FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE
DE BRIDGE

CHANNEL TROPHY 2026

Friday 18 - Sunday 20 December

Juniors (U26) - Youngsters (U21)
Girls (U26 Women)

BRIDGE CLUB DE LILLE
33 avenue du Peuple Belge
59000 Lille, France

Programme, all team lists
and conditions of contest

Updated 20 November 2026

The Netherlands U21 list is awaiting one player name. The proposed U21/U26 draw, Girls scoring and final conditions of contest remain subject to organiser confirmation.

Times of play

Every playing session consists of **9 boards**. There are 12 sessions across six rounds.

Friday 18 December

17:00-18:00	Arrival of delegations
18:15	Dinner
19:00	Captains' meeting
19:30	Welcome reception
19:45-21:00	Round 1A
21:10-22:25	Round 1B
22:35-23:50	Round 2A

Saturday 19 December

10:00-11:15	Round 2B
11:25-12:40	Round 3A
12:50-13:50	Lunch
14:00-15:15	Round 3B
15:25-16:40	Round 4A
16:50-18:05	Round 4B
18:15-19:30	Dinner
19:45-21:00	Round 5A
21:10-22:25	Round 5B

Sunday 20 December

10:00-11:15	Round 6A
11:25-12:40	Round 6B
12:50	Lunch and prize-giving ceremony
Approx. 14:00	Departure

Venue & accommodation

Playing venue

Bridge Club de Lille
33 avenue du Peuple Belge, 59000 Lille, France

Hotel

Ibis hotel
10 rue de Courtrai, 59800 Lille, France.
A short walk from the playing venue.

Accommodation	Per room / night	For 2 nights
Twin room (2 separate beds)	EUR 100	EUR 200
Single occupancy room	EUR 85	EUR 170

Meals & refreshments

EUR 130 per person for lunches and dinners over the weekend: Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch. Coffee, tea and water are provided free of charge during playing sessions.

Participating delegations

Country	Categories
England	U21, U26 and U26 Women
Belgium	U21 and U26
France	U21, U26 and U26 Women
Netherlands	U21 and U26

Officials

Role	2026 appointment
Chief Tournament Director	Henri Defranchi
IT coordinator / webmaster	Sébastien Skweres
Local organisation	Sébastien Skweres

England & France

ENGLAND

U26 Women	U26	U21
Dido Coley	Liam Fegarty	Holden Clark
Lily Kearney	Jamie Fegarty	Alex Andrews
Isabel Edelsten	Andy Cope	Thomas Bradkin
Rosie Fetherston-Dilke	Oscar Selby	Wilf Marshall
Dina Bennett	David Sargent	Aleks Birdsall
Antonia Zeman Espinosa	Tom Furness	Angus Marshall
NPC: Sally Brock	NPC: Michael Byrne	NPC: Stephen Kennedy

FRANCE

U26 Women	U26	U21
Margaux Kurek-Beaulieu*	Romain Bloch	Grégoire Duterte
Elise Nugues-Blouvac**	Matt Coustol Osinski	Théo Exbrayat
Ninon Bens	Arthur Libbrecht	Zoey Mauberquez
Maëva Bultel	Nao Tabata	Clément Fragola-Jarjaille
Inès Dehove	Clara Bouton	Esteban Lyoen
Blanche Legras	Elise Nugues-Blouvac**	Lubin Crépin
See NPCs below	NPC: Wilfried Libbrecht	NPC: Colin Deheeger

France has two NPCs: Colin Deheeger and Wilfried Libbrecht.

* Margaux plays on Friday and Saturday morning only.
** Elise plays in U26 Women until Saturday midday, then in U26 from Saturday afternoon and on Sunday. Her appearance in both team lists is intentional.

The columns list team members; they do not specify playing partnerships.

Belgium & Netherlands

BELGIUM

Juniors - U26	Youngsters - U21
Jakob Johansson	Jolan Schoenmakers
Kobe Wees	Lenn Vermeiren
Daan Phlips	Lucas Renders
Kobe Vanhoucke	Roel Biesemans
	Constantijn Beukema
	Lotte De Roos
NPC: Wouter Van den hove	NPC: Emiel Vandewiele

Belgium has no U26 Women team this year.

