Bridging SCBA

publication by the singapore contract bridge association

Oct-Dec 2025 | 30 pages

Upcoming Events

National Team Trials 1st Block (Open, Women's, Senior, U26)

11,17,18 Jan 2026, SCBA Clubhouse (1000-1800)

National Team Trials 2nd Block (Mixed, U31, U21, U26W, U16)

24,25,31 Jan & 1,7,8 Feb 2025, SCBA Clubhouse (1000-1800)

NUS Open Pairs

Sat 24 Jan, NUS MPSH4 (1330)

NUSS Grad-Undergrad Pairs

Sat 31 Jan, NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House

H S Ho Last Chance Qualifying

Sat 21 Feb, SCBA (1000-1800)

Hongbao Pairs

Fri 27 Feb, SCBA (1915-2245)

Singapore Open Pairs

Sat 28 Feb, SCBA (1000-1800)

NSA Townhall

Sat 7 Mar, SCBA (1000)

NBL 2026 #1

Sat 7 Mar, SCBA (1430)

FISU WUC 2026 Trials

8/14 Mar, SCBA (1000-1800)

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Note: The Jan/Feb 2026 Newsletter will be published by 25 Jan 2026.

Disclaimer: Contributed articles are the opinion of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the SCBA Committee.

President's Message

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Dear Members and Friends of SCBA,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the holiday season, even as 2025 continues to be a particularly busy and eventful year for Bridge in Singapore. Here is an update on events over the past three months and what to look out for in 2026.

Asian Mind Sports Festival (AMSF)

Though there is media attention, the AMSF was intentionally run as a closed-door, small-scale event. Its primary objective was to serve as a proof-of-concept for hosting larger, multi-sport mind games in the Asian region. I am pleased to share that this objective has been achieved. On the competitive front, Singapore also performed strongly, finishing 1st in the Men's Teams and 2nd in the Women's Teams, which is an encouraging outcome.

SEA Games Update

Some members have asked why Bridge is not included in the 2025 SEA Games. Event inclusion in SEA Games is cocensus-based if the host country does not prioritise having it. To us, it became clear that there is insufficient support from other participating countries for Bridge's inclusion, and Singapore's support would not be sufficient to tilt the balance anyway. This would seem to be so for the 2027 edition in Malaysia as well. For 2029 when Singapore is the host, we are still exploring possible pathways with SportSG and SNOC.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Follow-up

Following consultation with legal counsel, the Board has tentatively decided that the 2025 Annual Report will be formally approved at the 2026 AGM. We are still looking for SportSG's input to go ahead with this decision; this second consultation was planned after the 2025 SEA Games to cater to their capacity.

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Moving forward, we intend to retain legal advice for governance-related matters on an ongoing basis, so that decisions of this nature are guided by professional input.

Calendar Updates

Following feedback from members, we have made several refinements and updates to the 2026 calendar. These adjustments are intended to better align local events with international and regional developments. Please find the detailed list of updates in the News page. We will continue to review the calendar as the year progresses.

National Trials and APBF Youth Championships

Following the Trial format rework, we have received three signups for the 1st Block of the 2026 Trials for Asia Cup and APBF Youth (still pending confirmation) – one for Open and two for U26. Seeing points will be used as the preliminary gateway for participation for both categories. Teams are advised to appeal (e.g. athletes showing promise / strong but new to the local scene) or adjust their team composition if some of their team members did not meet the minimum point requirement.

Clubhouse and Weekly Game Status

I am happy to report that the SCBA clubhouse lease is expected to be extended by another three years to around November 2029, providing much-needed stability for training, competitions, and community activities in the short term. This also means that we are available for Bridge clubs, sections and academies, and new or existing weekly game hosts to rent the clubhouse for Bridge-related activities.

Previously, I spoke about Gerald retirement as part of the transition to decouple SCBA's weekly games from the NSA. We have negotiated with Gerald for him to officially end his service in this current capacity in March 2026.

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In the meantime, from January 2026, all weekly games will be run by the weekly game Hosts, with the Friday night hosts taking full ownership of the game's finances for a year. This decentralised approach is intended to encourage initiative while maintaining overall coordination and preferences of each host.

Constitution Transition and Club Engagement

On the governance front, I have briefed the Board on the proposed constitutional transition, and there is agreement to move forward. Several workstreams are now in progress:

1. Model Constitution Refinement: led by Derek and myself
2. Club Engagement: led by myself, supported by Steve and Derek.
3. Formation of Athletes' Commission: led by Ke Jia with input from the current HPS.
4. Bishan-based club entity: led by Raj, supported by Steve.

Derek and I will be hosting a couple town halls over the year of 2026 to present the draft constitution and address any questions. This is such that expectations are clear before we head to the 2026 AGM where we intend to table this change as a special resolution. Please mark your calendars for the first Town Hall on **7th March 10am** - this will be held before the 1st National Bridge League game.

The constitution change is important for SCBA to receive continued support by SportSG, but it is also an SCBA internal affair requiring 2/3 of the votes present to succeed. I request all our stakeholders to take this exercise seriously. SportSG will not intervene directly, but will be assisting us behind the scenes, and we look forward to further contributions from our legal advisor as this work progresses.

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Update on Club Engagement

Following discussions with several clubs involved in the Singapore Inter Club Bridge Festival (SICBF), there is a clear consensus to retain this event as a club-friendly avenue for social play. This means that both the SICBF and National Bridge League can co-exist together as a dual-track structure which serve different segments of the Bridge community and balances inclusivity with performance. Instead of combining both Leagues, the NBL will continue to serve as the primary platform for top-level competition, as well as a pathway for clubs to field and develop stronger players. This also means adjusting the NBL to be more club-friendly while maintaining open-level participation.

Looking Ahead

All the above initiatives are guided by a single objective: to secure SCBA's future as the National Sports Association for Bridge, beyond the current term (and term limits) of this Board. This requires careful governance, sustainable structures, and collaboration with clubs, athletes, and external stakeholders alike.

Finally, members may have noticed the launch of the new WBF website, which reflects broader efforts globally to modernise communication and engagement within the Bridge community.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and commitment to the sport. I look forward to working together with all of you in 2026 as we continue building a stronger and more resilient future for Bridge in Singapore.

Warm regards,

Luwen

president@scba.org.sg

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1. Calendar of Events

Below are the changes made to the calendar. The calendar is also released on the SCBA website.

Youth Teams – Moved from May to 5/12 – 6/12

Ang Kok Peng Cup – Confirmed on 10/10

World Bridge Series – Scheduled from 20/8 to 3/9

World Youth Transnationals – Scheduled from 3/8 to 8/8 (Opening ceremony on 2/8)

Hong Kong Intercity – Scheduled from 5/8 to 9/8

Handicap Teams – Shifted to 5/9 to make way for World Bridge Series and changed to one-day event to attract more open and club participants.

H S Ho Finals – Shifted to 17, 18 Oct make way for World Bridge Series.

Hongbao Pairs – Shifted one week back to 27/2 from 20/2 to move it further away from Lunar New Year Holidays.

Singapore Open Pairs – Reduced event to one day to attract more open participants.

FISU WUC 2026 Trials – Scheduled on 8/3 and 15/3

2. National Team Trials (Mixed, U31, U21, U26W, U16)

Registration for the above-mentioned categories are open until 24 Jan 2026. Please register here.

Note that registration for Open, Women, Senior and U26 categories have closed.

3. National Bridge League

Registration for the National Bridge League is now open for all players here.

The registration deadline is 27 Feb 2026.

4. National School Bridge League

Registration for the National Bridge League is now open for all players here.

The registration deadline is 11 Jan 2026.

5. H S Ho Prelim Results and 2026 Last Chance Qualifying

X-Men+ is the winner of the Preliminaries.

Registration for the Main Event is now open until 15 Feb 2026. Here is the registration link.

6. Singapore Open Pairs

The event will be held on 28th February in SCBA Clubhouse from 1000 to around 1800. Please register here.

The first cut of registration closes on Wed 25 Feb 2026 to determine if the event will continue. Registration will reopen should the event be confirmed.

7. Hongbao Pairs (Friday Night)

The event will be held on 27th February in SCBA Clubhouse from 1930 to around 2230. There will be buffet dinner from 1830 to 1930.

Please pre-register here for us to determine the amount of food to cater for you.

8. NUS Open Pairs

The event will be held on 24th January in NUS Multipurpose Sports Hall 4. Please refer to the appendix for the flyer.

Here is the registration link: https://bit.ly/nusopenpairs26

9. NUSS Grad-Undergrad Pairs

The event will be held on 31st January in the NUSS Kent Ridge Guild house. Interested persons can reach out to either NUSS or NUS clubs for more information.

10. Easter Congress 2026

Please mark your dates for this event, which will be held from 2nd to 5th April 2026. The forms and flyer will be released in due course.

11. SCBA Email, WhatsApp and Telegram Subscription

To enhance communication to our members, we are piloting two additional mediums for push-communication other than email, and would like you to join this initiative. We will monitor progress for a few months and decide which model to keep (it can be both if resources allow). Here is the link to sign up: https://forms.gle/KgaYUfCyQq72kWnk6

12. Masterpoints System

Please find latest Masterpoint awards here. You can give any feedback to competition@scba.org.sg.

13. Bridge logistics support for JC- and Poly-organised tournaments

As of 11 May, the Board has decided to provide complimentary logistics support for all tournaments organised by these two types of institutions moving forward. Please liaise with our club manager if you have such a request.

