

SCOTTISH BRIDGE UNION



HANDBOOK OF THE MASTER POINTS SCHEME

(HOTMPS)

NINTH EDITION
REVISED February 2021

SBU Master Points Policy Committee

MASTER POINTS HANDBOOK**Table of Contents**

CHAPTER 1	5
Introduction	5
Change Log statement	5
CHAPTER 2	6
Administration of the SBU Master Point Scheme	6
General	6
Master Points	6
Registration of members and points	7
The number of master points required for each rank	8
Awards of Master Points	9
Purchase of MP Certificates	9
Electronic Submission of Master Point Certificates	9
Licences	9
CHAPTER 3	10
Master Point Awards	10
Awards	10
Scales	10
Minimum number of players and boards	10
Withdrawals in matches	10
Special scales of awards	10
Handicap events	10
Non-home NBO points and ranks	11
Local Points Awards Issued by Clubs/Districts	11
Major Championship	12
Annual Minor Championship	12
CHAPTER 4	13
Team Events	13
Basic Award Scales	13
Types of Competition	13
Multiple Teams	14
Played in Sections	14
Multiple Teams with Qualifying Round/s and Final	15
All Play Through	15
Carry Forward	16
Swiss	16
Single Elimination (Knockout) Teams	16
Aggregated Teams Events	17
Perfect Teams	17

CHAPTER 5	18
Pairs Events	18
Basic Award Scales.....	18
Types of Competition	18
Qualifying Round/s and Final.....	19
All Play Through.....	19
Two or more events aggregated with final bonus.....	20
4+ Rounds aggregated with Restricted Final	20
District simultaneous events	21
 CHAPTER 6	 22
Individual Events	22
Basic Award Scales.....	22
Types of Competition	22
Qualifying round and Final	23
All Play Through.....	23
Two or more events aggregated with final bonus.....	24
Restricted final.....	25
 CHAPTER 7	 26
Swiss Events	26
Basic Award Tables:	26
Bonus Points teams and pairs	26
District Red Swiss Events.....	27
 CHAPTER 8	 28
Leagues	28
Basic Scales.....	28
National League	29
National Online League	29
National Bronze Online League	30
 CHAPTER 9	 31
One Day Open Events and Congresses	31
Single-stage events	31
Multi-stage Events.....	31
Quali-Final event.....	31
All Play Through.....	32
Swiss	32
District "red-pointed" congress	33
Online considerations	33

CHAPTER 10	34
Events where Club/District results are collated centrally (qualifying rounds of National events and Simultaneous Pairs events)	34
Simultaneous Pairs events arranged by the SBU	34
Simultaneous Pairs events arranged by third parties and supported by the SBU.....	34
CHAPTER 11	35
National Competitions	35
Knockout Events	35
• Scottish Cup and Scottish Cup Plate	36
• Gold Cup and Gold Cup Plate.....	36
• Winter Foursomes	36
Events for qualifiers from Club/District Heats.....	37
National Events without Qualifying Round(s)	37
• Swiss Events.....	37
• Ranked Individual events	38
• Ranked Individual events	38
• Other Single-session pairs events.....	39
Junior Events.....	39
Schools Mini-Bridge Tournament	39
CHAPTER 12	40
National Congresses	40
Summer and Autumn SBU National Congresses	40
Winter Swiss SBU National Congress.....	41
Overseas SBU National Congress	41
National Bronze Congresses	42
CHAPTER 13	43
Online Bridge	43
GLOSSARY	44
Appendix	45
Treatment of EBU Blue Points	45
CHANGE LOG	46

Chapter 1

Introduction & General Information

The Scottish Bridge Union's Master Point scheme came into operation on 1st September 1957. A committee of the SBU, in conjunction with the EBU, under the umbrella of the British Bridge League (BBL), prepared the scheme to which all home NBO adhered. In June 1993, the SBU transferred its paper Master Point records to a computer.

In July 2013 SBU Master Points and Membership records were combined in one online SQL database, named MEMPAD, accessible by members and officials.

This document serves as the official definition of the rules of the scheme, together with general information that will be useful for players and officials alike. It is no longer published in paper form but will be regularly updated and available for reference on the two SBU websites, namely ...

www.mempad.co.uk This website contains Master Points and Membership data for current and past SBU members. It is a highly secure database and can be updated by members themselves (access via a password) and club officials, as well as SBU officials.

<http://www.sbu.org.uk/> This website is a general information website, open to the public (no password required). It contains full information regarding past and future events and enables prior booking for the current season's events.

All forms mentioned in this document can be downloaded from the Membership and Master Point Administration website www.mempad.co.uk. Log in, then select the MP NOTICES tab.

The rules contained in this Handbook take effect from publication. From that date onward all previous publications relating to the scheme become obsolete.

The MP Policy Committee, allied with the Member Services Committee, owns and maintains this document.

All comments/suggestions are welcome, by email to masterpoints@sbu.org.uk .

Change Log

The last printed version of the HOTMPS (seventh edition pink handbook) is dated September 2013. Since then, there have been numerous changes, mostly published on-line and piecemeal in nature. Hence the version dated August 2017 in PDF format is considered a significant change and is labelled version 8.01.01. Minor typographical changes will justify a change of number (for example to 8.01.02) and meaningful data changes will justify a change of the middle portion of the version number.

Edition changes (version 9 for example) will usually take place at the beginning of a season. The Change Log will summarise changes to provide an overall view for officials and others.

Details of the Change Log appear as an appendix at the end of this publication.

Chapter 2

Administration of the SBU Master Point Scheme

General

- Master Points must be issued to all players entitled to them. This includes guests or members, even if they profess a lack of interest in the scheme.
- No individual charge may be made for the issue of Master Points. Their cost is covered by the table money or entry fee.
- Points cannot be awarded twice for the same competition. Clubs, Districts or Areas should not award **any** points for competitions where these will be awarded by the higher organising body.

Each event or stage of an event will be represented by a separate MP award with the following exceptions:

- At the conclusion of a congress.
- At the conclusion of an approved league programme for teams.
- At the conclusion of a Swiss event.
- At the conclusion of a multi-stage event that attracts awards per match won, subject to the overall duration being no greater than 3 sessions.

Master Points

- Local points (black points) are awarded in Club, Area and District competitions. 100 Local points are equal to 1.00 Master Point. For reference purposes, all awards are mostly quoted as gross figures in this handbook, but where they have been divided by 100, they will be expressed with two decimal points.
- National points (red points) are awarded in named National competitions.
- Some SBU-wide events may reward success with Local Points.
- Some National events may reward partly in LP and NP.
- Blue points are issued by the English Bridge Union for certain events that do not attract National points, notably Simultaneous Pairs events. Following the EBU logic, but not the mechanics, SBU members who receive such blue points will have them converted permanently to red points in the ratio 3 Blue = 1 Red.
- Each District is allowed to run one Congress per annum in which National Points, as well as Local points, are awarded. A congress is defined as an event of at least two consecutive days where one pairs and one teams event takes place. These events may each consist of a qualifying round and a final, or they may both be Swiss events.
- Each District is also allowed to run one red-pointed SWISS event per annum, pairs or teams, but only if it is in Swiss format.
- The MEMPAD database shows points with two digits of decimal points (NN.nn).

