

NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME

Dear Dr RW Warrender,

I am writing to you as the contact for Yeovil Bridge Club, about the concessions available for host players and their partners, which allow them to be excluded from the NGS calculations in some circumstances.

The NGS full guide includes the following (emphasis added):

“If a player volunteers as a “host” or “mentoring” partner for a club duplicate session they can decide **in advance** that their score, or their and their partner’s score for that session should be ignored by the NGS. This is limited to one player or pair per session and is at the discretion of the organiser of that session.”

“Because of the disadvantage for **unfamiliar partnerships**, and to avoid discouragement of players to act as “hosts” or “stand-by players” at clubs, it will be made possible for a player assuming that role to indicate **before the start of play** that the pair wishes not to be graded for that particular session. This facility is limited to one pair per event.”

“A “host” player together with his/her partner may opt to be excluded from the grade calculations of any particular event. This is limited to one player or pair per event, is at the discretion of the event organiser, and the pair must express their intention to opt out before the start of the event.”

These extracts make clear that choosing to be excluded from the NGS may only be done by host players and their partners. This may only be done before the game starts and is only allowed because of the disadvantage that might result from the unfamiliarity of such a partnership, so it should not be used by anyone in a regular partnership.

Unfortunately there is mounting evidence that a small number of hosts and TDs in a few clubs have abused this system by selectively excluding themselves from games when they have scored badly, sometimes when playing in partnerships that are not unfamiliar.

We do not have any reason to think that yours is such a club. Nevertheless, I would ask you to draw this letter to the attention of anyone at your club who might be in a position to legitimately take advantage of the system, to ensure they fully understand the limited circumstances in which exemptions are allowed.

I am writing to all EBU clubs about this and hope that full compliance by everyone in future will ensure that we can continue to offer this concession in the limited circumstances where it is merited.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Gordon Rainsford

Chief Tournament Director

English Bridge Union