

SCCBA COMPETITION RULES 2025 **v2**

1. [Preamble](#)
2. [Eligibility & Entries](#)
3. [Organisation & Arrangements](#)
4. [Communication on Qualification for Semi-Finals and Finals](#)
5. [Arranging Matches](#)
6. [Playing Regulations](#)
7. [Late Arrival and Non-Arrival](#)
8. [Fouled or Cancelled Boards](#)
9. [Unplayed or Incomplete matches and Withdrawal](#)
10. [Rulings and Appeals](#)
11. [Fees & Table Money](#)
12. [Ties](#)
13. [Master Points](#)
14. [Smoking and Vaping](#)
15. [Amendment of the Competition Rules](#)

[Appendix A - Ruling Contacts](#)

[Appendix B - General Points](#)

[Appendix C - Special Conditions](#)

[Appendix C1 - Championship Teams](#)

[Appendix C2 - Inter Club Teams of Eight](#)

[Appendix C3 – Chairman's Cup \(currently discontinued\)](#)

[Appendix C4 – Mixed Heats](#)

[Appendix C5 – Sussex League Rules](#)

[Appendix D – Correction Periods](#)

[Appendix E – Qualifiers and Reserves](#)

Latest changes are shown in **green** italics

1. Preamble

(1) These rules relate to all Competitions organised or sponsored by the SCCBA, including heats of competitions held by affiliated clubs on behalf of the Association. Variations applicable to online competitions are specified where appropriate. Whilst these rules aim to provide comprehensive guidance to those involved, it is recognised that from time to time there will be exceptional circumstances which are not covered. These will be dealt with by consultation between the Competition Organiser, the Tournament Manager and the Tournament Committee as appropriate.

(2) With regard to Club heats other than those described in sub-paragraph (5) below, it is an important principle that all SCCBA members should have an equal opportunity to participate.

(3) A Club heat should be held on the date and at the time advertised in the County Calendar on the web site. Where a subsequent change is required, in addition to amending the web site, it will be notified to SCCBA members by the Competition Organiser contacting Clubs by email. Abnormal measures may not be adopted by a club which will afford its members an opportunity to secure priority in acceptance of entries within the limit imposed by playing conditions.

(4) The cancellation of an advertised Club heat may be made only after consultation and agreement with the Competition Organiser.

(5) The requirements affecting attendance at club heats are not relevant to all Sussex Simultaneous Pairs & any other events which the Committee may from time to time determine.

2. Eligibility & Entries

(1) Competitors will normally be expected to play in only one heat of each pairs' competition and only in one team in each teams' event. If a competitor does play in more than one heat of a pairs' competition, only the result from the first heat will count for qualification purposes. They may play in a subsequent heat because they are then playing as part of a non-standing pair in a mixed heat (see Appendix C4). A member of a qualifying pair in a pairs event may not be substituted. Teams may consist of up to six players. The number of players in a team can be increased to a maximum of six after the Competition Organiser has been informed but only before the semi-final of a knock out competition or in a league up and until the last two matches are played. The Tournament Manager, or Competition Organiser, in extreme circumstances, may allow extra players to be included after the normal cut off time. If a team, by virtue of its finishing position in a county event, qualifies for a further event then the rule above does not stop that team adding players provided it complies with the further competition's rules. Restrictions to adding team members do not apply to heat plus final events.

(2) Competitors must be members of the SCCBA and have Sussex as their county of allegiance to play in the principal Sussex championship competitions (Sussex Pairs and Championship Teams).

(3) Entries should be received by the Club Secretary in the case of a club heat or by the Organiser where the competition is being held centrally, at least seven days in advance of the advertised date or as specified by the Organiser. However, late entries will be accommodated if at all possible. Entries by telephone will normally be acceptable unless otherwise stated.

(4) Entries to online competitions should be made in accordance with the registration requirements specified for each event.

3. Organisation & Arrangements

(1) In view of Rule 1 (2) above, it is necessary, as a preliminary measure, for Clubs intending holding heats of SCCBA competitions to ensure that the dates and times of their heats are notified to the web site manager as soon as practicable for inclusion in the County Calendar for the new competition season.

(2) Instructions concerning the arrangements and special rules for each competition see Appendix C, will be issued by the Competition Organiser to participating clubs or

entrants or to qualifying players, as the case may be. The Competition Organiser's name, email address and telephone number shall be published on the web site.

