



# **Asia Pacific Bridge Federation**

## **Supplementary Conditions of Contest**

**for**

**the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress**

*Issued by the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation  
May 2024*

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## **I. Preamble**

The Conditions of Contest herein set forth are supplemental to the General Conditions of Contest for APBF Championships & Congress and Asia Cup, as issued by the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation and are specific for the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress conducted by the Contract Bridge League of Thailand (CBLT), to be played at the Montien Bangkok Hotel, in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 - 27 May 2024. These Supplementary Conditions of Contest and the General Conditions of Contest together form the set of Rules and Regulations governing the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress.

A list of contact names and addresses, together with the URLs of websites holding additional information about this Congress can be found in Section 25.

## **2. Definitions for the Supplementary Conditions of Contest**

Expressions used in these Conditions of Contest and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in the contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the International Code). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and conclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa and reference to one gender shall include the other gender.

Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, all terms defined in the General Conditions of Contest shall have the same meaning for the purpose of these Supplementary Conditions of Contest and, in addition, the following expressions where used in these Conditions of Contest shall have the following meanings:

### **2.1 General Conditions of Contest**

means the General Conditions of Contest issued by the APBF for the APBF Championships and Congress, and the Asia Cup.

### **2.2 NPC**

means the non-playing captain of any team. Teams are not obliged to have non-playing captains: a team member may act as a playing captain if this is preferred. Non-playing Captains are considered to be members of the teams and will receive any medals awarded. They are also permitted to play in the APBF Open/Youth Pairs free of charge.

### **2.3 Official Electronic Score Submission**

means the official electronic device referred to in Section 20.1.

### **2.4 “Open” and “Closed” Rooms**

for any match or segment or session of a match shall be those rooms so designated.

### **2.5 “these Conditions of Contest”**

means the Supplementary Conditions of Contest for the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress.

## **2.6 “this Congress”**

means the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress.

## **3. Conditions of Entry**

See also Sections 3 & 4 of the General Conditions of Contest.

### **3.1 Eligibility Requirements**

The Executive Committee must be satisfied that each contestant invited be from a NBO recognised by the VBF. The APBF reserves the right to require documentary evidence that it considers to be satisfactory proof of the above if there are any concerns about the credentials of a player.

### **3.2 Submission of Entries**

#### *3.2.1 Registration (all events)*

Confirmation of participation for all events must be made by 31 March 2024. See Section 6.

#### *3.2.2 Participant Names (all events)*

The name, email addresses and photos of the players and captain, and (if applicable) the coach and any other officials, submitted in accordance with the conditions of entry established in the Section 4 of the General Conditions of Contest, should be submitted before 30 April 2024 on-line at the congress website (see Section 25).

### **3.3 Entry Fee**

The prescribed entry fees, as described in Section 22, for all events should be paid on site at the Registration Desk at registration time.

### **3.4 Team Members**

For team events, in addition to a non-playing captain each team may have four, five or six members. The members can be from any NBO recognised by the VBF, i.e. the team can be transnational. If a team wishes to replace a member, or members, or if fewer than six players were submitted for invitation, such replacement or increase may be added prior to the start of the first session of play.

### **3.5 Pairs**

For pair events, each pair must consist of 2 players, who can be from different NBOs, but must be nominated by either NBO.

### **3.6 Age Limitation**

#### *3.6.1 For Senior Events*

Each player shall attain at least 60 years of age during the calendar year 2024, i.e. shall have been born in or before 1964.

#### *3.6.2 For Youth Events*

Each participant in the U26 Open and U26 Girls event shall be aged 25 or younger in the calendar year 2024, i.e. shall be born in 1999 or later. Each participant in the U21 Open event

shall be aged 20 or younger in the calendar year 2024, i.e. shall be born in 2004 or later. Each participant in the U16 Open event shall be aged 15 or younger in the calendar year 2024, i.e. shall be born in 2009 or later.