Registration of members and points

A new SBU Member registers by submitting their title, name, address, telephone number, email address and BBO username (if applicable) to the Secretary of their Home Club, who will request a new Member number by entering these details on MEMPAD. Players who wish to register as Direct Members do this by sending the same information to Member services, along with a note of their Home Union number if applicable. Thereafter a unique number is allocated in sequence to each new member of the scheme. This number, named a player's ***SBU Number***, should be quoted on all correspondence to Member Services, and also when entering National Competitions.

- All points gained are credited directly to a member's record on MEMPAD by the Member Services team.
- Changes of names and/or addresses, telephone number, etc should be notified to the home club secretary who can then update them on MEMPAD. Members can also change their own personal details on MEMPAD at any time.
- Full credit is given for Local (black) and National (green/red) points won in competitions organised by the Home Unions (EBU, WBU, NIBU, and the CBAI).
- EBU blue points are converted to SBU red points at the time of receipt (see Appendix A).

Currently, no Master Points are awarded in respect of any other category of Master Point nor in respect of the Home International Series (Camrose).

The number of master points required for each rank

Where National points are shown in the table below, this is the minimum number of National Points that must have been accumulated within the total number of points required.

N.B For ease of reading, and thus comprehension, decimal points are not shown below.

Rank	Total Points Required	Minimum number of National Points required in the Total	Category	Eligibility for Ranked Events ♣	
				Individual	Pairs
Novice (010)	0		Bronze 1	Fairlie	Kennedy
Club Master (020)	2		Bronze 1	Fairlie	Kennedy
Local Master (030)	10		Bronze 2	Fairlie	Johnston
District Master (040)	25		Bronze 2	Fairlie	Johnston
Master (050)	50		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
1 Star Master (060)	100		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
2 Star Master (070)	150		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
3 Star Master (080)	200		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
4 Star Master (090)	250		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
5 Star Master (100)	300		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
Senior Master (110)	400		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
1 Star Senior Master (120)	450		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
2 Star Senior Master (130)	500		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
3 Star Senior Master (140)	550		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
4 Star Senior Master (150)	600		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
5 Star Senior Master (160)	650		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
Regional Master (165) §	100	25	Silver	Harrison	Alan Fairlie
Scottish Master (170) *	200	50	Silver	Harrison	Alan Fairlie
National Master (180)	300	75	Silver	Harrison	Alan Fairlie
Life Master (190)	600	150	Gold	Harrison	Bowman
Senior Life Master (200)	900	300	Gold	Harrison	Bowman
Grand Master (210) #	1200	600	Gold	Harrison	Arthur

§ Regional Master was introduced in mid-2016.

* SBU Scarves or Ties are awarded on reaching the rank of Scottish Master.

Scarf Rings or Cufflinks are awarded on reaching the rank of Grand Master.

♣ "Mixed" partnerships are allowed for all Ranked Pairs events except the Arthur. Such partnerships can only play in the competition for which the **higher** ranked player is eligible.

Awards of Master Points

A club needs to be affiliated with the SBU for it to be authorised to purchase and award MP. However, each club has a choice whether to issue MP or not for any of its events.

A district, being an integral part of the SBU must issue MP for all its events.

Purchase of MP Certificates

Clubs, Areas and Districts can purchase MP Certificates; originally these were in paper form. A certificate justifies a variable number of points depending upon the type of event, the number of participants, and the scale used. Each certificate currently costs 22p and must be purchased in units of 100 thus £22 per 100. A pairs club tournament will normally award points to one-third of the contestants, therefore the average cost to a club of awarding MP is slightly more than 7p per player. Instructions on how to buy MP certificates are available on Mempad under the tab entitled "MP Notices".

Electronic Submission of Master Point Certificates

From July 2013, MEMPAD commenced accepting file transmission (XML formatted files) from club scoring programs, thus avoiding paper certificates.

All affiliated SBU clubs which award Master Points have now moved to this approach.

Local and National Points for all other events are calculated and processed by Member Services and uploaded directly to MEMPAD. These events include ECATS-scored events, Congresses, Leagues, District and National events including simultaneous events, as well as other competitions that accumulate points over several separate events. Points won in other home union events are transferred directly from this other home union to Member Services.

Licences

Special tournaments may require a one-time Licence in order to award MP. Licences are purchased separately from MP Certificates and are only valid for the specific event.

A Master Point licence is required:

- For all 'Open' events. Any club, area or district wishing to run a single-stage event, or a congress or Simultaneous Pairs event, open to SBU members other than their local members and bona fide guests, is required to purchase an Open Licence from Member Services.

Licences should be formally and clearly displayed in all Clubs and at Congresses.

The term 'District' only covers events run by the seven official Districts of the SBU and unless otherwise specified all players who participate in District competitions must be members of a Club within that District. All other regional geographically-limited events are classified as 'Area' events.

Districts are authorised to run the following events on an annual basis without the need for a one-time licence, but no master points can be awarded.

- One or two 'no fear' events per year
- One Junior or Schools event.

Chapter 3

Master Point Awards

Awards

- All awards quoted are per player.
- A player must play at least one-third of the available boards in any event to qualify for Master Points.
- Awards are calculated on the basis of constant reduction and are determined by dividing the top award by the number of awards to be made.
- The higher the status of the organising body, the higher the scale.
- Fractional awards should be rounded up at the end of the calculation.
- Tied competitors share the available points except in respect of the last qualifying place when all tied players receive the award for that place. In Swiss competitions tied competitors each get half of the full award.

Scales

- Full basic scales are used for single stage events of 18-35 boards and all qualifying rounds of multi-staged events, no matter how many boards are played. Points are awarded to the top third of the field.
- Where some or all players play fewer than 18 boards (12-17) the basic *club* scales are halved, with points only awarded to the top quarter of the field.
- Scales based on the total original entry (TOE) are used for single-stage events of more than 36 boards and finals of multi-stage events. Points are awarded to the top half of the field.

Minimum number of players and boards

For Club and District Competitions the minimum numbers are as follows: (Please see National Competitions sections for Qualifying rounds relating to those competitions).

- 2 complete tables in an individual event
- 3 complete tables in a One-winner pairs event
- 3 complete tables in a team event
- 4 complete tables in a 2 winner pairs event
- All players must play at least **12** boards in each stage of an event.

Withdrawals in matches

- No Master Points can be awarded for a match not played. An award shall be made if opponents concede or withdraw when in arrears. In the final of a knockout event, Member Services may authorise an award if a team withdraws.
- Where players only play some of the boards and a team concedes, all available players are deemed to have played the remaining boards.

Special scales of awards

- If a proposed event is not covered by any of the preceding scales Member Services must be consulted.

Handicap events

Master Point certificates are not issued for such events.

Non-home NBO points and ranks

The SBU does not recognise points or rankings awarded by non-British Isles NBO.

British Isles NBO are limited to the SBU, EBU, WBU, NIBU and CBAI.

Generally speaking, there is insufficient compatibility of methodology to justify recognition of NBO points other than those in the British Isles.

Therefore, no conversion of points or ranks is authorised. In exceptional circumstances, the MP Policy Committee may approve an honorary or administrative rank to ensure that an experienced player from outside the British Isles does not gain an unfair advantage in ranked events or ranked prize-giving. At all times a tournament organiser, or the TD acting on their behalf, has the right to satisfy themselves that a participant whose MP records are held elsewhere has the appropriate level of experience for a ranked event; or to justify receiving a ranked prize in an open event (example a prize for the first bronze in the field).

