

Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association
COMPETITION RULES (including Yorkshire League Rules)
Section A - ENTRY DETAILS FOR YCBA EVENTS

Dates and venues of competitions

1. The dates, venues and starting times of YCBA Competitions are posted or published as follows:
 - on the YCBA website (go to [Events](#) page, click on the title of the event, click on Details alternatively to [Home](#) page and click on [Calendar](#) in the box in the lower right hand panel)
 - in the YCBA's Bridge in Yorkshire booklet (available for inspection in most clubs)

Entry forms

2. Entry forms for all events may be downloaded from the YCBA website (go to Events page, click on the title of the event, click on Details, click on Entry form in the box in the right hand panel). Entries may also be sent by email to the [Tournament Secretary](#) giving details of the players' names and EBU numbers with the fees paid by online banking (see rule 8 below)

Entry fees

3. For competitions devolved to clubs or that are part of the bridge development programme the entry fee will be decided by the organisers and published in the applicable entry form.
4. For other competitions the entry fees will be decided by the Management Board and published in the Bridge in Yorkshire booklet and the applicable entry form
5. The entry fee for the Yorkshire League will be decided by the Management Board (see section E)
6. Schools events are free of charge
7. Junior players under 25 years of age on the 1 September preceding the date of the event will be allowed to play at half price irrespective of whether or not their partners or team-mates are also juniors.
8. Entry fees for non-qualification events may be paid:
 - In the case of devolved events, as decided by the organisers and specified in the applicable entry form, but otherwise
 - by a cheque made payable to the YCBA sent with the entry, or
 - using online banking to sort code 16-23-37, account number 00225326, quoting the event's reference number as stated on the entry form.
9. For events where there has been a club qualifier for a final, the table fees will be collected on the day of the final at the venue before play.

Closing dates for entries

10. Unless stated otherwise, the closing date for entries is the Tuesday preceding the event. Late entries may be accepted at the organisers' discretion.

Inter-county competitions (Tollemache Cup, President's Cup and Northern League)

11. The YCBA will pay the whole or part of the entry fees for the above competitions as from time to time decided by the Management Board.
12. The YCBA may make a contribution to the expenses incurred by players in the above competitions if the Management Board considers an overnight stay to be appropriate.

Section B – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The EBU means the English Bridge Union

The YCBA means the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association

Management Board is defined in the [YCBA Constitution](#)

The holders for the time being of the positions of **YCBA Secretary, Membership Secretary** and **Tournament Secretary**, and their respective contact details, are given in [Who's Who](#)

Blue Book means the current edition of the Handbook of Permitted Understandings published by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU – link to <http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/blue-book>

White Book means the current edition of the White Book - Technical Matters published by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU – link to <http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/white-book>

Section C - GENERAL RULES

Powers of the Management Board

1. The [Management Board](#) has the following powers:
 - to disqualify players who offend against any rules of the YCBA competitions
 - to refuse any entry for any of the YCBA competitions.
 - to make any alteration in the rules to facilitate the play of any competition, and to delegate this power to the tournament director

Eligibility

2. Unless otherwise stated, all competitors in competitions must be members of the EBU.

Conduct of play; systems and conventions

- 3.1 Play in all YCBA competitions shall be conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2017) and under the regulations contained in the [Blue Book](#).
- 3.2 In any match played privately, the captain of the home team shall be responsible for having a copy of the Laws and the competition rules available for reference.
- 3.3 In the following competitions, players may only use systems and conventions up to and including those having a Level Two licence as defined in the [Blue Book](#):
 - the Improvers Pairs
 - the Newcomers Pivot Teams, and
 - any other YCBA competitions, the entry to which is restricted in the same or a similar manner
- 3.4 In competitions other than those referred to in the previous rule, players may only use systems and conventions up to and including than those having a Level Four licence as defined in the [Blue Book](#).