(3) A Club holding a qualifying heat or a single heat of a simultaneous pairs' event shall appoint an experienced Tournament Director for that purpose. In the case of subsequent and final stages of a competition, Tournament Directors shall be appointed by the Competition Organiser from the County Panel of Directors or be otherwise acceptable to the Tournament Manager.

(4) Tournament Directors so appointed shall be responsible for the proper conduct of their events in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, *the provisions of the current English Bridge Union Blue and White Books*, these local rules and any additional instructions given by the Competition Organiser. *Please see also paragraph 6(10) regarding the use of robots.*

(5) For face-to-face events, Tournament Directors shall allocate seating positions by the drawing of lots unless one or more pairs require sitting positions for medical reasons.

(6) Tournament Directors shall post the results of club heats on the appropriate Club notice boards and forward complete copies of those results to the Competition Organiser without delay. Results charts must bear the titles, initials & surnames of the competitors written in block capitals together with EBU numbers where appropriate. Equivalent arrangements should be made for online competitions, including online identities, to ensure that the Competition Organiser is similarly informed.

4. Communication on Qualification for Semi-Finals and Finals

The County's Responsibility

The Competition Organiser will calculate qualifiers and reserves according to the rules shown at Appendix E and will contact all clubs that held heats giving a list of qualifiers for further stages of the competition and other information, eg venue or online platform of the semi-final(s) or final, time and date. At the same time, this information will be published on the web site. For some competitions, the Competition Organiser may contact each qualifying competitor. Thus, to aid communication, entries for heats should be accompanied by contact telephone numbers and/or email addresses of the players (one per pair or team).

Club's (Holding Semi-final/Final) Responsibility

Club Secretaries are requested to publish the details sent by the Competition Organiser and to contact qualifiers who played in the heat at their club. This should be done as promptly as possible to facilitate the Competition Organiser arranging substitutes where necessary.

Player's Responsibility

The final responsibility for finding out if a player has qualified and the date and time of the next round is with that player. They can use the above methods to establish it or they can contact the Competition Organiser by telephone or e-mail or any other method. If they are unable to contact the Competition Organiser, they can contact any of the Officers of the County. Contact details are published on the web site.

Further Points

- The county expects qualifiers to be present at the competition unless the player contacts the Competition Organiser in good time to say otherwise.
- The county reserves the right not to fully return an entry fee for non-attendance.
- All semi-finals and finals will start at the published times. If there is to be any change to this, competitors will be notified directly. Congress competitions times do of course vary and are stated on the entry forms.

- Published details of competitions will not be changed, except in extreme circumstances.
- Where refreshments are provided, every endeavour will be made to accommodate competitors with special dietary requirements, but it is the responsibility of the competitor to notify the Competition Organiser in advance.

5. Arranging matches

- (1) This will be carried out by the team captains or in their absence by their appointed deputies.
- (2) As soon as possible, but in any case, within seven days of receiving match details, the away captain should offer the opposing captain four dates, not all in the same week and not all on the same day of the week. The home captain may require that at least one of the dates be an afternoon or evening and at least one date at a weekend. The home captain should accept one of the offered dates and inform the away captain without delay. However, despite these formal arrangements it is expected that captains will make reasonable efforts to seek an acceptable compromise where difficulty arises. Normally, if all possible steps to arrange a match in the specified time have failed and the Competition Organiser is contacted within the specified time, a 7-day extension will be granted.
- (3) If the Competition Organiser decides that there has been a failure to observe rule 5.2 above then they may award the match to the non-offending team. If in the opinion of the Competition Organiser both captains have been at fault, they shall have power to disqualify both teams and in the case of a league to omit the award of victory points.
- (4) Matches should normally be played in a club affiliated to the SCCBA or in a residence of a member of the home team. The home captain must ensure that the premises are suitably equipped, with tables suitably separated, and that they contain a copy of the Laws. Bidding boxes should be available.
- (5) If a match would otherwise be held at a venue exceeding 35 miles from the general location of the away team, the away captain may require the match to be played at a suitable half way venue. When this option is exercised the away captain shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements.
- (6) Travel costs will be borne by each team as required.
- (7) Table money if any, and other venue costs, shall be borne by the home team except where a half way venue has been required by the away team when they will be borne by the away team.
- (8) Either captain should inform the other at least 48 hours in advance if it is intended to play a team in excess of four members. Whilst squads of up to six are allowed in the Sussex League, teams for individual matches in excess of four members are not allowed.
- (9) Online matches will take place on a platform agreed between the team captains. Related costs will be borne by the home team. The home team captain will be responsible for arranging direction of the match. Any related costs will also be borne by the home team.