Local Points Awards Issued by Clubs/Districts

- Regular points events using basic scales – no limit to the number of events.
- Annual Major Championship events – Clubs and Districts may nominate one Pairs, one Teams and one Individual event each year.
- Annual Minor Championship events – Clubs and Districts may nominate one event in different categories e.g., Open pairs, Mixed Pairs, Perfect teams etc. Only one Minor Championship may be similar to a Major Championship.

Major Championship

For Major Championships, the award scale is the basic scale multiplied by 1.5 *i.e.*, if the award on the basic scale were 100 then for a Major Championship the award would be 150. The top scores are capped at a maximum level - please see the relevant Chapter for Pairs, Teams or Individual events for further details.

Annual Minor Championship

When less than 36 boards are played in the entire competition awards are on the basic scales.

When 36+ boards are played in the entire competition, awards in the qualifying rounds (if any) should be on the appropriate basic scale and other awards including the maximum should be calculated as for a Major Championship but then reduced to 75% of the award *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 for a Major Championship then the top award for a Minor Championship is 75.

Chapter 4

Team Events

Basic Award Scales

Awards for all competitions except an Annual Major Championship should use the basic table. The award scales are as follows:

Teams and two winner pairs				
Tables	Club	Area	District	National
28 - 30	100	150	200	400
25 - 27	90	135	180	360
22 - 24	80	120	160	320
19 - 21	70	105	140	280
16 - 18	60	90	120	240
13 - 15	50	75	100	200
10 - 12	40	60	80	160
7 - 9	30	45	60	120
4 - 6	20	30	40	80
3	10	15	20	40

- Awards to the top third of the field
- Two-winner pairs may have an unequal award where there is a half table
- The larger N/S or E/W line takes the higher number of points e.g. A 9.5 Mitchell movement attracts top awards of 40, 30, 20 and 10 in the larger line; in the smaller line, the awards would then be 30, 20 and 10.
- Where some or all players play only 12-17 boards top award = 50, awards to the top quarter.
- Above 30 tables the top awards are reached by extrapolation thus:
Top award = $\text{SQRT}(T/30)*A$ where T = number of Tables, A = existing top award
E.g. club top becomes $\text{SQRT}(T/30)*100$
Remaining awards are in equal decrements to the top third.

Types of Competition

The following types of competition are allowed:

1. Multiple Teams
2. Played in Sections
3. Multiple Teams with Qualifying Round/s and Final
4. All Play Through
5. Carry Forward
6. Single Elimination (Knockout) Teams
7. Two or more events aggregated with final bonus
8. Perfect Teams

An Annual Major Championship may be any one of the above types of competition and the basic scale is multiplied by 1.5 as per the following tables. Permission to run an Annual Major Championship as a Swiss event must be sought beforehand from Member Services.

Multiple Teams

Definition:

- Must involve 3 or more teams
- Fewer than 12 boards are played against each opposing team
- Where more than 12 boards are played against each team the appropriate league team scale of Local points should be used. Please refer to the League Chapter for the relevant scales.

Scale:

Basic Scale except for Leagues as defined above.

Played in Sections

Definition:

Can be treated as a single field provided that:

- The same boards are played in each section
- The competition is scored overall

Scale:

Basic scales as above for either single sections or combined sections. Thus, if there are three sections of 10 Teams then the top award for a Club event would be 40 Master Points for each section. If the sections were combined to give an overall winner then the top award for a Club event would be for 30 tables *i.e.*, 100 Master Points.

Multiple Teams with Qualifying Round/s and FinalDefinition:

- Where a final stage is preceded by one or more qualifying stages provided that:
 - a) At least 20 boards are played at each stage
 - b) Each stage reduces the number of contestants by at least 40%.
- Separate point awards must be made in respect of each stage

Scale:

	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

If 36+ boards are played in the final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 0.25 of the scale. If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above the awards will be 0.67 of the appropriate scale.

Annual Major Championship Scale:

	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

If 36+ boards are played in the final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 0.25 of the scale. If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above the awards will be 0.67 of the appropriate scale.

All Play ThroughDefinition:

- All competitors play throughout
- Single event with Master Points award based on final ranking list

Scale:

	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

If 36+ boards are played in the final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 0.25 of the scale. If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above the awards will be 0.67 of the appropriate scale.

Where more than 12 boards are played against each team the appropriate league team scale of Local points should be used. Please refer to the League chapter for the relevant scales.

Annual Major Championship Scale:

	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

If 36+ boards are played in the final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 0.25 of the scale. If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above the awards will be 0.67 of the appropriate scale.

Carry ForwardDefinition:

- Competitors are not eliminated in the first stage
- Players in the final stage carry a proportion of first stage score forward
- At least 20 boards are played at each stage
- Duplicated boards with overall scoring at all stages
- At least one-third of the original entry must play in the final stage
- A One-winner movement must be used throughout. Teams must be ranked across the field throughout.

Scale:

- Treated as a single event with Master Points award based on final ranking list either to all competitors in the final stage or to half TOE, whichever is less. No points are awarded for the first stage.
- In certain Major events, a qualifying round may precede the stage from which part of the score is carried forward. Points are then awarded for the qualifying round. A separate award is made on the basis of the final ranking list either to all the competitors in the final or to half the total number who competed in the carried round, whichever is less. Awards are based on TOE.

Swiss

Please refer to the Swiss chapter for relevant scales.

Single Elimination (Knockout) Teams

In the table, N represents the number of teams

	Early rounds	Round before Quarter final	Quarter final	Semi Final	Final
Club	20	1 x N	2 x N	4 X N	8 x N
Area	30	1.5 x N	3 x N	6 x N	12 x N
District	40	2 x N	4 x N	8 x N	16 x N

The award per match increases as the competition progresses. Each match must be of at least 18 boards duration.

Aggregated Teams eventDefinition:

An aggregated event where, as well as Master Points being awarded for each of the events played, a bonus is awarded to recognise overall performance.

The competition may be designed such that the best X out of Y events are taken in order to calculate a ranking for the bonus award.

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale.

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	50	100	150
Area	75	150	225
District	100	200	300
National	200	400	600

Decreasing equally to top third of field

Annual Major Championships

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale (NOT x1.5).

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	75	150	225
Area	113	225	338
District	150	300	450

Substitutes

If a team requires to field a substitute then that player may be awarded Points for the event in which they take part along with a pro-rata element of any bonus awarded to the team.

Perfect TeamsDefinition:

An aggregated teams event involving 3 rounds. In each round, each member of a team is partnered by a different member of their team.

Master Points are awarded as for Aggregated Teams events above, using the "Series of 3" bonus.

Chapter 5

Pairs Events *Basic Award Scales*

Awards for all competitions except an Annual Major Championship should use the basic table. The award scales are as follows:

One winner pairs				
Pairs	Club	Area	District	National
46 - 48	96	144	192	384
43 - 45	90	135	180	360
40 - 42	84	126	168	336
37 - 39	78	117	156	312
34 - 36	72	108	144	288
31 - 33	66	99	132	264
28 - 30	60	90	120	240
25 - 27	54	81	108	216
22 - 24	48	72	96	192
19 - 21	42	63	84	168
16 - 18	36	54	72	144
13 - 15	30	45	60	120
10 - 12	24	36	48	96
7 - 9	18	27	36	72
6	12	18	24	48
	6	9	12	24

- Awards to the top third of the field, e.g., a 15 pair movement attracts awards of 30, 24, 18, 12 and 6
- Where some or all players play only 12-17 boards top award = 48, awards to top quarter.
- Above 48 pairs the top awards are reached by extrapolation thus:
Top award = $\sqrt{P/48} \times A$ where P = number of Pairs, A = existing top award
E.g. club top becomes $\sqrt{P/48} \times 96$,
Remaining awards are in equal decrements to the top third.

