

2026 MBC Autumn Pairs – Conditions of Play

This document describes the special conditions of play governing Maine Bridge Club's 2026 Autumn Pairs event.

1. Autumn Pairs Calendar

The Autumn Pairs event shall comprise three sessions, to be run on Tuesday 14th, 21st and 28th of April.

Red masterpoints will be awarded for each session and (for eligible pairs) for Overall placings in the event (Bonus Red Masterpoints).

2. Entry and Qualification Requirements and Restrictions

The MBC Autumn Pairs is an open event, but entry is subject to the following conditions.

- Entrants must have an ABF Member Number.
- Entries must be made via the club website's booking facility¹, by 6pm two days prior to each session.
- Entries may be refused or accepted at the discretion of the club's Management Committee.

Additionally, to be eligible for Overall (bonus) red masterpoints (see section 5, below), players must conform to the following conditions:

- Players must be current financial members of Maine BC, having played, prior to the event's first session, as a member (or prospective member²), in at least 10 club sessions where masterpoints were awarded.
- Pairs must compete in all three weeks of competition (but see 'Substitutions', below).

3. Substitutions

Pairs are allowed one substitute for the event, subject to the following conditions:

- Substitutes must themselves be qualified to enter the event.
- A substitute is allowed if one member of a partnership is unable to attend one session. It follows that the player being substituted cannot play in that session.
- The substitute cannot have an ABF ranking (as at 1st April 2026) that is greater than the player being substituted³. In comparing rankings, sub-divisions of ABF rankings (eg Bronze, Silver and Gold) are not considered.

As a matter of courtesy, pairs should inform the session director of the name of the substitute, the name of the person being substituted, and why the substitution is being made. However, the onus is on the pair making the substitution to ensure that the substitute satisfies the above conditions. If a substitute fails to meet the conditions, the pair will be deemed ineligible to win final aggregate placing (bonus) masterpoints.

Substitutes are not eligible to receive bonus masterpoints.

4. Seeding

- Week 1's session will be seeded based on each pair's aggregated masterpoints as at 1st April 2026⁴
- Weeks 2 and 3 will be seeded based on the previous week's results.

The Director will post a seating plan for each session prior to the session. Pairs must sit in conformance with the plan, unless instructed otherwise by the Director.

The Director may change the seating plan for various reasons, eg to accommodate pairs with special seating requirements or to account for late withdrawals / walk-ups.

5. Bonus Masterpoints

The club's Masterpoint Secretary will determine the allocation of Overall final placings (bonus) masterpoints based on the average percentage results achieved by all eligible pairs over the event's three sessions.

¹ Members who have difficulty using the website's booking facility should contact Louise Griffin for assistance.

² Prospective membership dates from when a member's application form was received by the club secretary (as opposed to the date their membership application was approved by the committee).

³ Members can obtain current masterpoint ranking information from the ABF Masterpoints Centre website. In our website, click on 'Useful Links', then on 'Masterpoints Lookup', to access the ABF Masterpoints Centre.

⁴ Please inform the session director if you are using a substitute for Week 1.