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Policy & Guidance on Weekly Games @ SCBA

To promote a Safe Sport culture in the SCBA clubhouse, the Competition Secretaries and the President have decided to tentatively implement the following policy in SCBA from **1 Apr 2024**:

1. (Weekly Social Games) No new boards are to be played with less than 4 minutes remaining in the round. All pairs are to be assigned an average for all unplayed boards, **without any further negotiation or expression of displeasure by any party**.

While we understand that several players want to play as many boards as possible, we cannot allow the entire session to be dragged on due to actions by a minority of players. This is especially compounded during evening games when both transport and safety for the senior players become an issue. At the same time, while it is possible in theory for Directors to ascertain the degree of responsibility by each pair for slow play, this discussion is unfruitful for the dynamics on the table and overwhelms the Director especially if he/she is also playing.

2. (All events) Players are **empowered to gently point out improper conduct** on the table to the offending party. They should call the director if the resolution is unsuccessful. The director should attempt to settle such cases within the session with no further rectification. However, if the incident is serious, this should be escalated to **SCBA's Safeguarding Officers (Raj)**.

Improper conduct includes but is not limited to: (a) Commenting on the skill level of opponents on the table, **especially if they are weaker**; (b) Excessive provision of unsolicited advice to opponents; (c) Taking advantage of newer players by providing non-existent "table rules" or opportunistically calling the Director; (d) Calling the director for any minute break in tempo that most likely causes no UI; (e) Making weaker opponents feel at fault that they have been playing too slowly and do not belong in any weekly games; and (f) Any other behaviour that causes physical, emotional or psychological damage. Directors are to exercise professional judgment and common sense in determining the severity of each case.

We seek the understanding of the stronger players as we must protect the long-term interest of the sport. As SCBA is operating in a public, inter-generational environment, players are advised to be sensitive to cultural differences between each generation and be always mindful of their behavior in the clubhouse.

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Donations to SCBA

Enjoy a 250% deduction on taxable income by donating to SCBA.
Qualification for tax deduction is valid until 28 January 2027.

Types of Tax Deductible Donations Available

1. Unrestricted donation to one of our three funds: General Fund, Bridge Development Fund, National Bridge League Fund
2. Restricted donation to set up a new fund for purposes dictated by the donor (SCBA will inform and seek the donor's opinion if the fund cannot be used)
3. Donations to name SCBA's events or programmes;
4. Donations where SCBA or its approved beneficiary acknowledges the donation by including the donor's name or logo in the SCBA's collaterals (e.g. banners, publications, advertisements). Examples would be Pesta Sukan Bridge Championships and future iterations of SEABCC and APBF if they are held in Singapore.

Claiming Tax Deductible Donations

Tax deduction is given for donations made in the preceding year. For example, if an individual makes a donation in 2023, tax deduction will be allowed in his tax assessment for the Year of Assessment (YA) 2024. The tax deductions for qualifying donations will be automatically reflected in the donor's tax assessments based on the information from the IPC (such as the donor's name, date and amount of donation on the tax deduction receipt).

To donate to SCBA, please approach our club manager for more details.

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Bridgemate Scoring

for weekly games is now in full implementation

- Automatic player name entry via player numbers
  - No name errors
  - Know who you are playing against the next round
  - Reduce instances of wrong seatings
  - Personal analysis available on Pianola
  - Linkage to online Masterpoint system (coming soon)
  - Implementation in Teams Events
  - Your player number in other clubs should work here too
- If you need a player number, drop a mail to **competition@scba.org.sg**

We are on Pianola!

Online portal for all things Bridge

https://www.scba.org.sg

- Latest news and upcoming events
- Newsletter and tournament forms download
- Weekly game results immediately available after the games end
- Click on your own pair for personal analysis
- Review your bidding, play and defence online – anytime with your smartphone

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8th SEABF Championships / 41st ASEAN Bridge Club Championships

Welovebridge: Gideon Tan, Jazlene Ong, Peter Haw, Wang Hui Jun

ABCC Yang Open Championship



ABCC Santiago Mixed Teams





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National Bridge League

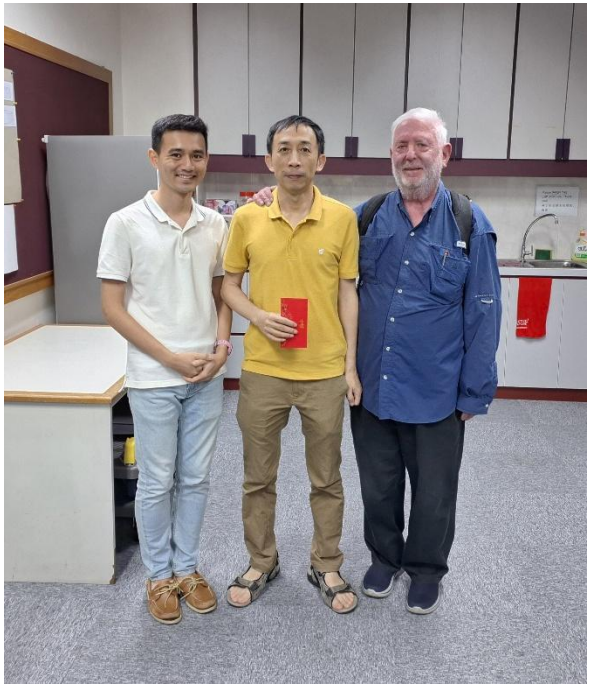
SG Open



NUSS Red



Ambassador





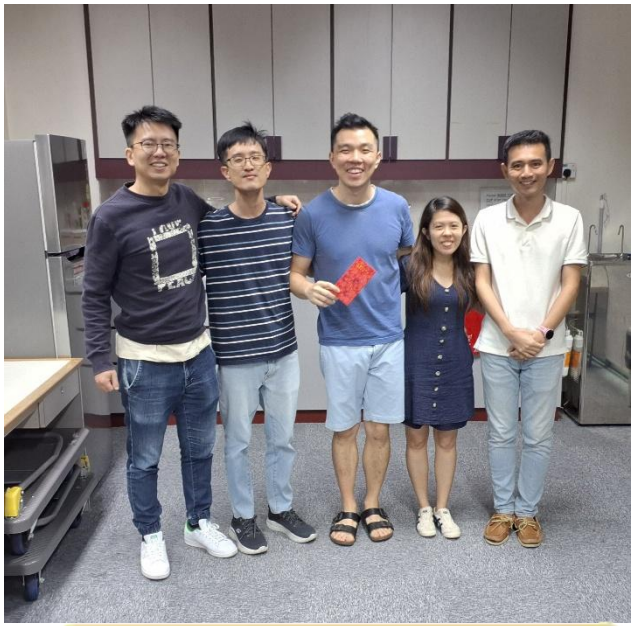
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National Bridge League Cup

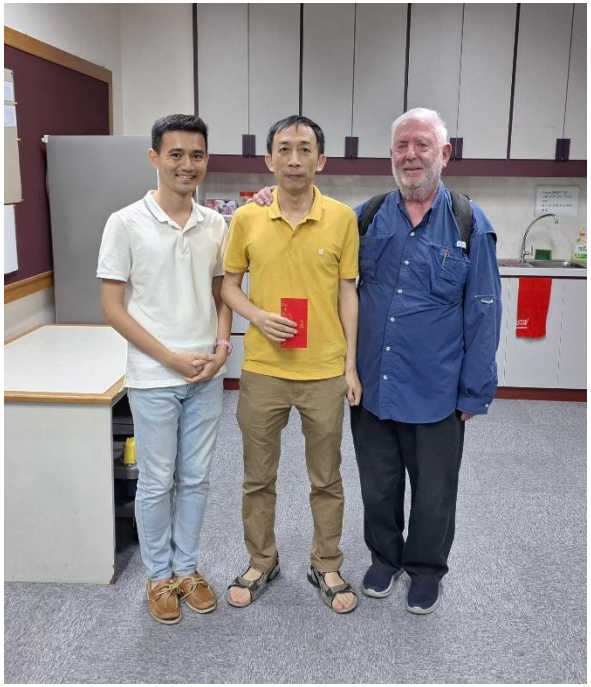
Mokyhunters



SG Open



Ambassador





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Singapore Mixed Teams



Champions: Welovebridge
Peter Haw, Leong Jia Min, Toh Zhen Huai, Kho Jie Min, Jazlene Ong,Siew Kheng Hun



Runners-up: Lucky Duck
Gemma Tan, Alan Sia, Yoke Lan Tan, Seet Choon Cheng, Chua Gang, Ryan Chan

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National Youth Teams

Gambling 7NT (Bryan Kow, Ethan Lauw, Lycia Tay, Ji Mozhe, Evan Lee & Thomas Liu)



XMM Bridge (Ang Kexin, Jeanne Yeo, Lin Xin Rui, Beverly Seah, Gao Heng & Bryan Yang)



Oldies (Russell Siew, Peng Fei, Jerald Kiew, Victor Loh, Loh Zhi Qin & Kenneth Quek)





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Ang Kok Peng Cup

Sincere thanks to Dr Catherine Ang and her family for supporting this annual event

Sugiharto & Lilio Ho



Jolene Lee & Kenneth Chan



Deepa Gupta & Anjna Beri





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Christmas Pairs

Kejia & Steve Robinson



Wang Pei & David Lam



Lam Cheng Yen & Beverly Seah





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League Round 6

IMP Scores		
SG Open	88 – 33	Ambassador
Mokyhunters	35 – 68	X-Men
NUSS Red	121 – 18	Lowkey
INGERLUND	BYE	

Standings

Team	Played	VPs
SG Open	7	120.74
NUSS Red	7	81.58
Ambassador	7	74.83
X-Men	7	69.00
INGERLUND	7	68.98
Mokyhunters	7	68.04
Lowkey	7	20.83