Types of Competition

The following types of competition are allowed:

- Qualifying round/s and final
- All play through
- Two or more events aggregated with final bonus
- 4+ rounds aggregated with a restricted final

An Annual Major Championship may be any one of the above types of competition and the basic scale is multiplied by 1.5 as per the following tables. Permission to run an Annual Major Championship as a Swiss event must be sought beforehand from Member Services.

Qualifying Round/s and FinalDefinition:

Where a final stage is preceded by one or more qualifying stages provided that:

- At least 20 boards are played at each stage
- Each stage reduces the number of contestants by at least 40%.

Separate point awards must be made in respect of each stage

Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

First and Second Stage Awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of this competition.

If 36+ or more boards are played at any stage, awards should be increased by 25% *i.e.*, if the top award is 100 it will be increased to 125.

Annual Major Championship Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

First and Second Stage Awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of this competition.

If 36+ or more boards are played at any stage, awards should be increased by 25% *i.e.*, if the top award is 100 it will be increased to 125.

All Play ThroughDefinition:

- All competitors play throughout
- Single event with Master Points award based on final ranking list

Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

First and Second Stage Awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of this competition.

If 36+ or more boards are played at any stage, awards should be increased by 25% *i.e.*, if the top award is 100 it will be increased to 125.

Annual Major Championship Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 800)

First and Second Stage Awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of this competition.

If 36+ or more boards are played at any stage, awards should be increased by 25% *i.e.*, if the top award is 100 it will be increased to 125.

Two or more events aggregated with final bonusDefinition:

An aggregated event where, as well as Master Points being awarded for each of the events played, a bonus is awarded to recognise overall performance.

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale.

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	50	100	150
Area	75	150	225
District	100	200	300
National	200	400	600

Decreasing equally to top third of field

Annual Major Championships

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale (NOT x1.5).

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	75	150	225
Area	113	225	338
District	150	300	450

4+ Rounds aggregated with Restricted FinalDefinition:

Where entry to the Final is restricted to those pairs with the best results of at least 4 events preceding the Final.

Scale for rounds preceding the Final:

Each pairs event – appropriate basic scale as above

Scale for Restricted Final

	Less than 36 boards	36+ boards
Club	200	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	300	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	400	TOE x 8 (max 800)

Decreasing equally to the top half of the field

In this case, the total original entry shall include only those pairs who have competed in the minimum number of occasions needed to qualify for the final.

If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above, the awards will be 67% of the appropriate basic scale *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points then for the Consolation final the top award is 67 Master Points.

District Simultaneous Pairs eventsDefinition:

Only clubs within the organising District may participate.

Scale

A maximum award of 250 local points decreasing equally to the top third of the field.

Chapter 6

Individual Events

Basic Award Scales

Awards for all competitions except an Annual Major Championship should use the basic table. The award scales are as follows:

One-winner Individual				
Players	Club	Area	District	National
46 - 48	48	72	96	192
43 - 45	45	68	90	180
40 - 42	42	63	84	168
37 - 39	39	59	78	156
34 - 36	36	54	72	144
31 - 33	33	50	66	132
28 - 30	30	45	60	120
25 - 27	27	41	54	108
22 - 24	24	36	48	96
19 - 21	21	32	42	84
16 - 18	18	27	36	72
13 - 15	15	23	30	60
10 - 12	12	18	24	48
8 - 9	9	14	18	36
	6	9	12	24
	3	5	6	12

- *E.g.*, Awards for a 25 player Individual would be 27, 24, 21, 18, 15, 12, 9, and 6.
- Where some or all players play only 12-17 boards the top award = 24, awards to top quarter.
- Above 48 players the top awards are reached by extrapolation thus:
Top award = $\sqrt{P/48} \times A$ where P = number of Players, A = existing top award
E.g. club top becomes $\sqrt{P/48} \times 48$
Remaining awards are in equal decrements to the top third.

Types of Competition

The following types of competition are allowed:

1. Qualifying round/s and Final
2. All play through
3. Two or more events aggregated with final bonus
4. 3+ rounds aggregated with a restricted final

An Annual Major Championship may be any one of the above types of competition and the basic scale is multiplied by 1.5 as per the following tables.

Qualifying Round/s and FinalDefinition:

Where a final stage is preceded by one or more qualifying stages provided that:

- At least 20 boards are played at each stage
- Each stage reduces the number of contestants by at least 40%.

Separate point awards must be made in respect of each stage

Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 200)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 300)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 400)

First and Second stage awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of the competition. If 36+ boards are played in the Final, the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 25% of the scale *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points and if 36+ boards are played then the top award is 125 Master Points.

Annual Major Championship Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 200)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 300)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 400)

First and Second stage awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of the competition. If 36+ boards are played in the Final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 25% of the scale *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points and if 36+ boards are played then the top award is 125 Master Points.

All Play ThroughDefinition:

- All competitors play throughout
- Single event with Master Points award based on final ranking list

Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 200)
Area	Area x 1	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 300)
District	District x 1	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 400)

First and Second stage awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of the competition. If 36+ boards are played in the Final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 25% of the scale *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points and if 36+ boards are played then the top award is 125 Master Points.

- Each individual event – appropriate basic scale

Bonus:

	Series of 2	Series of 3
Club	50	100
Area	75	150
District	100	200

Decreasing equally to top third of field

Annual Major Championship Scale:

Quali-Final	First stage	Second stage	Final
Club	Club x 1.5	Club x 2	TOE x 4 (max 200)
Area	Area x 1.5	Area x 2	TOE x 6 (max 300)
District	District x 1.5	District x 2	TOE x 8 (max 400)

First and Second stage awards constitute the only awards for these rounds of the competition. If 36+ boards are played in the final the final award and the maximum points should be increased by 25% of the scale *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points and if 36+ boards are played then the top award is 125 Master Points.

Two or more events aggregated with final bonus**Definition:**

An aggregated event where, as well as Master Points being awarded for each of the events played, a bonus is awarded to recognise overall performance.

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale.

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	50	100	150
Area	75	150	225
District	100	200	300
National	200	400	600

Decreasing equally to top third of field

Annual Major Championships

For each individual event, Points are awarded on the basic scale (NOT x1.5).

The bonus is then awarded according to the following scale:

	Series of 2	Series of 3	Series 4+
Club	75	150	225
Area	113	225	338
District	150	300	450

Restricted finalDefinition:

Where entry to the Final is restricted to those individuals with the best results of at least three events preceding the final

Scale:

Each individual event – appropriate basic scale as above

Scale for Restricted Final:

	Less than 36 boards	36+ boards
Club	150	TOE x 4 (max 400)
Area	225	TOE x 6 (max 600)
District	300	TOE x 8 (max 800)

Decreasing equally to the top third of the field

In this case, the total original entry shall include only those pairs who have competed in the minimum number of occasions needed to qualify for the Final.

If a consolation final is run in conjunction with the above, the awards will be 66% of the appropriate basic scale, *e.g.*, if the top award is 100 Master Points then for the Consolation final the top award is 66 Master Points.

Chapter 7

Swiss Events

Basic Award Table:

Swiss Events														
Boards	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+
Club	8	9	11	12	14	15	17	18	20	21	23	24	26	27
Area	12	14	16	18	21	23	25	27	30	32	34	36	39	41
District	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54

- 5 boards per match is the minimum.
- If a match is drawn, half of the points for a win are awarded to each team/pair.