### **3.7 Penalty for Non-Participation**

In the event that a previously entered team in this Congress determines it is unable to participate, the APBF shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled Captains' Meeting for this Congress. Failure to so notify the APBF of non-participation shall result in the imposition of monetary and/or disciplinary penalty as the APBF deems appropriate.

## **4. Eligibility For Awards**

APBF Master Points will be awarded for all events in accordance with the APBF Master Points Plan.

## **5. Anti Doping Regulations**

The procedures provided by the Anti-doping Policy of the International Olympic Committee will be followed and enforced. The WBF Anti-Doping Regulations, adopted by the APBF, are published as an appendix to the WBF General Regulations and can be found, together with the required Exemption Form at [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org) and [www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com).

## **6. Participating Teams**

The number of teams from each NBO participating in the 9<sup>th</sup> APBF Open Congress is on the congress website (see Section 25). The number of CBLT teams in each category of the APBF Teams will not exceed ½, but will be allowed to add 1 extra team to make up an even number.

## **7. Types Of Contest**

### **7.1 Open Team**

The 25 competing teams shall play 1 complete round robin of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.2 Ladies Team**

The 11 competing teams shall play 2 complete round robins of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team in each round robin. The

Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.3 Mixed Team**

The 20 competing teams shall play 1 complete round robin of 12-board matches, followed by 6 rounds of 12-board Swiss. The Round Robin and Swiss will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.4 Senior Team**

The 10 competing teams shall play 2 complete round robins of 12-board matches. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.5 U26 Open Team**

The 8 competing teams will first be combined with the 5 U26 Girls Team and shall play 1 complete round robin of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team. The 8 competing teams shall then play 2 complete round robins of 12-board matches. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.6 U26 Girls Team**

The 5 competing teams will first be combined with the 8 U26 Open Team and shall play 1 complete round robin of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team. The 5 competing teams shall then play 3 complete round robin of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team in each round robin. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 2 teams with



the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist.

### **7.7 U21 Open Team**

The 10 competing teams shall play 3 complete round robins of 12-board matches. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.8 U16 Open Team**

The 7 competing teams shall play 3 complete round robins of 12-board matches, with a bye for each team in each round robin. The Round Robin will start on Monday 20 May and finish on Saturday 25 May. The top 4 teams with the highest number of Victory Points will enter the 48-board semi-final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The 1<sup>st</sup>-placed team will play the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning semi-finalists will play in a 48-board final, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over. The winner will be the Gold Medallist. The losing semi-finalists will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in a 48-board play-off, in 3 16-board segments, with carry over.

### **7.9 APBF Pairs**

There will be 2 categories: Open and Youth (25 years or younger). These will be match point events on Sunday 19 May. The pair in each category earning the highest percentage will be declared the Gold Medallist.

### **7.10 Side Events**

#### *7.10.1 Happy Hours Pairs*

This will be held on Saturday 18 May in the evening.

#### *7.10.2 Consolation Swiss Teams*

This will start on Sunday 26 May and finish on Monday 27 May.

## **8. The Draw**

The draw of team numbers will take place at the Captains Meeting, to be held on Saturday 18 May at 15:00. It will also be published on the congress website.

## **9. The Schedule of Play**

The schedule of play will be published on the congress website.

## **10. Conversion Scales**

The difference in IMPs earned by the two opposing teams at the end of each of the matches shall be converted into Victory Points (VP), according to the official WBF conversion scales, adopted by the APBF.

## **11. Time Schedule**

The final version of the Time Schedule will be published on the congress website (see Section 25) as soon as it is available.

The provisional schedule is as follows:

The APBF Delegates Meetings will be held at 13:00 on Saturday 18 May 2024. The Opening Ceremony will be held at 12:30 on Sunday 19 May 2024. Play will generally start daily at 09:00 and finish around 19:00.

### ***Sunday 19 May***

APBF Open/Youth Pairs.

### ***Monday 20 to Saturday 25 May***

APBF Teams qualifying.

### ***Sunday 26 to Monday 27 May***

APBF Teams semi-finals and finals.