League Round 7

IMP Scores		
SG Open	72 – 21	Mokyhunters
Ambassador	50 – 43	X-Men
NUSS Red	67 – 22	INGERLUND
Lowkey	BYE	

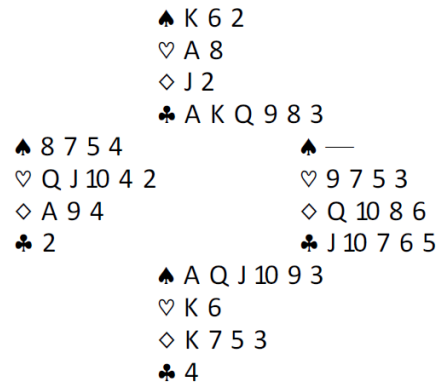
League Cup Semis / Finals

IMP Score		
SG Open	66 – 26	Ambassador
Mokyhunters	83 – 43	X-Men
SG Open	71 – 52	Mokyhunters
Ambassador	W - L	X-Men
NUSS Red	57 – 124	INGERLUND

League Website:
https://league.scba.org.sg/

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1257. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All pass			

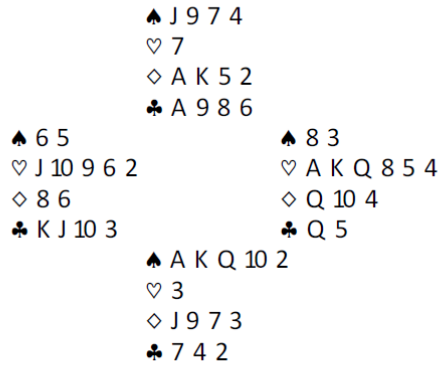
(1257) This deal was bid to the spade slam on similar auctions in a Teams game, in each case after checking on key-cards via 4NT. Both West players led a standard queen of hearts.

The first declarer preferred speed over thought. He took the first trick in hand with the king of hearts, drew trumps in four rounds and cashed dummy's three club winners, throwing two low diamonds from hand. He would have been just fine against a 4-2 club break, but today was not his day. The 5-1 break was a blow, but not a fatal one, so long as East held the ace of diamonds. Alas, a diamond to the king lost to West's ace, and a second diamond loser was unavoidable, so the contract went down one.

At the other table, declarer paused to form a plan. He counted eleven winners and saw that the best chance for a twelfth was to establish a club trick. If trumps were no worse than 3-1 and clubs 4-2, it would be straightforward. He turned his mind to the tougher cases: spades 4-0 and clubs 5-1. To cope, he would need a late entry to dummy with the ace of hearts.

So, after winning the opening lead in hand with the king of hearts, declarer cashed the ace of trumps and noted the 4-0 split. Next, declarer played a club to dummy's ace and ruffed a low club with the nine of trumps. After leading his three of trumps to dummy's king, declarer ruffed another small club with his ten. Then, after drawing West's remaining trumps with his queen and jack, declarer led a heart to the ace and claimed three club tricks to make his contract.

1258. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
		1♡	1♠
3♡	4♠	All pass	

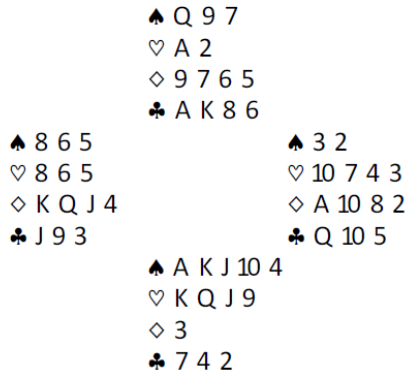
(1258) When West made a pre-emptive jump to three hearts it robbed North of space to show his strength and spade support below game. Since slam was very unlikely, he bid the spade game and hoped that his partner would have a play for ten tricks. East-West wisely judged that their semi-balanced hands did not bode well for a 5H sacrifice, and in fact that would have gone three down on routine defence.

West led the jack of hearts, which held, and shifted to a trump. Declarer won with the queen and drew the remaining trumps. He saw that unless diamonds produced four tricks, he had three possible losers in the minors. The only other chance was that the hand with three diamonds to the queen also held at most two clubs.

Accordingly, declarer led a low club from hand and played low from dummy, West's ten winning the trick. West exited with a diamond. Declarer won with dummy's king and then cashed both minor-suit aces. Alas, although the diamonds divided 3-2, the queen did not fall. Declarer's luck turned for the better when he exited with a third round of diamonds. East won with the queen but had no clubs left to play. Since East had only hearts remaining, he had to play one. Declarer threw his remaining losing club from hand and won the trick by ruffing in dummy. That gave him ten tricks: five trumps, a heart ruff, and four tricks in the minors.

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1259. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	4◇
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♠	All pass	

(1259) 2C was a natural game force and 4D was a splinter, suggesting some extra playing strength. With all of his values outside diamonds, North appreciated the value of his hand and checked on keycards before bidding the slam.

West led the king of diamonds and continued the suit. Declarer paused to consider how he would make twelve tricks.

First, he looked at the losers in his hand, where it seemed that in addition to his diamond loser, he had a second one in clubs. Declarer saw that he could avoid the latter if the defender with three trumps also began with four clubs.

Declarer saw that he could draw two rounds of trumps, play four rounds of hearts, throwing clubs from dummy, and ruff his own club loser with dummy's last trump.

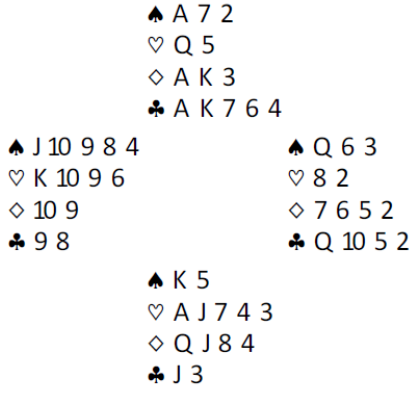
Declarer realised that a better plan was a dummy reversal. After ruffing the second diamond in hand, declarer played the ace and queen of trumps. After ruffing another diamond, declarer led the nine of hearts to dummy's ace and ruffed dummy's last diamond with his remaining trump. Declarer then returned to dummy with the king of clubs and drew West's last trump with the nine. Three heart winners allowed declarer to discard dummy's two losing clubs and so make the slam.

It would not have done any good for West to have switched to a heart or a club at trick two, so long as declarer won the trick in dummy and ruffed a diamond next. Declarer would still have enough entries to pull off the dummy reversal.

As is often the case with a dummy reversal, entries were crucial. Here, a heart lead would have defeated the contract, destroying the necessary communica-tions between dummy and hand – that is, as long as the defence played a second heart after they win their diamond trick.

(1260) The auction was in the two-over-one style. As South had suggested a minimum hand, North's 20 HCP proved too tempting to stop short of slam, so he simply bid 6NT on the assumption that his partner should have a play for the contract.

1260. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
			1♡
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◇
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	All pass	

Perhaps North should have bid 5NT to offer a choice of slams – facing a 3-5-4-1 shape, six of a red suit might well have been better.

West led the obvious jack of spades.

Declarer counted nine tricks on top. Consequently, he needed another three tricks to make his contract. The question declarer addressed was whether to attack hearts or clubs first.

Clubs could provide at most two extra tricks, so declarer decided to play on hearts first. Since leading the queen from dummy would require the suit to be 3-3 to make four tricks, declarer won the first trick with his king of spades and then led a low heart towards dummy's queen.

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This would provide four tricks when West held a doubleton king or when East held the king and the suit broke 3-3.

On the above layout, West held the heart king and could not rise with it without giving declarer four heart tricks. The queen of hearts won the trick.

As the chance of a 3-3 break in hearts was still less than 50%, declarer saw that trying for four tricks in clubs next was a better chance. So, he led a low club towards his jack.

If East held the queen and the suit was no worse than 4-2, declarer would establish four club tricks. He would also succeed if West held the queen and clubs were 3-3 – altogether close to a 60% chance.

Here, East played the queen of clubs in front of the jack, and the suit came in for four tricks to give declarer his contract.

(1261) After this simple auction, West led the jack of spades, covered by the queen and king. Declarer saw that he could only make the contract if both minor-suit finesses succeeded. So, after winning the ace of spades, declarer led the jack of diamonds and ran it when West followed with a low card. West played low when declarer led the ten of diamonds, which won the trick. Declarer contin-ued with the eight of diamonds to the nine and queen. Next, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and ran the nine of clubs.

1261. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ Q 4 ♡ K Q 7 6 ◇ A Q 6 2 ♣ 9 8 7	
♠ J 10 9 6 3 ♡ 10 4 2 ◇ K 9 5 4 ♣ 3		♠ K 7 5 2 ♡ A 5 3 ◇ 7 3 ♣ K 5 4 2
	♠ A 8 ♡ J 9 8 ◇ J 10 8 ♣ A Q J 10 6	

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When that held, declarer continued with a second winning finesse in clubs. Alas, West discarded a heart and the contract could no longer be made.

The mistake declarer made was playing for four diamond tricks by letting the ten of diamonds hold, essentially playing for an overtrick if he was able to make five tricks in the club suit. Instead, he should have settled for three diamond tricks by overtaking the ten with dummy's queen. The difference is that after declarer runs the nine of clubs and then finesses the ten of clubs, he still has the ace of diamonds as an entry to take a third winning club finesse. Then he can cash the ace of clubs to make five tricks in the suit.

There would still be a chance for a ninth trick even if clubs proved to be 0-5. He would then need to find the diamonds 3-3 – an unlikely but possible scenario!