NETHERLANDS

Juniors - U26	Youngsters - U21
Xavier Friesen	Dijk De Rooij
Ronald Goor	Tobias Pothof
Sander Goor	Tobias Blomsteel
Tobias Westerveld	Steve Liu
Lotte De Wijs	Jaap De Koster
Sarah De Wijs	Name to be confirmed
NPC: Ruben Buijs	NPC: Rik Verbeek

Coach: Berend Van den Bos.

The sixth Netherlands U21 player name is still outstanding. No U26 Women team is entered by the Netherlands.

The columns list team members; they do not specify playing partnerships.

Draw & table allocation

Tables: U26 at tables 1 and 2; U21 at tables 3 and 4; Girls at table 5. U21/U26 pairings below are a working proposal, subject to organiser confirmation.

Round	Home v Away	U26	U21	Girls - table 5
1	England v France	1	3	France v England
	Belgium v Netherlands	2	4	
2	Netherlands v England	1	3	England v France
	France v Belgium	2	4	
3	England v Belgium	1	3	France v England
	France v Netherlands	2	4	
4	Netherlands v Belgium	1	3	England v France
	France v England	2	4	
5	England v Netherlands	1	3	France v England
	Belgium v France	2	4	
6	Netherlands v France	1	3	England v France
	Belgium v England	2	4	

Girls - England & France only

At table 5, France is Home in rounds 1, 3 and 5; England is Home in rounds 2, 4 and 6. Girls scoring arrangements remain to be confirmed.

Seating of players

Home: N/S in the Open Room; E/W in the Closed Room.
Away: N/S in the Closed Room; E/W in the Open Room.

Details still to be confirmed

The final U21/U26 draw, Girls scoring, entry and eligibility requirements, and final conditions of contest.

General conditions

4 Introduction

The tournament is organised at the Bridge Club de Lille. The governing rules and applicable editions of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge must be confirmed by the organisers.

5 Team members

Each team may have four, five or six players, in addition to a non-playing captain, subject to the final conditions. France has two captains covering its three teams; Elise Nugues-Blouvac plays in two categories at different times as noted in the team lists.

6 Submission of entries

Captains and player names should be submitted to the organisers. Entry deadlines and age and representation eligibility requirements must be confirmed in the final conditions.

7 Format

The proposed U21/U26 format is a double round-robin: six matches of 18 boards, each played in two halves of 9 boards, with a compulsory change of opponents at half-time. Girls: France v England in rounds 1, 3 and 5, and England v France in rounds 2, 4 and 6, at table 5. Girls scoring arrangements remain to be confirmed.

8 Screens, bidding boxes and alerts

The use of screens and the applicable regulations for screens, bidding boxes and alerts will be specified in the final conditions of contest.

9 Conversion scale

The proposed scoring converts the IMP difference at the end of each 18-board match into Victory Points. The applicable scale must be confirmed by the organisers.

10 Official language

English is the proposed official language. During a match, another language may be used only if both captains agree, at their own risk. Captains are responsible for any necessary interpretation. No appeal based on a misunderstanding in another language will be entertained, subject to confirmation of this provision in the final conditions.

Systems, line-ups & seating

11 Systems & conventions

Players must make adequate initial written disclosure of their system and fully explain the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question from an opponent. HUMs and Brown Sticker Conventions, as defined by the World Bridge Federation, may not be used. All material must be in English. Conventions must be explained, rather than merely named. A conventional call or play not sufficiently described on the Convention Card or supplementary sheets may attract a procedural penalty under Law 90 and an adjusted score to redress damage. The onus of disclosure is on the user; any benefit in a claim of damage through inadequate disclosure is given to the non-offending side.

12 Line-ups

Team line-ups must be given to the Tournament Director five minutes before the start of each session.

13 Home and Away designations

Home and Away designations follow the approved tournament schedule.

14 Seating of players

The Home team sits N/S in the Open Room and E/W in the Closed Room throughout an 18-board match. A change of players or partnerships may be made only at the beginning of a 9-board session. If unavoidable delay prevents a team from fielding four players, the captain may propose substitutes for approval by the Chief Tournament Director.

