



NOVICE NEWS #6 APRIL 2019

The club is very aware of the need to provide events suited to all grades, and especially for Novices down to Rookies. However, red point events will only be approved by the QBA if they are well supported. We do encourage you all to enter these events or these red points will be lost to our club. It is a case of use it or lose it.

Master Point Scheme Overview

Worldwide, master points are used as a measure of a bridge player's achievement, though the method of application varies between countries. In Australia, we have three grades of master points (green, red and gold) and one of these is assigned to every session or event. Club sessions are usually green except for advertised red sessions. Each club is allocated a certain number of red point sessions a year and this depends on how many green sessions the club has throughout the year. Gold points are allocated at large congresses and GNOTs.

Every bridge player can earn master points during a club session. The scale of the award is based on the number of players in the field, the grade of the event (as determined in advance by the ABF), any restrictions to entry, and in some events, the strength of the field. Points are usually awarded to the top half of the field, based on placing. However, in certain events and teams events, awarding of master points will vary. As players earn master points they move through the Master ranks and after gaining their first two master points players will be given the status of Graduate Master. The scale goes all the way to Diamond Grand Master – 15,000 master points!!

The master point scheme is administered at the club level by the master point secretary (Eva Berger) and each state has a master point secretary who must authorise any red point sessions or events (Peter Busch). Before any master points can be awarded at the end of each month, the Chief Scorer calculates and uploads the eclectics. Our club Chief Scorer is Margaret Pisko.

Great Names of Bridge. Easley Blackwood (1903-1992). Unlike Sam Stayman, Blackwood was not a winner of major championships but he was a prolific bridge writer and theorist. Also, unlike Sam, he did invent the convention that bears his name in 1933, when contract bridge was still in its infancy. Many variants have evolved since then, most notably Roman Key-Card invented by the world champion Italian team, but they all carry Blackwood's name.

Rule (Eva Berger) – Alerts

The QBA Regulations on Alerting are ten pages long, a big topic. Very briefly, the purpose of an alert is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a special meaning, or a meaning the opponents may not expect. Some bids are self alerting, eg:

- Doubles and Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's suit
- Any 2C response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

- All calls at the four level or higher (except Naymats, a transfer from 4C or 4D to hearts or spades which should be alerted).

Almost all artificial bids are to be alerted. The list is quite extensive but, as Novices, you would most likely be familiar with the following:

- Transfers
- Strong 2C opening
- 2D negative or waiting response to 2C strong opening
- Two Over One responses
- Forcing 1NT response (as part of Two Over One)
- Fourth Suit Forcing
- Splinter Bids
- Bergen Raises
- Jacoby 2NT over a major

If you wish to read all 10 pages on Alerting in the QBA Regulations, go to page 40 <http://www.qldbridge.com.au/documents/2019/QBAregulationsFeb2019b.pdf>

Tip (Lynley Jenkins)

With a minimum responding hand holding 4 or 5 diamonds and 4 of a major opposite partner's 1C opening, prefer to show your major. With the strength to bid your hand twice, first respond 1D. This is known as "Walsh style".

GCBC Bylaw

1. The use of mobile phones or other such devices is not permitted at the table during session time. Please ensure your mobile phone is either turned to silent or turned off. Penalties can apply if your phone causes a disturbance.
2. And, repeating Club Bylaw #8. Opening lead or placing dummy on the table **MUST** occur before you enter details onto your personal scorer and/or in the bridge mate.

Etiquette

Please leave the room in the same manner as you found it.

- push your chairs into the table
- return china cups and glasses to the kitchen and place them in the dishwasher if possible.
- collect any rubbish on and around your table – plastic cups, tissues, paperwork.
- return pencils and erasers to the drawer
- return the bridge mate to the correct black basket in the correct numbered slot.
- return your last set of boards and put on a table near the office where boards of a matching colour will be placed.

Quote

Rules are there for a reason. Don't mastermind or attempt to place the contract early in the auction. Start by trying to follow the rules and describe your hand. Robert S Todd

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