The Closing Ceremony and Prize Presentation will be on Monday 27 May 2024 at 19:00.

## **12. Electronic Line-Ups**

Each contestant will be provided a unique player number at registration time. The Line-ups will be submitted through the BridgeMate when the players arrive at the table during the qualifying round, using the player number provided. During the play-offs, the visiting team must be seated first in order for the home team to determine its line-up.

## **13. Designation of Matches and Seeding**

### ***13.1 Seeding***

There will be no seeding. Draws will be made on a random basis.

### ***13.2 Responsibility for the Draw***

The draw will be made at the Captains Meeting on Saturday 18 May 2024. The team numbers will be published on the congress website (see Section 25). The Organising Committee has the authority to make some changes in the team numbers if required by occurrences after the draw has been announced.

### ***13.3 Seating Rights***

The team with the seating rights sits NS in the open room.

## **14. Change of Players**

A change of players, pairs or partnerships can be made only at the beginning of a match or a session.

## **15. Disclosure of Systems and Conventions**

### **15.1 Systems Policy**

The WBF Systems Policy, adopted by the APBF, forms part of these Conditions of Contest. No HUM system or Brown Sticker conventions are permitted throughout this Congress.

Note that psyches protected by system and psyche of conventional and artificial openings are prohibited.

Each team will be allowed a maximum of 4 systems. For the purpose of this section, if a system contains different methods for different vulnerabilities, each method will be treated as a separate system.

If a pair is found to have used a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of up to 2 VPs deducted from the team's score in a team event, or 25% of the available top of a board in a pair event. In addition, the Tournament Director gives an adjusted score if he deems that the opponents are damaged by the use of such an unknown convention. The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director. If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event. In addition, such penalties will be applied should any pair in any event be found to have used a HUM system or Brown Sticker Convention.

### **15.2 Convention Cards**

Players are responsible for ensuring that the system used in this Congress is fully described on the official WBF Convention Card, completed in accordance with the Guide to Completion, plus Supplementary Sheets, as necessary to describe conventional sequences in detail. Each partnership playing **MUST** bring with them to the table 2 identical copies of such Convention Cards. Penalties for failure to comply are specified in Section 19.1. In addition, each team **MUST** file a copy of convention cards used at registration time.

### **15.3 Supplementary Sheets**

Where a conventional sequence cannot be described adequately in the space provided on the WBF Convention Card, a reference number should be placed at the appropriate place on the Card; a Supplementary Sheet bearing that reference number, and containing the complete explanation must be attached to the Card.

### **15.4 Written Defences**

Written defences against multi-2♣/2♦ openings are allowed at the table according to WBF System Policy. A written defence must be

typed on 1 side of an A4 sheet and submitted to the opponents. 2 additional identical copies MUST be brought to the table.

## **16. Length of Rounds and Sessions**

Between 7½ to 8½ minutes will be allowed per board, depending on the type of event and the number of boards played per round or session. The exact time allowed will be announced prior to the start of the event. Slow play will be subject to penalty (see section 19.3). Additional time will not be given to teams playing on Vu-Graph; neither will extra time be granted because of the use of bidding boxes, screens, discussions of systems or for other similar reasons.

## **17. Tie-Breaking Procedures**

Ties will be broken for the award of prizes and for the purpose of qualifying.

### **17.1 Two Teams**

If 2 teams are tied with the same number of VPs at the end of the qualifying round, the tie shall be broken in the sequence shown:

- a) IMP quotient (total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost) in all matches played by the tied teams in that particular event. If the tie remains, then:
- b) IMPs earned by the tied teams in the match they played against each other. If the tie remains, then:
- c) Number of matches won.
- d) One-board (“sudden death”) matches will determine the winner.

