

EBU Policy on Club Membership

The introduction of Universal Membership through Pay-to-Play brought with it a very fundamental change, in that members of affiliated bridge clubs automatically become members of the EBU and eligible for a large range of services.

It is therefore very important that only *bona fide* bridge clubs are able to affiliate and the Chief Executive is tasked by the Board to ensure this takes place. He therefore has the authority to refuse membership to any club that he judges not to be *bona fide*. To help him make this judgement the Board have laid down some guidelines that they would expect clubs to meet:

1. Must have members.
2. Must transmit to the EBU information sufficient to enable those members to be allocated an EBU membership number.
3. Must hold regular duplicate bridge sessions (most clubs play at least 26 a year).
4. Must transmit to the EBU the results of these sessions, so that members may be awarded Master Points and Magazine Points, except for Novice Sessions.
5. Must pay the EBU the annual affiliation fee and the relevant P2P fees on behalf of their members.
6. Need not have fixed premises but must confine its organisation of bridge events to the same approximate locality.
7. Must abide by the bye-laws and policies of the EBU.
8. Must abide by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, but are free to accept or reject the regulations supplementary to those Laws; e.g. those published in the EBU Blue Book relating to permitted systems and the process of alerting and announcing.
9. Should clearly be independent entities and not subsets of a non-affiliated club. Indicators of this would be
 - Separate premises
 - Separate finances
 - Separate committees
 - Separate website
 - No large overlap of members
10. A significant majority of the clubs' members must play at least 12 times per year

These are not absolutes, they are aspects of the club that the Chief Executive will consider when taking the decision to accept or refuse membership.

Should a club be refused membership then it has the right of appeal to the EBU Chairman who will convene an appeal panel who will consider any evidence submitted by the club. The panel will be convened by the EBU Chairman and will comprise three board directors. The decision of this appeal panel will be final.