



№ 231004.1

**Kind attention:**  
**World Bridge Federation**  
**European Bridge Federation**  
**National Bridge Organizations**

04th, September, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The World Bridge Community was thrilled by the excellent idea of the WBF Executive Council and Mr. Jan Kamras, the WBF President, to introduce the World Bridge Tour as a component of the global bridge promotion program. In late September, the BK Istanbul Open pairs event was held in Istanbul. This tournament is part of the WBT 2023 program and is sanctioned by the WBF.

All bridge players observed Russian participants. Furthermore, in the running scores, the Russian flag was displayed opposite each Russian participant. However, it was replaced by the WBF flag the day after the tournament concluded.

Let us remind WBF and EBL reaction to the Russian invasion in Ukraine in 2022:

*“In addition, from now on, no Russian or Belarussian national flag will be displayed and no Russian or Belarussian anthem be played in the events organised by the WBF. The players from Russia and Belarus, participating in WBF events, will participate under the WBF flag. The Zonal Conferences and affiliated NBOs are urged to adopt the same rule.”* WBF announcement on 25th February 2022.

*“The EBL EC also decided that, until further notice, no Russian or Belarussian participants will be invited to EBL events including, but not limited to, the ENTC on Madeira. We hope that those individual Russian bridge players affected, who may well be as outraged as the rest of us over what is happening, understand that this measure is not directed at them.”* Jan Kamras, on that moment EBL President. Lausanne March 3, 2022.

Ukraine will never stop thanking people worldwide, most countries, IOC, World sport federations for the great support in this battle with evil. But it is very sad to confess that running outrageous and unprovoked war becomes a routine for the World, creates discomfort and distracts people from their hobby.

A kind reminder to the civilized World - what's happening right now in the center of Europe (in fact, only 600 kilometres from Istanbul, the city of above mentioned WBT event):

<https://nypost.com/2023/02/24/ukraine-war-25-haunting-photos-show-brutality-of-russia-invasion/#24>

And more...

<https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/in-pictures-300-days-of-war-in-ukraine-idUSRTSECI24>

And more...

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/2/24/photos-russia-ukraine-war-images-capture-a-year-of-war-russia-u>

We sincerely hope for your support for the brave Ukrainians who are fighting for their lives and freedom. Please do not remain indifferent.

We wish peace and prosperity to you and your families!

Kind regards,

Executive Council  
Ukrainian Bridge Federation,

Mykola Nieskoromnyi  
President of Ukrainian Bridge Federation