



Dear Buddy

Anne Hollingsworth, D21 Ombudsman

April 2022

Contact Anne: district21info@gmail.com



Face to face games and tournaments have begun, and our fingers are crossed they will continue to happen. If you haven't ventured to one yet, but are contemplating attending, here are a few tips and insights if this will be your first tournament experience.

If the event is not a reasonable driving distance for you, make your hotel reservation before the cut-off date to receive the group discount rate. I suggest planning early as some dates may sell out. Most tournaments do not require preregistration to play, with the exception of "major" games at an NABC. For sectionals and regionals, you and your partner can register

starting about 30 minutes before the start time for game you plan to play.

How do you choose what to play? The fun of tournaments is there are so many options!

- **Knockout Teams:** Just like March Madness in basketball, these games are elimination events. A team is usually comprised of 4-6 members, with 4 playing at a time against the opponents. You and your partner play a pair and your partners play their teammates. If you win your round, your team advances to the next round. KOs may run from a single day to several days, depending on the game schedule.
- **Bracketed Knockout Teams:** Rather than playing a team and only the winner advancing, bracketed teams are composed of a set number of teams, typically from 8 to 16. The grouping is based on masterpoints. When teams sign up, the Director groups the registrations from high to low in terms of points, then breaks the groupings into similar size brackets. This means you are playing teams that are most similar to your team's masterpoints. With brackets, your team plays each of the other teams in your bracket. Masterpoint awards are given to the top teams in each given bracket.
- **Compact Knockout Teams:** These are similar to KO teams, but in a shorter version and fewer boards are played. Pairing for the initial round is random, often based on what your team number is when you register. After the first round, the pairing is based on your total Victory Points.
- **Swiss Teams:** As with other team games, a chart on the inside of your convention card chart is used to convert to your team's Victory Points based on the +/- IMP difference between your score and the other team. After each round, the Director receives each team's results. After each round, new assignments are made based on the results. Those with more Victory Points will play other teams close in their point level.
- **Side Games:** These are single session events. A side game series is composed of at least three sessions. If you play in at least two sessions at a regional or NABC and score well, you may be eligible to earn overall gold points.
- **Flighted Pairs:** In these games, the field is divided by experience (masterpoints) into separate games. Flight A games are unlimited and open to all players. Flight B is typically 0-1500 MPs or 0-3000 masterpoints, depending on the Flight C limits. Flight C might be 0-300 or 0-500. When you sign up for this type of game, the breakdown by Flight will be shown at the game registration desk. Each flights scores separately, and masterpoints are awarded for each flight. If the games are separated, ie there might be Mid-Flights pairs, limited to 0-2500 points. You may play "up" but cannot play down. For example, if you are a Flight C player, you can play in a Flight A or B game. But, a Flight A player cannot play in a Flight B or C game since they would have too many masterpoints.



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

- **Stratified Pairs:** This is a game where you compete against everyone but are ranked with your peers. Your pair is assigned a stratum based on your masterpoint holdings. Examples are Open Pairs: 3000+, 1500-300, 300-0. Players with more masterpoints are placed in Strat A, intermediate players in Strat B, and less experienced players in Strat C. In a three strat game, the ranking is done three times, first with Strat A, just as with a regular game. The second compares only the B players, and the third just the C players. If a Strat B pair does well, they will receive credit for their good game and receive the highest level of points available for their game. The second ranking will compare the scores of the B and C pairs. Each pair will receive the highest point award for the highest strat they place in.
- **Mid-Flight Pairs:** This is a limited game, with a higher masterpoint limit of 2500 or 3000. All players within or below this range may participate in this game.
- **Gold Pairs:** This game allows less experienced players to earn gold points which are needed for the Life Master rank while playing in a restricted field. The event is limited to those with fewer than 750 masterpoints. The game may be stratified, such as 750/300, similar to other games above.
- **299er Games:** Most tournaments will have separate listed games for newer players. These games may also be stratified.
- **Non-Life Master Sectionals:** Several of the D21 units have scheduled separate tournaments for those with fewer than 500 master points and have not yet earned the rank of Life Master. These are great games to compete and earn silver points!

We look forward to seeing you at a tournament soon!