

Introduction to Board-A-Match Teams

This document provides an overview of the Board-A-Match Teams format. While the Board-A-Match format is not very common in club events, it is a popular format globally and is used in some of the premier world events (eg the Reisinger). Some consider it to be the purest form of the game.

Board-A-Match is scored with each board considered as a loss, draw or win, and assigned a score accordingly (typically 0, 1 or 2 points). This system flattens the impact of both 'good' and 'bad' boards, eliminating the large swings of IMP scoring. Board-A-Match is effectively matchpoint scoring with each board being played twice and resulting in a top, average or bottom.

As in any teams match one pair from a team sits N-S at one table (their home table) while their team mates sit E-W at the other table (the away table). The scores achieved by the two pairs on a board are compared and points awarded (0, 1 or 2). The points are totalled across the boards of a match and the winner of the match is the team with the highest total score. The final score can also be expressed as a percentage based on the total number of points available across the boards (2 x the number of boards played). There is no conversion to Victory Points in Board-A-Match scoring.

Examples:

Bd	Home (N-S)		Away (E-W)		Net Score	Result
	Contract	Score	Contract	Score		
1	3NT N =	400	4S N =	-420	-20	0 (loss)
2	3NT N +1	630	3N N =	600	30	2 (win)
3	3C E -1	100	3C E -1	-100	0	1 (draw)
4	4S E =	-620	3S E +1	170	-450	0 (loss)
5	2NT S =	120	2H N =	-110	10	2 (win)

If this were the entire match, it would be a draw with 5 points each out of a possible 10 (50%).

As with all matchpoint scoring the ordering of the scores is all important. The size of the difference between the scores is irrelevant. This means that a +10 point difference is worth as much as an +800 point difference, both are wins worth 2 points. Overtricks matter (board 2 above). Making game in a major is better than making 3NT (board 1 above), but 3NT with an overtrick is better than game in a major (430 versus 420, or 630 versus 620).