6. Playing Regulations

- (1) In matters not covered specifically by these rules, The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge and EBU Directives and Permitted Conventions as published in the Blue *and White* Books shall apply but only where these are of general application and do not relate solely to events above county level. These rules take account of the advice given in the EBU Template Regulations for Leagues.

- (2) Difficulties should be referred directly to the Competition Organiser concerned as soon as possible. The Competition Organiser will, as appropriate, decide or contact the Tournament Manager for advice or direction.
- (3) The right to choose opponents shall be decided by lot and that right shall alternate after each set of boards. The captain winning the toss can either choose the odd or even sets or give the choice to the other captain. Some events may specify a compulsory change of pairs at half time. In this case if there is no agreement on who plays then both captains will write down their line up. Sets shall consist of 8 boards unless both captains agree otherwise or the instructions for a particular event specify different arrangements.
- (4) Spectators may attend a match in a private residence if this is agreed by both captains. Spectators or additional team members may watch a match subject to the provisions of Law 76. Law 76B (4) states that a spectator may not in any way disturb a player. In this regard, it is reasonable that a player may claim to be disturbed by being watched. It is not acceptable that a player should claim disturbance because a spectator is watching another player at the table.
- (5) Either captain may opt at the start of a match to declare one of the rooms or tables a 'Closed Room' and that this will only be occupied by the four players concerned. The other playing room will be open to spectators including non-playing team members.
- (6) Team changes may only be made between sets of boards.
- (7) In the case of a tie in a knock out match a further four boards shall be played and this process repeated if necessary. There are no seating rights for the extra boards, captains should write down their line ups.
- (8) The match result details should be forwarded to the Competition Organiser within 48 hours, preferably by email communication, or by letter/result card if email unavailable. For teams with more than four players, the notification must show the number of boards each player has played.
- (9) The rules specified in paragraphs 3 to 8 above apply to face-to-face matches. Where appropriate equivalent arrangements for online matches shall be agreed between the team captains taking advice from the Competition Organiser as required.
- (10) Use of Robots
As the now substantial community of online players are entirely used to playing with robots in the field and having their performance measured against them, TDs may deploy them as they see fit with the exception of competitions held over a season such as the Sussex League and the Championship Teams. The length of their seasons will normally allow a match interrupted by, eg loss of connection, to be completed or replayed as appropriate at a later date. The Invitation Pairs is also held over a season but via a series of individual sessions. In each of those sessions, robots may be used to avoid a half table or deal with a loss of connection. Competition entries are only permitted from human partnerships/teams, though, in extremis, a robot may be used as a substitute once in each season. Robot partnerships are not permitted to win an event or be recorded on trophies or the Roll of Honour.
- (11) Additional Rules for Leagues (see also Appendix C5)
- (a) In cases of conflict between this section and the remainder of the Competition Rules then for Leagues this section applies.
- (b) Leagues pose particular problems in that equity between two teams does not necessarily lead to equity to the other teams in the league. It follows that an unplayed match will lead to a less than equitable solution for the individual teams or the league generally. Therefore, it is vital that all matches are played.

(c) Leagues will not require teams to play more than an average of one match a month and teams unable to make that commitment should check with the League Organiser to find out the exact requirements before entering.

(d) Team captains should ensure that matches are played regularly through the season and if unable to keep up with the schedule should inform the League Organiser immediately. Time at the end of the season will be available if a late match date is broken so that it can be rearranged and played.

(e) If, in spite of the above, a match is not played, the League Organiser has complete discretion to award all or no victory points or to fine victory points or both as they judge appropriate. There is no appeal.

(f) The current year's league will form the basis for the next year's league. Normally there will be promotion and relegation of either one or two teams between adjacent divisions. However, the League Organiser has complete discretion to change this as thought necessary.

(g) For rulings during matches the normal procedure for getting a Ruling of First Instance should be followed. For all other issues, but excluding matters relating to conduct, the League Organiser should be consulted. In these matters they have complete discretion and there is no appeal against their decision.

7. Late Arrival and Non-arrival

These circumstances are covered by EBU rules and for convenience these are reproduced below. They do not apply to Sussex League matches because of the extended period which is usually available to rearrange a match which has to be abandoned because of lateness or non-arrival.

