

## **Licensing and Master Point Awards**

Most events run by affiliated bridge clubs do not need a special licence from the EBU but are run under the Pay-to-Play system. This includes regular club duplicates, club championships and club ladders. Clubs award Master Points for these events themselves and register them with the EBU by uploading their p2p session files through the club's member area on the EBU website.

Licensing procedures are designed to regulate duplicate events for the benefit of all, by

- helping organisers comply with the Law, EBU bye-laws, and other bridge regulations
- protecting the interests of EBU members, and
- coordinating bridge events to avoid clashes

The following are the relevant extracts from the EBU Licensing and Master Point Handbook in as far as they affect clubs. As from April 2012:

### **1.2.1 Regular Games and Minor Championships**

Affiliated Clubs may run an unlimited number of regular games and minor championships. These events may be either closed events for the benefit of members only or open events, open to all, entirely at the discretion of the Club. Club status applies for Master Points awarded.

### **1.2.2 Club Open Events**

In addition to the above, Affiliated Clubs may apply for a limited number of special licences per year at either District or County status as described in Sections 1.5 and 1.6. Such application should have the support of the relevant County Associations and should be made to the Aylesbury Office. County Associations do not have the authority to license such events themselves.

### **1.2.3 Ladders**

These are a series of regular games (see 1.2.1 above), with a bonus award attached to the series based on some measure of

average performance. Affiliated Clubs may run two ladders per annum. (See also 4.11.9c for regular games divided into two or more sections of differing status).

#### **1.2.4 Major Championships**

Affiliated Clubs may nominate one pairs event and one teams event per annum as being a 'major championship'. Such events must be of at least 36-boards overall duration, cannot be ladders and must be unrestricted (other than to full/primary members only). The status of such an event is increased by one level, i.e. Club level becomes District level. The nature of an unrestricted event must be such that all members have an opportunity to win the event. Thus, it may not be a Mixed Pairs event (for example). Except in the case of a knock-out event, no more than three sessions may be played per event at the enhanced status level. If the event as a whole comprises more than three sessions, then only the final stage(s) may enjoy the enhanced status level, provided that any such stage(s) is of no more than three sessions.

#### **1.2.5 Simultaneous Pairs**

Affiliated Clubs and independent organisers may not conduct Simultaneous Pairs events without a special licence from the Aylesbury office. Club heats will be subject to Pay-to-Play; heats held in non-affiliated clubs (when permitted) will be subject to a surcharged rate.

### **1.4 EVENTS REQUIRING A LICENCE**

#### **1.4.1 Open and Closed Events**

The EBU Bye-Laws require that all Open events run by Counties or Clubs require a licence unless specifically exempted through the general provisions detailed in the Licensing and Master Point Handbook or through written authority from the EBU.

#### 1.4.2 Novice/Beginners events

Many clubs hold sessions for novices/beginners that do not meet the requirements for exempt teaching/supervised play sessions but are still far from true competitive duplicate sessions. In order to support these initiatives the EBU is willing to consider applications for annual licences for one such event each week. The Pay-to-play fee charged will typically be about 50% of the revenue that would be received if they were subject to full Pay-to-play subscription charges. It is difficult to be too prescriptive about what events will be approved but typically they will:

- Be for novices/beginners with the aim of encouraging these players into mainstream club competitions
- Not contain more than 10% of players above Area Master
- Be open to non-members of the club and hence the EBU
- Not award Master-points
- Not count towards the National Grading Scheme or the individual's qualification for English Bridge or the annual diary.

#### 1.4.3 Teams Leagues

Definition (from 1.3.4): These are teams-of-four or teams-of-eight leagues, either taking place on pre-specified dates or involving matches played privately (or both). Typically only one match is played per session. Teams leagues may consist of just a single division, or may incorporate several divisions with promotion and relegation between them at the end of the season.

The EBU recognises the following types of teams leagues:

- a) Club leagues – organised by a club for its own members
- b) District leagues – usually organised by an Association set up for that particular purpose.
- c) County leagues – organised under the auspices of a County Association
- d) Inter-County/Regional leagues – usually organised by an independent body set up for that purpose by the Counties that play in the league

For Club leagues the Master Point status is Club and

- The club must be affiliated to the EBU
- The club itself can decide its own rules regarding non-EBU members participating in the league
- The club will pay the teams league Pay-to-play fee. From the season beginning after April 2012 the teams league fee is 50% of the national Pay-to-play rate.

For full details including regulations for Counties and other organisers, please consult the full [EBU Licensing and Master Point Handbook](#).

If in doubt, please contact the EBU Licensing Department on [license@ebu.co.uk](mailto:license@ebu.co.uk) or 01296 317219.