

BLUE POINTS

Introduced on 1 January 2013.

Blue Point awards use the current Local Point scales (100 Local=1 Blue).

All Master Point ranks allow up to 50 Green points to be replaced by Blue Points in the ratio of 3 Blue = 1 Green

Examples

The rank of Premier Master requires 5,000 master points, including at least 10 Green Points. This could be achieved by

- 4000 Local points + 10 Greens, or
- 3000 Local points + 5 Greens + 15 Blues, or
- 2000 Local points + 30 Blues,

But if you had 3000 Local points + 4 Greens + 15 Blues, you could only achieve Premier Master rank by earning one more Green – any extra Blues you won until then would only add to your total, but not towards your Green Point requirement.

If you have “extra” Blue points (ie you have more than 150 of them) any additional ones still count towards your total as though they were Local points.

National events – Blue Points are issued for

- All EBU sessions/events not awarding Green points
- EBU Simultaneous Pairs – straight-line awards are split 25% blue/75% black to the top third of the field.
- National Pairs club stage

Counties

Counties may hold four blue-pointed events per annum.

They must be one-day two-session events.

They must be open to any EBU member and only to EBU members*

They cannot be simultaneous pairs events, and cannot be restricted entry events (such as mixed pairs).

Each event requires a license from Aylesbury at 1/3 of the green Point license fee.

Process

- County applies for license
- Aylesbury add this to the list of licensed events on the website
- Counties submit UMS results file with appropriate “MP award marker”
- Counties will be invoiced at the rate of £X per table per session (X= 1/3 of Green Point license fee)

* Visitors who are resident outside of England may also be accepted if they are members of their own bridge federation.

Clubs

Clubs may hold two blue-pointed events per annum, which may be either open or closed. If open, the requirements are the same as for county blue-pointed events.

If closed, they are restricted to the club's major pairs and teams championships as defined in the Licensing and Master Points Handbook. However, the Handbook has been amended so that a ladder can be deemed to be the major pairs championship. Both pairs and teams major championships must be held over a minimum of two sessions.

Clubs may also apply for up to two additional blue-pointed events, subject to them having their county's agreement. Such applications will usually be agreed unless there is a potential conflict in the calendar with another club or organisation.

Closed sessions will not require a licence but will pay an enhanced UMS fee equating to 1/3 of the green Point licence fee.

Pairs championship

This is likely to take one of three forms: a quali-final, a two-session play through event, or a ladder

Both sessions of a quali-final or play through event will be blue-pointed at district scale and both will pay the blue-point licence fee. Each round of a ladder will attract only local points at club scale and pay normal UMS rates but the bonus awards will be blue-pointed at district scale.

Awards for the final ladder positions will need to be submitted separately from the normal UMS submissions. Since the awards are based on the average number of tables in the ladder, the licence fee will be calculated on the same basis.

Process

- Club holds event
- If a two-session event, the club submits a UMS results file for each session with appropriate "MP award marker" and will be invoiced at the enhanced rate.
- If a ladder, each session is at standard UMS rate, submitted and invoiced in the usual way. Final Blue Point awards based on ladder position must be submitted to Aylesbury via a spreadsheet and the club will be invoiced at the enhanced rate on the average number of tables in the ladder.

Teams Championship

This is also likely to take one of three forms: Swiss, multiple or knockout.

Again, both (all) sessions of a Swiss or multiple teams championship will be blue-pointed

at district scale and pay the blue-point licence fee. A knockout championship will award blue-points at district level for each match won on the normal rising scale. The licence fee will be based on the number of matches played in the competition multiplied by two for teams of four and multiplied by four for teams of eight, thus equating to the number of tables

Process

- Club holds event
- If Swiss or multiple teams, the club submits a UMS results file for each session with appropriate "MP award marker" and will be invoiced at the enhanced rate.
- If a knock out, Blue Point awards for the whole competition must be submitted to Aylesbury via a spreadsheet and the club will be invoiced at the rate of twice the enhanced rate per number of matches in the competition if teams of four or four times if teams of eight (X= 1/3 of Green Point licence fee).