



Summary of main changes and provisions relating to counties

1. Only 3 types of organisations can award EBU MPs without a licence – Affiliated Clubs, Counties and the EBU itself. All other organisations must apply to the EBU for a licence to award MPs.
2. Counties can hold up to one game per week for their members and guests/visitors. It would be regarded as unusual for more than 10% of the field to be classed as a guest/visitor. Counties can also hold Minor Championships of 36 or more boards.
The number allowed = number of shareholder votes + 10.
3. Counties can additionally hold the following events annually without the need to apply for a licence
 - a. Some special events each year for both existing members and potential new members. The number allowed = number of shareholder votes + 1. These cannot be Simultaneous Pairs events.
 - b. A number of “No Fear” style events, open to both existing members and potential new members (e.g Level 1 Systems only). The number allowed = number of shareholder votes + 1.
 - c. An unlimited number of junior or school events open to members and non-members based in the County.
 - d. 2 simultaneous pairs event open only to affiliated clubs. If they wish to exceed this number then they must apply for a licence. Non-affiliated clubs cannot enter County Simultaneous Pairs events.
 - e. One event for the benefit of invited/selected/qualified members of other counties as well as the county itself
4. Counties can hold 2 ladders annually. These are a series of regular games with a bonus MP award attached to the series based on some measure of average performance.
5. Counties can designate 1 Pairs event and 1 Teams event as their Major Championships and can then award MPs at enhanced level. These events must be of at least 36 boards overall duration.
6. Only affiliated clubs will be able to enter county and EBU events for which entry is made as a club (e.g. NICKO, Garden Cities Qualifying, County Sims)
7. All MPs earned after April 2010 will be credited electronically to a member’s account. No paper MP certificates can be issued after that date. Paper certificates issued before 1 April 2010 will be accepted up to 3 years from their issue date.
8. All county leagues will require an annual licence as set out in the Pay-to-play documentation. For 2010/11 the cost of this licence is £5/team for a team-of-4 league and £10/team for a team-of-8 league
9. All knock-out team events held by counties, including the knockout stage of the County Major Team Championship, will be subject to the same fee as #8 above.
10. Heats of county events (e.g. qualifying round, simultaneous pairs) held in clubs will be subject to pay-to-play charges
11. All county events that do not require a licence will be exempt from any mandatory EBU charges. However some counties who hold weekly duplicates have already indicated they believe it appropriate to pay P2P subscription charges for such regular events
12. Any member suspended by the EBU will not be able to earn any MPs during the period of their suspension.
13. Licence fees for one day county green point events will be capped at 50% of the ‘profit’ from the event. Exact details of how this procedure works are available from Aylesbury.