



# **MANCHESTER CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION LEAGUE 2019-20**

## **GUIDELINES FOR ARRANGING AND PLAYING MATCHES**

# Contents

Entry Fees.....	2
Teams .....	2
Arranging Matches.....	3
Playing the Match .....	3
Scoring and Reporting Results.....	4
Substitutes .....	5
Masterpoints.....	5

**This Set of Guidelines is a simplified version of the complete Conditions of Contest for the Manchester Contract Bridge Associations (MCBA) League.**

**They set out the main elements of how to arrange and play matches in the MCBA League, and are designed to assist teams and captains in organising and playing matches, particularly those who are relatively new to playing in the League.**

**These Guidelines will suffice in almost all cases, unless difficulties arise in arranging a match or during the match itself, when the complete set of Conditions of Contest will have to be consulted.**

**In all cases, if there is any discrepancy between these Guidelines and the Conditions of Contest, then the Conditions of Contest will take precedence.**

## Entry Fees

The entry fee is £40 for a team of four players, with a further £5 for each additional player. Any player(s) who has primary allegiance to another county (see section below) will be required to pay £6 in addition to the entry fee. The deadline for payment is 31<sup>st</sup> August. A late fee of £10 per month or per part of month will be imposed on any team playing after the deadline.

Payment by BACS is preferred. Bank details : Account name : MCBA. Sort Code : 01-07-20 A/c Number : 41526708. Please use the team name as a reference.

If paying by cheque it should be made out to MCBA, have the team name on the back and sent to The Treasurer, 10 Priest Avenue, Gatley, Cheadle, SK8 4JW.

## Teams

A team may have as many players as it wishes. However, teams with more than eight players are encouraged to split into two teams.

All players in a team must be current members of the EBU and must have Manchester as their county of primary or secondary allegiance before the start of the first match. School students are exempt from this requirement.

## **Arranging Matches**

The MCBA League is a local league played by teams within the boundaries of the MCBA area. Whilst this is not strictly defined, it is expected that matches will be played within 14 miles of Manchester City Centre, defined for this purpose as Piccadilly Gardens. However, by mutual agreement, captains may play matches anywhere.

Whilst being a competitive event, the League is meant to be friendly. It is thus assumed that all matches can be arranged amicably between the team captains.

It is good practice to start arranging league matches as soon as the league information comes out. History has repeatedly shown that teams who leave a lot of matches until near the end of the season have great difficulty playing them all, and often end up defaulting matches.

Opposing teams can be played in any order, as is convenient for both teams. However, matches should be played regularly and at least 3 league matches should be played by the end of December.

Team captains should check the information provided which indicates the preferred days of the other teams in the same division.

All matches should be arranged by mutual agreement between the captains.

Matches can be at any reasonable venue, but are normally played in the home captain's house, or at a bridge club. Teams wishing to play at a bridge club should contact the relevant club for details of facilities, including food.

When arranging a match, the venue, start time, any dietary requirements, any access requirements, and any other relevant matters, should all be clearly specified. It is also useful for captains to exchange phone numbers, particularly mobile numbers, in case they need to contact each other on the night.

The home team is responsible for all costs and should provide light refreshments (usually a hot drink, sandwich and cake or something of that sort).

## **Playing the Match**

Matches are of 24 boards, played in two 12 board stanzas, with compulsory change of opponents after the first stanza.

Matches for teams in divisions lower than Division 6 will be of 20 boards played in two 10 board stanzas except where both captains agree to play 24 boards.

All players must abide by the EBU Best Behaviour at Bridge guidelines. Anyone who thinks they have been affected by bad behaviour should report back to the League Secretary as soon as possible.

No animals other than guide dogs may be brought into the playing area.

Smoking (including electronic cigarettes) is prohibited in all playing rooms throughout the match. However, the match host may designate an area where smoking is permitted during scoring breaks.

Players are requested to turn off mobile phones, ipads, ipods etc during matches.

Each pair must have two identically completed system cards for the opponents to refer to. It is expected that EBU 20B convention cards will be used. WBF convention cards are acceptable ONLY if prior permission has been obtained from the opposition captain.

Bidding boxes must be used in all matches (except in the case of disability).

Boards are dealt at the table in the presence of at least one player from each team. Pre-duplicated (duplimated) boards may be used as long as both captains agree and are satisfied with the security arrangements.

If you are the home captain, introduce team members and offer tea and coffee at the start of match.

The home team distributes score cards.

You are entitled to look at the opponents' system card at any time.

The opposition are obliged to fully inform you about their bids, so if you don't understand anything – ask!

Take the first half of the boards to be played (1-12 in a 24 board match or 1-10 in a 20 board match) and split them in half. Put the rest of the boards (13 to 24 or 11 to 20) away for the second half.

If you are not using pre dealt boards then deal the 6 (or 5) boards at your table and play them. The other 6 (or 5) boards should be dealt in the other room. Do not re-deal any board which is passed out. Passed-out boards are a part of the game, and anyway someone in the other room may choose to open.

When these boards are finished, exchange them with the other room and play those boards.

Check that your version of the scores matches the opponents' version before scoring with team mates.

When play in the first half is completed, combine your scores with your team-mates, convert the net difference to IMPs and add up the IMPs. [At this stage, the IMP score might be 30-24, or +6 IMPs net to your side].

After light refreshments, share the second-half boards between the 2 tables and take your seats. The visiting pairs will change rooms.

If they are not pre dealt then deal the boards at your table, play them, exchange the boards with the other table, play those boards, and check your scores.

Return to your team-mates, combine your scores, convert the net difference to IMPs and calculate the total IMPs over the whole match. [The score might typically be 70-46, or +24 IMPs net to your side].

Thank the hosts for their hospitality. Leave before having any protracted post-mortems because your hosts may need to be up early next morning!

### **Scoring and Reporting Results**

Scoring will be by IMPs, converted to VPs on the scale given in the main Conditions of Contest. Do not worry if you do not have this to hand as the EBU system will automatically calculate this for you.

Full details of the match including the name of the winning team and the net IMP difference should be noted and uploaded to the EBU website <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/v2/> within 24 hours of a match being played by either captain. To submit a League Result:

- Click My EBU and enter your EBU No and Password
- Click Utilities and EBU League
- Find your team and division corresponding to your Team registered entry
- Click on the specific match and enter the results and tick players accordingly

### **Substitutes**

Substitutes are only allowed in rare circumstances. You should contact the League Secretary immediately if you think you may need a substitute and also consult the relevant section of the Conditions of Contest. It is much easier to find someone who has not played in the League this year and register them as one of your team, rather than try and get a substitute approved.

### **Masterpoints**

Local points will be awarded in accordance with the EBU Masterpoint Handbook.