- (1) If a team is more than 30 minutes late without notification, or more than 90 minutes late having notified late arrival, the match is awarded to the non-offending side. If any member of a team is present within 30 minutes of the starting time, that constitutes 'notification'.
- (2) After 30 minutes of delay, whether notified or not, the match is reduced by two boards and for each further complete 15 minute period the match is again reduced by two boards. The maximum number of boards that can be removed is eight (which occurs after 75 minutes of late arrival). If both teams are late, the 30 minutes starts from the time all the members of the first team are present.
- (3) It is preferable for an equal number of boards to be removed from each stanza of the match, but if one table can start play the non-offending side may choose to remove boards only from the first half. The non-offending side is awarded three IMPs per board removed but the match is still scored using the 24-board VP scale.
- (4) If a player has to leave early due to an emergency, the unplayed boards are treated in the same way as with late arrival. If there are more than eight boards still to play, section 11 below applies.

8. Fouled or Cancelled Boards

- (1) In the event that both pairs in a team sit in the same polarity in one stanza, the score for that set will be zero. The stanza that has been completed will determine the score according to the appropriate VP scale. Both pairs at the table are equally responsible for making sure that they sit in the correct positions.
- (2) If a board is fouled or cancelled for whatever reason in the first stanza of the match, a substitute board is added to the second half with the same dealer and vulnerability. If a board is fouled or cancelled in the second stanza of the match a substitute board may only be played if no player is aware of any of the results from the other table.

The captains should be aware that Law 86D may apply.

9. Unplayed or Incomplete Matches and Withdrawal

- a. If a match has to be abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances with neither team at fault, then:
 - (2) if at least half of the boards have been played at both tables, the match is considered complete and the VP scale for the number of completed boards is used;
 - (3) if fewer than half of the boards have been completed, the captains should endeavour to replay the match completely. If this is not possible, the Competition Organiser will adjudicate a result.
 - a. A team is considered not to be at fault if its home venue or online platform becomes unavailable during the match (eg due to an internet failure or a power cut) unless a member of the team was the direct cause of the problem. If a team is awarded a match, for example under rules 6 or 10, it will receive the highest of 12 VPs, its average across all the other matches it plays during the season, or the final average of all other teams in matches played against the defaulting team. Artificial VP scores from other defaulted matches are not included in this calculation.
 - b. If a team 'concedes' a match having played at least half the boards, the non-offending side get the higher of their score under the preceding paragraph or their VP score for the match assuming they score +3 IMPs on each of the unplayed boards.
- (4) The defaulting team always receives 0 VPs.
- (5) If a team withdraws from the league having played fewer than half its scheduled matches, all results against the team are removed. If the team has played at least half its scheduled matches, results in the remaining matches are calculated using the preceding rule for defaulted matches.
- (6) The Competition Organiser may impose the penalty of non-entry in the following season on some or all the members of a team that defaults on a match or withdraws during the season.

10. Appeals and Rulings

- (1) Appeals shall be dealt with generally in accordance with Laws 79, 92 & 93 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge (2017), but subject to the following provision. The correction period prescribed under Laws 79C and 92B shall be as specified by the SCCBA. Apart from matches played privately (see below), SCCBA correction periods are as prescribed in Appendix D. The SCCBA strongly recommend that competitors take advice from within the county before resorting to an appeal to the EBU *Regulation* Committee.
- (2) There will be a £20 deposit for appeals which will not be returned if the appeal is trivial for the class of player involved.

Rulings in Matches Played Privately

- (3) A player who becomes aware that he may wish to seek a directors ruling should normally notify his opponents (for example by reserving his rights) as soon as practical after the incident occurs and confirm the request before the players compare scores at the end of the set.
- (4) On occasions a player may only become aware of an irregularity after a set has finished. In such cases the time within which a ruling may be requested is extended until the two captains agree the score at the end of the match.
- (5) Even though results are often passed to the Competition Organiser by telephone or electronic mail, captains should still sign a results card as it is from that point that a result becomes final.

