

MASTERPOINT SCHEME

OBJECTS

The SABF's MASTERPOINT SCHEME was introduced to stimulate interest in organised duplicate bridge and provide a means of measuring and recording the achievements of players of organised duplicate bridge.

Points are awarded in several types of competition and the scales of awards for the different forms of competition are related to the standard measure as accurately as possible in all the varying circumstances.

It is recognised that opportunities to compete are not the same for all players, but all national and regional events, which carry the highest awards, are open to all members of clubs, which are affiliated to constituent bodies of the South African Bridge Federation.

ADMINISTRATION.

The day-to-day administration of the SCHEME is conducted by the masterpoint registrar who is responsible for maintaining the register for the country as a whole. All results of tournaments that qualify for awards should be masterpointed by the club or the regional masterpoint secretary, and then forwarded in duplicate to the masterpoint registrar who will then check the awards and make the appropriate entries in the register.

News relating to the SCHEME, as well as an up-to-date log, will be published from time to time in a publication issued by the SABF.

Any decision on masterpoint awards for new types of competition and interpretation of these regulations is the sole prerogative of the executive and/or officials of the SABF whose decision shall be final.

DEFINITIONS

MASTERPOINT: The unit of measure by which a player's achievements are recorded and aggregated to establish that player's standing in the masterpoint log. There are two types of masterpoints:

Red Full Points. Each Red Point is a full masterpoint and is awarded for above average final positions in regional and national events. Red points are expressed as full points or as hundredths of a point and must constitute at least half the minimum number of points required for the two highest masterpoint rankings.

Blue Local Points. Each Blue point is one hundredth of a full masterpoint and is awarded for club events and for qualifying rounds and side events in regional or national events. Blue points are worth one hundredth of a Red masterpoint and count towards masterpoint ranking but are not convertible to Red points.

SCALES

Pairs Basic Award Scale (PBAS)

This is the basic award scale for pair's events and applies directly to single session club events. It is modified by various factors, specified in these regulations; to obtain the appropriate award for larger or higher level events.

SCHEDULE A shows the PBAS table and is expressed in Blue Points. The awards reflected are per player.

Teams Basic Award Scale (TBAS)

This is the basic award scale for team events and applies directly to single session club events. It is modified by various factors, specified in these regulations; to obtain the appropriate award for larger or higher level events.

SCHEDULE B shows the TBAS and is expressed in Blue Points. The awards reflected are per team.

AWARDS

Qualifying Rounds. These awards apply only to pairs events and are given to players finishing in certain positions after one or more qualifying session. They are independent of final positions in the tournament.

Match Bonus. These awards apply only to team events and are dependent upon the size of the win in IMPS in individual matches. They are independent of final positions in the tournament.

FACTORS

Prestige. This is the multiplication factor that is applied to the appropriate Basic Award Scale in order to increase the award commensurate with the level of the event.

Grading. This is a multiplication factor that is applied to the appropriate Basic Award Scale in order to increase the award commensurate with the graded level of the section. The additional Blue Points are per session points.

SCHEDULE D shows the grading factors for both pairs and teams events for various levels of events.

EVENTS

Event Levels. In order of rank – Club, Club Championship, Regional and National.

Club. These are regular weekly or monthly events held by a club. Each club is entitled to one pairs and one team event per week, which are eligible for masterpoint awards.

Club Championship. Each club is entitled to one annual pair's event and one annual team's event, which are eligible for masterpoint awards at club championship level. These events must be stipulated in advance and the dates given to the SABF.

Regional. Each regional union is entitled to a maximum of four events per annum, of which at least one must be a pairs event and one a team event. These events must be stipulated and the SABF notified one year in advance.

National. Events sponsored by the SABF and/or held under their auspices.

TYPES OF EVENTS

There are many types of events and combinations of various types of events.

Qualifying.

A preliminary contest held over two or more sessions in order to separate the field into two or more final sessions.

Final

The contest between players who have been separated into fields by means of a qualifying event.

Knock-out

Events where a certain proportion of the field is eliminated by one or more losses to eventually reduce the field to one winner. Supplementary events may be arranged for the pairs or teams eliminated in earlier rounds.

Swiss

A teams event in which each team only plays a proportion of the complete field on the basis of playing teams with approximately the same score, whom they have not already played, if possible. In order to qualify for masterpoint awards, a Swiss event must be played over a minimum number of rounds. (See Requirements to Qualify for an Award – Page 4)

Closed

An event from which some players are barred other than by their masterpoint ranking. These events carry only one-third of the number of masterpoints of the corresponding open event.

Side

An event organised for players who have been eliminated from events for which final placing awards are given. The Basic Award Scale applies to the number of pairs or teams in each section with the appropriate Prestige Factor.

