

Scoring the game, part 2

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In the last article, I discussed how match point scoring works. This time, we will focus our attention on how IMP scoring works. IMP is an acronym, standing for International Match Points. It is a form of scoring that is most commonly used in team of four events such as knockout teams, Swiss Teams, and Round Robins. In these events, you play on a team as two partnerships. Your players will sit North South at one table, and your teammates will sit East/West at your opponents table. The same set of hands will be played at both tables. At the conclusion of the match, you reunite with your partners to compare scores. There is an IMP table at the bottom of your convention card. This will be used to convert your scores from raw totals into IMPS.

Diff. in Pts	IMPs
0 – 10	0
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 or more	24

Let's look at a simple five board match between you and another team. First our scores:

Board #	Contract & Result	Score
1	4 ^a North made 5	+450
2	1NT West made 1	-90
3	7 [♠] X West down 4	+1100
4	4 [♣] East down 2	+200
5	5 [♠] North making 6	+600

This is our teammate's score card:

Board #	Contract & Result	Score
1	4 ^a South made 4	-420
2	1NT South down 1	+100
3	7 [♣] North made 7	-1510
4	4 [♣] East making 4	+620
5	6 [♠] North down 1	+100

Now let's compare and convert the score to see who won.

Board #	Cumulative Score	IMPS for us	IMPS for them
1	+30	1	
2	+10	0	
3	-410		8
4	+820	13	
5	+700	12	
Final Score	----	26	8

On board one, our team made one more trick than the opposition in the same contract. Adding the score at our table to the score at the other table yielded a net score of +30. (450-420). Referring to the IMP table converts this to one IMP for our team. On board two, the cumulative score was +10 (-90+100). For a difference of 10 points, there are no IMPS for either side. Similarly, we lost 8 IMPS on board 3 (+1100-1510=-410), won 13 IMPS on board 4 (200+620=820), and won 12 IMPS on board 5 (600+100=700). The final score of the match was 26 IMPS for our side and 8 IMPS for our side. Victory is ours!

There is one other aspect to IMPS scoring. In some events, particularly Swiss Teams, sometimes they are scored as IMPS converted to Victory Points (VP). On your convention card, there is a victory point scale on the side of your convention card. The most commonly used scale is the 20 VP scale shown below. Once you determine the final IMP score for your match, you can refer to this table to convert to Victory Points. Each match's total victory points will be 20. In our example, our team won 15 VP, and our opponents won 5 VP. Victory points are added up cumulatively, and are used at the end of the event to determine the winners.