

# Fifth Chair



## Scoring at Team Games - International Matchpoint Scale

Difference in Points IMPS/Difference in Points IMPS

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

Below is a description of how this scoring is arrived at:

The easiest way to figure this out is to go through the process of "comparing scores" as it would be done in a face-to-face team game. While you played, each pair at each table would keep a score card, and at the end of play, the two pairs from each team would join up and compare their scores. Each team consists of the North-South pair at their "home" table, and the East-West pair at the other table. The Score in the following table reflects the performance of the red team, which is made up of the North-South pair from the red table and the East-West pair from the blue table. To confirm this, add up the positive scores, you'll see they add up to 27, scored for the red team, and add up the negative scores, you'll see they add up to 36, scored "against" the red team, or for the blue team.

Here are the scores that were printed out by the computer:

Board red team blue team Score

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TB.IMP 1 2S (N) 2 = 110, 1NT-X (N) -2 = -300, 9 IMPS  
TB.IMP 2 1NT (E) -1 = 50, 3H (E) -2 = 100, -2 IMPS  
TN.IMP 3 3NT (S) 3 = 400, 3NT (S) 3 = 400, 0 IMPS  
TN.IMP 4 6C (N) -1 = -100, 3NT (N) 5 = 660, -13 IMPS  
TN.IMP 5 4S (N) 6 = 680, 4S (N) 5 = 650, 1 IMPS  
TN.IMP 6 1NT (W) -1 = 100, 2H (N) 3 = 140, -1 IMPS  
TN.IMP 7 2S (W) 4 = -170, 3S (W) -1 = 100, -7 IMPS  
TN.IMP 8 4S (N) 5 = 450, 4S (S) 5 = 450, 0 IMPS  
TN.IMP 9 3NT (E) 3 = -600, 5D (E) -2 = 200, -13 IMPS  
TN.IMP 10 6NT-X (W) -4 = 1100, 3NT (W) 3 = -600, 17 IMPS

Total red 27 IMPS, blue 36 IMPS

Here the scores are expressed in terms of the North-South pair's score for both teams. If we were comparing

with real-life team mates, that wouldn't happen. If we were N/S at one table, our team mates would be E/W at the other, so let's first re-interpret the scores as they would appear if the red team players were comparing. That will be the N/S score from the first table, and the E/W score from the second table.

Red team N/S pair

Board Contract by Result Plus Minus

1 2S N Made 2 110  
2 1NT E Down 1 50  
3 3NT S Made 3 400  
4 6C N Down 1 100  
5 4S N Made 6 680  
6 1NT W Down 1 100  
7 2S W Made 4 170  
8 4S N Made 5 450  
9 3NT E Made 3 600  
10 6NT-X W Down 4 1100

Red team E/W pair

Board Contract by Result Plus Minus

1 1NT-X N Down 2 300  
2 3H E Down 2 100  
3 3NT S Made 3 400  
4 3NT N Made 5 660  
5 4S N Made 5 650  
6 2H N Made 3 140  
7 3S W Down 1 100  
8 4S S Made 5 450  
9 5D E Down 2 200  
10 3NT W Made 3 600

Now, the two pairs from the red team are going to get together, and add the scores from the two tables. If one pair made 420 for making 4S, and the other pair lost 420 to the opponents making 4S, there will be a net score of zero. You would express this arithmetically as  $(+420) + (-420) = 0$ . Listening to this, you'd hear, "Plus 420", from one pair, "Minus 420" from the other pair, "no score".

When there is a difference in the scores, we look it up on a table called the International Matchpoint Scale (IMP Scale), which in ACBL events is printed on the inside of the score cards for ready access. Suppose in the example we just used to show a score of zero, one pair made an overtrick. Now you would hear, "Plus 420", from one pair, "Minus 450" from the other pair, "lose 30, that's 1 IMP".

Scoring then is:

Board N/S Score E/W Score Net Score IMPS+ IMPS-

1 + 110 + 300 = + 410 --- 9  
2 + 50 - 100 = - 50 --- --- 2  
3 + 400 - 400 = 0 --- 0  
4 - 100 - 660 = - 760 ----- 13  
5 + 680 - 650 = + 30 --- 1  
6 + 100 - 140 = - 40 --- --- 1  
7 - 170 - 100 = - 270 ----- 7  
8 + 450 - 450 = 0 --- 0

9 - 600 - 200 = - 800 ---- 13  
10 +1100 +600 = + 1700 --- 17  
Totals 27 -- 36 IMPs 27 -36 = lose by 9