Correction periods, appeals and dispute resolution

- 4.1 Events supervised by a tournament director. If there is a dispute or appeal against the decision of the tournament director, which cannot be resolved at the time, full details together with the names and contact details of witnesses, must be sent, preferably by email, to the [Tournament Secretary](#) to arrive within twenty four hours of the end of play in the competition.
- 4.2 Matches not supervised by a tournament director. If a ruling or a subsequent appeal is required and a decision cannot be agreed in the course of the match, the result notification must be endorsed "subject to ruling/appeal" before it is submitted to the [Tournament Secretary](#). Any result notification not so endorsed will be regarded as giving the final and agreed match result and the correction period shall be deemed to have ended (subject only to the following paragraphs). Full details of the reason for requesting the ruling or appeal and a statement by each captain must accompany the result notification. By agreement between the team captains, the correction period may be extended to a maximum of twenty four hours after the end of play in the match and full details must be sent, preferably by email, to the [Tournament Secretary](#) to arrive within that period of time.
- 4.3 If an unforeseen circumstance disrupts play in a match, all reasonable efforts must be made to complete the match. If either team considers that the result has been affected by the unforeseen circumstance, or that the other team has been unreasonable in declining to play on, the captain of the aggrieved team may send details to the [Tournament Secretary](#) in the manner described in paragraph 4.2 above
- 4.4 If a result on a board played in the last set of a match is incorrectly entered or computed, either team may, within twenty four hours after the end of the match, request a correction of the result; appropriate details should be sent to the [Tournament Secretary](#) in the manner described in paragraph 4.2 above. If, before the end of play in the last set of a match, it is discovered and agreed that a board that has been fouled, a substitute board shall be dealt and played. If, after the end of the match, it is discovered and agreed that a board has been fouled, the board is cancelled and the scores on the fouled board shall be deleted.
- 4.5 No result will be considered final until forty eight hours after the end of play, or until any procedures as specified in this rule 4 have been completed, whichever is later. Any prizes or trophies awarded shall until that time be considered provisional
- 4.6 Any complaint about the conduct or the conditions of play of a competition should be made within a reasonable time, in writing to the [YCBA Chairman or Secretary](#).

YCBA Simultaneous Pairs and qualifying events played in clubs

- 5.1 Pay to Play expenses incurred through holding qualifying rounds of YCBA competitions, and heats of YCBA Simultaneous Pairs, shall be the responsibility of the club.
- 5.2 Every effort shall be made to accommodate players from other clubs. Such players must give the host club seven days' notice of their request to play in the event.

Section D - CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

General advisory note: *Players who enter Yorkshire competitions are strongly advised to take with them the telephone number of the venue at which they are playing. This can then be used if the players find they will arrive at the venue after the starting time, for example owing to traffic delays. This enables the Tournament Director to make the necessary arrangements to accommodate the delayed players.*

WADDINGTON SHIELD and YORKSHIRE TROPHY

1. The Waddington Shield is the major county teams-of-four competition. Subject to EBU rules on eligibility of individual players, the winners (or, if the winners decline the invitation, the runners-up) will represent the YCBA in the EBU Pachabo Cup competition (inter-county teams of four championship). The entry fee to the Pachabo Cup will be paid by the YCBA plus a contribution towards other expenses..
2. All players must be EBU members at the time of entry or registration as provided in rule 6.
3. Entries should be submitted to the [Tournament Secretary](#). The closing date is 1 October. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the [Tournament Secretary](#).
4. The competition will be knockout throughout. Teams which lose in round one or, in the case of those teams getting a bye, lose in round two, may enter, at no extra charge, a knockout competition for the Yorkshire Trophy. Teams not wishing to enter the Yorkshire Trophy should state their intention on the entry form.
5. Teams may enter the Yorkshire Trophy direct for a reduced entry fee. All players so entering must be below the rank of National Master and must not have played in the Waddington Shield in the same season. Entries for the Yorkshire Trophy must reach the [Tournament Secretary](#) by 31 January.
6. Teams may consist of up to six players. Teams containing fewer than six players may increase their number to five or six by registering additional players at any time up to and including the quarter finals, provided that notice is given to the [Tournament Secretary](#) before the player(s) concerned play in a match. Any player may withdraw from the registered team provided that the player has not represented that team in the competition. Notice of the withdrawal of a team member should be given to the [Tournament Secretary](#).
7. In the Waddington Shield, matches prior to the final shall be decided over 32 boards and the final over 48 boards. In the Yorkshire Trophy, in rounds preceding the semi-final, 24 board matches will be played. In the semi-final and the final, 32 boards will be played.
8. Scoring shall be by International Match Points. If there is a tie, a number of boards equal to one eighth of the original number of boards scheduled for the match shall be played, and if necessary, this process shall be repeated until the tie is broken.
9. Conditions of contest for matches played privately will be sent to all captains with the draw for the competition.
10. Green Point awards. Assuming a Waddington Shield entry of 17-32 teams, Green Points will be awarded as follows: Round 1, 1; Round 2, 1¼; Round 3, 1½; Semi-final 2; Final 4.