1262. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ A J 10 8 5 2 ♡ Q 4 2 ◇ 2 ♣ A 5 3	
♠ 4 3 ♡ J 9 6 ◇ A Q J 9 ♣ Q 10 7 6		♠ 6 ♡ K 8 7 5 ◇ 10 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 9 8
	♠ K Q 9 7 ♡ A 10 3 ◇ K 5 ♣ K J 4 2	

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4◇	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(1262) This deal came up in a Team game where both South players opened with a 15-17 notrump. The auction was identical at both tables: North transferred into spades and made a splinter rebid in diamonds. Since no side-suit lead was particularly attractive, both Wests led a trump.

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At the first table, the declarer was something of a finesse fanatic. After drawing trumps with the king and ace, this declarer led dummy's two of diamonds to the king. West took this with the ace and exited with the queen of diamonds, which was ruffed in dummy. Declarer now tackled the club suit optimally (at least, in isolation): he cashed the king and ace of clubs and led a third club towards his jack. Alas, West won the trick with the ten of clubs and exited with the queen. Now, declarer crossed to hand with a trump and led a low heart to dummy's queen and East's king. When East returned a low heart, declarer took the best remaining chance for a tenth trick by playing his ten. West produced the jack of hearts for a one-trick set.

Yes, three finesses had lost and clubs were vile, but could he have done better? At the second table, after drawing trumps, declarer proceeded to demonstrate that he could have.

First, he cashed the king and ace of clubs. Only then did he lead the two of diamonds to the king and ace. When West continued with the queen of diamonds, declarer remembered a problem in a Test Your Play book by Paul Lukacs and Jeff Rubens, where the winning move was to discard dummy's third club! The difference from the first table now was that West could not profitably play a club at this point: if he tried the queen, that would set up declarer's jack; if he led a low club instead, declarer could discard a heart from dummy, and the jack would still become the tenth trick.

(It would not matter which defender won the second diamond trick – whoever did would be endplayed, to give a ruff and discard or set up a trick for the club jack or the queen-ten of hearts.)

n the end, West exited with a low heart, hoping his partner held the ten in the suit. Declarer called for a low heart from dummy and took East's king of hearts with his ace. Dummy's queen of hearts was declarer's tenth trick.

1263. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ Q J ♡ 6 5 3 2 ◇ A 7 2 ♣ 9 8 6 3	
♠ 8 6 5 4 2 ♡ 10 9 ◇ 10 5 ♣ Q J 7 4		♠ K 10 7 3 ♡ 8 4 ◇ J 9 8 6 4 3 ♣ 10
	♠ A 9 ♡ A K Q J 7 ◇ K Q ♣ A K 5 2	

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2◇	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
Pass	4◇	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

(1263) The auction had a few points of note. Unusually, North's raise to 3H conventionally promised some values and four-card support for hearts (North would have rebid 3NT with only three hearts and the same sort of strength). 3S was a cue bid, and North's failure to bid 3NT suggested a more modest hand than otherwise.

Against the slam, West led the ten of trumps. Declarer counted eleven top tricks, so long as he could find an entry to dummy – which the club suit would provide if the suit proved to be 3-2. After winning the first trick with the ace of trumps, declarer drew a second round of trumps and cashed the ace of clubs. Declarer's intention was to continue with the king of clubs, until he noticed that East had followed with the ten. Instead of cashing the king of clubs immediately, declarer asked himself, "What if East's ten is a singleton?"

After a few seconds' thought, declarer found a counter that would let him make for sure if West had only two diamonds, and would leave him needing the spade finesse otherwise. First, he cashed the king and queen of diamonds. Then, instead of playing the king of clubs, he led the two of clubs from hand. This would ensure three club tricks if the suit was 3-2 and guarantee an entry to dummy.

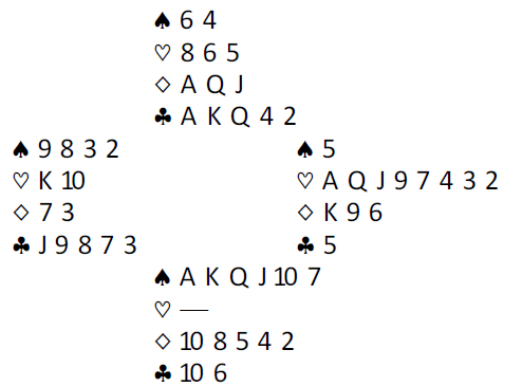
It also succeeded on this layout, when West took the trick with his jack of clubs and then found himself end-played. West saw that declarer would romp home if he exited with a club – he would make five trumps, three clubs, three diamonds, and the ace of spades.

The only hope for the defense was that declarer's ace of spades was a singleton.

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So, West exited with a low spade. This saw dummy's queen win the trick, and dec-larer disposed of his remaining low club on the ace of diamonds.

1264. Dealer West. East-West vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	3♡	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

(1264) 3S was forcing, and South's 5H promised a void in hearts. North could see that all his points were working, and tried for a grand slam. South signed off in what he knew was the best trump suit.

West led the king of hearts, hoping that this would make his trump holding awkward for declarer. Declarer ruffed the opening lead with his seven of trumps and then cashed the ace of trumps. When all followed, declarer played the king of trumps.

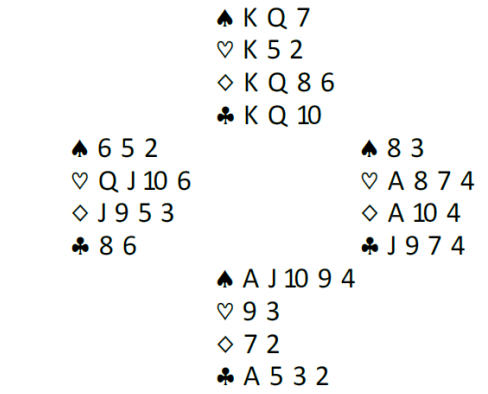
East's discard of a low heart made what would be a routine hand on a 3-2 break a bridge version of, "May you live in interesting times."

All would be well if the clubs were 3-3, a somewhat remote chance given the bidding. Declarer realised that he could make at least three diamond tricks if West had the king of diamonds – he could draw trumps, take the winning diamond finesse with a low card to the queen, and then play the ace and jack of the suit. Either his dia-monds would be high, or he would have three diamond tricks for his contract.

So, declarer considered what he could do if East took the queen of diamonds with the king. Obviously, East would return a heart and then, after ruffing with his last trump, declarer would be locked in dummy when he played a club or a diamond. The contract would succeed only if clubs were 3-3. It took a minute or two, but declarer found the winning play.

First he drew West's remaining trumps with the queen and jack, discarding dummy's two remaining hearts. Next he played dummy's ace and queen of diamonds. When East took his king of diamonds and, as expected, exited with a heart, declarer was ready. He ruffed it and discarded dummy's blocking jack of diamonds. As the diamonds were 3-2, declarer had twelve tricks: six trumps, four diamonds and two clubs.

1265. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
	1◇	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(1265) This deal came up in a team game, and the auction shown was the same at both tables. After North's jump rebid, South enquired about the hand opposite with 3C. North admitted to three-card spade support with his rebid. South chose to play in the spade game because he had doubletons in both red suits.

Each West led the queen of hearts, which held. The defenders persisted with two more rounds of hearts, forcing the declarers to ruff.

The first declarer played a diamond to the king, hoping to find the ace with West, which would allow him to set up a discard for his fourth club. Alas, the king lost to East's ace and he exited with a trump. This declarer proceeded by

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drawing two rounds of trumps and then played on clubs. This would succeed when clubs were 3-3 and when the defender with the remaining defensive trump also held four clubs. Declarer could then ruff the fourth club in dummy. Alas, West ruffed the third club and the contract went down.

At the other table, the play diverged after the second round of trumps. Instead of playing on clubs, this declarer cashed the queen of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Then he returned to dummy with a club to the king and ruffed a second diamond. Next, declarer led a second club to dummy's queen. After that held, he drew the last trump with dummy's king, discarding a low club from hand. The ace of clubs was declarer's tenth trick.

1266. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

	♠ A 8 6 3 ♡ J 6 ◇ J 10 9 5 ♣ 8 6 2	
♠ 2 ♡ K Q 10 4 3 2 ◇ 8 3 2 ♣ A Q 4		♠ 4 ♡ 9 8 7 5 ◇ K Q 6 4 ♣ J 10 9 7
	♠ K Q J 10 9 7 5 ♡ A ◇ A 7 ♣ K 5 3	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♡	2♠	4♡	4♠
All Pass			

West led the king of hearts. When dummy was tabled, declarer counted nine winners. A tenth would be easy if East held the ace of clubs. However, declarer was someone who liked to consider whether there were options better than a straight finesse. Before thinking about further card play, declarer paused to consider how the defensive honours might lie. Given East's leap to 4H, declarer felt that it was unlikely that West held the king-queen of diamonds and the ace of clubs, as it would leave East with at most the queen-jack of clubs for his bid.

After winning the ace of hearts, declarer decided to try to develop a trick in diamonds without allowing East to gain the lead. So, he cashed the king of trumps followed by the ace of diamonds. Then he led his five of trumps to dummy's six and then called for the jack of hearts, throwing the seven of diamonds from his hand. West took the trick with the queen of hearts and exited with a diamond to dummy's nine and East's queen.

Declarer saw that he would need two entries to dummy to set up and enjoy a diamond trick, so he ruffed the diamond with the queen of trumps. After leading his seven of trumps to dummy's eight, declarer called for the jack of diamonds. It did not matter whether East played high or low at this point: declarer would make the diamond trick he needed for his contract.

