



All About Masterpoints

London Bridge Centre is associated with the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). This is the governing body for competitive bridge in North America. They collect annual membership fees from players, and sanction fees from clubs that run their games. Any games run at LBC using Bridgemates are scored using an ACBL program, and our fees are calculated based on the number of tables in the game.

ACBL also runs an award system for players called Masterpoints®. Masterpoints are the exclusive currency of the ACBL as the measure of achievement in duplicate bridge competition and are awarded to players who do well in a game. There are formulas for computing masterpoint awards for all ACBL-sanctioned events. These formulas consider various factors, such as the class of the event, the size of the field, the number of sessions and the level of competition, thus ensuring maximum uniformity throughout the ACBL in determining masterpoint awards.

In general, the larger the field and the more expert the competitors are at a tournament or in a game, the greater the Masterpoint awards will be for those who place in the overall. Masterpoints at clubs are usually limited, although special games can increase the payoff.

Masterpoints are “pigmented” to reflect the level of competition. Masterpoints are awarded in six “colour” categories and are essential to rank advancement.

Masterpoint Pigments



Black points are awarded for overall positions, section positions, and match awards in ACBL-sanctioned club games, in all unit events and in all other levels of tournament competition except those special events in which gold, red or silver points or other pigments are specified.



Silver points are awarded for success in events at sectional tournaments. Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) also award silver points.



Red points are awarded for all regional-rated events at North American Bridge Championships (NABCs) and for all events at a regional tournament. (Some events at Regionals specify gold masterpoints). Grand National Teams (GNT) events, North American Pairs (NAP) events and other special games afford players the opportunity to earn red points at their local clubs.



Gold points are awarded at NABCs in national-rated events that have an upper limit of at least 750 masterpoints. Gold points are awarded for overall positions and for section firsts in all two-session, regional-rated events with an upper limit of at least 750 masterpoints at NABCs and regional tournaments. Pairs filling in for one session of a two-session event receive any gold points earned. Partial gold-point awards are given for certain special events.



Platinum points are awarded for NABC+ events (which are national-rated events with no upper masterpoint limit) and include the national-rated senior and women's events.



Unpigmented or net points are awarded for success in online play and are colourless.

Masterpoint Rankings

The ACBL has 16 player ranks that require a specific number and colour of masterpoints. For example, to be a Life Master you need the following (for members joining after 2010):

500 Total Masterpoints

At least 75 are black

At least 75 are silver

At least 100 are red/gold/platinum, of which 50 or more are gold/platinum

However, there are many other ranks you can achieve before becoming a Life Master. The full list is on the next page. For further details visit

<https://www.acbl.org/masterpoints/#ranks>

TITLE	MASTERPOINTS REQUIRED
Rookie	Fewer than 5
Junior Master	5
Club Master	20 At least 5 are black
Sectional Master	50 At least are 10 black At least 5 are silver
Regional Master	100 At least 15 are black At least 15 are silver At least 5 are red/gold/platinum
NABC Master	200 At least 20 are black At least 25 are silver At least 20 are red/gold/platinum, of which 5 or more are gold/platinum
Advanced NABC Master	300 At least 50 are black At least 50 are silver At least 50 are red/gold/platinum, of which 25 or more are gold/platinum
Life Master	500 At least 75 are black At least 75 are silver At least 100 are red/gold/platinum, of which 50 or more are gold/platinum
Bronze Life Master	A Life Master with 750
Silver Life Master	A Life Master with 1000 At least 200 are silver/red/gold/platinum
Ruby Life Master	A Life Master with 1500 At least 300 are silver/red/gold/platinum
Gold Life Master	A Life Master with 2500 At least 500 are silver/red/gold/platinum

Sapphire Life Master	A Life Master with 3500 At least 700 are silver/red/gold/platinum, of which 350 or more are gold/platinum
Diamond Life Master	A Life Master with 5000 At least 1000 are silver/red/gold/platinum, of which 500 or more are gold/platinum
Emerald Life Master	A Life Master with 7500 At least 1500 are silver/red/gold/platinum, of which 750 or more are gold/platinum
Platinum Life Master	A Life Master with 10000 At least 2000 are silver/red/gold/platinum, of which 1000 or more are gold/platinum and at least 100 are platinum
Grand Life Master	A Platinum Life Master with a victory in an eligible event