

For September 2024, we explore the colorful world of points.

Non-bridge people often ask players what they get when they “win.” The short answer is points.

The longer answer covers different elements of a system that ranks players in a way that reflects their skill and experience. In other words, it gives players documented bragging rights!

Masterpoint colors. According to the ACBL, Masterpoints are pigmented to reflect the level of competition. When players win at a local club game, their achievement is not rewarded as much as when they win at a large regional event that has drawn huge crowds of expert competitors. Both the color and number of possible points awarded changes depending on the setting of the game.

The easy way to think about the colors is that a player can win black points at local clubs, silver points at sectionals, and red or gold points at regionals and nationals. But there are nuances and exceptions, so click [HERE](#) for a more comprehensive explanation.

- **Black points** are won in club games, unit games and other ACBL-sanctioned events that are not offering gold, red or silver points.
- **Silver points** are awarded at sectionals and at local club events called STaCs (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs). A special type of STaC game called a Royal STaC takes whatever points a player wins and converts them to ¼ black, ¼ silver, ¼ red and ¼ gold points.
- **Red points** are awarded at all regional events at North American Bridge Championships (NABCs) and for all events at a regional tournament when the masterpoints are not gold. Sometimes you can also earn red points at your local club when there are Grand National Teams (GNT) events, North American Pairs (NAP) events and other special games.
- **Gold points** are available 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.
- **Colorless points** are awarded for success in online play.