1267. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ 7 6 5 3 ♡ A J 10 8 6 3 ◇ 2 ♣ A Q	
♠ K 9 4 2 ♡ 5 ◇ Q J 10 8 ♣ J 9 7 6		♠ – ♡ K Q 9 7 4 ◇ 7 6 5 4 ♣ 10 8 5 3
	♠ A Q J 10 8 ♡ 2 ◇ A K 9 3 ♣ K 4 2	

West	North	East	South
	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT [1]
Pass	4◇	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1. Forcing relay.

(1267) West led the queen of diamonds against 6S. Declarer realised that he could afford to lose a trump trick if he could ruff two diamonds in dummy, so he ruffed a diamond at trick two and played a trump from dummy. East's discard was an unpleasant development.

Declarer rose with the ace of trumps and took the second diamond ruff that he needed. Next he played a trump to the queen and king. When West exited with a club, declarer won with dummy's ace.

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Now declarer needed to reach his hand to draw West's remaining trumps: he then played ace and another heart, ruffing the latter with the eight of trumps.

Alas, West overruffed with the nine, and the king of trumps was the setting trick. (Of course, it would do no good to ruff high, because that would promote West's nine of trumps for a second defensive trick in trumps.)

North was not sympathetic when South complained about his luck. North observed, "Once the trumps were 4=0, the chance of a singleton heart with West was higher than normal. You should not have given West the opportunity to lock you in the dummy with a club (or a heart) after he wins the king of trumps. The way around this problem was to cash dummy's two club winners and the ace of hearts before leading dummy's last trump. Then, when West gains the lead with the king of trumps, it won't make any difference what he returns. You will be able to win in hand, draw trumps and claim."

1268. Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ A J 9 3 ♡ 7 4 ◇ A Q 4 ♣ A Q J 4	
♠ 2 ♡ 8 2 ◇ 10 8 6 5 2 ♣ 10 8 7 6 2		♠ K 8 7 5 ♡ A K Q 10 9 6 ◇ 9 3 ♣ 5
	♠ Q 10 6 4 ♡ J 5 3 ◇ K J 7 ♣ K 9 3	

West	North	East	South
		1♡	Pass
Pass	Double	2♡	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1268) West led the eight of hearts. East took the queen and ace before leading the king of hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy and paused to consider his options. His first thought was that if trumps were 3-2, ten tricks would be easy. He would draw trumps and cash enough minor suit winners for his contract. So, declarer considered what could be done if trumps were 4-1.

As the bidding meant East was sure to have the king of trumps, there was no point in crossing to dummy for a finesse in trumps. Instead, declarer led the jack of trumps at trick four. East withheld the king in the hope that declarer would cash the ace of trumps next. Declarer was not tempted to do so, instead playing the nine of trumps at trick five.

East took the king of trumps and exited with a heart. Declarer threw a low club from hand and ruffed with dummy's ace of trumps. Next, he led a low diamond to his king and drew East's remaining trumps before claiming his contract.

Of note is that if declarer plays the ace of trumps, instead of the jack or nine at trick four, East succeeds by ducking the second round of trumps. This will ensure East makes a second trump trick, which defeats 4S.

Note: The Column is attributable to the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) and reproduced with IBPA's blessings.

Jan Events Calendar

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			New Year Charity Pairs (Morning)	2	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)
5	6	7	8	9	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)
12	13	14	15	16	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)	National Team Trials (O, W, S, U26)
19	20	21	22	23	NUS Open Pairs / National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)	National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)
26	27	28	29	30	NUSS Grad-Undergrad Pairs / National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)	

Feb Events Calendar

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)
2	3	4	5	6	National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)	National Team Trials (M, U31, U21, U26W, U16)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	H S Ho Last Chance Qualifying	22
23	24	25	26	Hongbao Pairs	Singapore Open Pairs	

28 **Mar** Events Calendar

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	NSA Townhall / NBL 2026 Open House #1	FISU WUC 2026 Mindsports Trials (Day 1)
9	10	11	12	13	SCC Open Pairs Tournament	FISU WUC 2026 Mindsports Trials (Day 2)
16	17	18	19	Hari Raya Puasa Special Game (Night)	IMP Pairs	22
23	24	25	26	27	Singapore Mixed Teams	Singapore Mixed Teams

Apr Events Calendar

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	Easter Congress	Easter Congress	Easter Congress	Easter Congress
6	7	8	9	10	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #2	12
13	14	15	16	17	H S Ho Match 1	19
20	21	22	23	24	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #3	26
27	28	29	30			

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Weekly Games @ SG Clubs

SCBA @ Bishan CC
Monday and Thursday – 9.30 am
Friday – 7.30 pm

American Womens' Association @ Bishan CC
Monday – 1.00 pm

Chinese Swimming Club, 21 Amber Rd
Saturday – 2.30 pm

Geylang West CC, 1205 Upper Boon Keng Rd
Wednesday – 7.30 pm (BBO only)
Friday – 10.15 am
Sunday – 2.30 pm

Kampong Kembangan CC, 5 Lengkong Tiga
Monday and Thursday – 7.00 pm

NUS, Kent Ridge Crescent, MPSH 4
Wednesday – 7.00 pm

NUSS The Graduate Club, Kent Ridge Guild House
Wednesday – 7.15 pm
Saturday – 2.15 pm

Singapore Cricket Club, Connaught Drive
Monday – 7.00 pm

Singapore Island Country Club, 240 Sime Road
Monday and Thursday – 7.30 pm
Wednesday – 1.00 pm

Singapore Recreation Club, Connaught Drive
Tuesday – 7.00 pm (SRC members only)

The Japanese Association, 120 Adam Road
Tuesday – 9.00 am

Tanglin Club, 5 Stevens Road
Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 1.00 pm

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Ke Jia
Gao Heng
Linus Lee
Lam Cheng Yen
Low Siok Hui

SINGAPORE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Master Calendar of Events 2026 (as of 5 Jan 2026)

Month	Date	Event	Venue
Jan	1	New Year Charity Pairs (Thu morning)	SCBA
	3,4,10,11,17,18	2026 National Team Trials 1st Block (Open, Women's, Senior, U26)	SCBA
	18	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #1	SCBA
	24	NUS Open Pairs	NUS
	24, 25, 31	2026 National Team Trials 2nd Block (1/2) (Mixed, U31, U21, U26W, U16)	SCBA
	25	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #2	Online
	31	NUSS Grad-Undergrad Pairs	NUSS
Feb	1	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #3	Online
	1, 7, 8	2026 National Team Trials 2nd Block (2/2) (Mixed, U31, U21, U26W, U16)	SCBA
	8	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #4	Online
	21	H S Ho Last Chance Qualifying	SCBA
	27	Hongbao Pairs (Fri night)	SCBA
	28	Singapore Open Pairs	SCBA
Mar	TBC	Tanglin Open Pairs Tournament	Tanglin Club
	7	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #1	SCBA
	8	FISU WUC 2026 Mindsports Trials (Day 1)	SCBA
	14	SCC Open Pairs Tournament	SCC
	15	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #5	Online
	15	FISU WUC 2026 Mindsports Trials (Day 2)	SCBA
	20	Hari Raya Puasa Special Game (Fri night)	SCBA
	21	IMP Pairs	SCBA
	22	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #6	Online
	28,29	Singapore Mixed Teams	SCBA
	29	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #7	Online
Apr	2 - 5	Easter Congress	SCBA
	11	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #2	SCBA
	12	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #8	Online
	18	H S Ho Match #1	SCBA
	25	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #3	SCBA
May	1	Labour Day Special Game (Fri morning)	SCBA
	1 - 3	Ganesha Bridge Open Tournament	??
	2	H S Ho Match #2	SCBA
	9	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #4 (Cup Quarterfinal)	SCBA
	10	National School Bridge League 2026 Game #9	Online
	16	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #5	SCBA
	17	National School Bridge League 2026 Open House Semi-Finals	SCBA
	23	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #6	SCBA
	24	National School Bridge League 2026 Open House Finals / Pairs	SCBA
	27	Hari Raya Haji Special Game (Wed morning)	SCBA
Jun	1	Vesak Day Special Game (Mon morning)	SCBA
	2,3	National School Teams	SCBA
	6	National Youth Pairs	SCBA
	13	H S Ho Match #3	SCBA
	21 - 27	5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships	Goa, India
Jul	4	H S Ho Match #4 (TBC)	SCBA
	10 - 12 (TBC)	Pesta Sukan Bridge Championships 2026	??
	18	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #7 (Cup Semifinal)	SCBA
	25	H S Ho Match #5 (TBC)	SCBA

Aug	1	Singapore Mixed Pairs	SCBA
	2 - 8	9th World Youth Transnational Championships	Hefei, China
	5 - 9	Hong Kong Intercity Bridge Championships	Hong Kong
	10	National Day Special Game (Mon morning)	SCBA
	15	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #8	SCBA
	15 - 17	Denny Sacul Memorial Trophy	Jakarta, Indonesia
	20 - 3 (Sep)	17th World Bridge Series	Katowice, Poland
Sep	20 (Aug) - 3	17th World Bridge Series	Katowice, Poland
	5	National Handicap Teams Championship	SCBA
	12,13	Singapore Open Teams Qualifying	SCBA
	19,20	Singapore Open Teams Finals / Finals B	SCBA
	26	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #9 (Cup Final)	SCBA
	28	**SCBA AGM (Election year)**	**SCBA**
Oct	3,4	H S Ho Preliminary	SCBA
	10	Ang Kok Peng Cup (Formerly Double 8 Pairs)	SCBA
	11 - 16	FISU World University Championship 2026 Mindsports	Liaocheng, China
	17, 18	H S Ho Finals	SCBA
	24	National Bridge League 2026 Open House #10	SCBA
	31	Matchpoint Teams	SCBA
Nov	9	Deepavali Special Game (Mon morning)	SCBA
	??	9th SEABF Championships / 42nd ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Malaysia
Dec	5, 6	National Youth Teams Championship	SCBA
	18	Christmas Pairs (Fri night)	SCBA
TBC	??	25th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Youth Championships	TBC if held.
	??	Hwa Chong Cup	HCI
	??	Raffles Pairs	RI
	??	NUS Mystery Teams	NUS
	??	Asian Pairs Championships	??

