Romanian Bridge Federation
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST
Contra Cup Held in Bucharest Romania, Hotel Caro
20 - 24 May 2026

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
    1.1Right of Entry
    1.2 Registration
2. ENTRY FEES
3. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF PLAY
4. DROP-INS FOR THE CARO CUP
5. CONTRA CUP
    5.1 Qualifying Stage
    5.2 Knockout Stage
    5.3 Tie Breaking
        5.3.1 Swiss
        5.3.2 Direct Knockout
6. CARO CUP
7. SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS
    7.1 Systems Policy
    7.2 System (Convention) Cards
8. TIME ALLOWED
    8.1 Qualifying stage
    8.2 Knockout stage
    8.3 Late arrival
9. LINE-UPS AND SEATING
    9.1 Line-Ups
        9.1.1 Swiss
        9.1.2 Direct Knockout
        9.1.3 Direct Knockout: Tie-Breaking
        9.1.4 Direct Knockout: Line-up Times
    9.2 Seating
        9.2.1 Swiss
        9.2.2 Direct Knockout
    9.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms
10. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION
11. SCORING AT THE TABLE
12. SCORE CORRECTIONS
13. APPEALS: REVIEW PROCEDURE
14. AWARDS & PRIZES
    14.1 Titles and Awards
        14.1.1 Cups and Medals
14.1.2 Money Prizes
15. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS
16. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS
17. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS
APPENDIX 1. Fixed Bracket for 16 teams.

Preamble

The third Cupa Contra will be hosted at Hotel Caro, Bucharest - Romania.

Cupa Contra will be conducted under the auspices of the Romanian Bridge Federation (FRB). Unless stated otherwise in these Regulations, the Cupa Contra shall be governed by the EBL General Conditions of Contest (GCoC).

The Cupa Contra will consist of a 5-days Main Open Teams event (Cupa Contra) as well as a 2-days Open Pairs event (Cupa Caro). Both events will be transnational and there will be no restriction on the number of entries per NBO.

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1.1 Right of Entry Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate. All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for Teams will be issued to teams of four, five or six.

1.2 Registration All entries to the events must be submitted electronically using the following website link: https://www.cupacontra.ro. Applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if space allows and if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be sent by email to florinfilip27@yahoo.com.

2. ENTRY FEES All information concerning entry fees and method of payment is available at: https://www.cupacontra.ro/

3. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF PLAY

Wednesday 14 May	**19.00**	**Swiss teams qualifying Rounds 1-2**
Thursday 15 May	**10.00**	**Swiss teams qualifying Rounds 3-7**
Friday 16 May	**10.00** **16.00**	**Swiss teams qualifying Rounds 8-10** **Swiss teams qualifying Rounds 11-12**
Saturday 17 May	**10.00** **16.00**	**KO Teams Round of 8, Open Pairs MiniMitchell R 1 &2** **KO Teams Semifinals, Open Pairs MiniMitchell R 3,4,5**
Sunday 18 May	**9.30**	**KO Finals, Open Pairs Finals**

The above schedule of play is provisional and may be changed if circumstances warrant. Refer to https://www.cupacontra.ro/en/schedule/ for any updated information.

4. DROP-INS FOR THE CUPA CARO OPEN PAIRS EVENT Teams eliminated from the Round of 8 stages of Contra Cup may drop into the Caro Cup and will be awarded a carry-over depending on the number of participants and the format. The carryover formula will be published at the start of the Caro Cup. Those pairs will start to play in Round 3 of the qualification stage. A team of 4 players could produce 2 pairs. A team of 5 or 6 players could produce 3 pairs.

5. CONTRA CUP (Open Teams Event)

5.1 Qualifying Stage - Swiss

The qualification stage will be played over three days, 12 matches of 10 boards whilst the knockout stage will start from the **round of 8**. The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales. In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match. When there is an odd number of teams the bye team will receive 12 VPs.

