

Description of the Can-Am Events

The Can-Am is the regional tournament held annually by the Montreal Bridge League, in which players can earn **Gold points**.

In order to win GOLD points, players must play in a 2-session event or two sessions in one event, and get a placement in the overall ranking. Otherwise, points awarded are RED points.

During tournaments, there are several types of competitions in pairs and teams, some of which can take place simultaneously. Here is a summary of a variety of types of competitions.

PAIRS

Open Pairs – Stratified Pairs – Gold Rush Pairs – Side Game Series

These pairs events consist of two sessions (continuous sessions), from which there are several winners. Masterpoints are awarded for each session, and there is an OVERALL ranking that combines both sessions and awards additional Masterpoints to players that get a placing. Within each group, stratification is based on average Masterpoints for the pair.

Open Pairs and **Stratified Pairs**: these sessions are open to all players.

Open Pairs: this event is held on the same days as the Gold Rush Pairs.

Stratification: A=2000+/B=0-2000.

Stratified Pairs: this event takes place on days when there is no Gold Rush Pairs.

Stratification: A=2000+/B=500-2000/C=0-500.

Gold Rush Pairs: all players participating in this event must have fewer than 750 Masterpoints. Thereafter, ranking is determined by the average of the pair within this stratification: A=300-750/B=100-300/C=0-100.

Side Games Series: this pairs event consists of numerous sessions. During the Can-Am, there are two series of side games: Series #1 with 7 sessions in the first half of the tournament, Series #2 with 8 or 9 sessions in the second half. Players may play in as many sessions as they wish, but must play a minimum of two sessions in the same series to be eligible for GOLD Points.

Each session is a regular pair game with its own ranking. Participants may play with different partners from one session to the other. At the end of each series, there is an

Overall ranking, calculated on an *individual basis*, that combines the best two sessions of each player in that series.

TEAMS

Teams consist of 4, 5, or 6 players, 4 of whom play at the same time: one pair sits N/S at one table, the other pair E/W at another table. The two opposing pairs play in the opposite direction of their teammates.

Knockout (KO) Bracketed – Stratified Swiss – Stratiflighted Swiss – Bracketed Swiss

Knockout Bracketed: at the end of the registration period, the director determines the number of KO groups or “Brackets” in the event. Each group is composed of teams of a similar caliber, based on the TOTAL number of Masterpoints for the team.

Each bracket represents a separate event with its own Masterpoint awards:

- Two teams meet to play the first match.
- The team that wins the match keeps on for the next match at the next session time, and the losing team is out.
- The same process continues until the two finalists in each bracket play each other.

Stratified Swiss: any team can meet any other team in any given match (7 or 8) throughout the event. All along its matches, each team accumulates “IMPS” points depending upon its performance against each team met. There are Masterpoints awarded for each match won, and there are additional points to those teams that place in the Overall ranking. Teams are stratified by Masterpoint average of the players on the team.

Stratification at the Can-Am: A=2000+/B=500-2000/C=0-500 . There are winners in each strata, and it is possible for a team in a lower strata to outperform one or more teams in a higher strata.

Gold Rush Swiss: event in which all players must hold less than 750 Masterpoints. The operation of this event is similar to the Stratified Swiss. Stratification: A=300-750/B=100-300/C=0-100.

Stratiflighted Swiss: similar to the Stratified Swiss described above, however held in TWO separate groups:

- **A-AX** (1st group): OPEN TO ALL TEAMS. Stratification is determined by MP average of the team: A= 2500+ / AX= 0-2500.
- **B-C-D** (2nd group): ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM MUST HAVE LESS THAN 2 000 MP – upper limit at the Can-Am. Thereafter, Masterpoint average of the team determines the ranking: B=1000-2000 / C=500-1000 / D=0-500.

Bracketed Swiss: the more there are teams, the more there are groups.

At the registration desk, the team captain gives the TOTAL number of points of the players on his team. At the end of the registration period, the director determines the number of groups according to the number of registered teams and he regroups teams of equal strength (ex. 6 or 7, or 8 or more groups of 8 teams). The highest group may contain more teams. A team may request to play in the highest group. In each group, each team usually meets with all other teams in its group.