***Note: Calendar has not included dates for Singapore Inter Club Bridge Festival yet.**

NUS National University of Singapore

nus UNITE & IGNITE students' sportsclub

SINGAPORE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

OPEN PAIRS 2026

Save the date!

Date: 24 January (Sat)

Time: 1330 - 1830

Location: NUS MPSH4

Participation Fees

Youth Pair - $8 per pair

Half Youth - $12 per pair

Public - $16 per pair

FREE for all-NUS student/staff pairs!

Note: Definition of youth is <= 25 y.o. as of 31 Dec 2026.

Prizes

Top 5 Pairs

Best Youth Pair

Best NUS Pair

Light refreshments, for turning up :)

Registration

bit.ly/nusopenpairs26

Contact: NUS IGC Bridge Division @ nuscontractbridge@outlook.com (Official Email)

Singapore Cricket Club
Established 1852

SCC Bridge Challenge Trophy: SCC Open Pairs Tournament 2026

Don't miss out on this event!

Attractive prizes to be won!



Saturday, 14 March 2026
The Padang Restaurant
Singapore Cricket Club

Registration: 11.30am

Buffet Lunch: 12pm

Game starts: 1pm
(Tea-break during the interval)

Pricing *(per pax)*:

SCC Bridge Section Member: $25

Student under 26 years old: $25

Guest: $50

** All fees inclusive of 9% GST.*

To register, visit: https://tinyurl.com/Bridge-Open-Pairs-2026

Registration deadline: Wednesday, 4 March 2026. As space is limited, early registration is recommended.

World Bridge Federation

WBF Officers' Seminar 2026

Dear Friends,

Please save the date for the **WBF Officers' Seminar 2026**.

📅 **Dates:** 20–21 June 2026

📍 **Location:** Goa, India

🏛️ **Venue:** Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon

👥 **Who:** Zones 4, 6, 7

🏨 **Accommodation:** three nights including breakfast for up to two delegates per NBO covered by the WBF (Arrival 19– Departure 22 June).

🍽️ **Gala Dinner:** An official gala dinner will take place on the evening of **20 June** for all seminar participants.

👉 The **5th Asia Cup 2026** will commence on 21 June, and we invite all delegates to attend the opening ceremony.

The seminar will include presentations, discussion panels, and practical sessions on development initiatives, youth engagement, financing, and training tools.

Full program details and registration information will be shared by mid-April.

➢ Please inform us of the number of delegates your NBO plans to send, as well as your accommodation requirements, by contacting the WBF Secretary, Arianna Testa, at **secretariat@worldbridge.org**, no later than 1 April 2026.

➢ For inquiries dealing with the program, proposals of topics or speakers, we encourage you to contact WBF Development Program Coordinator, Joanna Kowalczyk, at **joanna.kowalczyk@worldbridge.org**.

We look forward to seeing you in Goa.

Kind regards,

The WBF Seminar Committee's Officers

Ben Thompson, Chairman

Gilad Ofir, Co-Chairman

Chief Patron and Sponsor: *Co-Sponsor:* *Organized by:*

Date: 15th November, 2025

Circular No. 1

5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships 2026

Goa, INDIA

The Bridge Federation of India cordially invites all member NBOs from Zones 4, 6 and 7 to participate in the **5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships** from **21-27th June, 2026 at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa, India**.

Team Quotas

- Each NBO may field **one (1) team** in **Men, Women, Mixed and Senior** categories.
- The host NBO (India) will be eligible to field 2 teams in each category
- For all events, each eligible NBO, other than the host country, may enter a maximum of two (2) teams. First preference will be given to one team from each country, while the remaining slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis subject to maximum participation in all categories to **16 teams**.

Dates & Venue

- **Dates:** June 21 (Saturday) – June 27 (Friday), 2026
- **Venue:** Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa
- **Tel:** +91 832 665 9234 | **Website:** www.tajhotels.com
- **Event Website:** https://bonusasiacup2026.com/ (to be active from 1st January, 2026)

Schedule

Day 1 – June 21st, 2026: Registration, Delegates' Meeting, Captains' Meeting, Opening Ceremony

- 09:00 – 18:00 hrs: Registration
- 16:30 hrs – Captains' Meeting
- 17:30 hrs – Delegates' Meeting
- 19:00 hrs – Opening Ceremony
- 20:00 hrs – Welcome Dinner

- **Day 2 to Day 5:** Qualification Rounds (all categories)
- **Day 6:** Semi-finals & Pairs Qualification
- **Day 7:** Finals/Play-offs, Pairs Final, Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony

---

Championship Events

- Men's Team
- Ladies' Team
- Seniors' Team
- Mixed Team

Each NBO may enter **one team per category**.
The Organizing Committee (OC) will try to accommodate **second teams** from NBOs in Women and Seniors category, subject to availability before **15th May, 2026**.

Pair Events

- Open Pairs , Women Pairs, Senior Pairs and Mixed Pairs from 26th June, 2026 (only for registered participants including NPC and coaches in teams)

Side Events

- Friendship Pairs (on 27th June): Open for all *(Entry fees* **Free** for team participants/NPC/Coaches
- **US$ 150 per pair**

Registration

- Registration form will be enclosed soon after 15th January, 2026
- Event Website will be live from **1st January, 2026.**
- Please submit to the OC by **31st March, 2026** via email: **asiacupgoa@gmail.com**

Accommodation - Venue Hotel

We are pleased to offer the following special rates at **Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa** for the period **21st – 28th June, 2026** only for our participants on first come first serve basis

The negotiated Room rate is at **160 US$ inclusive of taxes for single/double occupancy** which also includes breakfast at the venue hotel **Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa.**

The booking window will be closed by 30th May, 2026.

Basic Inclusions:

- Accommodation on per room per night basis
- Breakfast and 18% taxes
- Complimentary basic Wi-Fi (up to 4 devices per room)
- 20% discount on In-room dining orders.
- 20% discount on F&B ala carte orders.
- 20% discount on Spa services.
- 10% on laundry.

Should any guests want to upgrade their Room Category to Deluxe Sea view rooms.

- Supplement charges of INR 3000+ taxes per night will be applicable
- Supplement charges to Deluxe Suite would be INR 15,000+ taxes per night.

Cancellation Policy (Group Rates):

Intimation of Cancellation	Cancellation Charges to be levied as a % of the total estimated billing
Between date of providing the signed copy of the Agreement and 90 days prior to Event Date or check in date.	25%
Between 89 days and 60 days prior to Event Date or check in date.	50%
Between 59 days and 30 days prior to Event Date or check in date.	75%
29 days or lessor days than 29 days prior to Event Date or check in date.	100%

Lunch and Dinner Options

Lunch Buffet Charges: INR 2500 Inclusive of Taxes per person.

Dinner Buffet Charges: INR 3000 Inclusive of Taxes per person

Entry Fees

1. Men's Team – **US$ 1,200**
2. Ladies' Team – **US$ 1,200**
3. Seniors' Team – **US$ 600**
4. Mixed Team – **US$ 1,200**
5. Friendship Pairs per Session – **Free** (for team participants & NPCs and coaches) / **US$ 150 per pair** for others

Airport Transfers:

Airport transfers rates from **Dabolim airport**

- Ciaz car Rs.1900 + taxes per car per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 750+ taxes per car per way.
- Innova car Rs.2200 + taxes per car per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 750+ taxes per car per way.
- 18 / 24 seater AC coach Rs. 12,000 taxes (5%) per coach per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 1250 + 5% taxes per car per way.

Airport transfers rates from **MOPA airport**

- Ciaz car Rs.3360 + taxes per car per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 750+ tax per car per way.
- Innova car Rs.3780 + taxes per car per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 750+ tax per car per way.
- 18 / 24 seater AC coach Rs.12,500 taxes (5%) per coach per way between 9am to 7pm. Additional taxi night charges applicable from 7pm to 9am at INR 1250 + 5% taxes per car per way

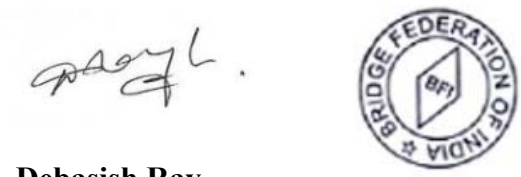
Important Deadlines

- **31st March 2026** – Last date for submission of Registration of teams
- **15th May 2026** – Last date for request of additional/second teams (subject to OC approval)
- **31st May 2026** – Last date for confirmation of accommodation requirements at the Venue Hotel
- **15th May 2026** – Last date for payment of Entry Fees

The Registration pages and Event website will be setup by **1st January, 2026.**

Please feel free to contact us for any information regarding 5th Asia Cup:
1) Debasish Ray (Hon Sec)
bfisecretary2020@gmail.com
2) Srinivasan Iyengar & Meera Menezes
asiacupgoa@gmail.com
M: + 91 9974164676

With regards,



Debasish Ray
BFI Hon. Secretary



BRIDGE

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

DEPARTMENT
WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
championships@fisu.net

RELEASE DATE
MARCH 2025

FISU
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS FEDERATION

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1. HISTORY

The inaugural World University Championship Bridge took place in 2002 in Bruges, Belgium, attracting 65 players from 13 countries. Subsequently, eight more editions took place before Bridge and Chess were combined into the FISU World University Championship Mind Sports.

