

Examples of Match Points and International Match Points Scoring Methods

Matchpoints: The more common scoring system in duplicate bridge. You receive 1 point for every pair which played your cards whose score you beat, and 1/2 point for every pair whose score you tied. (European clubs sometimes use 2 and 1 instead of 1 and 1/2.)

IMPs (International Matchpoints): A scoring method in which the difference between a pair's score and some other score is converted to an IMP score using a roughly logarithmic scale. In conversion, it is spoken of as "IMPing." In IMP Pairs, the IMPing may be either against some sort of average of all the other tables, or individually against each other table (as shown in the following example).

Illustrations:

Matchpoints

In matchpoints, your board results are compared to everyone else's results. You get one matchpoint for each pair you beat, and one-half matchpoint for each pair you tie. The size of the difference in scores does not matter.

Look at the example below. Let's say you and your partner are sitting East-West and score +420 on Board 1. Let's also say there are 9 other East-Wests in the field who will play the exact same board and get their own results.

Example Matchpoint Scoring

Pair #	Results	Matchpoints
Pair 1 (You)	+420	N/A
Pair 2	+420	+0.5
Pair 3	-100	+1.0
Pair 4	-50	+1.0
Pair 5	+450	+0.0
Pair 6	+450	+0.0
Pair 7	-150	+1.0
Pair 8	+50	+1.0
Pair 9	+420	+0.5
Pair 10	+420	+0.5
		+5.5 (55%)

So on this board; you would receive 5.5 matchpoints out of 10, or 55%. 50% is average, so 55% is a good score. Your objective is to get as many matchpoints as possible on each board.

IMPs

At IMP (International Match Points) pairs, your IMP score is dependent on the size of the score difference between you and the field. You would use the IMP scale, shown below, to calculate how many IMPs you win or lose on a board.

IMP Scale

Difference in Points	IMPs
20-40	1
50-80	2
90-120	3
130-160	4
170-210	5
220-260	6
270-310	7
320-360	8
370-420	9
430-490	10
500-590	11
600-740	12
750-890	13
900-1090	14
1100-1290	15
1300-1490	16
1500-1740	17
1750-1990	18
2000-2240	19
2250-2490	20
2500-2990	21
3000-3490	22
3500-3990	23
4000+	24

The example below shows the same board results as the previous example. (You and your partner play EW with +420 results while nine other EW pairs play the same board with results as shown below.) To compute your IMP score, IMP the difference between your score and every other pair's score. Add all the differences together and divide by the total number of other pairs.

Example IMP Scoring

Pair #	Results	IMPs
Pair 1 (You)	+420	N/A
Pair 2	+420	+0
Pair 3	-100	+11
Pair 4	-50	+10
Pair 5	+450	-1
Pair 6	+450	-1
Pair 7	-150	+11
Pair 8	+50	+9
Pair 9	+420	+0
Pair 10	+420	+0

IMP SCORE: +39 IMPs / 9 pairs = 4.33 IMPs