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## SUGGESTIONS FOR BOARD DEALING SECURITY

Although the EBU does not have specific policies to do with ensuring the security of pre-dealt boards, here are some ideas that clubs and counties might find helpful.

Since it is damaging to the confidence of players if they have doubts about the security of deal information, it is sensible to do everything possible to remove potential causes for concern.

- Boards should not be dealt any further in advance than is necessary.
- If the person dealing the boards is going to play in the event, they should ensure the deal settings are such that they don't see the hands during the dealing process. Having another person watching over the process is a further improvement.
- If the deal files are kept on a club computer to which many people have access, they should be kept in a password-protected folder.
- Printed hand records should be stored in a fresh sealed envelope, stapled if necessary, so that it can not be opened and re-used.
- Many clubs seal pre-dealt boards in plastic containers with cable ties that need to be broken in order to open them. Additional security can be provided by putting a signed sticky label over the connecting point, so that they cannot be opened and replaced with new ones.
- If clubs deal several sets of boards in advance, it is a good idea not to date them and to select at random which one to use for each game.

This may all sound like over-kill, but it is preferable to allowing doubts to linger. Nothing is worse than for members' integrity to be doubted without them being able to defend themselves, so removing the root of possible concerns must be preferable to that.

Gordon Rainsford 2019