In 2020, the first FISU World University Championship Mind Sports was organised online by the Organising Committee in Bydgoszcz, Poland, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The first in-person edition of the FISU Championship Mind Sports was held in Antwerp, Belgium, in 2022.

The 2024 edition was held in Entebbe, Uganda, showcasing exceptional talent in Chess and Bridge, with students from around the globe demonstrating strategic prowess and mental agility. The event counted on the 52 athletes from 9 different countries, highlighted the rising skills of young minds but also fostered international camaraderie.

2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1	2002	BEL	Bruges	13	63	2	65	11	76
2	2004	TUR	Istanbul	15	74	5	79	9	88
3	2006	CHN	Tianjin City	22	112	13	125	21	146
4	2008	POL	Łódź	15	94	9	103	23	126
5	2010	TPE	Kaohsiung	10	68	5	73	21	94
6	2012	FRA	Reims	13	67	14	81	20	101
7	2014	CRO	Opatija	11	61	15	76	9	85
8	2016	POL	Łódź	8	51	8	59	9	68
9	2018	CHN	Xuzhou	8	43	11	54	9	63
10*	2020	POL	Bydgoszcz	13	93	58	151	0	151
11**	2022	BEL	Antwerp	20	97	50	147	21	168
12	2024	UGA	Entebbe	9	42	10	52	10	62

* In 2020, for the first time, the FISU World University Championship Mind Sports brought together Bridge and Chess in a single event. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the on-site event was replaced with an online Championship. Consequently, the competition format was modified, and no team officials participated

** In 2022, statistics reflect the combined results of both Bridge and Chess

3. GENERAL SCHEDULE

DAY -3	DAY -2	DAY -1	DAY 1-3	DAY 4	DAY 5
A	A	GTM / OC	C	C / CC	D

Legend: A – Arrivals / CC – Closing Ceremony / C – Competition / D – Departures / GTM – General Technical Meeting / OC – Opening Ceremony / RD – Rest Day

For Bridge, the competitions shall last 6 days

4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

4.1. GENERAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -6 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

The General Entry is the first stage of the registration process, where delegations are invited to register, through the NUSFs, for the Championship indicating a general interest in participating in the event.

Teams and athletes are not required to submit any documentation or undergo a selection processes.

The submission of a General Entry Form is non-binding, indicating only initial interest by the NUSF but not final commitment

4.2. QUANTITATIVE ENTRY (DEADLINE: -3 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

During the Quantitative Entry the NUSF delegation commits to participate and confirms the delegation composition in terms of numbers and although it does not yet provide individual details, it requires the NUSFs to submit an accurate count of delegation members.

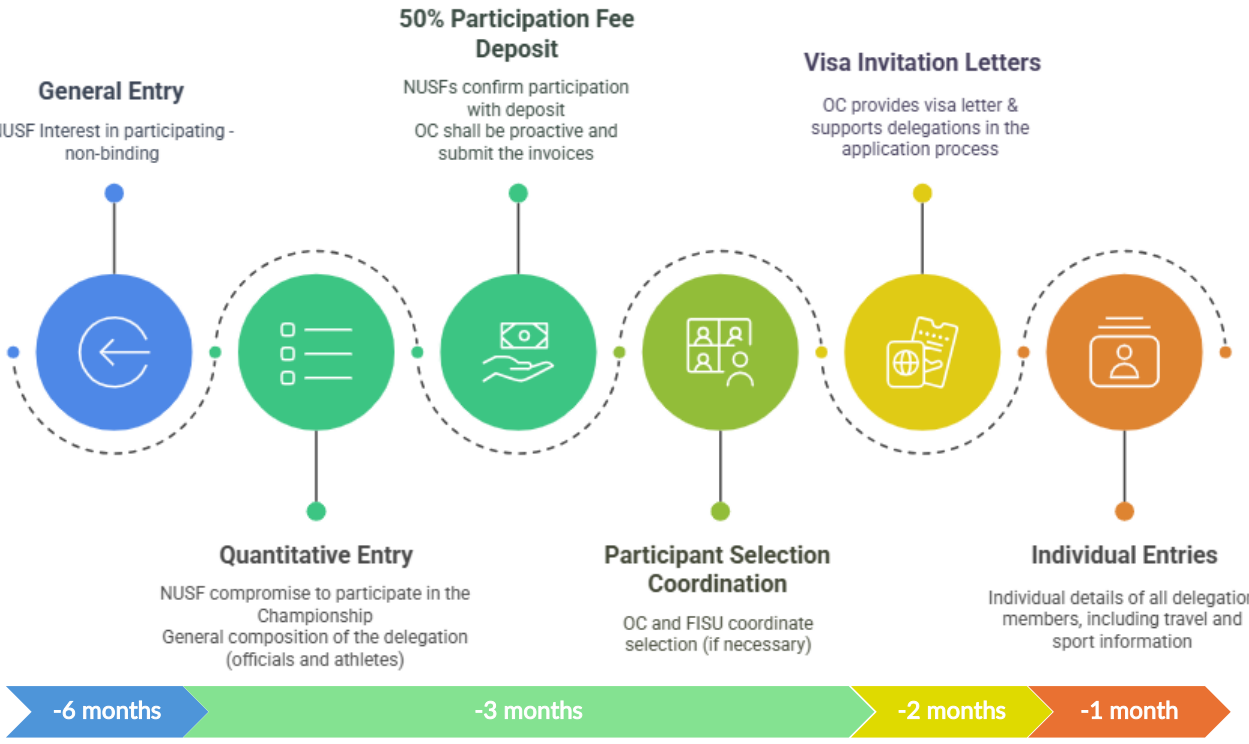
At this stage, a 50% payment of the participation fees is due and must be settled by the Quantitative Entry deadline. By proceeding with the payment, the delegation confirms its participation in the Championship.

This deposit serves as a participation guarantee, and is non-refundable in case of withdrawal, with refunds subject to FISU General Regulations and any OC-specific cancellation policies

4.3. INDIVIDUAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -1 MONTH TO THE EVENT)

The Individual Entry is the final step in FISU event registration. The NUSF must provide all relevant data and documentation for each delegation member.

The remaining 50% of the participation fees is paid in full to the Organising Committee by this deadline. Failure to do so may result in non-participation in the Championship, unless specifically approved by the Organising Committee



5. SPORT REGULATIONS

The Bridge competitions shall be organised in accordance with the most recent technical rules of the World Bridge Federation (WBF) unless otherwise stated. In case of dispute in the interpretation of the rules, the English text shall be regarded as authoritative.

The competitions shall last 6 days as indicated in the General Schedule (Section 3) and the competition programme shall be proposed by the Organising Committee Competition Manager and confirmed by the FISU TCC, including the following events:

5.1. COMPETITION EVENTS

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's	MIXED	OPEN
Teams	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Pairs Normalised Butler
Option to conclude with finals				

The competition shall be run under Round Robin or Swiss Format

Mixed Teams consist of at least 1 man and 1 woman

5.2. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

5.2.1. DRAW

The draw is conducted using computer software to establish the schedule for the Championship. Teams from the same country or federation are paired against each other at the earliest opportunity.

In the event of an odd number of teams, one team will receive a bye in each round

5.2.2. Round Robin Tiebreaker

A. Two Teams

If two teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of the round-robin, the tie shall be broken according to the following sequence:

- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- Higher IMPs earned by the tied teams in the match they played against each other
- Higher Total Points Earned by the tied teams in the match they played against each other
- Higher Total Points Quotient in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

B. Three Teams

If three teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of the round-robin, the tie shall be resolved using the following criteria:

- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against each of the other two teams in the matches it played against them, that team shall be declared the winner
- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against one of the other teams while tying with the third team in their respective matches, that team shall be declared the winner
- If one team has been defeated by the other two teams in their matches, that team shall be ranked third in the tied positions

In cases where the tie remains unresolved, the following criteria shall be applied:

- Higher Net Total IMPs earned by the tied teams in their matches against each other
- Higher Net Total Points earned by the tied teams in their matches against each other
- Higher Total Points Quotient earned in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

C. Four Teams or More

If four or more teams are tied with the same number of Victory Points at the end of the round-robin, the tie shall be broken according to the following criteria:

- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against each of the other remaining teams, or if it has uniquely tied one and defeated the other tied teams
- Higher Total Points Quotient in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

5.2.3. Knockout Stage

If a tie occurs at the conclusion of any knockout stage, no additional boards will be played, but the following criteria will determine the winner:

- The team with the higher ranking at the end of the qualification phase will be declared the winner
- The team that emerged victorious in the qualification match will be deemed the winner

5.2.4. SWISS TEAM EVENTS

Resolving ties among Swiss Teams will be determined using 'Swiss Points'. If the Swiss Points do not provide a resolution, the following procedures will be employed:

A. Two Teams

- Higher IMPs earned by the tied teams in the match they played against each other
- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- Higher Total Points Earned by the tied teams in the match they played against each other
- Higher Total Points Quotient in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

B. Three Teams

- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against each of the other two teams in the matches it played against them, that team shall be declared the winner
- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against one of the other teams while tying with the third team in their respective matches, that team shall be declared the winner
- If one team has been defeated by the other two teams in their matches, that team shall be ranked third in the tied positions

In cases where the tie remains unresolved, the following criteria shall be applied:

- Higher Net Total IMPs earned by the tied teams in their matches against each other
- Higher Net Total Points earned by the tied teams in their matches against each other
- Higher Total Points Quotient earned in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

C. Four Teams or More

- If one of the teams has earned more Victory Points against each of the other remaining teams, or if it has uniquely tied one and defeated the other tied teams
- IMP Quotient – Total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost, based on all matches played by the tied teams
- Higher Total Points Quotient in all matches played by the tied teams
- One-board "sudden death" match

5.3. DELEGATIONS COMPOSITION

A. Athletes

TOURNAMENT	MEN's	WOMEN's
Open	Max. 3 teams (6 individuals) per delegation	
Max. 18 athletes per delegation		

All participating athletes must be eligible by the National Bridge Organisation and the World Bridge Federation

At the Technical Meeting, the Head of Delegation or his/her representative shall confirm and sign the official list of competitors accredited by the CIC

B. Officials

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS
Max. 6 officials per delegation

6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

6.1. INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

For the FISU Championship, the ITOs are appointed by WBF, with the endorsement of FISU. This appointment process considers several critical factors, including the number of participants, the level and availability of NTOs, and the goal to minimise expenses when possible. To achieve cost-efficiency, WBF will aim to nominate ITOs from neighbouring countries whenever feasible. This approach not only fosters regional cooperation but also optimises resources.