NELSON ROSE BOWL

1. This is a Ladies' teams of four competition, and is a two session event. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).
2. Entries, stating the personnel of each team, should be made on the appropriate entry form. (Note: the organization of this event has been devolved to Harrogate Bridge Club.)

WADDINGTON CUP

1. This is a teams of four competition. Qualifying events may be organised by affiliated clubs.
2. Each affiliated club shall have the right to enter teams to compete in this competition according to the following scale:

| <i>No of teams in qualifying event</i> | <i>No of qualifying teams</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Up to 10 | 1 team. |
| From 11 to 30 | 2 teams. |
| From 31 to 50 | 3 teams. |
| 51 teams or more | 4 teams. |
3. If a team consists of more than four players, those not playing must remain outside the playing room for the whole of the period in which they are not playing.
4. Names of the captain and personnel of qualifying teams, along with notification of the total number of the original entry, shall be notified to the [Tournament Secretary](#) not later than fourteen days before the date of the event, together with the appropriate fee.
5. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

YORKSHIRE CUP

1. This competition will be a teams of four event and is open to all players BELOW THE RANK OF REGIONAL MASTER as at 1 September.
2. Affiliated clubs may organise a qualifying competition which shall consist of a multiple teams event. However, if only two teams enter, they will play a head-to-head match to determine the qualifier. If only one team enters, then that team qualifies for the final. Teams will qualify for the final on the following scale:

| <i>No of teams in the qualifying event</i> | <i>No of qualifying teams</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 or 2 | 1 |
| 3 or 4 | 2 |
| 5 or 6 | 3 |
| 7 or 8 | 4 |
| and so on | |
3. Secretaries shall, as soon as their qualifying round has been played, and in any case not later than 31 January, send to the [Tournament Secretary](#) the full chart of results.
4. Teams may register no more than six players - no player shall be registered for more than one team.
5. The final shall be a multiple teams competition. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

MIXED PIVOT TEAMS

1. This competition shall be a one day mixed teams of four event. Competitors will be required to play with each other member of their team.
2. Teams shall consist of four players only and each team shall contain at least one player of each gender.
3. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

AFFILIATED CLUBS TEAMS OF FOUR

This event is open to all affiliated clubs in Yorkshire. Invitations and full details will be sent to club secretaries in early spring. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will also be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)). Clubs may enter more than one team at the discretion of the organizers.

NEWCOMERS PIVOT TEAMS

This is an event for all bridge teachers and their students, who do not have to be members of the EBU or the YCBA. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

YORKSHIRE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. This is the major Open Pairs competition in the county. Subject to compliance with EBU rules on eligibility of individual players, -the leading five pairs are invited to represent Yorkshire in the Corwen Trophy (inter-county pairs championship of the EBU). The entry fee to the Corwen Trophy will be paid by the YCBA plus a contribution towards other expenses.
2. The event will comprise two or more sessions, of approximately 48 boards in total.
3. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)). Details will also be sent to all club secretaries.
4. Green point awards:

| <i>Total no. of pairs</i> | <i>Top player award</i> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 31 - 40 | 4 (Awards to 9th place) |
| 41 – 50 | 4 ¹ / ₄ (Awards to 10th place) |
| 51 – 60 | 4 ¹ / ₂ (Awards to 11th place) |

PLAY WITHOUT THE EXPERTS SWISS PAIRS

1. All players must be NGS Jack or below at the time of entering.
2. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

IMPROVERS PAIRS

The qualification criteria, venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#))

YORKSHIRE MIXED PAIRS

1. Qualification for this event will be through a combination of club heats and direct entry. Full details of how this will be implemented will be sent to club secretaries in September and will also be posted on the [YCBA website](#) .
2. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

CASTLE SWISS PAIRS

1. This will be a two session event of six matches of 8 boards. (Note: the organisation of this event has been devolved to Huddersfield Bridge Club.)
2. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

PETER LITTLEWOOD TROPHY

1. This is a midweek daytime pairs event open to all EBU members.
2. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)). (Note: the organisation of this event has been devolved to Sheffield Bridge Club.)