Bonus points:

The number of matches should be no greater than one-third of the total number of teams entered. In practice, at least 4 matches are played making the minimum practical number of teams or pairs 12.

Swiss Teams			
Teams	Club	Area	District
25 - 28	105	158	210
21 - 24	90	135	180
17 - 20	75	113	150
13 - 16	60	90	120
9 - 12	45	68	90
6 - 8	30	45	60
	15	23	30

Swiss Pairs			
Pairs	Club	Area	District
53 - 56	112	168	224
49 - 52	104	156	208
45 - 48	96	144	192
41 - 44	88	132	176
37 - 40	80	120	160
33 - 36	72	108	144
29 - 32	64	96	128
25 - 28	56	84	112
21 - 24	48	72	96
17 - 20	40	60	80
13 - 16	32	48	64
12	24	36	48
	16	24	32
	8	12	16

- Awards to the top **quarter** of the field, *e.g.*, a 16-table movement attracts awards of 60, 45, 30, 15.
- Above 28 tables the top awards are reached by extrapolation thus:
 Top award = $\text{SQRT}(T/28)*A$ where T = number of Tables, A = existing top award
 E.g. club pairs top becomes $\text{SQRT}(T/28)*105$
 Remaining awards are in equal decrements to the top quarter.

Permission to run an Annual Major Pairs Championship as a Swiss event must be sought in advance from Member Services. If granted, then all awards are multiplied by 1.5.

District Red-pointed Swiss Events

Definition:

Each District may run one such event per annum.
 The purpose of these events is to give all players in the district a chance to win National Points in their District. A minimum of 5 Boards per match must be played.

Scale:

<p>District Red Swiss Pairs</p>	<p>Bonus Points are awarded to the top 1/4 of the field based on TOE x 6 (max 600)</p>	<p>15 red points are awarded per win for 5 board matches 8 red points are awarded per draw for 5 board matches 18 red points are awarded per win for 6 board matches 9 red points are awarded per draw for 6 board matches 21 red points are awarded per win for 7 board matches 11 red points are awarded per draw for 7 board matches 24 red points are awarded per win for 8 board matches 12 red points are awarded per draw for 8 board matches</p>
<p>District Red Swiss Teams</p>	<p>Bonus Points are awarded to the top 1/4 of the field based on TOE x 12 (max 600)</p>	<p>15 red points are awarded per win for 5 board matches 8 red points are awarded per draw for 5 board matches 18 red points are awarded per win for 6 board matches 9 red points are awarded per draw for 6 board matches 21 red points are awarded per win for 7 board matches 11 red points are awarded per draw for 7 board matches 24 red points are awarded per win for 8 board matches 12 red points are awarded per draw for 8 board matches</p>

Chapter 8

Leagues

District Leagues may be run by any SBU District or Area as follows:

- All clubs within a District League must be SBU-affiliated within that District.
- All players must be paid-up members of the SBU for the season of play.
- All players who represent a club must be a member of that club.
- A league may be divided into two or more divisions if provision is made for seasonal promotion and relegation.
- A league event may be defined as a competition in which at least 3 teams compete and every team in each division meets each other team at least once.
- League competition for Teams of 4 or multiples of 4 may, with approval, be organised by a District, Area, or an Affiliated Club. Only one League for Teams of 4 and one League of 8 within each District may qualify each year for recognition as a District League. Other league competitions will be classified as Area leagues.
- Where a League competition constitutes the entire Major Championship event or the final stage of any event, awards for each match are 1.5 times the award of the appropriate league scale.

Basic Scales

The basic scales for matches **won**, are as follows:

Club			
Number of Divisions	Division		
	1	2	3
1	45		
2	47	41	
3	49	43	37

Area				
Number of Divisions	Division			
	1	2	3	4
1	68			
2	71	62		
3	74	65	56	
4	77	68	59	50

District						
Number of Divisions	Division					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	90					
2	94	82				
3	98	86	74			
4	102	90	78	66		
5	106	94	82	70	58	
6	110	98	86	74	62	50

Basic awards are for matches of 24 boards. For matches of fewer boards, awards are proportional and given in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Number of boards} \times \text{basic award divided by 24}$$

For matches **drawn** these scales are halved and rounded up to the next whole number.

- League Secretaries must register their League with Member Services at the beginning of the season, and arrange to submit the relevant payment.

- As Districts and Areas have different and changing arrangements each year, Member Services will issue specific instructions regarding the registration of teams, payment and the process for data collection.
- Points awarded are Local Points (black).

National League

Definition:

1. Awards are made for each match won or drawn. Matches drawn attract an award of one half of that for a match won.
2. Points awarded are National Points (red).
3. Awards as described below assume 16 board matches. Where there is a different number of boards per match, awards are proportional and given in accordance with the formula:

$$\text{Basic award} \times \text{number of boards divided by 16}$$

Basic Awards per Match

Divisions	Division			
	1	2	3	4
1	1.00			
2	1.00	0.50		
3	1.00	0.75	0.50	
4	1.00	0.83	0.67	0.50

National SBU Online League (SOL)

Definition:

1. Awards are made for each match won or drawn. Matches drawn attract an award of one half of that for a match won.
2. Points awarded from iteration 3 are National Points (red).
3. Awards as described below assume 24 board matches. Where there is a different number of boards per match, awards are proportional and given in accordance with the formula:

$$\text{Basic (lowest) award} \times \text{number of boards divided by 24}$$

Iteration	Division	
	1	lowest
1 (Black points)	36	36
2 (Black points)	100	36
3 (Red points)	1.00	0.36

Where differential awards are to be made according to division (*i.e.*, iteration 2 and later) awards will be calculated in equal decrements between Division 1 and the lowest division.

National Online Bronze League (BL)

Definition:

1. Awards are made for each match won or drawn. Matches drawn attract an award of one half of that for a match won.
2. All points awarded are Black (Local) points
3. Awards as described below assume 16 board matches. Where there is a different number of boards per match, awards are proportional and given in accordance with the formula:

Basic award x number of boards divided by 16

Iteration	Division	
	1	lowest
1 - 3	24	24
4+	67	24

Where differential awards are to be made according to division (*i.e.*, iteration 4 and later) awards will be calculated in equal decrements between Division 1 and the lowest division.

Chapter 9

One Day Open Events and Congresses

A licence is needed for all Open events run by Clubs and Districts.

Participation in Open events and congresses is open to all SBU members, and potentially to other Home Union members.

For National Congresses please see the National Congress Chapter.

Closed events that are held with entry restricted to members of an Affiliated Club or Group of Affiliated Clubs known as an Area or District do not require a licence but all players must be members of the relevant Club(s) or District holding the event.

Single-stage events

When a single stage event is played in more than one section, the competitors can be treated as constituting a single field for match point purposes if the boards are duplicated or shared and the competition is scored overall. Awards are at the appropriate scale - please refer to Chapter 4 for basic scales for Teams and Chapter 5 for basic scales for Pairs.

Multi stage Events

There are three types of event:

1. Quali-final
2. All play through
3. Swiss

Quali-Final event

Definition:

An event in which the final stage is preceded by one or more qualifying stages provided that:

- a) At least 20 boards are played at each stage
- b) Each stage reduces the number of contestants by at least 40%.

Separate point awards must be made in respect of each stage.

Scales – please refer to Chapter 4 for basic scales for Teams and Chapter 5 for basic scales for Pairs.