5.2 Knockout Stage

i) The top 8 teams from the Swiss qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage. There will be no carry-over from the Swiss to the knockout (but see Sec.5.3.2).

ii) Stage of 8 will be played over 24 boards, 2 segments of 12 boards each. Semifinals and Final will be played over 30 boards, 3 segments of 10 boards each, except for the 3rd/4th place playoff which will be played over 20 boards, 2 segments of 10 boards each.

iii) A fixed bracket (see Appendix 1) will be created, thus there is no re-seeding between rounds and a lower ranked team that beats a higher ranked team takes over that higher ranked team's seed-number.

iv) The teams placed 1st-4th in the Swiss are seeded no. 1-4. They, in that order, get to choose their opponents from the teams placed 5th – 8th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed no. 8-5 respectively.

5.3 Tie Breaking

5.3.1 Swiss In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

i) The total Victory Points of each team's opponents ("Swiss Points") is calculated and the team with the largest number of "Swiss Points" is ranked first, and so on.

ii) If two or more teams have the same number of "Swiss Points", their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

5.3.2 Direct Knockout All matches except Contra Cup Final:

i)If a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, the team winning the direct match in the Swiss qualifying stage will be declared the winner. If the direct match in the Swiss were a draw or if there were no direct match in the Swiss, one board match ("sudden death") will determine the winner.

ii)For Contra Cup Final: If a tie exists at the end of the Contra Cup Final, it will be resolved by playing one board match ("sudden death") to determine the winner.

6. Caro Cup The format of the Caro Cup will be Match Points. Each round will be 10 boards. Final A will be on 8 tables, 30 boards, Howell, barometer. There will be a qualification stage followed by finals. All details will be published before the start of the event.

7. SYSTEMS POLICY AND SYSTEM CARDS

7.1 Systems Policy Both events are designated Category 3 events, i.e. neither "HUM" systems nor "Brown Sticker" conventions are allowed. Psyching artificial opening bids is forbidden. Both members of a partnership must agree to adopt the same meanings for calls in the auction and for defensive card play. This does not restrict the exercise of style and judgment.

7.2 System (Convention) Cards

i) Each pair must complete legibly in English the EBL's Official System Card in all respects in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY.

ii) Each pair is required to hand two copies of its system card to the opponents before the start of the match. During the knockout phase each team delivers a copy of each system to its opponents as soon as the matches to be played are decided. Detailed instructions will be given at the captains' meeting.

iii) Failure to complete the System Card in accordance with the SYSTEMS POLICY may lead to the imposition of procedural penalties. In particular the Head Tournament Director shall impose a procedural penalty (1/2 standard penalty – see Sec. 21.2 of GCoC) for each occasion on which he considers that an opponent has been severely inconvenienced by a pair's incomplete or inaccurate System Card. The procedural penalty will be in addition to any adjusted score that a Tournament Director deems appropriate because of damage caused to the opponent. During a match or round changes in

system cards are normally not allowed. If a team nevertheless wants to change a system card it lodges a request with the Head Tournament Director, who needs to approve such change.

8. TIME ALLOWED

8.1 Qualifying stage Players are expected to complete each 10 board Swiss Teams match in 1 hour 15 minutes. If at the end of the allocated time play has not been completed the penalties outlined in GCoC 20.1.1 will be imposed, eventually to be shared by the two teams according to the percentage of responsibility of each of them The Head TD may remove unplayed boards from players if in the Head TD's opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition. The match will be scored in accordance with Section 20.1 of the GCoC

For otherwise canceled boards the Head Tournament Director will deal with them according to Law 86B.

8.2 Knockout stage Players are expected to complete each 10 boards segment in 1 hour 25 minutes. Screens will be used. For 12 boards segment 1 hour and 40 minutes. For late play and unplayed boards see GCoC Sec. 20.1.3

8.3 Late arrival All participants should be in their proper seating positions five minutes before the announced starting time. Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time will receive a warning for a first offense during that phase of the event for being up to 5 minutes late. Late arrivals of more than 5 minutes, or further late arrivals, will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Head Tournament Director. The penalty will range from half the standard penalty to the standard penalty (see section 21.2 of GCOC). Furthermore, such a team will be considered as the offending side for purposes of section 8.1 and 8.2 above for at least the number of minutes by which it arrived late.