YORKSHIRE FLITCH

1. This is a pairs event for married couples. Approximately 40 boards will be played. (Note: the organisation of this event has been devolved to Doncaster Bridge Club.)
2. The entry fee includes the cost of refreshments.
3. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS PAIRS

This event is open to players who are attending school (not necessarily the same one) during the Christmas term of the school year in which the event takes place, and who are under 19 years of age on the day of the event. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

There is no entry fee and players do not have to be members of the EBU or the YCBA

YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS CUP

This event is played annually for the Christine Asquith Trophy.

There is no entry fee and players do not have to be members of the EBU or the YCBA. The venue, date, and starting time of the event will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) (see [Entries](#)).

YORKSHIRE SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

KATH GRIMOLDBY TROPHY, MARGERY CARTWRIGHT MEMORIAL TROPHY & JOHN GERRARD MEMORIAL TROPHY

1. All scores will be co-ordinated from all the centres and match-pointed overall.
2. The competitions must be played on the stated dates.
3. The entry fee is payable at the time of entry.
4. No fewer than 6 pairs may constitute a heat.
5. Applications by participating clubs should be sent to the [Tournament Secretary](#) not later than fourteen days before the date of the competition.
6. The competitions are open to clubs affiliated to the YCBA and other clubs whose applications to participate are approved by the Management Board
7. The dates of the events will be posted on the [YCBA website](#) .

YORKSHIRE GOLF CLUBS BRIDGE COMPETITION

1. This event is a knock-out teams-of-four competition and is open to all clubs which are members of the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs. Players need not be members of the the EBU or the YCBA.
2. Golf clubs may enter as many teams as they wish. Three members of each team must be below the rank of Regional Master. The fourth member may be of any rank.
3. Each member of a team must be a bona-fide member (including social member) of the same golf club. There is an entry fee.
4. A plate competition will be organised for all teams that are eliminated from the main competition in the first match they play.
5. Full details of the rules of the competition, including entry forms, will be sent to all golf club secretaries.
6. The closing date for entry is 1 September

Section E - THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUE

League structure and management

1. The league will consist of divisions each containing as near to eight teams as possible. New teams will normally be entered in the lowest division.
2. Two teams will be promoted and two teams relegated from each division unless Rule 2A applies or the Yorkshire League Committee decides otherwise.

2A. This rule applies to a vacancy in any division of the League that arises when a team withdraws from the League or is promoted because a team in a higher division has withdrawn. Any such vacancy or vacancies will be filled for the next season as follows:
One vacancy - one team is relegated from that division and two teams are promoted from the division below
Two vacancies - one team is relegated from that division and three teams are promoted from the division below
Three or more vacancies – no team is relegated and all vacancies are filled by promoting teams from the division below.
3. The winners of Division 1 will be invited to represent Yorkshire in the Garden Cities Trophy teams competition. 50% of the entry fee will be met by the YCBA.
4. The [Management Board](#) has delegated the responsibility for the running of the Yorkshire League to the [League Secretary](#) and the Yorkshire League Committee. The Yorkshire League Committee is responsible for deciding any issue arising that is not specifically provided for in these Rules.

Entries

5. Affiliated clubs may apply to enter as many teams as they wish.
6. On receipt of an entry from a club which had no team in the League in the previous season, and is situated in the general locality served by a club or clubs which had a team in the League in the previous season, the [League Secretary](#) shall consult the club or clubs so affected. In making a decision whether to accept or refuse the entry the Yorkshire League Committee shall have regard to any representations it receives in response to the consultation
7. The Yorkshire League Committee shall have the power to refuse any application for reason(s) which they consider reasonable and proper.

7A. A club with more than one team in the League may at its discretion, by written notice to the League Secretary and the compiler of fixtures, withdraw either or any of its teams without affecting the status of the remaining team or teams. "Status" means the division of the League in which such team or teams would have competed but for the withdrawal.
8. The entry fee will be decided each year by the Management Board

Player eligibility

9. Players may not represent more than one club during any season and must be members of that club.
10. No player shall play in more than one team in matches for which the match date (see rule 15) is the same. The Yorkshire League Committee may, at its discretion, impose on any team violating this rule a fine not exceeding two Victory Points per player.
11. The Yorkshire League Committee may, at its discretion, impose on any team fielding an ineligible player (see [General Rules](#)) a fine of two Victory Points per ineligible player.

