



THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION **INTERNATIONAL TRIALS for 2026**

EUROPEAN NATIONAL OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Riga, Latvia, June 26 – July 5, 2026

The IBU International Committee (IC) invites teams to participate in trials for the 2026 European National Team Championships to be held in Riga, Latvia, from June 26 to July 5, 2026.

The **Open Trials** will be a team event with no exemptions. Depending on the number of entries, it will be played over either one (1) or two (2) weekends.

Weekend 1 19–21 September 2025, Templeogue Bridge Centre

Weekend 2 26–28 September 2025, Templeogue Bridge Centre

Please note if there are six (6) or fewer teams entered, then the trials will be over one (1) weekend only and that weekend will be the first weekend, 19-21 September 2025. If there are more than six (6) teams then the trials will be over two (2) weekends with the top four teams qualifying to play in a Round Robin event on weekend two.

Entries are invited from teams of four (4) or six (6) players. Each player in a team of six must play at least 50% of the boards each weekend in order to qualify for an invitation to represent Ireland in the Open European National Team Championships.

Entries in writing must be submitted to:

Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie, or

Harold Curran, haroldcurran501@gmail.com

no later than **21 June 2025**.

The entry fee of €600 per team must be paid before **21 June 2025**. Dermot O'Brien of the CBAI will advise on acceptable payment methods. Please note that only one single payment per team will be accepted.

Entries without the entrance fee paid by this date will not be accepted. The form at Appendix 2 must also be submitted when entering a team.

The winning team will be invited to represent Ireland in the European National Team Championships. If a team of four qualifies, then the third pair will be selected by the IC, after consultation with the winning team, from the entrants for the trials. In addition, a reserve pair will also be nominated after consultation with the winning team as well as the NPC.

Information on grants for players representing Ireland at the European Team Championships will be available from the IBU Council in advance of the trials.

The exact format of the trials will be announced after entries have been received but see Appendix 1 for some broad indications on format.

Qualification Criteria

To be eligible to play in Irish trials for the European National Championships, all players on the team must be registered with the European Bridge League as an Irish player before trials commence.

The form at Appendix 2 must be completed and submitted with your entry.

In addition, each player must have a minimum of 125 National Points or have won 50 National Points in the past three years.

The IC will consider written applications for derogation from teams who do not meet these requirements. Such applications must set out in detail why those entrants consider their application for derogation is appropriate, and must be submitted to Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie before **14 June 2025**.

Please note all teams will NOT get to play on the second weekend and there are no exemptions or refunds.

The IC is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions in respect of these trials, including time, dates, and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials. Each player who enters is undertaking to represent Ireland if nominated and therefore undertakes to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials, and of any subsequent event for which they qualify as a result of these trials.

***Carol-Ann Cummins, Nuala Mooney, Derek O'Gorman, Paul Porteous, Diarmuid Reddan
(Convenor)***

***IBU International Committee
14 April 2025***

Appendix 1

1.1 **Qualification:**

A team with a player or players without the required number of National Points (i.e. 125 national Points or 50 won in the past 3 years) can apply to the International Committee for a derogation as per the procedure outlined below:

- The application must be received no later than 14 June 2025.
- The entry fee of €600 must accompany the application.
- The application must detail why the pair or pairs consider their application appropriate and should detail recent results that they believe are of significance as well as any additional information they believe may be appropriate.
- It is important to mention results achieved while playing as a pair together.

After receiving the application the IC will decide whether or not to accept the team. The IC's decision will be final. Please note those teams that are not accepted will receive a full refund of their entry fee.

1.2 **Format:**

For the benefit of all those entering the trials, once the entries are closed and the number of teams is known, it is envisaged that the format will be as follows:

No of Teams	Weekend 1	Weekend 2
2	Straight Final (Sat/Sun)	None
3	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
4	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
5 – 6	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
7 – 8	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	4 Team Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)
9 or more	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	4 Team Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)

The IC expects the timings to be as follows:

Friday afternoon through to Sunday at 18:00. However as the Open & Women's trials are being held in the same location over the same weekends, it is possible that it will be necessary to start earlier on the Friday in order to make sure that both events run smoothly with adequate security over boards etc. However the IC will confirm the exact format on 28 June (1 week after closing date) after all entries are received. If the start time is a deciding factor for you, the IC does not envisage a start time earlier than 10.00 on Friday morning and play will definitely be finished by 18.00 Sunday on both weekends.

1.3 Systems:

Please note that the Supplementary Conditions of Contest will also be issued on 28 June 2025 and that Brown Sticker Conventions (BSCs) & Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) will be permitted but these conventions will need to be submitted to Dermot O'Brien (info@cbai.ie) along with proposed defences before 21 August 2025.

All other pairs' system cards must be submitted to Dermot O'Brien (info@cbai.ie) two weeks before the first weekend, so no later than close of business on Thursday 4 September. Sanctions may be imposed for system cards submitted late or in a format deemed unacceptable by the IC. The recommended format is the current WBF system card, which is available in blank form on their website.

1.4 Substitutes:

Subject to the approval of the IC, a substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances for a limited number of boards. A substitution which in the opinion of the IC significantly affects the strength/weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved.

If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a match, the Tournament Director will award a score of 12 VP, or such higher percentage achieved in the round robin, to the non-offending team for that match.

Requests for substitutes for what the IC considers to be convenience reasons will **not** be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Tournament Director is empowered to allow emergency substitutions.

Appendix 2

Team Name				
	Player Name	Email Address	Contact Number	EBL Number
Captain				
Player 1				
Player 2				
Player 3				
Player 4				
Player 5				
Player 6				

Please note that email address & contact numbers are required for the team captains as a minimum.

Circulars will be issued to all players who provide their email address, however, if these are not provided it will be the Captain's responsibility to update the players of any changes. I confirm that ALL Players and the NPC above are registered as Irish Players with the European Bridge League.

Signed Team Captain :- _____ EVENT :- _____

**** NB ** :- Information on how to check if you are registered with the EBL can be found hereunder
www.bridgewebs.com/irishbridgeunion/home.html**