RANK

There are at present seven ranks which are attainable under the Scheme by players acquiring a specific number of masterpoints:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MASTERPOINTS</u>	
Member	0-2	
Club Master	2	
Local Master	10	
Master	25	
Regional Master	50	
National Master	150	of which at least 75 must be Red points
Life Master	300	of which at least 150 must be Red points
National Life Master	600	of which at least 300 must be Red points
Premier Life Master	1200	of which at least 600 must be Red points
Grandmaster	2000	of which at least 1200 must be Red points

LEVY

There is no levy attached to the award of Masterpoints but it is incumbent on all clubs, regional and national secretaries to submit details of all results for the computerisation of such awards timeously.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Annual membership cards will be prepared and updated each year and sent for distribution to members to the relevant regional union and/or clubs.

GENERAL RULES RELATING TO AWARDS

Awards in pairs contests are Player awards and as such are made to each of the contestants.

In a Mitchell movement where there is no distinction made between the winners of the North/South stream and the East/West stream, awards are made equally to both sides based on the number of pairs competing in their direction.

Awards in a team-of-four event are Team awards and are divided equally amongst all qualified members of the team. For this purpose, a team is allowed no more than six members. In order to qualify for an award, a member must have played at least one-third of all the boards played during the event for which masterpoints are available.

REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD

To qualify for masterpoints, an event must have at least

- 5 Tables in a Mitchell movement,
- 3 Tables in a Howell movement,
- 3 Tables in a team-of-four event,
- 2 Tables in an individual event.

And for a Swiss team event, if there are

- 5 to 9 teams, at least 3 rounds must be played,

10 to 16	teams, at least 4 rounds must be played,
17 to 25	teams, at least 5 rounds must be played,
26 to 36	teams, at least 6 rounds must be played,
37 to 49	teams, at least 7 rounds must be played,
50 to 65	teams, at least 8 rounds must be played,
66 to 81	teams, at least 9 rounds must be played,
over 81	teams, at least 10 rounds must be played.

No event may be eligible for masterpoints unless all contestants play at least 18 boards in a pairs or individual event.

To be regarded as a two-session event, all contestants must have played at least 42 boards.

To be regarded as a three-session event, all contestants must have played at least 63 boards.

No event run on a handicap basis is eligible for masterpoints.

Any fraction of a Blue point shall be rounded up to the next higher whole number.

Tied contestants share equally all the points awarded for the places they would occupy if the tie were broken.

APPLICATION OF AWARDS

PAIRS EVENTS

Masterpoints are awarded in accordance with the PBAS multiplied by the appropriate Prestige and/or Grading factors.

Grading Factors

These are applied to events, which are split into graded sections by a few preliminary rounds, or according to some determining factor such as masterpoint ranking.

They do not apply to events that are split into final sections by qualifying rounds.

The PBAS is applied directly to the lowest section(s). Each higher section gets an award increased by 10% of the PBAS per lower section, up to a maximum of 10 sections. In addition, each player in a higher section is awarded 5 Blue points per lower section, up to a maximum of 45 Blue points.

Where appropriate, the Prestige factor is applied to both the increased PBAS and the 5 Blue points per player.

See Schedule D for a full chart of appropriate awards.

Qualifying and Final Events

Masterpoints are awarded on the PBAS down to halfway of the original field. No Grading factors are applicable. The top of any lower section gets the points applicable to the place after the bottom of the next higher section. In the final rounds, any sections not eligible for event awards (e.g. side events) will earn Blue points based on the appropriate number of tables in the section, multiplied by the appropriate Prestige factor.

In the qualifying rounds, the PBAS applies to the number of tables in the Section, multiplied by the appropriate Prestige factor.

Qualifying Round Awards

These apply only to national and regional events and are awarded to each eligible player as follows:

	NATIONAL EVENT	REGIONAL EVENT
Top quarter of the field	2.0 Red points	1.0 Red point
Second quarter of the field	1.0 Red point	0.5 Red point
Third quarter of the field	0.5 Red point	25.0 Blue points

Round Robin & Barometer Events

As for qualifying events, (excluding qualifying round awards) multiplied by a factor of 1.5. Any section not eligible for the above awards is treated as a side event.

PRESTIGE FACTORS

Regular Club Events.

No Prestige factor applies. The PBAS is applied directly, with a Grading factor if relevant, and all awards are in Blue points.

Club Championships

A prestige factor of 3 is applied to the PBAS with a Grading factor where relevant. All awards are in Blue points.

Regional Events

A Prestige factor of 5 is applied to the PBAS with a grading factor where relevant. Final awards down to half of the original field are in Red points. Qualifying round awards and other side event awards utilise a Prestige factor of 2.

National Events

A Prestige factor of 10 is applied to the PBAS with a Grading factor where relevant. Final awards down to half of the original field are in Red points per pair. Qualifying round awards and other side event awards utilise a Prestige factor of 3 and are in Blue points.