Matches

12. Matches shall consist of 32 boards and opponents shall be changed after each set of 8 boards. Rearranged matches may, by agreement between the team captains, consist of 24 boards, in which case opponents shall be changed after each set of 6 boards
13. Teams shall consist of eight players. In the case of sudden illness or other exceptional circumstances, eligible substitutes will be allowed in order that a match may be completed. Details of any such substitute should be given to the [League Secretary](#) in the result notification.
14. Scores shall be announced after each stanza. Each board is scored by adding the four scores achieved by the team and converting that total to International Match Points (IMPs). At the end of the match total IMPs are converted to Victory Points (VPs) on the following scale:-

| | 32 boards | 24 boards |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Victory points | IMPs | IMPs |
| 10-10 | 0-4 | 0-3 |
| 11-9 | 5-10 | 4-8 |
| 12-8 | 11-18 | 9-14 |
| 13-7 | 19-28 | 15-22 |
| 14-6 | 29-39 | 23-31 |
| 15-5 | 40-51 | 32-40 |
| 16-4 | 52-63 | 41-49 |
| 17-3 | 64-75 | 50-59 |
| 18-2 | 76-87 | 60-69 |
| 19-1 | 88-99 | 70-79 |
| 20-0 | 100+ | 80+ |

15. Teams will be placed in the division in accordance with the total VPs gained. If there is a tie between two or more teams, then the tie will be broken in accordance with the [White Book](#).
16. A programme of Match Dates (Sundays) has been drawn up (for the current season's Match Dates, go to the [Home](#) page of the YCBA website and click on Yorkshire League in the left hand panel) and all matches shall be played on or before those dates. No extensions of time will be permitted unless weather conditions prevent the play of a match.
17. Should any match not be played in accordance with the previous rule the [League Secretary](#) shall ask the teams' Match Secretaries to state, within four days, the reasons for the failure to play. At the expiration of this period the Yorkshire League Committee shall, on the information before it, determine which (if either) team is in default. If one team only is in default, then:

- (a) that team receives zero Victory Points for the match,
- (b) the opposing team receives an award of Victory Points equal to the greater of:
- the average of the number of Victory Points it earned in all its completed matches, or
 - the complement of the average number of Victory Points earned by the team in default for all its completed matches

in each case to the nearest whole number and with a fraction of exactly 0.5 rounded up

- (c) a provisional award is made, which is adjusted to the final award when all the season's matches have been completed

If the Yorkshire League Committee decides that neither team is in default, or that both teams are in default, the committee shall award the teams such Victory Points as it considers appropriate in the circumstances

18. If a match has to be abandoned after the third stanza has been completed, the match will be deemed to be completed and the result at that point will stand using the VP scale for 24 boards (see rule 14). Otherwise, the match will be resumed at a later date resuming and retaining the score from the end of the last completed stanza. Eligible substitutes for unavailable players are allowed; substitutes are ineligible if they have already played in another League match scheduled to be played on the same match day as the interrupted match under consideration.

19. Home teams are responsible for making all arrangements for playing matches.

20. All matches will commence at 2.00 p.m. unless agreed otherwise.

21. The Home Match Secretary must, not less than 10 days before the designated or agreed date of the match, notify the Away Match Secretary by email or in writing of the venue and telephone number, and the team captain's name and home telephone number.

Notification of results

22. The Home Captain is responsible for notifying the [League Secretary](#) of the result of the match.

23. Results may be sent by:

- email on the match day or the day after, including the result and details of the personnel of each team, or
- first class post sent not later than the day following the match, using the result sheet, which must be signed by both team captains.

If notification by email is chosen, the Home Captain must retain the result sheet, duly completed and signed by both captains, until one month after the final league table has been published, for production to the [League Secretary](#) if so required.

Disputes and appeals

24. If there is an irregularity, the team captains must agree a first instance ruling. Advice on the Laws of Duplicate Bridge may be obtained from the [League Secretary](#) or from any suitably qualified tournament director. (See also the [General Rules](#) and [Who's Who](#) for contact details).

25. If either team wishes to appeal against the first instance ruling, this must be stated in the result notification. A deposit of £30 is payable in advance of consideration of the appeal. The deposit will be refunded so long as the appeal is not considered frivolous. Advice on appeals may be sought from the Appeals Adviser or from any suitably qualified tournament director. (See also the [General Rules](#) and [Who's Who](#) for contact details).