### **17.2 Three Teams**

If 3 teams are tied with the same number of VPs at the end of the qualifying round, the tie shall be broken according to the following:

- a) IMP quotient in all matches played by the tied teams in that particular event. If one tie still remains it shall be broken in accordance with Sub-section 17.1. If the 3 teams remain tied, then:
- b) If one of the teams earned more VPs against each of the other two in the matches it played against them in that particular event, it shall be declared winner and, if necessary, the tie between the remaining two teams shall be broken in accordance with Sub-section 17.1. If the 3 teams remain tied, then:
- c) If one of the teams earned more VPs against one of the remaining teams and tied with the other in the matches it played between them in that particular event, it shall be declared winner and the tie between the remaining teams shall be broken, if necessary, in accordance with Sub-section 17.1. If the 3 teams remain tied, then:
- d) If one team has been beaten by the other two teams in matches it played against them in that particular event, it shall be ranked third in the tied positions and the tie between the remaining teams shall be broken in accordance with Sub-section 17.1.

### **17.3 Four or more Teams**

If 4 or more teams are tied with the same number of VPs at the end of the qualifying round, the tie shall be broken according to the following:

- a) IMP quotient in all matches played by the tied teams in that particular event shall govern. Any ties remaining will be broken in accordance with Sub-sections 17.1. and 17.2 if appropriate. If there are more than 3 teams that remain tied after use of IMP quotients, then:
- b) If one of the teams earned more VPs against each of the remaining tied teams in that particular event or if it has, uniquely, tied one and defeated the other tied teams, it shall be declared winner and the ties for the remaining teams will be broken in accordance with Sub-section 17.2, if appropriate. If there are more than 3 teams that remain tied, then:
- c) Number of matches won. Any ties remaining will be broken in accordance with Sub-sections 17.1 or 17.2.

### **17.4 Pairs**

Ties in pairs are broken in the following sequence:

- a) The pair with the highest score in its current session;
- b) The pair who scored the most match points against the highest ranking pair (or pairs) that all the tied pairs played against;
- c) The procedure in (b) above will be repeated with the next highest ranking pair of pairs until the tie is broken.

### **17.5 Teams Semi-finals and finals**

2 additional boards will be added. If a tie still exists, 1 additional board will be added each time until the tie is broken.

## **18. Disqualification**

In the case of a team being disqualified, all matches it played prior to its disqualification may in the discretion of the Executive Committee be declared void and the scores earned by its opponents in those matches may be cancelled or varied.

## **19. Penalties**

The schedule of penalties which follows is supplemental to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 (the Laws). All infringements of the Laws will be dealt with in accordance with the Laws. Upon publication of these Conditions of Contest no further warning is required (whether from the Director or otherwise) prior to the application of any penalty under the provision of the Laws or of these Conditions of Contest.

Victory Point penalties, where applicable, shall be deducted from the score of the offending team at the conclusion of the qualifying round. The VP penalties shall not affect individual matches in any manner, but may determine a team's ranking.

Penalties assessed in IMPs shall be deducted from the score of the offending team at the conclusion of the match during which the penalty was imposed, before its VP score is calculated. However the score of the non-offending team shall not be affected.

### **19.1 Convention Cards**

Failure to bring 2 duly completed and identical convention cards to the table is subject to warning for the 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence. Further violations are subject to a mandatory penalty of 2 VPs (in teams) or 25% of the available top of a board (in pairs). A pair will not be allowed to play without duly completed convention cards.

### **19.2 Lateness**

Any team not seated and ready to play at the announced starting time of a match or a session of a match will be assessed a penalty according to the following scale:

0+ – 5 minutes late	warning to captain(s) (after 1 warning the provision for 5+ minutes late shall apply)
5+ – 10 minutes late	1 VP
10+ – 15 minutes late	2 VPs
15+ – 20 minutes late	3 VPs
20+ – 25 minutes late	4 VPs
Over 25 minutes late	minimum 5 VPs plus 1 VP every 5 minutes, but after 40 minutes the match is cancelled and considered a walk-over. At its discretion, the Chief Tournament Director may recommend more severe action by the Executive Committee.