(6) If a ruling is required, the captains should, in the break at the end of the set in question:

- (i) Agree a mutually acceptable outcome. Neither side may subsequently appeal an outcome reached by this method. Neither captain should feel obliged to reach an outcome by this method rather than that in (ii) below.
- (ii) Contact one of the people listed in Appendix A for a ruling of first instance. The home captain should make the initial contact by telephone & then all the players should co-operate with the director's instructions.
- (iii) Exceptionally it may be impossible to contact any authorised person to give a ruling. In such a case both captains should co-operate to put in writing:
 - a) Full details of the hand including auction, alerts, explanations, play, dealer & vulnerability.
 - b) The result of the board in both rooms.
 - c) The reason for requesting a ruling.
 - d) Comments by any of the players involved or the captains (no player is obliged to comment).
 - e) The telephone numbers of both captains.

A substitute board with identical dealer and vulnerability should be played and the result in both rooms recorded on the ruling request sheet. The result sheet should be headed "Match won by A by X imp's subject to a ruling on board Y".

Making further written additions to the request for a ruling by either side in the absence of the other is a serious offence. The Competition Organiser will arrange for an authorised person to give a ruling and for that ruling to be notified to both captains. Either captain may appeal such ruling but must attempt to notify the Organiser within 48 hours.

Appeals against rulings in matches played privately

(7) Either captain may appeal a ruling. Captains should co-operate to put in writing all the information required in (6)(iii) above plus the result of the ruling and who gave it. If the director has cancelled the board and ordered a replacement to be played, the result of the original board in both rooms should be recorded separately.

(8) The result sheet should be headed "Match won by A by X imp's subject to appeal on board Y". The score recorded at this stage should be based on the ruling of first instance. Making further written additions to the request for a ruling by either side in the absence of the other is a serious offence.

(9) Appeals will generally be dealt with by telephone and correspondence rather than a meeting of an appeals committee. If either captain feels that there are exceptional circumstances why such methods are inappropriate, he should indicate this on the appeal form.

(10) On receipt of a request for a ruling, the event organiser shall notify the Chair of the Conduct Committee, who will select three suitable persons to hear the appeal. Captains will be notified as soon as possible after the appeal has been heard.

11. Fees & Table Money

(1) Entry fees shall be determined by the County Tournament Committee and the Tournament Director for each heat shall be responsible for remitting the appropriate total sum to the Competition Organiser. The latter should take reasonable steps to inform qualifiers of their qualification; however, it remains the player's responsibility to find this out. The county reserve the right not to fully return an entry fee for non attendance.

- (2) Clubs may charge table money which shall be the same for visitors as for a Club member, although the Tournament Committee may authorise a departure from this rule in special circumstances.

12. Ties

- (1) Ties in a qualifying event which affect the last qualifying place shall be resolved in accordance with EBU recommendations.
- (2) Ties in final sessions shall not be split unless expressly laid down by the County.

13. Master Points

Master Points for heats of County competitions held by clubs shall be allocated by these clubs uploading the corresponding UMS events to the EBU. In doing so, clubs should use the appropriate Master Point scale. For the semi-finals and finals of County competitions, these actions will be overseen by the Master Points Secretary at the conclusions of these competitions.

14. Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and vaping rules in face-to-face club heats shall be those adopted by the Club. At other times current EBU regulations (banning smoking and vaping at all venues) shall apply.

15. Amendment of the Competition Rules

Amendments to the Competition Rules must be approved by the SCCBA Management Committee. However, should a need be identified to implement a change before the next Management Committee meeting, the Tournament Manager may authorise such a change after having obtained the agreement of a majority of current Tournament Committee members. This change will then be subject to approval at the next Management Committee meeting.

Appendix A - Ruling Contacts

The below are authorised by the SCCBA to give rulings in private matches:

- Stephen Kennedy 07541 852370
- Julian Mitchell 07880 762504
- Martin Pool 01444 892414 or 07970 195580

Alternatively, anyone on the EBU list of referees may be contacted for a ruling. The list may be found at www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/appeals-referees

Guidance to directors giving rulings of first instance

Although competitors in SCCBA competitions played privately are encouraged to have a current copy of The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge available, you will sometimes be contacted purely to apply the relevant law to a situation eg to assess the penalty after a revoke. This can usually be done while the captains remain on the telephone.

The majority of requests for rulings will be more subjective and you are encouraged to treat them exactly as you would if you were on site. You should record in writing all the information given to you. Ideally on an EBU appeals form or in a similar format and retain it for one month after the ruling. Such information will be required if the ruling is appealed. You should feel no pressure to make a ruling whilst on the telephone. Indeed, it is better to consider matters further and, when appropriate, consult others, before ruling.