9. LINE-UPS AND SEATING

9.1 Line-Ups

9.1.1 Swiss In each match of the Swiss, the first named team will be the Home Team and there is no requirement to submit line-ups in advance.

9.1.2 Direct Knockout: Tie-Breaking When a tie exists at the end of a knockout match, and extra board/s need to be played (see Sec 5.3.2), there shall be a coin toss to determine seating rights for the tie-breaking stage. The captain of the Team without seating rights shall submit his line-up at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director, and the captain of the Team with seating rights shall submit his line-up immediately thereafter.

9.2 Seating

9.2.1 Swiss In the Swiss, the designated Home Team (see section 9.1.1) sits North-South in the Open Room and East- West in the Closed Room throughout the match. The Home Team has the right to seat its players after the Visiting Team has done so.

9.2.2 Direct Knockout The lower seed number may select any one of the three (two) segments in which to have seating rights and the opponents then have seating rights in the other segments OR they may pass this right over; in other words, let the opponents take first choice of segment leaving them with the remaining segments. The team who has the seating rights will sit their players after their opponents.

9.2.3 Open and Closed Rooms In all stanzas of a match the lower seed number will sit North-South in the room designated as "Open" regardless of whether it has seating rights for that stanza. The rooms respectively referred to as the "Open" and the "Closed" rooms shall be so designated in each match (or session) by the Operations Director or his designee.

10. PROHIBITION ON LEAVING THE COMPETITION

Any team may cease participation in the competition after the last session of the Qualifying stage provided so it notifies the Head Tournament Director in writing no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No team may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Head Tournament Director or the Operations Director, whose permission shall only be given if the team can show good cause.

11. SCORING AT THE TABLE

Electronic or Digital devices will be used for the official scoring throughout the Championship.

For Open Teams, starting with KO stage and Open Pairs Final A tablets will be used for bidding and entering results. Each table will have four tablets allocated to each player. Each player uses the tablet for bidding and scoring the result. See Regulations for Tablet Bidding on the EBL Site.

12. SCORE CORRECTIONS The correction period in Law 79C expires at the time specified; and thereafter, the result will be final, with the following exceptions:

i) Awaiting decision of the Reviewer on a filed appeal;

ii) Completion of play or replay boards where such replay has been ordered by the Head Tournament Director, the Reviewer or their designee.

iii) In respect of scores the protest time of all boards played in a day is as follows:

(a) If the tournament is continued the next day , protest time ends 30 minutes after the start of the play the next day.

(b) If there is a change of stage next day, protest time ends 30 minutes after the official finishing time.

(c) In respect of the final stage's play protest time ends 30 minutes after the official finishing time of that stage but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Prize-giving Ceremony or Closing Ceremony.

iv) The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends 30 minutes after the end of the round.

13. APPEALS: REVIEW PROCEDURE

See Section 31 of the GCoC.

14. AWARDS & PRIZES

14.1 Awards

14.1.1 Cups and Medals

Cups will be awarded to the first three ranked teams in the Main event.

14.1.2 Money Prizes Money prizes will be awarded to the top ranked teams. Details of the prizes can be found on the https://www.cupacontra.ro/en/prizes/.

15. CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the organizer if circumstances warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the Championship.

16. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In case of a conflict between these Regulations and the General Conditions of Contest, these Regulations shall prevail. Matters not regulated here are governed by the General Conditions of Contest and the Laws of Contract Bridge.

17. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

The following can be found on the EBL website at www.eurobridge.org

The EBL Systems Policy

The EBL Disciplinary Code

The EBL Alert Procedure

The EBL Bidding Boxes, Tablets, Bridgemates and Screen Regulations