A. Number & Roles of ITOs

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
1	Chief Arbiter
1	Software Engineer
A total of 2 ITOs are required	

B. ITOs Costs

According to the Collaboration Convention signed between FISU and WBF, the costs of the ITOs are the following:

- WBF will cover:
  - Tournament Director's flights
  - Tournament Director's per-diem
- Organising Committee shall cover:
  - Tournament Director's accommodation in single room
  - Tournament Director's meals
  - Tournament Director's internal transportation
  - ITOs' flights
  - ITOs' accommodation
  - ITOs' meals
  - ITOs' per-diem
  - ITOs' internal transportation

6.2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Concerning the NTOs, these individuals are appointed by the Bridge National Federation or the appropriate governing bodies within a country, under the supervision of the Organising Committee.

A. Number & Roles of NTOs

NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
2	Broadcasting Operator (English Speakers)
A total of 2 NTOs are required	

B. Agreement with the NF

Concerning the NTOs participation, it falls outside the scope of FISU or WBF. It is therefore advisable for the Organising Committee to reach an agreement directly with the National Federation. This collaboration will help ensure clarity and alignment on the financial aspects associated with it, including the following:

- NTOs Nomination – Ensure all NTOs possess the necessary qualifications to work in an international event
- Management and distribution of the technical official's clothing/uniforms
- Arrangement of suitable accommodation for the required period, if needed
- Provision of the materials needed for the competition

It is strongly recommended to initiate communication with the National Federation promptly regarding the appointment of these officials. This proactive approach will help avert any potential personnel shortages that may arise from conflicting event dates, thereby expanding the available options and ensuring a more successful engagement

7. SPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

7.1. COMPETITION VENUES

- Number of competition venues – 1
    - 1 closed room
    - 1 open room
        - Both rooms combined with a min of 400m^2
- Type of venue – Indoor
    - Visitor area of 2m around the players' tables
- Extra room for Duplication

7.2. EQUIPMENT

A. Venue Equipment

- Hardware ("Bridgemates II") – 20
    - In addition to boards, symmetrical cards and tables with screens – 20 tables
- Software to broadcast the Championships online
    - "Running Scores"
    - BBO ("Bridge Base Online") – at least one match per round shall be broadcast via BBO
- Results screens for 'Running Scores'
    - Open room – 1
    - Closed room for the clock – 1
    - Outside playing area for results – 2
- High-speed and reliable Wi-Fi connection to run the Tournament and the Software
- Tables with screen – as many as participating teams
- Black & white printer – 1
- Bidding boxes for 20 teams – 21
- Duplicating machines – 2

Please refer to the Minimum Requirements document for more detailed information

B. Uniforms & Sport Equipment

- Computer for Lining Up – 2
- Laptop with Windows for Vugraph Transmission – 2
- Sets of 45 boards for duplication – 2 sets for 20 teams + spares
- Scoresheets
- Software for Bridge Mates

8. MEDICAL SERVICES

A. FISU Requirements

- First aid and Emergency Medical care
- Medical transportation
- OC on-call first aid medical services shall be available on a 24-hour basis
- A minimum of two ambulances per venue should be available and on duty from the start of warm-up until at least 45 minutes after the final competition of the day

B. Participants Medical Insurance

All participants must have valid travel medical insurance, covering:

- 24/7 Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Medical Evacuation/Repatriation
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Accidental Death or Injury

The OC is solely responsible for providing first aid, emergency medical care, and transportation to the designated hospital. All other medical costs shall be borne by the participant's insurance

Refer to Section 3.4.1 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Medical Services

9. DOPING CONTROL

A. FISU Requirements

- The requirements regarding the number and type of doping tests, as well as the total number of tests to be conducted, can be found in the *FISU Doping Test Requirements* document. This information is available exclusively to the Organising Committee.
- The OC Doctor or Head of the Medical area shall coordinate the doping testing and contact the FISU CMI to clarify the moment or disciplines in which the tests will be carried out.
- All doping tests costs (including collection, transportation, laboratory analyses) shall be borne by the Organising Committee.

B. Athletes Selection

- Athletes are eligible for testing once accredited until departing from the official event accommodation.

Please refer to Section 3.4.2 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Doping Control

10. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING

10.1. MEDALS TABLE

BRIDGE												
TOURNAMENT	MEN's			WOMEN's			MIXED			OPEN		
	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
Teams	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Pairs Normalised Butler										2	2	2
TOTAL	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**8**	**8**	**8**

A. FISU Requirements

The Organising Committee is responsible for providing the medals as shown in the table above. Medals must be awarded for all individual and mixed team events. The top three athletes/teams in each discipline (individual and mixed relay) are eligible for medals.

The table below provides a comprehensive overview of the total number of medals awarded across all competition disciplines. Please note that extra/reserve medal sets and the FISU set are not included in these figures.

BRIDGE MEDALS	
Gold	26
Silver	26
Bronze	26

The Organising Committee must provide FISU with a set of medals of the event

B. Recommendations & Considerations

It is crucial to have additional sets of medals on hand as a contingency. Some medals may be defective and may need to be replaced.

Medals are not mandatory for Officials in Bridge

10.2. SPORT PRESENTATION

Sports presentation is vital for elevating a Championship from a competition to an unforgettable experience. It encompasses everything from music and lighting to commentary and fan engagement, creating a unique atmosphere that engages the audience.

In case there is a big screen in the venue for the spectators, some educational video (provided by WBF) regarding the rules of the sport can be displayed at the beginning of the competition day

A. FISU Requirements

- **Audio Elements**
  - Sound System: A high-quality sound system is essential for announcements, ensuring clear communication.
  - Microphone: Essential for general announcements such as schedule, results, general information, and others.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
  - Live Announcements: Make timely announcements regarding event schedules and results.

B. Recommendations & Considerations

- **Commentary and Announcing**
  - Engaging Commentary: Hire knowledgeable commentators who can provide insights about the athletes, techniques, and strategies. This adds depth to the viewing experience.

11. SERVICES

The Organising Committee should provide a variety of services for the event, including:

- Ice
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

11.1. ICE

The supply of ice is one of the most common requests from participating delegations, particularly for injury treatment and recovery purposes.

- The Organising Committee must supply ice for treating injuries during both practice and competition, as part of the medical coverage for the event. It does not cover large quantities of ice needed for recovery treatments, such as cryotherapy.

The Organising Committee secure a reliable ice provider on standby, anticipating the request from teams and establishing clear procedures for ice procurement, including pricing and how to access this service

11.2. LAUNDRY

Laundry services are essential for many sports, particularly in long-duration competitions and team sports, where athletes may require frequent changes of clothing.

- Laundry services must be provided in all Team Sports Championships and in all sports with more than four competition days.
- Self-Service or Full-Service Laundry can be considered (hotel/accommodation and external services included in the latter)

Self-Service is the preferred option, giving more flexibility and control to the teams. If not, it is important to negotiate reduced pricing and adjust the timing for collection/delivery of uniforms with the provider

11.3. WI-FI

Wi-Fi is an essential service for university students, as it serves as a critical infrastructure that fosters communication and supports their academic responsibilities.

- Participants can easily access real-time information about event schedules, results, and updates. This allows them to plan their day effectively, ensuring they don't miss out on key events and activities.
- Participants can engage with live broadcasts, social media updates, and other digital content related to the event.
- For many students, academic responsibilities continue even during events. Wi-Fi connection ensures they can access study materials and educational resources, maintain communication with professors, and keep up with online courses.

Wi-Fi should be provided free of charge for all participants at the event, both at the accommodation sites and at the competition venues

Please refer to the Section 3.11 of the General Handbook for more detailed information on all services

12. GENERAL TIMELINE

TIMELINE	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	• Coordination Visit ○ Venues visit and Equipment approval (FISU TCC) • Competition programme approval (FISU TCC) • Venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	• General Entries (NUSFs)
Event -3 months	• Quantitative Entries (NUSFs) • 50% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • ITOs & NTOs list (FISU / WBF)
Event -1 months	• Individual Entries (NUSFs) • 100% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • Final Bulletin (OC / FISU / FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	• Accreditation and participants list confirmation (NUSFs) • Technical Officials Meeting (ITOs / NTOs / TCC / OC) • General Technical Meeting (NUSFs / OC / FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 week	• Send all documents and media to FISU (OC)
Event +1 month	• Final Report to FISU (OC)

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS BRIDGE

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK



PUBLISHED BY

FISU

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