

The Master Point Scheme

The English Bridge Union Master Point Scheme came into operation in September 1956 to enable recognition of players' achievements. The scheme provides a comprehensive ranking system beginning with Local Master and continuing right up to the highest rank of Premier Grand Master. Affiliated clubs value the scheme for its unique incentives in helping to promote and retain club membership. Novice players in particular appreciate gaining Master Points and having their achievements recognised by progressing up the ranks.

Players obtain points by success in duplicate bridge competitions, on a scale which varies according to the success itself, the size of the competition and its status. About the top one-third of players in a competition are entitled to Master Points. The register of Master Points is kept at the offices of the English Bridge Union. Only members of the EBU may register their points and have their records maintained. Lapsed members may have their records revived and valid Master Points registered on renewal of membership of the EBU.

Types of Master Point

There are four types of point. Local, Blue and Green Points accumulate to establish a player's Master Point rank. Gold Points, which depreciate in value over a five-year period, provide a measure of form for more expert players.

- **Local (Black) Points:** These are awarded at any duplicate session, including club duplicates, complying with the normal rules and regulations of the Master Points scheme.
- **Blue Points:** Blue Points were introduced on 1st January 2013 to facilitate more local events where members can earn points counting towards ranks requiring Green Points. Blue Points are awarded in certain events including: one-session EBU competitions; EBU Sim Pairs competitions and some specific club and county competitions. All Master Point ranks will allow up to 50 Green Points to be replaced by Blue Points in the ratio of 3 Blue = 1 Green.
- **Green Points:** These are won in national events and are necessary for progress to the most senior ranks. The value of a Green Point is 100 Local Points so $1\frac{1}{2}$ Green Points = 150 Local Points .
- **Gold Points:** Any performance in a single event which merits an award of five Green Points or more automatically receives Gold Points in addition to the Green Points award (e.g. an award of 6 green points equates to 1.2 Gold points, i.e. 6 divided by 5)

In [My EBU](#) and on the [Master Point ranks page](#) Green and Blue master points are listed in terms of the equivalent number of local points. Historically these requirements were listed in batches of 100 and are still described that way in the handbook and event programmes and results. So if it was said in the past that you needed 25 Green Points to be a Regional Master, what was really required was 25×100 i.e. 2,500 Green Master Points. If a competition programme tells you that you get $\frac{1}{4}$ Green for winning a match, it means 25 Green Master Points.

Master Points Ranks

The ranks up to and including Tournament Master only require a player to have a specified number of Local Points (some of which may have been awarded as Green Points).

The ranks of Premier Master and above require a player to have a specified number of both Local and Green Points. For example, 7,500 Local Points and 25 Green Points qualify the holder as a Regional Master.

As mentioned above Blue Points can be used to replace Green Points in the ratio of 3 Blue = 1 Green up to 50 Green Points. Members will, therefore, be able to reach Premier Regional Master rank entirely with Blue Points, or a combination of Blues and Greens, but will require Green Points to reach higher ranks.

- [Full list of Master Point ranks and requirements](#)

Registration of Master Points

Master Points gained in competitions are registered with the EBU by the clubs and tournament organisers. Clubs upload their session files via the club's member area on the EBU website – see the section on the UMS System in this Handbook. Note that such Master Points will immediately appear in the session files shown in the member area for both clubs and individual members, but they will not be transferred to the permanent Master Point record, and thus not appear on a member's total, until the month following the upload by a club. This is in order to give club administrators time to correct any mistakes in their sessions.

Viewing Master Point Records

Members may view their Master Point record at any time by logging in to their [personal member area](#) on the EBU website using their EBU number and password.

Publication of Promotions

All [promotions between Master Point ranks](#) are published monthly on the EBU website and in My EBU. [Ranking lists by County](#) are published annually with Clubs and Counties being informed when they are available to view.

Four Landmark Promotions are recognised: Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master. These are processed four times a year and published in the English Bridge issues in February, May, September and December.

Each Bridge Club will receive every month a list of all their members' promotions. This will be provided through the club's member area on the EBU website. It is good practice to publicise your club members' promotions through your club website, newsletter and by announcements in the club since members appreciate such recognition.

Master Point Competitions and Prizes

Members who achieve one of the Landmark Promotions receive a congratulatory letter from the EBU Chair and a certificate of rank attained.

Those achieving a landmark promotion to the rank of Master receive a discount up to £25 to be used against entry to any EBU organised event. This discount can only be applied to one event of the members' choice. Members achieving one of the other three landmark promotions (Regional, Life and Grand Master) will receive a free entry to the Ranked Masters Pairs.

The End of Year Annual Competition

This runs from January 1st to December 31st each year and all EBU members with a visible master point record are included. Prizes are awarded in the form of free entry to specified events, as detailed below. We publish the ranking lists on the EBU website and we inform the Counties and Clubs when they are available to view.

The [national ranking lists](#) are shown based on local, blue, green and total points earned in the year. The winner for each county in each of these four groups will be awarded free entry to one of the [Online One-Day Green Pointed](#) events in the forthcoming year, limited to one per person. In addition, each of the [club champions](#) will be awarded free entry to one of the [Online One-Day Green Pointed](#) events in the forthcoming year, again limited to one per person. These free entries are awarded in place of the cash prizes that were formerly awarded to a much smaller group of members.

The ["Sunday Telegraph" Salver](#) – and free entry to the [Ranked Masters Pairs](#) – will be presented to the player who has won the most points in the competition year.