

## 2026 MBC Online Championship Pairs – Conditions of Play

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

### 1. MBC Online Championship Pairs Calendar

The MBC Online Championship Pairs event shall comprise two sessions, to be run on Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2026.

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

### 2. Entry and Qualification Requirements and Restrictions

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

- Entrants must have an ABF Member Number.
- Entrants must be registered on Bridge Base Online (BBO) to play in Maine Bridge Club online events.
- Entries may be refused or accepted at the discretion of the club's Management Committee.

Please enter via the club website's booking facility prior to each session. The Director has discretion to refuse last minute entries.

Additionally, to be eligible to become Club Online Champions or to be eligible to be awarded 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 member<sup>1</sup>), in at least 10 club online sessions where masterpoints were awarded.
- Pairs must compete in both sessions (but see 'Substitutions', below).

### 3. Substitutions

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

- Substitutes must themselves be eligible 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026) that is greater than the player being substituted<sup>2</sup>. 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 become Champions or to win Overall (bonus) masterpoints.

Substitutes are not eligible to receive Overall masterpoints (ie any Overall masterpoints go to the 'official' pair).

### 4. Seeding

Seating for these sessions will be determined by BBO<sup>3</sup>'s seating algorithm.

### 5. Bonus Masterpoints & Champion Pair

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

The eligible pair with the best average percentage result will be declared Club Online Champions for 2026.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Bridge Base Online - the website that hosts our Online bridge sessions.

<sup>4</sup> In the event of an ABF statistical tie (pairs separated by less than 0.1 of the scoring unit), the Championship will be awarded to the pair with the absolute best percentage.