

The Master Point and Licensing Handbook

The Master Point and Licensing Handbook replaces the current edition, 9.02.02, of the Handbook of the Master Point Scheme (HOTMPS).

It takes effect on 1st April 2024.

The text has been restructured and some minor and more significant changes have been made to the master point scheme.

From time to time, as and when aspects of the scheme come under scrutiny, the Handbook will be reviewed and further minor changes made by the Master Point Committee. A formal review of the scheme will be carried out every three years. Significant changes to the award scheme are reserved to the Board of Trustees.

Structure and Clarification

This new handbook simplifies and reorganises the text of HOTMPS. The more extensive table of contents helps to locate information more easily and most of the master point award scales are listed in an appendix to avoid repetition in the text.

Eligibility criteria for the many different types of events are clarified.

The operation of event licences and the award scales for licensed events are clarified.

It is stated clearly that any event which does not meet eligibility or licence criteria, or for which no licence was sought, will be awarded master points on the applicable club scale.

References to Minor Annual Championships have been deleted as this type of event does not attract enhanced master point awards.

The master point ranks remain unchanged, however there is a desire to simplify the system with fewer ranks if this becomes easier to implement.

Material Changes

Master point awards for Annual Major Championships have been simplified with a 1.5 uplift across all stages of an event.

It is made clear that aggregated, also known as ladder, events attract a fixed bonus and not a bonus based on the size of the field. This is as described in the current edition of HOTMPS, however the Master Point Committee are aware that such events are being run by clubs with a bonus based on the 'total original entry'.

The minimum number of tables and boards in a SIMS event has been lowered. Organisers should note that whilst the minimum number of boards played, in the case of a half-table, is 18 there is a requirement that at least 21 boards are in play. Therefore it is not permitted to run a SIMS event online with only 18 boards.

It is made clear that any event which is not match-pointed cannot be scored across more than one section. By extension single winner teams events cannot be held in sections.

The national scales in the composite tables have been deleted and the few instances when these scales are required are covered individually.

The master point award for each match won in a subsidiary Swiss event at national congresses has been reduced.

The master point awards for district red-pointed Swiss events have been given the same cap. This is likely academic given the number of tables necessary to reach the cap.

The overall master point award for the Lord Thomson and Bobby Allan SIMS events has been reduced and restructured.

The minimum entry for some national events has been reduced.

The master point award for the National Online League has been reduced from 4 divisions or fewer.

An initial rank will be assigned to those new members who are also members of a foreign national bridge organisation.

An initial rank will be given to new members who are also members of another home national bridge organisation provided that they elect to transfer their master points to Mempad. Members who keep their master points in another home NBO may not be eligible to enter rank-restricted events.

Please see the full text for details of these and other minor changes.