

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Northern Ireland Bridge Union disability policy

1. *Players with disabilities*

1. The Northern Ireland Bridge Union [NIBU] is committed to encourage and provide for all players whatever their disabilities
2. Tournament Directors at bridge events held by or under the auspices of NIBU may modify the regulations applicable to accommodate a disabled player
3. Where a player requires a stand to hold cards or for cards played to be named assistance should be requested.
4. NIBU strongly recommends that all clubs affiliated to NIBU follow the policy of NIBU to ensure that all players enjoy the game of bridge
5. If a player requires a stand to hold cards, that player should provide a suitable stand. If a player requires cards to be named, that player should provide the person to name the cards

2. *Regulations*

1	Principles
1.1	Disabled players are welcome at bridge events held by or under the auspices of NIBU. Some disabled players will have difficulty with the mechanics of the game as normally played.
1.2	The following regulations are intended to assist when difficulties arise.
1.3	Clubs are encouraged to establish a disability policy.

2	General
2.1	If it is impracticable for these regulations to be followed in whole or in part, the Tournament Director is authorised to specify the manner in which the bidding and play shall proceed.
2.2	Players requesting stationary positions, strong lighting, pre-sorted cards or any other special assistance are requested to notify their needs in advance when entering tournaments and arrangements will be made for the Tournament Director[s] at the event to deal with the practical arrangements.

2.3	Where the player movement adopted by the Tournament Director as suitable for the number of pairs of players competing in the event permits one or more stationary seating positions, such positions shall be allocated by the Tournament Director so that a disabled player and his partner may sit at a stationary seating position
2.4	Where there are more than one stationary seating positions in the player movement adopted by the Tournament Director, the Tournament Director shall allocate each such stationary seating position as he considers reasonable and his decision shall be final
2.5	The Laws and Ethics Committee has formally given the Tournament Director in charge of a bridge event held by or under the auspices of NIBU permission to modify any regulation if considered appropriate to accommodate a player with a disability.

3.	Commencing play
	Any player is entitled to require that the dealer and vulnerability be stated at the commencement of each board.

4.	Bidding
4.1	Bidding boxes are to be used where this is possible.
4.2	If the use of bidding boxes by one or more players is not possible, then all players should call their own bids [where this is possible].
4.3	An opponent of any player unable to use a bidding box has the option to require that bidding boxes are used in addition to spoken bids, in which case the bidding box of the player unable to use it should be operated by the partner of that player.

5.	Play
5.1	When all players except dummy can see cards played normally, play continues as normal.
5.2	When a player, other than dummy, is unable to see cards played normally, then all players are to call their own cards as played.
5.3	The opponents of a player unable to see cards played normally have the option to require that all cards [but not the cards of one or more players to the exclusion of others] are called by dummy as played.
5.4	Cards called must be named in full and in a consistent manner.

3. *The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006*

	Application to bridge clubs
	A bridge club with 25 or more members which regulates the admission of members is not permitted to discriminate against a disabled member or a disabled guest. [section 21F]

	A disabled person
	The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a ‘disabled person’ as a person having “a disability for the purposes of this Act if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”.

	Meaning of ‘discrimination’
	<p>A bridge club discriminates against a disabled person if for a reason which relates to the disabled person’s disability, the club treats him less favourably than it treats or would treat others to whom that reason does not or would not apply; and the club cannot show that the treatment is justified.</p> <p>The treatment is justified only if in the opinion of the club such treatment is necessary in order not to endanger health and safety of any person [which may include that of the disabled person], or the disabled person is incapable of giving an informed consent and for that reason the treatment is reasonable, or the treatment is necessary on the grounds of cost <i>and</i> it is reasonable in all the circumstances for the club to hold that opinion [section 21G]</p>

	Duty of the club to make adjustments
	<p>(1) Regulations may make provision imposing on an association to which section 21F applies -</p> <p>(a) a duty to take steps for a purpose relating to a policy, practice or procedure of the association, or a physical feature, which adversely affects disabled persons who –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) are, or might wish to become, members or associates of the association; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) are, or are likely to become, guests of the association;</p> <p>(b) a duty to take steps for the purpose of making an auxiliary aid or service available to any such disabled persons [section 21H]</p> <p>No such regulations imposing such duties have yet been made</p>

DRAFT CLUB POLICY

Affiliated bridge club disability policy

1. *Players with disabilities*

1. The Bridge Club [the Club] is committed to encourage and provide for all players whatever their disabilities to ensure that all players enjoy the game of bridge
2. The Committee of the Club [the Committee] may modify the regulations applicable to accommodate a disabled player
3. Where a player requires a stand to hold cards or for cards played to be named assistance should be requested.
4. If a player requires a stand to hold cards, that player should provide a suitable stand. If a player requires cards to be named, that player should provide the person to name the cards

2. *Regulations*

1	Principles
1.1	Disabled players are welcome at bridge events held by the Club. Some disabled players may have difficulty with the mechanics of the game as normally played.
1.2	The following regulations are intended to assist when difficulties arise.
2	General
2.1	If it is impracticable for these regulations to be followed in whole or in part, the Tournament Director is authorised to specify the manner in which the bidding and play shall proceed.
2.2	Players requesting stationary positions, strong lighting, pre-sorted cards or any other special assistance are requested to notify their needs in advance to the Committee and arrangements will be made by the Committee for the Tournament Director to deal with the practical arrangements.
2.3	When considering any request made under clause 2.2 the Committee shall take into account the degree of disability of the person making such request and the degree of disability of other club members who have requested or been granted special provision
2.4	Where the player movement adopted by the Tournament Director as suitable for the number of pairs of players competing in the event permits one or more stationary seating positions, such positions shall be allocated by the Committee so that a disabled player and his partner may sit at a stationary seating position

2.5	Where there are more than one stationary seating positions in the player movement adopted by the Tournament Director, the Committee shall allocate each such stationary seating position as it considers reasonable and the Committee's decision shall be final
2.6	Where there are more than one stationary seating positions in the player movement usually adopted by the Tournament Director, and the number of disabled players requesting a stationary seating positions often exceeds the number of stationary positions, the Committee shall consider implementing a rota system for each disabled player
2.7	The Committee shall from time to time review the instructions given to the Tournament Director to accommodate players who have made requests under clause 2.2

3.	Commencing play
	Any player is entitled to require that the dealer and vulnerability be stated at the commencement of each board.

4.	Bidding
4.1	Bidding boxes are to be used where they are available.
4.2	If the use of bidding boxes by one or more players is not possible, then all players should call their own bids [where this is possible].
4.3	An opponent of any player unable to use a bidding box has the option to require that bidding boxes are used in addition to spoken bids, in which case the bidding box of the player unable to use it should be operated by the partner of that player.

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	Meaning of ‘discrimination’
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	Duty of the club to make adjustments
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