

MASTER POLICY COMMITTEE (NEWS at the end of the 2018-19 season)

EBU Blue Points

From 2019-20 season onwards, any EBU Blue points gained will be converted to SBU National Points (red) at the same rate as the EBU converts, namely 3 blue points equals 1 red.

This means that any future points gained when playing in, for example the British Isles SIMS, will be a mixture of Local Points (black) and National Points (red). Historical Blue points gained over the past few years will be converted to NP shortly.

Valentine Pairs

This event was originally conceived as a unique, meaning one-time, donation-seeking event, to support our Scottish Ladies in the Venice Cup 2019 being held in China later this year. Prior to the event taking place the intent was not to award master points. During the planning phase the event then morphed into a national SBU event without all the implications being fully considered.

Post-event it became obvious that many participants had assumed points would be awarded, leading to disappointment. The Master Point Policy Committee, upon the request of the SBU Council, have therefore decided to exceptionally award points in the same manner we do for other similar charitable SIMS processed by ECATS. The scale used is higher than that used for District events. MP for the Valentine Pairs have been registered directly on players records.

The MP Policy Committee will take steps to ensure that in future, Event Organisers must make the MP situation very clear prior to the event.

Opportunities to gain National Points locally

Some SBU members in the smaller Districts, who, because of their distance from larger population centres, have complained that they have less opportunities to gain NP than others. It is of course a fact that the intent of NP is to reward performance against stronger competition which means playing against a wider cross-section of players. Travel is therefore often involved by necessity. Nonetheless there are opportunities to win NP without lengthy travel, indeed often in one's own club.

The MP Policy committee believes that better communication by itself, as well as Districts and clubs, can improve members' knowledge of those annual or regular competitions that award NP.

We will also be making greater efforts in this area to keep members informed about the MP scheme itself. Since some 75% plus of our active members are ranked below Regional Master, any points won contribute to improving one's rank – so colour is not relevant unless one is close to moving from Bronze to Silver.

W L Whyte
pp P Hodgson

MP Policy Committee

August 2019