

## Line movements for incomplete multi-section multi-session events

Try to have equal-sized sections. If that's not possible, either have one smaller section and the others the same size (Method J) or one larger section and the others all the same size (Method V). Do not have more than two different section sizes.

Try to make the sections as equal as possible, especially with Method V, but the larger the section sizes are (relative to the number of rounds) the more flexibility you have in this regard. For Method J the smaller section must be at least half the size of the larger sections.

When moving the lines, think of a small Howell movement and consider each line to be like a pair, each section to be like a table: one line will be stationary, one section will be a "swivel" section where lines play first as NS and then as EW (or vice versa), and the lines will play in the other section(s) twice but not consecutively – once as NS and once as EW.

In this way you can have up to n-1 sessions for n lines – ie three sections is sufficient for up to five sessions, and three sections is the minimum you can have for a four-session event like the Corwen. It is possible to have a three-session event with only two sections.

## Method with one short line, illustrated with one 13-table section and two 16-table sections

NS 1-10 in the smaller section are stationary and form one line. EW 1-13 combined with NS 11-13 form another line of sixteen pairs, pairs 11-26 for EBU Score purposes.

The sixteen-pair lines move at the end of each session according to the principles above. When they play in the smaller section, the line splits so that pairs 1-3 play NS 11-13 and pairs 4-16 play as EW 1-13. In this way the lower numbered pairs are playing against their own line for one session. Doing it this way keeps the line movement entries in EBU Score to a minimum as you will just enter Pairs 1-16 -> Pairs 11-26.

Red NS 1-10 remain stationary

Red EW 1-13 go to Blue EW 4-16

Red NS 11-13 go to Blue EW 1-3

Blue EW 1-16 go to White NS 1-16

White NS 1-16 go to White EW 1-16

White EW 1-16 go to Blue NS 1-16

Blue NS 1-3 go to Red NS 11-13

Blue NS 4-16 go to Red EW 1-13

Method with one larger section, illustrated with two 14-table sections and one 15-table section

NS 1-14 in the first section are stationary. There are six lines of 14 pairs, and two additional pairs who stay in the same section throughout – NS 14, and EW 1 in the larger (swivel) section. They will never play against each other.

The lines all move at the end of each session according to the principles above, with a minor variation when moving from NS to EW in the larger section.

Red NS 1-14 remain stationary

Red EW 1-14 go to Blue EW 1-14

Blue EW 1-14 go to White NS 1-14

White NS 15 remains stationary

White NS 1-14 go to White EW 2-15

White EW1 remains as White EW1

White EW 2-15 go to Blue NS 1-14

Blue NS 1-14 go to Red EW 1-14

Note that for EBUScore purposes the stationary pairs are 15-16 in the section, which minimises the number of entries for the line movements

This would also work for two sections of 16 tables and one section of 18 tables (assuming 13-round sessions), by having NS 17 & 18 and EW 1 & 2 in the larger section remaining there throughout. It would work for two sections of 16 tables and one of 20 too, but not for two sections of 14 tables and one of 16.\*

I've made the three sections above Red Blue & White rather than Red White & Blue because I think we should get in the habit of making Blue Section "B" if possible. It's confusing to have Blue as "C" and White as "B".

Gordon Rainsford, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 updated Mar 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

\*Ian Mitchell has pointed out that if your smallest section is M tables, and you are playing R rounds (assuming R is odd), then the large section can be no more than

$M + (M-R) + 1$ , or

$2M+1-R$

This means that a model with several 13-table sections and one large section for the remainder would not be able to use the second method above and wouldn't work well if there were too many sessions.