Once you have been requested to give a ruling all the authority given to a tournament director under the Laws is available to you. Even though a dispute has arisen, players are expected to act with courtesy towards you and each other. If necessary, you should remind them specifically or generally of the Best Behaviour requirements under which all SCCBA events are played. If necessary, you should use the disciplinary powers available under the Laws and Best Behaviour.

When contacting the match with your ruling you should explain to both captains, instructing them to inform all players at once, so that all participants are in possession of the same information. You should remind them of their right to appeal.

If you are subsequently contacted by the Chair of the Conduct Committee with reference to an appeal you should inform them of any person with whom you consulted about the ruling and forward them the written record in your possession.

Appendix B - General Points

General points relating to most competitions:

1. Qualification ratios should be as generous as possible (see also Appendix E).
2. Byes should be equally distributed throughout a draw.
3. The first named team in a draw is the home team.
4. Draws for knock-out events shall take place in public and be drawn by known players. These details and the date and place should be written on the draw.
5. Duplimated boards should be used for all semi-finals, finals, one day events, congresses, etc. when at all possible.
6. The minimum number of players for a pairs heat is 6 pairs. One pair may play without standing.

7. No pair may play without standing in a pairs semi-final or final.
8. The minimum number in a teams' heat is 2 teams.
9. The minimum number of players in an individual heat is 8 players. One player may play without standing.

Appendix C - Special Conditions

Special conditions relating to specific competitions: the absence of an entry in this appendix for a particular competition does not mean that special conditions do not exist.

Appendix C1 - Championship Teams

1. A knock out-competition with a plate competition for first round losers and round 2 losers who have received a bye in the first round.
2. The whole competition is Licence category 4.
3. No seeding or pre-qualification.
4. Rounds prior to the semi-final are 32 boards each, the semi-finals 48 and the final 64. The semi-finals and final may be reduced to 32 and 48 boards respectively if both captains agree in advance.

Appendix C2 - Inter Club Teams of Eight

1. One team of eight to represent each club.
2. Players must be fully paid-up members of the club they represent or, if the club has no subscription, be regular playing members of that club.
3. Players are not required to owe primary allegiance to the county.
4. Players may only play for one club in any one year.
5. The event will be scored in IMPs converted to VPs.
6. Licence category 4. The winning team qualifies for the Garden Cities Trophy competition.
7. Team members playing in the Garden Cities stages must be members of the EBU.
8. Clubs may change their team for the Garden Cities stages but see 2 and 4 above.

Appendix C3 - Chairman's Cup (currently discontinued)

A Qualifying Pairs

	Qualifying Events	Qualifiers	No of Pairs
1	Championship Teams	Winners and Runners-up	4
2	Sussex Pairs	Winners and Runners-up	2
3	Sussex League	Division 1 Winners	2
4	Sussex League	Division 2 Winners	2
5	Invitation Pairs	Winners and Runners-up	2
6	Mixed Pairs	Winners	1
7	Green Point Swiss Pairs	Highest-placed pair of Sussex members	1
8	Autumn Congress Pairs	Winners	1

9	Spring Congress Pairs	Winners	1
			16
B	Invited Pairs - Sussex		
	Holders		1
	Chairman		1
	President		1
			19
C	Invited Pairs - Other Counties		
	Hampshire		1
	Kent		1
	Surrey		1
			22

Withdrawals are to be filled in as follows:

Sussex Pairs - next pair in line down to 6th place.

Sussex League - pair(s) from Division 1 Runners-up.

Invitation Pairs - next pair in line down to 4th place.

Any other withdrawals are to be filled by the organiser.

Appendix C4 – Mixed Heats

Heats for the following events may be included as part of a club's championship or as part of a club's session:

- Sussex Pairs
- Mixed Pairs
- Individual
- David Pavey (NGS 7 and under pairs)

This includes:

- Mixed pairs being able to play with non-mixed pairs,
- NGS 7 and under pairs being able to play with unrestricted pairs.

At least three pairs or three individuals must sign up for the County heat prior to start of play for it to be a valid County heat.

Appendix C5 – Sussex League Rules

Detailed rules for the Sussex League are reviewed, updated and issued by the Competition Organiser to Team Captains prior to the start of each season.

Appendix D – Correction Periods

Important Notes:

- Although, at the director's discretion, trophies and prizes may be presented when provisional final results are published, these results do not become official until after the appropriate correction period has expired.
- Should there be a need to make a correction to final results; the correction period for final results begins again from the time of the correction.

