

Exemptions from the NGS scheme

The NGS scheme is designed to take account of variations in ability between the players in a partnership such that no-one should assume they will be at a disadvantage when playing with a partner who has a lower grade. However, we know that "hosts" or TDs playing with unfamiliar partners as part of their role do feel that unfamiliarity with their partners can cause them to perform less well.

Because of this, the system allows that one "host" player, optionally together with his/her partner, may choose to be excluded from the grade calculations of any particular event, providing that the following conditions are satisfied:

- It is limited to one player or pair in an event, and is at the discretion of the event organiser.
- It is only for unfamiliar partnerships: a partnership may not exempt a session if they have previously played together three or more times.
- To use the exemption, the host or TD (only) **must** use a form which is available on each member's My EBU members' area as in the screenshot below.
- This form must be filled out in addition to selecting the appropriate option in the scoring program.
- It has to be done as soon as the host knows they will be playing and in any case no more than 30 minutes after the start of the game (this 30-minute leeway is offered for the benefit of hosts who are not confirmed to be playing until the end of the first round of the game).
- It can be done in advance by a host who may or may not be playing, and nothing further need be done if the hosts ends up not playing.
- The use of this form became mandatory on 1st August 2017.

Code 12

Starting in November 2019, there is a new optional UMS Code 12 available for clubs that wish to use it for "mentor" games. This gives master points and magazine points like a regular club session, but the results are not processed for the NGS for any of the players. It is essential that if this code is used it is properly publicised so that the players all realise this and are not disappointed when their good games have no effect on their grades.

