

# International Mixed Teams 2026

Run by CBAI

## Conditions of Contest

*Updated: November 2025*

### 1 Overview

- 1.1 The International Mixed Teams (“IMT”) will be conducted on the online [RealBridge](#) platform from 13-15 March 2026.
- 1.2 The event will be organised by the CBAI.
- 1.3 Participating Home National Bridge Organisations (HNBOs) are the English Bridge Union, the Northern Ireland Bridge Union, the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, the Scottish Bridge Union, and the Welsh Bridge Union.
- 1.4 HNBOs may enter up to two teams. In cases of an odd number of participating teams, an additional team may be permitted to ensure an even total. One or more teams from overseas NBOs may be invited to make the maximum number of teams (10).
- 1.5 Eligibility to play for an HNBO will be the same as set out in the 2026 Home International Regulations published by Bridge Great Britain.

### 2 Authority

- 2.1 The Conditions of Contest outlined herein were initially established by Mike Ash on behalf of the SBU who ran the inaugural event
- 2.2 The interpretation of these Conditions of Contest, as determined by the Chief TD, Fearghal O’Boyle, shall be considered final.
- 2.3 Decisions required under these Conditions of Contest during the event may be made by the Tournament Director (TD).
- 2.4 The IMT will be played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.

### 3 Conditions of entry

- 3.1 Participation is open to bridge players from any World Bridge Federation (WBF) zones who are in good standing with their respective NBOs.
- 3.2 All participants must adhere to the regulations set forth in this document. Invitations shall be issued to teams consisting of four, five, or six players.
- 3.3 Each team must comprise two Mixed Pairs playing at all times. A Mixed Pair is a pair consisting of one female player and one male player.
- 3.4 The gender of the participant is to be taken as that shown on their valid ID/Passport.

## 4 Entry fee

- 4.1 The entry fee is €150.
- 4.2 Entries from teams of four to six players should be sent to [dermot@cbai.ie](mailto:dermot@cbai.ie).
- 4.3 The closing date for entries is Monday 2 February 2026. Names of team members are required by Monday 2 March 2026 - changes to the composition of a team will be subject to the Chief TD's discretion.
- 4.4 Further entries may be accepted at their discretion of the organiser.

## 5 Schedule

- 5.1 The provisional schedule assumes the participation of ten teams engaging in a complete round-robin of 14-board matches. This schedule may be adjusted according to the final number of entries.

Friday, 13 March	16:00 GMT	Match 1, boards 1-7
	17:00 GMT	Match 1, boards 8-14
	18:30 GMT	Match 2, boards 1-7
	19.30 GMT	Match 2, board 8-14
Saturday, 14 March	11:00 GMT	Match 3, boards 1-7
	12:00 GMT	Match 3, boards 8-14
	13:30 GMT	Match 4, boards 1-7
	14:30 GMT	Match 4, boards 8-14
	16:00 GMT	Match 5, boards 1-7
	17.00 GMT	Match 5, boards 8-14
	18.30 GMT	Match 6, boards 1-7
	19.30 GMT	Match 6, boards 8-14
Sunday, 15 March	10:30 GMT	Match 7, boards 1-7
	11:30 GMT	Match 7, boards 8-14
	13.00 GMT	Match 8, boards 1-7
	14.00 GMT	Match 8, boards 8-14
	15.30 GMT	Match 9, boards 1-7
	16.30 GMT	Match 9, boards 8-14
	18.00 GMT	Presentation

The presentation will be conducted via Zoom, with the trophy to be physically presented at the next Home International hosted by the NBO of the winning team.

## 6 Seating rights

- 6.1 Each team has its own home table and seats its North-South pair there throughout.
- 6.2 For a two-stanza match: in the first stanza, the captain of the second-named team nominates their line-up first; in the second stanza the first-named captain nominates first.
- 6.3 Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin. Failure to complete and submit a line-up on time will incur a 1VP penalty.

## 7 Scoring

- 7.1 Scoring will use IMPs, which will be converted to Victory Points on the WBF's 20-point continuous victory point scale.

## 8 Systems and Conventions

- 8.1 This is an [EBL Category 3](#) competition.  
Note that written defences are not permitted.
- 8.2 Brown Sticker conventions and Highly Unusual Methods are **not** permitted.
- 8.3 Players are **not permitted** to consult their own system cards or notes during play.
- 8.4 System cards must be lodged with the Chief TD (fearghaloboyle@gmail.com) as soon as they are available and no later than Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2026. They will be published on the event's website.
- 8.5 System cards should be compliant with WBF guidelines. For advice on completing system cards to this specification, please refer to [System Card Review](#).
- 8.6 A maximum of four system cards per team is allowed.

