

## Duplicate Bridge Terminology 101

If you're confused by the terms used to describe the different types of bridge events played at clubs and tournaments, you're not alone. Here's a list of common bridge events with explanations.

**Knockout Teams:** an event in which a team (of four, five or six players, with four playing at a time) plays another team. The losers are eliminated or "knocked out" while the winners play other winners until only one winning team remains. The length of a KO match may vary from a single session to a full day (the Vanderbilt and, Spingold) to a multi-day event (the Bermuda Bowl).

**Bracketed Knockout Teams:** a KO event in which teams are divided into groups, usually of 8, 16 or 32 teams, based on their masterpoint holdings. The top group (Bracket I) and all other groups compete in a separate event with their own set of winners.

**Compact Knockout Teams:** a shorter version of Bracketed KO teams. Limited to teams of four. Always completed in two sessions.

**Swiss Teams:** an event in which a team (of four, five or six players, with four playing at a time), plays other teams in head to head matches. Team A sits North-South at Table 1 and East-West at Table 2 while Team B sits East-West at Table 1 and North-South at Table 2. The results are compared and scored by International Match Points (IMPs). Pairings for the first round are random. Pairings for succeeding rounds are determined by a team's win-loss record or Victory Point total.

**Swiss Pairs:** an event where pairs play and move as if they were a team. Pair 1 sits North-South at Table 1. Their 'teammates' are the East-West pairs at every other table. Pair 2 sits East-West at Table 1 and their 'teammates' are the North-South at every other table. The results for your teammates are averaged, throwing out the highest and lowest scores. Then the pairs results and the average are compared and scored by International Match Points (IMPs). Pairings for the first, and possibly the second round, are random. Pairings for succeeding rounds are determined by a team's win-loss record or Victory Point total.

**International Match Points (IMPs):** the most common method of scoring Swiss Team matches. Scoring example: if Team A scores plus 620 for bidding and making 4\*S\* on a particular deal and Team B scores only plus 170 (they didn't bid the game), the difference is 450, which converts to 10 IMPs. The IMP chart is shown on the inside of your convention card.

**Victory Points (VPs):** a method of scoring Swiss Team matches. After the scores are compared and converted to IMPS, the IMP total is converted to Victory Points. A team's VP total may be used to determine its next opponents and its final standing.

**Barometer:** an event where all the tables play the same boards in the same round. Example, in a pair barometer event, where two boards are played in each round, all the tables will play boards 1 and 2 in the first round, 3 and 4 in the second, etc. Team events can be barometers also.

**Side Game Series:** a series of single-session pair games that pay red points. These series include at least three sessions and may have as many as six. You may play in as many sessions as you like, but only pairs who play in at least two sessions are eligible for overall gold points. Your best two sessions are used for determining overall winners.

**Flighted events (Pairs or Teams):** The field is divided by expertise or experience or both into several separate games. Flight A will be open to all players while the remaining flights will be limited. Flight B might be 0-500 Mps or 0-1000 MPs while Flight C might be 0- 300 or 0-500. Each flight may have stratification(see strat-

flighted below), but each flight is scored individually. The **highest** masterpoint holding of the pair (or team) determines their flight. If one player is quite expert while his partner is new to the game, the pair must compete in Flight A. In flighted events, you may play up but not down. That means you may play in Flight A or Flight B even if your masterpoint holding qualifies you for Flight C. Conversely, you may not play in Flight B or Flight C if you are a Flight A player.

**Stratified Pairs (or Teams):** The idea is to compete against everyone but to be ranked only with your peers. Each pair is assigned a stratum or "strat" based on the average masterpoint holding of the pair (or team).

Example: A = 1000+ masterpoints; B = 300- 1000; C = 0-300.

Thus, the most experienced players are placed in Strat A, intermediate players in Strat B and less experienced players in Strat C. Masterpoints are awarded for placings in all strats but gold points are awarded only in strats where the masterpoint limit is 750MP or higher.

The game proceeds normally; the difference comes when the scores are tabulated and ranked. In a three-strat game, the scores are ranked three times. The first ranking is done as in a regular open game. These are the Strat A results. If a B or C pair does well in this ranking, they receive full credit for that performance. It is not all that uncommon for a Strat C pair to place first overall, and they receive the full masterpoint award for that game.

*Note: A pair is eligible for only one set of masterpoint awards and automatically receives the highest award.*

The second ranking compares the scores of only the B and C pairs: The scores of the Strat A pairs are eliminated. Once again, if a C pair does well, they receive points for their finishing position in the Strat B results.

The, third and final ranking 'compares the scores of only the C pairs: All the scores of the Strat A and B pairs are eliminated.

**Strati-Flighted' Pairs:** The top group plays in a game 'of their own', Flight A. The rest of the field in game 'of their own, Flight A. The rest of the field is divided into strats and plays as in a stratified pairs.

There can even be stratification within Flight A. Flight A may be listed as 3000+ MPs while Flight X may be listed as 0-3000 MPs,

**Masterpoints:** the unit which measures bridge achievement in competition. Masterpoints are awarded at ACBL clubs and tournaments in amounts proportional to the size and classification of the event and the rating of the club or tournament.

- Black points: awarded at club games: Some special club games award red, gold or silver points.
- Red points: awarded for section placements at regional tournaments and NABCs. Also awarded at clubs for special events such as the qualifying rounds of the North American Open Pairs and the Grand National Teams.
- Gold points: awarded for section firsts and overall placing in regionally rated events that have no upper masterpoint restrictions.
- Platinum points: awarded for NABC+ events. Gold points are also awarded for sectional firsts and overall placing in regional events of two or more sessions that have a masterpoint limit of 750 or more points.
- Silver points: awarded for sectional firsts and overall placing at sectional tournaments. Also awarded at Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (StaC).

One gold point is awarded to section winners in the annual ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game in sections of seven or more tables.

In addition, new players may now win gold points in their own NABC events: 1.50 gold in the National 199er Pairs at the Summer NABC and 1.00 gold in the National 99er Pairs at the Fall NABC (the remainder of the award is in red points).

A major source of gold points is the bracketed knockout teams at regional tournaments. The overall awards for the top brackets are all gold while the lower brackets may receive a percentage of gold points and the remainder in red points.