	First Qualifying 20-35 boards	First Qualifying 36+ boards	Second Qualifying	Pairs Final	Teams Final
National	Basic x 3 (max 300)	Basic x 4.5 (max 450)	Basic x 4.5 (max 450)	TOE x 8 (max 1000)	TOE x 16 (max 1000)
Open	Basic x 2 (max 200)	Basic x 3 (max 300)	Basic x 3 (max 300)	TOE x 6 (max 750)	TOE x 12 (max 750)
Closed	Basic (max 100)	Basic x 2 (max 200)	Basic x 2 (max 200)	TOE x 4 (max 500)	TOE x 8 (max 500)

At a Congress with a qualifying round and Final whereby those competitors who do not qualify for the main or subsidiary final, and play in a Swiss Event, this shall be regarded as a

separate competition and the appropriate Swiss scales used accordingly. For example, if 40 teams start the competition and 9 qualify for the main final and a further 9 for the subsidiary final, the remaining 22 play a Swiss event, then the top award will be as per the Swiss scales in Chapter 7.

All Play Through

Definition:

- All competitors play throughout
- Single event with Master Points award based on final ranking list

Scale:

	First Round 20-35 boards	First Round 36+ boards	Second Round	Pairs Final	Teams Final
National	Basic x 3 (max 300)	Basic x 4.5 (max 450)	Basic x 4.5 (max 450)	TOE x 8 (max 1000)	TOE x 16 (max 1000)
Open	Basic x 2 (max 200)	Basic x 3 (max 300)	Basic x 3 (max 300)	TOE x 6 (max 750)	TOE x 12 (max 750)
Closed	Basic (max 100)	Basic x 2 (max 200)	Basic x 2 (max 200)	TOE x 4 (max 500)	TOE x 8 (max 500)

When an event is run over three sessions and scores are only carried forward from the second stage, points should be awarded in respect of the first stage at the appropriate basic scale.

For secondary or consolation final(s), awards will be 0.67 and 0.33 of the awards for the main final respectively. For example, if the top award in the Main Final is 100 Master Points then the top award for the first Consolation Final will be 67 and for the Second Consolation Final will be 33. The awards would decrease in equal amounts as per the Main Final.

Swiss

Definition:

- A minimum of 5 boards is played in each match.
- The minimum number of Pairs (or Teams) equals 3 times the number of matches.

Scale:

	Match won Award	Match drawn Award	Bonus (reducing evenly for top 25 %)	
			Pairs	Teams
National	Swiss Club award x 2 or 25 National points	Swiss Club award x 2 or 13 National points	TOE x 8 (max 1000)	TOE x 16 (max 1000)
Open	<u>Swiss District award</u>	Swiss District award	TOE x 6 (max 750)	TOE x 12 (max 750)
Closed	<u>Swiss Club award</u>	Swiss Club award	TOE x 4 (max 500)	TOE x 8 (max 500)

District "red-pointed" congress

Each District is allowed to run one Congress per annum in which National Points, as well as Local points, are awarded. A congress is defined as an event of at least two consecutive days where one pairs and one teams event takes place. These events may each consist of a qualifying round and a final, or they may both be Swiss events. There may be additional "filler" events that will only attract Local Points.

If this is an event with qualifying rounds and finals, then Local points are awarded for the qualifying rounds and National points are awarded for the finals (but not consolation finals). If the event consists of two Swiss events, then Local points are awarded for matches won/drawn and National points are awarded for the bonus in each case.

Online considerations:

At the time of writing the types of Teams events available are limited depending on the platform chosen. If the Teams event is in Swiss format then so must the Pairs event be. Organisers of congresses must ensure that the 'spirit' of a congress is maintained in terms of the amount of bridge available. As a guide, the total number of boards should be at least 42 for each of the pairs and Teams events.

Type of event	Appropriate minimum boards	Licence cost
Open single-session pairs event	24	£8 + £0.80 per table
Red-pointed District Swiss event	36	£10 + £1.00 per table
One-day congress	2 x 24	£8 + £0.80 per table
Multi-day Club congress (Black points only)	2 x 42	£8 + £0.80 per table
Multi-day District congress (Partial Red points)	2 x 42	£10 + £1.00 per table

Chapter 10

Events where Club/District results are collated centrally (qualifying rounds of National events and Simultaneous Pairs events)

When sending results of National Heats to Member Services, the EBU or ECats the following information **must** be included:

- The complete ranking order must be sent – not just those players eligible for Master Points.
- The Master Point number must be included for **all** players.

To ensure that the correct number of Master Points are awarded the following information must also be included:

- The number of boards played per match must be included.
- The total number of boards played must be included

Simultaneous Pairs events arranged by the SBU

- Autumn Simultaneous Pairs (Lord Thompson Trophy)
- Easter Simultaneous Pairs incorporating the Bobby Allan competition for mixed pairs

Master Point awards for these events are detailed in Chapter 11 (page 36).

- Districts within the SBU are permitted to arrange “closed” Simultaneous Pairs events, *i.e.*, these events are restricted to clubs within the organising District.

Master Point awards for these events are detailed in Chapter 5 (page 19).

Simultaneous Pairs events arranged by third parties and supported by the SBU

The following events (scored by either the EBU or ECats) are supported (in terms of MP):

- “British” Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Pairs organised by EBU
- Celtic Pairs (ECats)
- Charity Challenge Pairs (ECats)
- Children in Need Pairs (ECats)
- Bill Hughes Pairs (ECats)
- Kidney Research Pairs (ECats)
- World Bridge Federation (WBF) events in aid of Youth Bridge (ECats)

The following are **not** supported:

- World Wide Bridge Contest heats (ECats)

Chapter 11

National Competitions

National events are those directly organised by the SBU and featured in the SBU competition calendar. For all events, except for the Winter Foursomes, all players must be members of the SBU either directly or via an Affiliated Club. For eligibility for the Winter Foursomes please see below.

All awards are National Master Points. All points are credited directly onto MEMPAD. Where a top award is quoted, it is divided by the number of eligible competitors and the lesser awards are arrived at by equal decrements.

Note that for all competitions there is a minimum entry level for the maximum awards to be given. If the minimum entry-level is not attained the awards are reduced pro-rata.

For some competitions, there is a minimum number of boards to be played in the competition and this is detailed where applicable.

Knock-out events**Scottish Cup and Scottish Cup Plate.**

Awards are made for matches won and credited directly to MEMPAD.

Event	Round				
	1-2	3	QF	SF	F
Scottish Cup	2.00	4.00	6.00	8.00	12.00
Scottish Cup Plate	1 - 1.50	-	2.00	3.00	4.00

Gold Cup and Gold Cup Plate.

Awards are made for matches won and credited directly to MEMPAD.

Event	Round							
	Prelim	1	2	3	4	QF	SF	F
Gold Cup	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	6.00	10.00	20.00
Gold Cup Plate		0.50	-	-	-	1.00	1.50	2.00

N.B. The Gold Cup and Gold Cup Plate are BGB events, and the BGB determines the size of the MP awards. It is advisable to check the BGB web site for up-to-date information: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/bgb/>

Rounds 1 and two may be played in Scotland. Teams then enter round 3 of the main competition.

Winter Foursomes

The Winter Foursomes is regarded as an Open Event and thus all players must be a member of their home NBO but not necessarily a member of the SBU. If a team is knocked out of the Winter Foursomes and plays in the Winter Swiss Teams the same criteria apply. However, if a team enters the Winter Swiss event directly then all players must be SBU members. Awards are made for each match won. In the event of a drawn match, Master Points will be divided equally between the teams.

