

April 2010 Masterpoint and Licensing Regulations – Transitional arrangements for County Competitions

A revised set of Masterpoint and Licensing Regulations comes into force from April 2010. These take account of Pay-to-play and also tidy up some loose ends. In the main there is little change to the existing Regulations in terms of Open and Closed events and the participation of non-County members and/or non-EBU members in County competitions. However it is clear from recent discussions that for whatever reason some Counties have not been fully compliant with the existing Regulations. We realise that these Counties may have made commitments and plans on the basis of their historical practices being able to continue in 2010/11. We do not wish to cause problems for these Counties so we are proposing the following transitional policy:

- Counties are expected to ensure they understand the main provisions of the new Regulations. Assistance is available from Aylesbury in this regard.
- Wherever possible Counties should operate the new regulations from 1 April 2010
- Counties should certainly not instigate any new competitions or make changes to existing competitions that are not fully compliant
- Where Counties believe that changing arrangements to current competitions will cause particular difficulties then they may continue an event under its historical arrangements for season 2010/11. In all such instances Counties are requested to provide Aylesbury with details of the event to avoid any problems being flagged when the results file is received
- Counties are requested to ensure they are fully compliant in Season 2011/12.

The EBU will operate the new regulations fully from April 2010 apart from any ongoing competitions. This means that only affiliated clubs will be eligible to enter NICKO, Garden Cities and EBU Simultaneous Pairs after this date.

We have previously announced a review of these Regulations, by 1 April 2011, taking into account experience from Universal Membership. We already have a number of topics for this review including:

- Allowing Counties to make their events open to any EBU member if they so wish
- Whether competitors playing in County competitions should be subject to a P2P charge and if so, to what extent
- Further tightening up the regulations and conditions applying to non-EBU members entering County and Club events
- Whether County K/O events should be subject to a P2P fee and how much that fee should be

We would be interested in hearing Counties views on these and other similar issues between September and December 2010.