Multiple Teams (eg Teams of Eight, Kremer Dersch)

At the end of play, there are 15 minutes for appeals. In matches when captains agree the score then, after that agreement, 10 minutes are allowed for appeals. In addition, the captains should have the opportunity to inspect the entering and addition of scores on the results sheet. The results are then provisional. The results become official at 5 pm eight days after the end of the event.

Simultaneous Pairs

At the end of play, there are 30 minutes for appeals. The amalgamated results, as published on the SCCBA website, will be provisional. These results become official at 5 pm eight days after the results are published on the SCCBA website.

Swiss Pairs & Swiss Teams

The result of each match is official at the start of matches two ahead. Appeals must be made before the result of a match is official. At the end of the final match, there are 15 minutes for appeals and, after the final results are published, 15 minutes for them to be checked. The final results are then provisional. The final results become official at 5 pm eight days after the end of the event.

Multi-session Pairs (eg Autumn Congress Pairs)

At the end of play of a session, there are 15 minutes for appeals and, after the scores have been published, 15 minutes for them to be checked. The results are then provisional. The results become official 15 minutes before the start of the next session. Appeals must be made before the results are official. At the end of play of the final session, there are 15 minutes for appeals and, after the results are published, 15 minutes for them to be checked. The final results are then provisional. The final results become official at 5 pm eight days after the end of the event.

Pairs events if they contain multiple mini sessions (eg county pairs finals, Ladies Pairs and Chairman's Cup)

This type of event specifically addresses those competitions which involve an 11 table all-play-all pairs event of 42 boards which is organised in three separate sessions of 14 boards each.

In general, correction periods for this type of event are the same as they are for Multi-session Pairs (see above). However, the director has discretion to modify the length of correction periods for individual sessions on the day.

Invitation Pairs

After the results of a heat have been published on the SCCBA web site, there are 24 hours for appeals. These heat results are provisional. Heat results become official at 5 pm eight days after they have been published on the SCCBA web site. However, in the unlikely event that an error is found in the calculation of VPs, this correction period is extended until the end of the competition.

The final overall ranking list becomes official at 5 pm eight days after it has been published on the SCCBA website.

Other Pairs and Individual Events

At the end of play, there are 15 minutes for appeals and, after the scores are published, 15 minutes for them to be checked. The results are then provisional. The results become official at 5 pm eight days after the end of the event.

Online competitions

Online pairs' events can only be corrected up to 20 minutes after the event completes. Manual changes can be made if an appeal is pending, but no result can be disputed after the 20 minutes have elapsed.

Appendix E – Qualifiers and Reserves

Qualifiers

1. Qualifiers are selected in proportion to the number of entrants in each heat. This approach will also apply to the standing pairs in a mixed heat (see Appendix C4) as far as possible. At least one qualifier will be selected from each heat. The primary target is to reach a 22 pair all-play-all final via club heats and one or more semi-finals dependent on the size of the overall entry, consistent with being as generous as possible. A programmed spreadsheet is then used to 'automate' the calculations required to ensure that there is equivalence in the number of qualifiers from each heat.

Reserves

2. When the qualifiers are selected from the field at large, reserves rank in order of their qualifying scores. When the original contestants are divided into several groups with a specified number to qualify from each group, they should be selected by taking the same percentage from each group. After the announced number of qualifying contestants is selected, all other contestants rank as reserves. When the qualifiers are selected from the field at large, reserves rank in order of their qualifying scores. When the original contestants are divided into several groups with a specified number to be qualified from each, the first vacancy in any group is filled by the next ranking contestant in that group. Thus, each group has its own first reserve and they take the place of the first withdrawal from that group.

3. All the first reserves rank ahead of any second reserve. Thus, if there are two, or more, withdrawals from a group, the first reserve from another group is called in ahead of the second reserve from the group involved. The order of preference is then:

- (i) The group which produced the lowest percentage of qualifiers; failing that:
- (ii) The contestant with the fewest percentage points away from the lowest qualifying score in his group; failing that:
- (iii) The contestant with the highest percentage score; failing that:
- (iv) By random ballot

4. Unless otherwise specified in the tournament regulations, a reserve takes the place of a contestant who has given notice of his intention to withdraw, save in a knock out contest where a bye is given in the next round.

5. If a qualified contestant is not present at the advertised starting time a reserve may act as a stand-by contestant.

6. Full explanations can be found in the White Book (2.3.6) published by the EBU.

Approved by the Management Committee on 26 April 2025