### **19.3 Slow Play**

The time allowed for each match or session shall be computed from the time when play in such match or session is started by a Tournament Director. If play continues after the time allowed by Section 16 of these Conditions then either or both of the pairs shall be subject to penalty, according to the amount of delay for which such pair was judged responsible, as follows:

*Excess time apportioned to a pair*

0+ – 5 minutes late	1 VP
5+ – 10 minutes late	1½ VPs
10+ – 15 minutes late	2 VPs
15+ – 20 minutes late	2½ VPs
20+ – 25 minutes late	3 VPs
Over 25 minutes late	5 VPs plus 1 VP for each additional 5 minutes and the Chief Tournament Director will impose disciplinary penalties on the pair and/or on the team. After 40 minutes the match shall be truncated, reducing the number of boards played; if this happens the match

will be scored only with the boards played at both tables, but the same conversion scale will be used as that used for the complete match.

#### **19.4 Fouled Boards**

See the General Conditions of Contest for explanation. If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault that side shall be subject to procedural penalty.

#### **19.5 Frivolous Request for Review**

Forfeiture of the deposit if the Official Reviewer determines the request to be without merit (“frivolous”). See Section 32 of the General Conditions of Contest.

### **20. Recording of Matches and Verification of Scores**

#### **20.1 Official Electronic Score Submission**

BridgeMate II will be used for score input at this congress. The North or South player at each table will be responsible for entering the score of each board, for each match and session thereof. The East or West player at each table will be responsible for confirming the scores entered. Team captains will agree upon the scores produced by the Congress’s official scorer for each match and segment thereof. At the conclusion of each match, or session of a match, the Tournament Director shall post an official result.

**Players and Captains are reminded that they are responsible for the accuracy of their own scores.**

The correction period in Law 79C expires at the time specified in Section 20.2; and thereafter, the results will be final, with the following exceptions:

- a) awaiting decision of the Official Reviewer on a filed Request for Review;
- b) completion of play or replay boards where such replay has been directed by the Chief Tournament Director.

#### **20.2 Score Corrections**

Score corrections may be made as sanctioned in Law 79 and in Laws 69 and 71. An agreed-upon score that is proven to be erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director, or his designee, may be corrected up to 20 minutes after the posting of scores at the end of play on each day. Only the results of boards played that day are subject to correction.

### **21. Duplicated Boards**

Duplicated boards will be used throughout this Congress, whenever possible.

## 22. Entry Fees

APBF Open Teams	US\$1,200 per team
APBF Ladies Teams	US\$1,200 per team
APBF Mixed Teams	US\$1,200 per team
APBF Senior Teams	US\$1,200 per team
APBF U26 Open Teams	US\$600 per team
APBF U26 Girls Teams	US\$600 per team
APBF U21 Open Teams	US\$600 per team
APBF U16 Open Teams	US\$400 per team
APBF Open Pairs	Bahts 4,000 per pair (free for Teams participants)
APBF Youth Pairs	Bahts 2,000 per pair (free for Youth Team participants)
Happy Hour Pairs	US\$100 or Bahts 3,600 per pair
Consolation Swiss Teams	Bahts 4,000 per team (free for Teams participants)

## 23. Prizes

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of the APBF Teams, APBF Pairs, Happy Hour Pairs and Consolation Swiss Teams.

## 24. Dress Code

NBOs are asked to take note that during play appropriate dress would, for example, be an open-necked shirt, or a smart polo or sweatshirt worn with trousers or skirt as appropriate. Slippers and bathrobes are deemed inappropriate and players wearing these during play are subject to disciplinary penalties.

## 25. Contact Addresses

### 25.1 APBF President

Khunying Esther C. Sophonpanich  
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### 25.2 APBF 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Vice-President and APBF Representative to the WBF

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### 25.3 APBF 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Vice-President

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- 25.4 APBF 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Vice-President**  
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**25.11 Official APBF Website**

APBF website: [www.apbf.net](http://www.apbf.net)

Congress website: [www.ccba.org.cn/Tour/TourIndex.aspx?tourid=28138](http://www.ccba.org.cn/Tour/TourIndex.aspx?tourid=28138)

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