

## My Masterpoints:

My C points		My B points	
Date :	Number:	Date :	Number:

For detailed information on everything mentioned here please visit

[www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz)



Thank you to the Canterbury Region  
for putting this handbook together and sharing it with us

# NZBridge

## The 'ABC' of Masterpoints

### All you need to know about:

- Masterpoints - A , B , C points
- Rating points
- Grading/Ranking
- Tournaments
- And more!



# Welcome to NZ Bridge

Congratulations on learning bridge and becoming part of the several thousand strong New Zealand bridge playing community. Playing bridge is a lifelong skill that you never stop learning.

This booklet tells you all you need to know about the system New Zealand uses in running bridge at club, regional and national level.

The NZBridge Association administers all Masterpoints, Rating points, national grading and tournaments.

For more detailed information on everything mentioned here you can visit the NZBridge website and look in the NZBridge manual. [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz)

## Special events for Novice, Intermediate and Junior Players

- **Intermediate and Junior Leagues**- in Canterbury we run special tournament leagues over the calendar year just for nationally ranked Intermediates and Juniors/Novices. Every year \$1500 in prize money is given out. All you need to do to take part is play in pairs tournaments in Canterbury.
- **National Congress Sponsorship** □ each year the Canterbury Regional Committee sponsor a pair to attend the NZ National Bridge Congress held in Hamilton in September.
- For more information on both these initiatives check out the Canterbury Regional Bridge website.

## Other special tournament events

- **Rubber bridge tournament:** this event is open to all players and is played over several months, first in your region then if you qualify at the NZ National Bridge Congress held in Hamilton in September. It is a very social fun form of bridge.
- **Inter Provincials:** this is the ultimate chance for you to represent your province. The IPs are open to all players. Trials are held in May  
Those successful represent their province in November at the Inter Provincial finals. We strongly encourage all Intermediate and Junior players to aim to take part in the trials. It is a great honour to represent your province and no one is ~~not~~ good enough ~~to~~ have a go. Many of our current top players started out their advancement in bridge by trialling their province as Intermediates.

## Systems Card

- You must use the NZBridge systems card in a tournament. It can be found on the NZBridge website (under 'Resources') or on the Canterbury Regional Bridge website.
- You can fill it out electronically or by hand. You need Adobe Reader 11 on your computer to do it electronically.
- For tournaments up to and including 5As you only need to fill out the outer two pages. For 10As and above the middle needs to be completed too.
- On the NZBridge website there are templates already filled out for you to use and download.
- If you need help filling one out ask your club. They will have someone who can help you.

## Directors - Who is the Director?

- The Director is like a referee or umpire. Treat them with complete respect at all times.
- Their job is to set up the tournament and make it run smoothly.
- They are there to restore equity where necessary.
- The Director is your friend; they want you to have a good time. They are not there to tell you off.
- The Director can't tell you what to bid! But, they can help you with almost any other problem.
- If you are not sure about anything, call the Director.

## Masterpoints

Masterpoints are the lifeblood of bridge players. They are what we all earn when we play well in our club sessions or tournaments. You can only earn Masterpoints if you play at a club that is affiliated to NZBridge.

You can view your Masterpoints and everyone else's on the NZBridge website.

There are three categories of Masterpoint awards:

### C Points

- C Points are awarded to players who are successful in any one session of play organised by a club, a region or NZ Bridge.
- C Points are converted to B Points in the ratio of 100 C Points to 1 B Point.
- C points are awarded for the top third place getters in a session.

E.g. Basic Table

No. of Pairs	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
3 – 4	40				
5 – 7	40	20			
8 – 10	40	27	13		
11 – 13	40	30	20	10	
14 – 16	40	32	24	16	8

## **B Points**

- B Points are awarded to players who finish in the top placings of approved B Point tournaments, and to all session winners of B Point pairs tournaments.
- B Points are not convertible to A Points.

## **A Points**

A Points are awarded to players who finish in the top placings of A Point tournaments, and to all session winners or teams match winners of A Point tournaments.

## **Teams Masterpoints allocations**

- Teams events in clubs and tournaments allocate Masterpoints a little differently than pairs events.
- As well as the award for your overall placing you also receive a fraction of a C point (club teams) or B or A point (tournaments) for every match you win or draw. The amount of the fraction award depends on the number of teams playing. The method for calculating the fractions is in the NZBridge Manual.

## **Pairs or Teams?**

- Pairs are played in sessions with you playing with your partner. Your scores are compared to everyone else playing to get a result (like duplicate club bridge).
- Teams are played with two pairs forming a team. Your team (two pairs) play head-to-head with another team of four to get a result. This result is not compared to others in the room, it only matters what happens in your match. In a teams' tournament you will play something like 6 matches of 9 boards per match.