Round							
1	2	Pool A	3	Pool B	4	QF	SF & Final
Total of 2.00 available, 1.00 for a 16-board match, 0.67 for an 11-board match	1.00 for a 16-board match, 0.67 for an 11-board match	0.25 for each match won	1.50 for a 16-board match	0.50 for each match won	2.00 for a 16-board match	3.00 for a 24-board match, 2.00 for a twice loser play-off	Qualifying for the final 4.00 plus 6.00 for winning

Those teams qualifying for the Subsidiary Final will be awarded 0.75 for each match won in this event, with the top three places being awarded a 3.00, 2.00 and 1.00 bonus.

Events for qualifiers from Club/District Heats

All points will be credited directly to the players' Master Point numbers and no points should be issued by the Club or District holding the heat(s). The minimum entry-level must be attained for the top Master Point awards to be given. In the event of a smaller entry, the awards are reduced on a pro-rata basis. The awards are as follows:

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Entry Level	Minimum Number of Boards
1 st Qualifying Round	Basic x 4 (max 200)	A minimum of 4 Teams or 8 Pairs is required to hold a heat of any SBU National Competition.	24 boards must be in play but in the event of a half-table, some competitors may only play 21 boards.
2 nd Qualifying round (If required)	Basic x 6 (max 300)	A minimum of 4 Teams or 8 Pairs is required to hold a 2 nd Qualifying Round of any SBU National Competition.	

Final: Awards are made to the top half of the field. The top award is:

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Number of Pairs/Teams
Rayne	7.00	12 Teams
National Pairs	20.00	24 Pairs
Kennedy Ranked Pairs (Novices and Club Masters)	6.00	16 pairs
National Bronze Teams (Thea Teale Salver)	3.00	N/A

Events without Qualifying Round(s)Swiss Events

An award of 0.25 is made for each match won, 0.13 for a draw. There are bonus awards for competitors finishing in the top 25%. All points will be credited directly to the players' Master Point numbers.

The following events are designated Swiss events. However, the number of entries may preclude a Swiss movement from being used.

The minimum entry-level must be attained for the maximum Master Point awards to be given. In the event of a smaller entry, the awards are reduced on a pro-rata basis. The awards are as follows:

Event	Maximum Bonus Award	Minimum Entry Level
Men's Teams	10.00	24 Teams
Women's Teams	10.00	24 Teams
Winter Swiss Teams	10.00	24 Teams
Scottish Swiss Teams (Edwin Berry)	10.00	24 Teams
Scottish Swiss Pairs	10.00	48 Pairs
Mixed Swiss Teams (Helen Walton Trophy)	10.00	24 Teams
Mixed Swiss Pairs (Ruby Martin Trophy)	10.00	48 Pairs
Men's Pairs	10.00	32 Pairs
Women's Pairs	10.00	32 Pairs

Ranked Individual events

For eligibility criteria please refer to the table on page 7.

Awards will be made to the top half if 36 or more boards are played, otherwise the top third. The minimum entry level must be attained for the top Master Point awards to be given. In the event of a smaller entry the awards are reduced on a pro-rata basis. The awards are as follows:

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Entry Level
Benjamin	10.00	25
Harrison	10.00	25
Shenkin	8.00	25
Alan Fairlie	6.00	25

Ranked Pairs Events

For eligibility criteria please refer to the table on page 7.

Awards are made to the top half of the field where 36 or more boards are played, otherwise to the top third. All points will be credited directly to the players' Master Point numbers. The minimum entry-level must be attained for the top Master Point awards to be given. In the event of a smaller entry, the awards are reduced on a pro-rata basis. When it is decided to conjoin events due to a lack of numbers, for example, the Bowman/Fairlie or the Jesner/Johnstone, it shall be treated as one event for Master Point purposes. The maximum National awards are as follows:

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Entry Level
Arthur	10.00	24 Pairs
Bowman	10.00	24 Pairs
Alan Fairlie	10.00	24 Pairs
Jesner	10.00	24 Pairs
Johnston	8.00	24 Pairs

Other Single Session Pairs Events

Awards are made to the top half of the field where 36 or more boards are played, otherwise to the top third. All points will be credited directly to the players' Master Point numbers. The minimum entry-level must be attained for the top Master Point awards to be given. The maximum awards are as follows:

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Entry Level
Diamond Trophy (Senior Pairs)	10.00	48 Pairs
Inter-District (Spence Cup)	7.00	14 Pairs
Farquharson (magazine subscribers)	10.00	48 Pairs
Stirling Pairs	10.00	48 Pairs
Lord Thompson Sims	5.00	N/A
Easter Sims incorporating Bobby Allan Mixed Pairs	5.00	N/A
National Bronze Pairs (Thea Teale Trophy)	3.00	N/A

Junior Events

Junior events are open to those players who qualify as Junior as per current SBU/WBF definitions.

Event	Maximum Award	Minimum Entry Level
Frischmann	3.00	10 pairs
Scottish Schools Championship	5.00 of which 2.00 are National Points; the runners-up receive 1.00 National Point.	4 Teams

Schools Mini-Bridge Tournament

No Master Points are awarded for this event.

Chapter 12

National Congresses

Participation in SBU National & Overseas Congresses is open to all bridge players.

Except for the Bronze pre-congress pairs all awards are National Master Points.

Scales for the different SBU National Congresses are as follows:

Summer and Autumn SBU National Congresses

Type of Event	Master Point Awards
Open Teams	The results may be combined from all sections for results purposes. However, the Master Point awards are based on the individual sections. Awards are made to the top third of each section, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Open Pairs and other single session events	Awards are made to the top third of the field, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Congress Pairs Qualifying Round(s)	The top award will be one-third of Congress Pairs Final. Awards by equal amounts to the top third of the field. If more than one qualifying round is played, these awards are made for each of these rounds.
Congress Pairs Semi-Final	The top award will be one-half of Congress Pairs Final
Congress Pairs Consolation Semi-Final	The top award will be one-half of Congress Pairs Consolation Final
Congress Pairs Final	The top award will be based on TOE x 8 with a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1000. Awards by equal amounts to the top half of the field.
Congress Pairs Consolation Final	The top award will be two-thirds of Congress Pairs Final. Awards by equal amounts to the top half of the field.
Congress Pairs Swiss (as a subsidiary event to a Pairs Final)	The top award will be based on the TOE for the Swiss Pairs x 8 up to a maximum of one-third of the Congress Pairs Final. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.
Congress Teams Qualifying Round	The top award will be one-third of Congress Teams Final. Awards by equal amounts to the top third of the field.
Congress Teams Final	The top award will be based on TOE x 16 with a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1000. Awards by equal amounts to the top half of the field.
Congress Teams Consolation Final	The top award will be two-thirds of the Congress Teams Final. Awards by equal amounts to the top half of the field.
Congress Teams Swiss (as a subsidiary event to a Teams Final)	The top award will be based on the TOE for the Swiss Teams x 16 up to a maximum of one-third of the Congress Teams Final. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.

Winter Swiss SBU National Congress

Type of Event	Master Point Awards
Open Teams	Master Point awards are based on the individual sections. Awards are made to the top third of the field, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Open Pairs	Awards are made to the top third of the field, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Congress Swiss Pairs	The top award will be based on TOE x 8 with a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1000. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.
Congress Swiss Teams	The top award will be based on TOE x 16 with a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1000. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.

