

INFO ON FWDBC'S NEW SWISS TEAM GAMES

How to play Swiss teams: there are four players (two pairs) on a team. Every round, each team's East-West pair plays against the other team's North-South pair for six hands, then scores are compared. Each new round, your team will play against a different team depending on who won or lost previous round(s). The team that wins the most rounds with the most points wins the event, but fractional masterpoints are also awarded for every round a team wins.

Ranking system: To be sure that all our teams include both 0-299 and higher ranked players, each FWDBC player has been assigned a rank number from 4 to 1 (see ranking list) and each four-person team must be composed of players whose rank numbers total no more than 9. Most teams will form themselves, but pairs needing assistance can ask the director whom to contact for help at least two days before the game.

Schedule: Swiss team games will be held on the third Thursday of every month except that in May, August and November, they will be on the third Monday. These were the days preferred by players who took our Swiss team survey. At the end of 2019, the schedule will be re-evaluated.

Play during the game: During any round in which each team has one pair of higher-ranked players and one pair of lower-ranked players (for example, one pair has a 4- and a 3-ranked player and the other has two 1-ranked players), each team's higher-ranked players will play each other. When one team includes a 1-ranked player and the other does not, the former team may choose its pairings against the opposing team.

Mentoring: Some pairs may choose do limited mentoring during the game. Hand records will be available for games of 12 or fewer tables.

Strategy: The score for each contract is the same in Swiss team games as it is in regular duplicate games. However, when scores of the opposing teams are compared, they are translated into "victory points" where much less value is given to overtricks and other minor differences in scores and much greater value is given to large differences. Therefore, pairs are advised to be sure to get to their game and slam contracts, and be sure to make these if at all possible. DO NOT take a chance of going down by trying to take risky overtricks. Also, don't compete too aggressively for part-scores, and don't double an opponent's contract for penalty unless you are totally sure of setting it.

TRY OUT SWISS TEAM GAMES! You'll find they're a lot of fun.