## 9 RealBridge with screens

- 9.1 RealBridge employs computer video and audio for player communication. Players are encouraged to test their video and audio functionality in advance.
- 9.2 Players are required to use both video and audio during matches. In cases of audio/video issues, players may continue using text chat until connectivity can be restored, thereby avoiding delays.
- 9.3 The screens restrict audio and video communication. Players will be able to see and interact with their screenmate but not with their partner.
- 9.4 Refreshing the video feed is recommended approximately every hour, achievable without logging out by clicking the refresh button on the name bar.

## 10 RealBridge and UNDOs

- 10.1 Requests for UNDOs are permitted during the auction but not during the play.
- 10.2 If there is a request for an UNDO in the auction, the TD should be called by the opponent on the same side of the screen, if there is any doubt. (The opponent on the other side of the screen should accept the UNDO.)

- 10.3 The TD will determine the applicability of Law 25A regarding UNDOs and will instruct both opponents to accept the request if deemed suitable.
- 10.4 If the opponents accept the request for an UNDO, without calling the TD, they will usually be deemed to have accepted the replacement call (Law 25B1 – ‘the second call stands and the auction continues’).

## **11 Alerting**

- 11.1 The following classes of calls should be alerted:
- a) Artificial bids should be alerted; natural bids should not.
  - b) Those calls (that is bids, passes, doubles or redoubles) which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the SBU). See also Law 40B.
  - c) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.
- 11.2 Specifically, calls and passes above 3NT should be alerted and explained if they are artificial or unexpected.
- 11.3 Full disclosure is vital. However, players are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter.
- 11.4 The screens apply to audio and video communication, but alerts and written announcements (from the player making the call) pass through the screen.
- 11.5 Follow-up questions should be to the person who made the call (not the screenmate). This means that both opponents will see exactly the same written explanations.
- 11.6 Calls are alerted by the player making the call: calls are alerted by providing a short explanation of the call before making the call – it is not necessary to click the Alert strip. Alternatively, players can click the Alert strip, make the call, and then click on the call and add the short explanation.

## **12 Slow play**

- 12.1 Players are expected to play seven boards in 55 minutes.
- 12.2 Automatic penalties will be enforced for any table that exceeds the allocated time, specifically a penalty of 0.2 Victory Points per minute of delay.
- 12.3 The TD shall apportion responsibility for slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties accordingly.

## **13 Late arrival**

- 13.1 All participants should be seated and prepared to commence play five minutes prior to the scheduled start time. A warning will be issued for the first offence for late arrivals within five minutes. Penalties will apply for late arrivals exceeding five minutes or for repeated offences, at the discretion of the TD.

## **14 Requests for rulings, appeals and score corrections**

- 14.1 Requests for rulings must be submitted within 20 minutes following the conclusion of the

match.

- 14.2 Appeals against rulings must be lodged within 20 minutes after the conclusion of the match or after the issuance of the ruling, whichever is later. The appeal will be heard by the Chief TD who may appoint a committee for this purpose.
- 14.3 The standard period for corrections to the official score is 30 minutes after the conclusion of play on the relevant day.

## 15 Substitutes

- 15.1 A team unable to field two mixed pairs may seek authorisation for a substitute from the Chief TD, who retains absolute discretion regarding such requests and may impose conditions for the use of a substitute.
- 15.2 The Chief TD may sanction an emergency substitution on the day of the event, with a full report provided to the organisers, who will determine the extent to which the results of affected matches will stand.

## 16 Withdrawal and unplayed matches

- 16.1 Teams are obliged to participate in all scheduled matches.
- 16.2 In the event of withdrawal or failure to play a match, the Chief TD will notify the relevant NBOs of the team involved.
- 16.3 If a team completes fewer than half of the scheduled matches, the results of all its matches will be expunged.
- 16.4 Teams that complete at least half of the scheduled matches will have their results counted, with unplayed matches scored according to the formula provided by the EBU.

where

$x$  = Non-offending side's average result in VPs

$y$  = Offending side's average result in VPs

## 17 Communications

- 17.1 Any notices to be given to, or communications for, the organiser or the Chief TD should be emailed to, respectively, [dermot@cbai.ie](mailto:dermot@cbai.ie) or [fearghaloboyle@gmail.com](mailto:fearghaloboyle@gmail.com).

## 18 Resources

- 18.1 [RealBridge camera and microphone test](#)

## 19 Key dates

- 19.1 Closing date for entries, with payment, is Monday 2 February 2026.
- 19.2 Names of team members are required by Monday 2 March 2026.
- 19.3 System cards must be submitted by Monday, 9 March 2026.