

SENIORS & LADIES TEAMS TRIALS

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

INTRODUCTION

By registering for the national trials, each player who qualifies commits themselves

- to represent Belgium in the forthcoming European Open Championship (which will take place in Riga, Latvia from July 1 to July 07, 2026).
- to arrive at least on Monday the 29nd and be present at the Teams opening ceremony.
- to participate in any training sessions (if any) that could be organized to prepare for this championship and subsequent events in case of qualification.
- to exhibit sportsmanship and a personal behaviour at the table as required by such a competition, following the new European Bridge League endorsements and to sign the E.B.L. Competitor's commitment form.
- and obviously, to produce the best possible quality of play during these events.

Players already qualified for the OPEN team are not allowed to participate the Mixed trials.

All decisions concerning or related to this contest will be taken by M. Alain Labaere, (President) and M. Gunther Dauwe (Vice-President) for the Commission of International Representation, in their sole discretion.

REGISTRATION

The registration will be by teams. A team can consist only of **two** or **tree** pairs.

A registration form will be available on the RBBF website. The registration form will request the identification of the team captain.

The deadline for registration is **31 October 2025**. A registration will be considered only when the entry fee (see hereunder) is paid to the RBBF account.

The composition of a team is open to all players in possession of their national licences (either with the VBL or the LBF) and who are compliant with EBL rules to represent Belgium.

A maximum of four teams will be admitted to the semi-finals of the trials.

If more teams are candidates a preselection could be organized to determinate #4.

After the start of the first stage, a team will be directly eliminated if it cannot align its players whatever the reason.

ENTRY FEES

There will be an entry fee of 400€ for each team.

If a selected team cancels its registration at any time after November 30th, the entry fee will not be reimbursed and the RBBF management board will be informed and may decide on additional sanctions. If still possible, the team will be replaced by another non-admitted team (if any are available).

The fee must be paid to RBBF account BE93 9735 2393 9167 no later than 30st November 2025. If a payment is not received by this date, the team registration will not be considered.

If only one team is registered the entry fee will be reimbursed.

If only one team is registered it must contain 3 pairs to be qualified.

FORMAT

The trials will be played in two stages (semi-final, final) of 96-board KO matches. Each stage will be organized over two days of 3 16-board sessions (Brussels Bridge Club) :

- Semi-Finals will take place on Saturday January 10 and Sunday January 11
- The final will take place on Saturday March 07 and Sunday March 08.

Each day, the first round will start at 11:00 AM. Additional details (such as venue, detailed match schedule, tournament director,...) will be made available later on and published on the RBBF website.

The participating teams will be ranked according to the total of expert points of all players and will then be allocated a seed number of #1 to #4 based on their ranking.

The brackets for the semi-finals will be #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3

If there are only 3 teams, #1 will be qualified directly for the final and #2 will play against #3 in the semi-final.

If there are only two registered teams, only the final stage will take place.

If more teams registered at preselection of the lower ranked teams will determinate the #4

Each pair must play at least 1/3 of the boards at each stage of the selections.

BELGIAN SEINIORS /LADIES TEAM COMPOSITION

The winning team will be automatically selected to represent Belgium.

A third pair can be chosen to complete the team by the Commission of International Representation following a recommendation made by the winning team represented by its captain.

This pair will be selected among the teams having played during these trials.

The decision will fall no later than March 31, 2026.

The RBBF will pay the registration of the team with the EBL.

The hotel expenses, the travelling expenses and living expenses shall be supported by the players.

Players must arrive at least 2 days before the Championship and shall all stay together at the same hotel. The hotel will be chosen by the RBBF.