

Stratified Duplicates

Stratified events are a way of encouraging less experienced players by rewarding them for doing well in competition with other players of similar experience. These players can win in their own 'strat' (stratum or category) while obtaining experience by playing against stronger pairs. Stratified events are played and scored just like ordinary duplicates with the difference that they are designed to produce more than one set of winners. The facility for EBU-affiliated clubs to run stratified events has now been made available, and most scoring programs should be capable of producing stratified results.

In a stratified event there is no change to the way the duplicate itself is played. Your players all play against each other in your usual movement. It is simply that the field is divided by the club into two or three or even four strata (categories) - the more tables there are, the higher the number of strata you could have. A pair's strat is determined by the Masterpoint Rank of the player with the higher rank.

The scoring program then calculates the overall results exactly as normal – the A field, which includes everyone. It then removes all the pairs in the top strat and calculates another set of results for the B field, which includes only second strat pairs and below. If you have a third strat, it then removes all the second strat pairs, too, and calculates a third set of results for the C field of third strat players, and so on. Thus a winner is computed for each strat, and appropriate Master Points are awarded to the top places in each strat.

All the club has to do is make sure it has a stratification-capable version of its scoring program and set the stratification levels, e.g. for three strata this could be Open, below Star Master and below County Master. The scoring program does the rest. Overall there will be more winners and more Master Points for club members – all at no extra cost. Less experienced players will still be testing themselves against the stronger players in the club, but they will also have a separate competition against their peers at the same time.

Stratification is best suited to clubs with a range of abilities. It is quite easy to implement. Why not try it out at your club?

[More details on Stratification](#)