SPECIAL EVENTS.**Simultaneous Pairs**

A prestige factor of 3 is applied to the PBAS. Final awards down to half of the overall field are in Red points per pair.

Mixed Pairs

As for normal pairs events, but at half the normal awards. Prestige and Grading factors are applied where relevant

TEAM EVENTS.

Masterpoints are awarded in accordance with TBAS, multiplied by the appropriate Prestige and/or Grading factors, dependant upon the number of boards played as shown in Schedule B.

The TBAS shows the masterpoints award per team.

Masterpoints are awarded per team irrespective of the number of players but limited to six, and divided equally amongst the eligible members

Match Bonus Awards, where applicable, are given for individual matches and are independent of the final outcome of the event and are in Blue points only.

Schedule C shows the Match Bonus Awards scale when applied to various long and short board matches.

GRADING FACTORS

These are applied to regular club events, which are split into graded sections by a few preliminary rounds or according to some determining factor.

It only applies to club championship, regional or national events that are graded according to some determining factor and not by qualifying rounds.

The TBAS is applied directly to the lowest section(s). Each higher section receives an award increased by 10% of the TBAS per lower section, up to a maximum of 10 sections. In addition each team in a higher section receives an award of 20 Blue points per lower section, up to a maximum of 180 Blue points.

Where appropriate, the Prestige factor is applied to both the increased TBAS and the 20 Blue points per team.

QUALIFYING AND FINAL EVENTS

Masterpoints are awarded on the TBAS down to halfway of the original field. No Grading factors are applicable. The top of any lower section gets the points applicable to the place after the bottom of the next higher section.

In qualifying rounds only Match Bonus Awards are given at the appropriate level.

In the final rounds, Match Bonus Awards are given at the appropriate level as well as masterpoints for the final placings.

KNOCK-OUT EVENTS

Masterpoints are awarded on the TBAS down to halfway of the original field. No Grading factors are applicable. Unless a play-off is arranged to determine the winners of particular positions, teams knocked out at any particular level share the points for these positions.

For example:

Winner of the final gets points for first place; loser of the final gets points for second place.

Losers of the semi-finals share points for third and fourth place. Losers of the quarterfinals share points for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth positions, and so on, down to half the original entry.

Match Bonus Awards are also given.

SIDE EVENTS

For teams eliminated in preliminary rounds, masterpoints are awarded on the TBAS according to the number of teams in the section and Match Bonus Awards are given. Both types of points are given as Blue points, but if the event is at a national level, the points are multiplied by a Factor of 3, and at regional level at a Factor of 2.

PRESTIGE FACTORS

Regular Club Events

No Prestige factor applies. Grading factors and Match Bonus Awards may be given where applicable. All awards are in Blue points.

Club Championships

A Prestige factor of 3 is applied to the TBAS with a Grading factor, where applicable. Match Bonus Awards are also pertinent, and all awards are Blue points.

Regional Events

A Prestige factor of 6 is applied to the TBAS with a Grading factor, where applicable. These awards are in Red points. Match Bonus Awards are given in Blue points multiplied by a factor of 2. For side events see above.

National Events

A Prestige factor of 6 is applied to the TBAS with a grading factor, where applicable. These awards are in Red points. Match Bonus Awards are given in Blue points applied by a factor of 3. For side events see above.

Individual Events

As for pairs events, but utilising the awards indicated by "I" in the number of tables in the PBAS. Relevant Prestige and Grading factors apply.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Match Bonus Awards are given in Blue points with a Prestige factor of 2

	Medwin International	Berkowitz
Based on a maximum of six team entry:		
Winners share	20 Red points	8 Red points
Second position share	12 Red points	4 Red Points
Third Position share	8 Red points	2 Red points

Match Bonus Awards are given in Blue points with a Prestige factor of 3.

Multi-Session Teams Events.

Teams event run over several sessions with one final set of results. (eg Hillbrow Teams). Blue points and Match Bonus points are awarded, multiplied by a Session Factor equal to the number of Sessions over which the event takes place..

Intertown and Interclub Events

Match Bonus Awards are given in Blue points at basic level.

National Simultaneous Events.

A maximum award of 10 Red points per pair decreasing in equal steps to halfway down the field.

PERFORMANCE INDEX (PI)

(Introduced January 2010)

In order to place more weight on recent form, a Performance Index (PI) has been introduced as follows:

1. PI = Total Red Points plus $\frac{1}{4}$ Blue Points earned in the last 5 years.
2. Each year, the earliest year drops off and the most recent year is added.
3. This calculation will be done annually, at the end of the calendar year, and will stand for the year.

The PI will now place some value on Blue points earned by the players and is a reflection of a player's current form.