For the first 9 boards, Home may submit its line-up after Away. Any Home pair retained for the second 9 boards stays in the same room. For the second 9 boards, Away may submit its line-up after Home. Retained Away pairs must not face the same opponents twice in the match; with two teams of four, Away pairs change rooms and directions for the second half. A change of partnership creates a new pair.

Timing & penalties

15 Forfeits

A team unable to play or complete a match may be declared in default by the Chief Tournament Director and score zero VPs and zero IMPs for that match. The winning team receives the better of 12 VPs, its average VPs from other matches, or the converse of the defaulting team's average VPs from its other matches, including fractions. If an IMP score is needed for a tie-break, the winner receives the average IMPs corresponding to the assigned VP score, including fractions, or zero IMPs for IMP quotient purposes where required.

16 Late arrival

The Chief Tournament Director may waive penalties before the tournament for genuine travel difficulties, and may arrange for part of an affected match to be played later. Otherwise:
More than 5 up to 10 minutes late: 0.5 VP.
More than 10 up to 15 minutes late: 1 VP.
More than 15 minutes late: 2 VPs.
For each further 5-minute delay or part thereof beyond 20 minutes, one board is removed and scored as +3 and -3 IMPs. Excessive delay may be treated as a forfeit.

17 Slow play

A 9-board session allows one hour and fifteen minutes. Minor instances do not attract a penalty unless repeated. A table making a genuine attempt to finish the final board and recover lost time will not normally be penalised. Otherwise the table penalty is:
More than 0 up to 5 minutes late: 1 VP.
More than 5 up to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs.
More than 10 up to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs.
More than 15 minutes late: a larger penalty at the Chief Tournament Director's discretion, including possible removal of unplayed boards and artificial or assigned adjusted scores.

The Director apportions blame and VP penalties between the pairs in multiples of 0.5 VP. A 4 VP table penalty may, for example, be split 2-2, 2.5-1.5, 3-1, 3.5-0.5 or 4-0.

Scores, conduct & appeals

18 Verification of scores

Captains should agree a final result after each match. The Tournament Director posts the official result. Either captain or a designated representative may question it within one hour of the scheduled match ending time. Results then become final, except for an outstanding appeal decision, completion of replay boards ordered by the Appeals Committee, or correction of a manifestly incorrect score at the Chief Tournament Director’s discretion.

19 Smoking, alcohol and mobile phones

Smoking, alcohol and mobile phones are prohibited in playing rooms. The first offence attracts a warning; further offences are subject to a 1 VP penalty. Smoking is prohibited throughout the Bridge Club de Lille.

20 Appeals

A request for a ruling or an appeal must be lodged within half an hour of the end of the 9-board session in which the matter arose. If a ruling requested in one session is not given until a later session, the half-hour period runs from the end of the session in which the ruling is given.

The Chief Tournament Director may arrange resolution between the two captains, an on-site Appeals Committee of one or more officials or players, or a telephone hearing with a member of the FFB panel of referees.

Spectators & tie-breaks

21 Spectators and non-playing captains

The Closed Room is closed to spectators, except that a non-playing captain may observe their team under these conditions. Sitting-out players may watch the Open Room, but may not watch a table involving their own team-mates; they may watch their country in another category.

A non-playing captain must enter the Closed Room before the session begins. A captain who leaves may not return during that session, except at the Tournament Director’s discretion after being requested to leave for consultation or another reason.

Once a player has withdrawn a hand from a board, and until all four hands have been returned, the captain is subject to the restrictions of Law 76. The captain may restrain misbehaviour or unnecessary discussion, and may speak on fact or law after a Director has been called, but may not initiate a call for the Director.

During a session, a captain should address team members in English or a language understood by the opponents. Permission must first be sought to use another language. Where necessary, communication should be through an interpreter or a team member who can translate.

22 Tie-breaking for first place

For two tied teams, the aggregate VPs from their matches against each other determine the ranking, followed if necessary by their IMP balance in those matches. If still tied, overall IMP balance is used.

For three or more tied teams, a team that has beaten every other tied team on aggregate VPs in their head-to-head matches, or failing that on IMPs, is the winner. Otherwise overall IMP balance decides. A remaining tie is resolved by overall IMP quotient.

Girls tie-breaking arrangements remain subject to confirmation with the final scoring format.