## **Some tips for playing in tournaments**

- Get a good night's sleep beforehand! Playing all day is great for increasing your mental stamina and concentration. Just like getting physically fit it can be tough to start with but you will improve quickly with practice. The more you play the fitter you get!
- Fill out a systems card before the tournament starts (see Systems Card).
- Make sure you know what time the tournament starts and be there on time.
- Read the Protocol Booklet (you can download it here [www.canterburyregionalbridge.co.nz/information-packages](http://www.canterburyregionalbridge.co.nz/information-packages))
- Look after and be kind to your partner.
- Relax and have fun. If you aren't sure about something ask the Director or a senior player, they are always happy to help.

## Tournaments

Tournaments are a great way to improve your bridge while having a great day out. There are tournaments for all levels of bridge player and there is a tournament somewhere in the country every weekend for you to play in! Playing in tournaments will help to quickly improve your skills.

See the tournament schedule for Canterbury and New Zealand on the NZBridge website.

Most tournaments run for a whole day (2 sessions) and usually break for morning, afternoon tea and lunch. 10A and above tournaments often have 3 sessions per day. Sometimes lunch is included and sometimes you bring your own. Compared to other activities bridge tournaments are a very inexpensive day out doing something fun.

### The differences between club bridge and tournament bridge

- The main difference between tournaments and club bridge is that you play more bridge (although some Novice and Junior tournaments are only one session too).
- Most tournaments are played during the weekend.
- You can only get A points from playing in tournaments.
- You need a systems card (see Systems Card).
- You need to pre-enter. This can be done on-line in Canterbury by going here, [www.canterburyregionalbridge.co.nz/tournament-entry-form](http://www.canterburyregionalbridge.co.nz/tournament-entry-form) or there will be an entry form at your club.
- There is a prize-giving and prizes (usually money and sometimes trophies) for the first few places. Often there are special prizes for Junior and Intermediate players in large tournaments too.

## Rating points

- Rating points are derived from your accumulated Masterpoints.
- Rating points are used to determine your national grade.
- Rating points are calculated as, your previous years Rating points x 0.8 plus the total of A and B Points earned in the immediate past year.
- The calculation is currently done at 31 December each year and the new Rating points come into effect on 1 January (or as soon after as possible) and remain in effect for that calendar year.

E.g. Previous Rating Points 80 x 0.8 = 64, plus the total of A and B points earned in past year, e.g. 3A + 17B = 20. New Rating Points = 64 + 20 = new total of 84.

## Grading

There are two types of grading in NZ. Club grades and National grades. There is no correlation between the two.

### Club Grading

- Individual clubs determine their own club grades. It is up to each club to decide what grades they have and how to grade their members.
- Common club grades are Learners, Junior, Intermediate, Senior Reserve and Senior, Silver, Gold etc
- Club grades may be used by clubs for determining club grade nights, handicapping and seeding etc or for club-only tournaments.

## National Grading

- National grading is based on a person's current rating points, the number of A points they have and their rank (see below)
- National grades are used to determine what level of tournament you can play in.

E.g.

- Junior players can play in all tournaments
- Intermediate players can play all tournaments **except** Junior tournaments.
- Open players can only play in Open or Allgrades tournaments.

National Grades are determined as below:

- **Junior** - Club Master or lower rank and 30 or less Rating Points and fewer than 5A Points.
- **Intermediate** - Club Master or lower rank and 30 or less Rating Points but 5 or more A Points or Club Master or lower rank with more than 30 Rating Points or Local Master 0\* – 4\* and 0 – 100 Rating Points.
- **Open** - Local Master 0\* – 4\* and 100+ Rating Points or Local Master 5\* and above or Provincial Master or Higher Rank.

## Ranks

Below is the table of ranks currently available in NZ.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Aggregate of A and B Points</u>
Certificate of Proficiency	5
Club Master	20
Local Master	50
Provincial Master	100 (including at least 50A Points)
Master	200 (including at least 100A Points)
National Master	350 (including at least 175A Points)
Life Master	500 (including at least 250A Points)
Grand Master	1000 (including at least 500A Points)
Silver Grand Master	2500 (including at least 1250A Points)
Gold Grand Master	4000 (including at least 2500A Points)

- A Player with fewer than 5 A and B Points is classified as "Novice".
- On reaching an aggregate of 100+ Master Points, a Local Master who has not earned 50A Points is accorded the status of Local Master - 1 Star. At 150 Master Points, the player becomes Local Master - 2 Star, and receives an additional Star for each additional 50 Master Points if sufficient "A" Points have not been attained.
- Similarly, Stars are awarded to Masters of other ranks who have not attained sufficient "A" points for promotion to a higher rank.

E.g. A 1-star National Master will have acquired 700 plus total Points but not yet attained 250A Points to move to the rank of Life Master.