In addition the players and non-playing captains **must comply with the conditions of eligibility** set forth in the WBF Eligibility Code.

In particular:

- a) only the NBOs participating in the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw 2016 in the Open Teams or Pairs and/or in the Women Teams or Pairs, with their National Representatives, **are eligible to qualify to participate respectively in the Bermuda Bowl and/or Venice Cup 2019.**
- b) Players competing in the **d'Orsi Seniors Trophy must reach the age of 61** during the year 2019.



12th World Transnational Open Teams Championship

The 12th World Transnational Open Teams will take place during the second week, starting at 10.00 in the morning on Monday 23rd September. The format will be Swiss Teams

Qualification followed by KO Stage. The Qualification is normally played as 10-board matches (5 matches per day on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th September) for 15 qualifying rounds (150 boards). The first 32 best ranked teams will be admitted to the knock-out stages normally played as follows:

- Round of 32 – 28-board match (two 14-board sessions on Thursday 26th at 10.00 & 12.20
- Round of 16 – 28-board match (two 14-board sessions on Thursday 26th at 15.20 & 17.40
- Quarterfinal – 28-board match (two 14-board sessions on Friday 27th at 10.00 & 12.20
- Semifinal – 28-board match (two 14-board sessions on Friday 27th at 15.20 & 17.40
- Final – 48-board match (three 16-board sessions) on Saturday 28th at 10.00, 13.30, 16.10
- Play-off – 32-board match two 16-board sessions) on Saturday 28th at 10.00, 13.30

The World Transnational Open Teams Championship is a prestigious and most enjoyable event. Being Transnational, it is open to teams composed of players coming from different National Bridge Organisations, in good standing with their own Federation, and approved by the WBF Credentials Committee.

It is a great opportunity for players to participate in a wonderful bridge tournament while at the same time having a unique opportunity to experience all the atmosphere and excitement of the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup and watch some of the greatest players in the world on the first class vu-graph presentation. There is no quota for this great Championship and NBOs are asked to publicise the event as widely as possible and encourage teams to enter.

Players, NPCs and Coaches, **registered as team members by 1st July 2019**, eliminated from the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d’Orsi Seniors Bowl & Mixed Teams will be able to enter the World Transnational Open Teams Championship free of charge provided they enter as a complete team. Players eliminated from the Quarter-final can drop in the WTOTC free of charge provided they enter as a complete team. Players, NPCs and Coaches eliminated from the WTOTC can play the Wuhan Grand Prix free of charge.



General Information

Communication of the qualified NBOs

The Zonal Presidents are kindly invited to communicate **as soon as known** the NBOs qualified from their own Zones to participate the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, the d'Orsi Senior Trophy and the Mixed Teams to

Gianarrigo Rona
president@worldbridgefed.com

Registration of Teams for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Senior's Trophy and Mixed Teams

All entries to the Championships **must be submitted electronically** (the pages will be available from 1st April 2017), **via the WBF website (not by email) by 10th June 2019**. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

Registration of Players' Names

Registration of players and NBO Delegation members must be sent **via the WBF website (not by email) by 1st July 2019**.

Registration of Teams for the Transnational Open Teams Championship

Registration of teams should be made **before 1st August 2019 wherever possible**. Entries will be accepted later provided there is sufficient space at the venue. Entries from teams eliminated from the main Championship events may be made on site. All entries are subject to approval by the Credentials Committee.

Registrations must be made **via the WBF website (not by email)**.

Entry Fees & Payment

- Bermuda Bowl	€ 4,000 per team before/on 10th June
- Venice Cup	€ 4,000 per team before/on 10th June
- d'Orsi Seniors Bowl	€ 4,000 per team before/on 10th June
- Mixed Teams	€ 4,000 per team before/on 10th June

Payments received after 10 June 2017 are subject to an automatic arrearage penalty of € 250 per team unless the NBO has made a separate arrangement with the WBF.

- World Transnational Open Teams	€ 1,350 per team before/on 1st August
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The entry fees **must be paid by bank transfer to**

Crédit Suisse SA, Rue du Lion d'Or 5-7
P.O. Box 5722, 1002 Lausanne, Switzerland
€ account
IBAN CH58 0483 5154 6496 9200 0
Account n° 0425-1546496-92
SWIFT CRESCHZZ80A
Clearing 4835
(To be indicated)

If the bank requires the name and address of the recipient this is:

World Bridge Federation - Maison du Sport International
54 av. de Rhodanie - 1007 Lausanne - Switzerland

Players, NPCs and Coaches, **registered as team members by 10 July 2019**, eliminated from the Round-Robin and Quarter-final of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy and Mixed Teams may form new Open team and **will receive free entry** provided no players who have not participated in these events are added.

In the event that a team is made up from players who have not participated in the three main events, with players from these events added to the team, the charges will be as follows:

A team with four new players & one or two eliminated players:	€ 1.350
A team with three new players & up to three eliminated players :	€ 1.050
A team with 2 new players & up to four eliminated players :	€ 700
A team with 1 new player & up to five eliminated players :	€ 350

Rules & Regulations – Systems Policy

The Rules & Regulations, including the Eligibility Code, Anti-doping Regulation, Disciplinary Code, and the Dress Code **will be published, together with the Systems Policy, on the WBF website.**

Competitor's Commitment

Players, Captains, Coaches and other Team Officials in Teams Championships are required **to have signed the WBF Competitor's Commitment before the start of the event.** The Competitor's Commitment is binding and the absence of a valid signature **renders the competitor ineligible to participate the championship.** The NBOs are directly responsible for the fulfilment of the above mentioned mandatory requirement.



Blank copies of the Commitment form may be obtained from Anna Gudge (anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com). The signed copies must be scanned, not photographed and returned by email.

Antidoping & TUE

Players competing in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Mixed Teams **will be liable for anti-doping testing under WBF's authority**: All Players should be aware that failure to attend or refusal of a test if selected is deemed a positive test and may lead to a suspension. In addition, in some countries it is also deemed a criminal offence.

The players requiring a Therapeutic Use Exemption Certificate **must complete the Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) Application Form and return it** to the address given on the document **as soon as possible and no later than 30 days before the commencement of the competition** in which they are participating. TUE forms can be downloaded by the WBF Website, where other essential information about the Antidoping Rules can be found.

Systems Registration

Systems for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Senior Trophy & Mixed Teams **have to be registered with the World Bridge Federation Systems Administrator by 1st July 2019** to:

anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com

The conditions of contest will give full details of systems regulations and registration. **No HUM, or Brown Sticker conventions will be permitted at any stage of the Round Robin in either the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup andr Mixed Teams nor will they be permitted at any stage of the Senior Bowl.**

Pairs wishing to register Brown Sticker conventions or HUM systems for use in the KO phase must register these, together with the relevant BS forms, by 1st July 2019.

No extension to this deadline will be accepted. Players playing HUM systems will lose their seating rights.

Hotel Accommodation

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) agreed special preferential rates for several recommended hotels and the list is published on the WBF website.

To avoid last minute problems, due to the number of rooms available, the participants are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as possible. In any case the reservations will be on first come first served basis.



Further Information

For further information contact

Marina Madia
Assistant to the President
marina.madia@worldbridgefed.com

I will be grateful to the Zonal Presidents if they forward this first info letter to all the interested NBOs, thanking them in advance for their support and cooperation.

I am confident that in Wuhan we will enjoy once again all together another great bridge event.

Yours sincerely,
Gianarrigo Rona