Overseas SBU National Congress

Type of Event	Master Point Awards
Single-session Teams	Master Point awards are based on the individual sections. Awards are made to the top third of each section, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Single-session Pairs	Master Point awards are based on the individual sections. Awards are made to the top third of each section, the lowest being 40 with equal increments of 40.
Congress Swiss Pairs	Top award will be based on the TOE x 8 up to a maximum of 1000, decreasing by equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.
Congress Swiss Teams	Top award will be based on the TOE x 16 up to a maximum of 1000, decreasing by equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 25 master points for each win and 13 master points for each draw.

National Bronze Congresses

Type of Event	Master Point Awards
Pre-congress Pairs	Local Points are awarded based on the Basic Awards Scales (National column) on pages 11 and 15.
Bronze Congress Pairs	For each separate round, National Points are awarded based on the Basic Awards Scales on pages <u>11</u> and <u>15</u> . Pairs are ranked according to their average of 2 scores or best 2 of 3 scores and a bonus is awarded. The top bonus award is 200 National Points for a two-round event and 400 National Points for a 3-round event, thereafter awards are made in equal decrements to the top third of the field.
Bronze Congress Swiss Pairs	The top award will be based on TOE x 8 with a minimum of 250 and a maximum of 500. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 20 master points for each win and 10 master points for each draw.
Bronze Congress Teams	National Points are awarded based on the Basic Awards Scales on page 11.
Bronze Congress Swiss Teams	The top award will be based on TOE x 16 with a minimum of 250 and a maximum of 500. Awards are made in equal decrements to the top quarter of the field plus 20 master points for each win and 10 master points for each draw.

Bronze players playing in the main congress subsidiary Swiss events will form part of the TOE for these events and may thus gain National Points in line with the above descriptions for these events.

Chapter 13

Online Bridge

During 2020, bridge in the UK moved online firstly by using the BBO platform and then also that of Real Bridge. Various changes were made to accommodate the differences between face-to-face bridge and that online, but by February 2021 these have settled down and been incorporated into the existing structure, such that all policies, rules, tables, scales, etc apply equally to face-to-face bridge and online bridge unless specifically stated otherwise. League-type competitions which only exist online, namely the Bronze League (BL) and the SBU Online League (SOL), are included in Chapter 8 – Leagues.

Glossary

Affiliated Club	These are clubs that pay an annual affiliation fee to the SBU. Being affiliated allows a club to purchase and issue Master Point certificates, hold heats of National events and to run SBU Simultaneous events, but there is no requirement for them to do so. All members of an Affiliated club must be paid-up members of the SBU either via the Club, via another Affiliated Club or by Direct Membership.
Basic Scales	These are shown at the beginning of the relevant chapter.
BGB	Bridge Great Britain (managing British Isles inter-union events)
Blue Points (EBU)	These are issued by the EBU and are converted into SBU National Points in the ratio 3 Blue = 1 Red.
CBAI	Contract Bridge Association of Ireland
Closed Event – Area	No licence is required but all players must be a member of an Affiliated Club within the defined Area holding the event.
Closed Event – Club	No licence is required but all players must be a member of the Affiliated Club holding the event.
Closed Event - District	No licence is required but all players must be a member of an Affiliated Club within the District holding the event.
EBU	English Bridge Union
Home Club	This is the Club where an SBU member pays their SBU subscription. Players can be members of multiple Clubs in multiple Districts but can have only one home club.
Home Union	The list of home unions is: - all-Ireland, BGB, CBAI, EBU, NIBU, SBU, WBU. MP issued by a home union are recognised by all the others.
Local Points	Known as Black Points and issued by Clubs, Areas and Districts.
Member Services	Email contact masterpoints@sbu.org.uk or membership@sbu.org.uk
MEMPAD	Membership and Master Point Administration Database available online at www.mempad.co.uk
Minimum Level	This represents the minimum number of Pairs/Teams required to achieve the maximum Master Point award.
Minimum Number of Boards	For Club, Area or District events the minimum number of boards that must be played by all players is 20 <i>i.e.</i> if North/South played 20 boards but East/West only played 18 then only North/South would be eligible for Master Points. Please see National Competition Chapter (Chapter 11) for minimum levels for those events.
National Points	These are also known as Red Points (or Green Points in other Home Unions) and cannot be issued by Clubs, Areas or Districts except for certain specific District events, as outlined in this document.
NBO	National Bridge Organisation
NIBU	Northern Ireland Bridge Union
Non-Affiliated Club	A Non-Affiliated club is one that does not pay a subscription to the SBU and therefore is not entitled to hold any heats of SBU competitions or to issue Master Points.
Open Event	A Licence is required for all Open Events run by a Club or District.
SBU	Scottish Bridge Union
SBU Member	Paid-up member of SBU Direct or at least one SBU affiliated club.
TOE	Total Original Entry – this is the total number of Pairs/Teams (rather than Individual players).
WBU	Welsh Bridge Union

Appendix

Conversion of Blue Points into National (Red) Points

Blue points have been issued by the English Bridge Union since January 2013 for certain events that do not attract National points, notably Simultaneous Pairs events.

Blue points have been recorded on MEMPAD using the Event Code ***BLUE*** since July 2013 and they have been treated as equivalent to Local Points, on a one-for-one basis.

EBU policy is that their members may request a **one-off** conversion of up to 150 Blue Points into Red Points in the ratio of 3 Blue = 1 Red. A maximum of 50 Red points may therefore be obtained in this way. Mempad cannot support this kind of transaction efficiently and the MP Policy Committee decided to follow the EBU logic but implement it automatically, with no limits, whenever EBU Blue points are received by SBU players.

Members will therefore have any new Blue points converted to National (red) Points when received, and existing historic Blue points will be converted on a one-time basis in September 2019. In both cases the ratio applied will be three Blue equals one Red. If an SBU member transfers to the EBU or another home country union, the red points will be reconverted back to blue manually before transmission to the other NBO.

Change Log

Version number	Date	Comments
8.02.01	October 2017	Restructuring of Chapter 11, including changes to awards and qualifying numbers in national events.
8.03.01	December 2017	Changes to Winter Swiss guidelines, Chapter 12 to include a minimum of 500 MP for a top bonus. MP to the top third in open pairs and teams. Change to Gold Cup awards QF, SF and F in line with new BGB guidelines.
9.01.01	September 2019	References to paper and computer-generated certificates removed. Reference to Club affiliation fee removed. Restructuring of Gold Cup and Scottish Cup awards tables to reflect changes in Gold Cup Scottish awards. Minor changes to the classification of some National events. Inclusion of a list of ECats and other simultaneous pairs events supported by SBU. Points scale included for District Simultaneous pairs events. Treatment of Blue Points set out in Appendix A. Treatment of On-line events defined. The explanation provided as to how points and ranks held by incomers from overseas are treated
9.02.01	October 2020	Ch 13 added: Online bridge Autumn Pairs deleted, now all Ch 11 events red-pointed. Scottish Online League (SOL) added (Ch 8). Bronze League (BL) added (Ch 8).
9.02.02	February 2021	Refs to 20+ boards replaced: now 18 and 12-17 Caps removed from basic scale tables Notes added for 12-17 board awards. Clarification that SBU clubs are not obliged to award MP for their own competitions. Suggested minimum numbers of boards for licenced events and congresses (Ch 9). Addition of Pairs semi-final awards in National congress scheme. Bronze National congress amended to include Swiss Pairs and Teams.