

1st August 2022 - Note to Online Tournament Directors from Gordon Barker (Chief TD) Online Sessions - Adjusted Scores for Boards Not Played Due to Technical Issues

In the Club's Online Sessions there have been many occasions where boards could not be played due to "technical problems" causing players to "drop out" temporarily.

On some occasions players have withdrawn completely from the session when the problem could not be rectified.

The default position on the Online Platforms is that boards not played are automatically scored at 50%/50% unless adjusted by the TD.

In most of the sessions that we have been running this default position has been implemented.

However in some of our Wednesday evening sessions a more rigorous approach has been taken in line with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

For boards not played scores have been adjusted as follows .

50% to the pair where one player has "dropped out" (considered to be partly at fault) and 60% to their opponents. (Not at all at fault)

This is consistent with Law 12C. 2(a) and 2(b)

"When owing to an irregularity no result can be obtained the Director awards an artificially adjusted score according to responsibility for the irregularity: average minus (at most 40% of the available match points in pairs) to a contestant directly at fault, average (50% in pairs) to a contestant only partly at fault, and average plus (at least 60% in pairs) to a contestant in no way at fault. "

There is a corresponding provision for adjustments in Teams sessions of -3 IMPS (average minus) and +3 IMPS (average plus) respectively

The Laws also allow for further adjustments if results are not obtained for multiple boards in the same session.

It is important that the Club has a consistent method of awarding adjusted scores for such occurrences

The Club's approach to this going forward will be as follows.

- 1. For the first two boards in any session where a pair cannot play them due to a technical issue with one or other of the pair an adjusted score of 50%/60% will be awarded**
- 2. For any subsequent boards in the same session where the same pair cannot play a board due to a technical issue with one or other of the pair an adjusted score of 40%/60% will be awarded.**

If a pair withdraws from a session because a technical issue is insurmountable then we will follow the guidance in the EBU White Book section 2.4.

If they withdraw before playing half of the boards all of their scores will be cancelled.

If they withdraw after playing more than half of the boards then they will receive a score of 40% for each board not played and their opponents, who will now have a sit out, will be awarded 60%.

In this circumstance the TD can offer the pair the option to withdraw completely with all of their results cancelled if they feel that the result will badly affect their NGS ratings.

The TDs shall have the discretion to make any additional adjustments as they see fit if the problems interfere with the smooth running of the session.

Our approach has been reviewed with the EBU and its approach in online EBU Tournaments is that adjusted scores of 40%/60% are awarded for boards not played due to disconnection from the online server. (Preferring that the total score is 100%)

However our methodology is considered reasonable for club sessions and will be implemented with immediate effect.

Gordon Barker