Bonus for PQPs earned in Partnerships.

Proposal

That players who earn PQPs receive a bonus of double PQPs in the Playoff PQP calculation for earning those points as a partnership and the current practice of discounting by 50% PQPs not earned in the Same Unit be discontinued.

NOTE: It is not proposed to amend the rule for being eligible for earning PQPs in any way. This proposal only impacts the Same Unit rule.

Rationale

The rationale for providing a partnership bonus is that PQPs are used for sole purpose of qualifying for the Team Selection Event and International events are won by Pairs, not disparate individuals. This is the same, long-standing, reasoning for used for the current Same Unit rule.

History

Some time ago, prior to the current automatic team PQP calculators, pairs entered a Pairs Playoff year based on PQPs they calculated by adding 100% of the PQPs earned when they were playing together to 50% of the PQP's earned when not playing together.

In a Teams' Playoff year teams qualified with PQP totals based on 2 or 3 pairs who calculated their PQPs in a manner similar to the pairs method outlined above. Even though there was no real means of recording who played with whom, since there was only a list of 48 players to worry about with fewer events the manual calculations was not onerous.

The larger number of events has made the use of a calculator important. When the calculator was first implemented there was no practical way of recording who played with whom and the concept of the Same Unit was instigated.

Note the current Same Unit calculation allows 3 people to earn Same Unit points even though only 2 of the 3 can compete as a pair. Further it is possible that all 3 people will get Same Unit PQPs even though they did not play a single board with each other in the qualifying events and compete in 3 different partnerships in the playoff.

With all events being scored with electronic devices (Bridgemates), we now have the technology to record the number of stanzas played in an event as a partnership.

Rule for Receiving Partnership Bonus

It is proposed that the Partnership Bonus be to double the PQPs earned in that eligible partnership. (Note the current 50% discount for PQP's not earned in the Same Unit will be discontinued)

Eligible pairs will earn the Partnership Bonus provided they play a designated number of stanzas in each stage of an event. The designated number of stanzas for greater than 4 stanzas in a stage be calculated by subtracting one from the number of stanzas in the stage, dividing by two, and round down.

Minimum number of stanzas (for stanzas in stage >4) to be played as a pair to earn Partnership bonus $= Integer\left(\dfrac{Stanzas\ in\ stage - 1}{2}\right)$

The designated number of stanzas to achieve the Partnership Bonus if there 1 to 4 stanzas in a stage be equal to the current PQP rule.

Other Rules

Byes, Forfeits: Where not all teams in the event receive a bye, or a team forfeits or concedes, then for the purposes of the Partnership Bonus PQP rule all pairs will be deemed to have played (much like the current forfeit / concede rule).

Players are responsible for inputting correct line ups into the electronic scorers and the Partnership Bonus will be based on these entries and posted on the web (similar to datums). There will be a one-week correction period.

Discussion

The proposal for short numbers of stanzas in a stage or event with that the number of stanza's played as a partnership to achieve the Partnership Bonus equals the current PQP rule.

For longer qualifying events or stages the proposal allows for slightly less stanzas than a team of 6 playing in 3 partnerships playing in rotation would achieve. This allows for one or two accidents/ substitutes depending on the length of the event.

The reason for doubling and treating this as a bonus is simply that this seems more positive than the old 50% discount.

Number of Stanzas	Available sets	Stanzas played in a 3 pair team	5 person team with 1 pair & 1 person playing throughout	5 person team with 1 pair & a triangle	Current PQP rule	Partnership bonus proposal
1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	4	1	1	0	1	1
3	6	2	1	1	1	1
4	8	2	2	1	2	2
5	10	3	2	1	2	2
6	12	4	3	2	3	2
7	14	4	3	2	3	3
8	16	5	4	2	4	3
9	18	6	4	3	4	4
10	20	6	5	3	5	4
11	22	7	5	3	5	5
12	24	8	6	4	6	5
13	26	8	6	4	6	6
14	28	9	7	4	7	6

Note the PQP eligibility rule divides the stanzas by two and rounds down.

Whilst both rules yield the same result for odd numbers of stanzas it should be noted that in longer events a 3 pair team playing in rotation can have a stanza off (at least 2 stanzas for events with at least 8 rounds).

In practice most PQP Team events have at least 8 qualifying rounds and finals composed of 4 stanzas. So to achieve Partnership Bonus a pair has to play at least 2 sets of 4 in each final and a bit less than 50% of the rounds of the qualifying.

A 5 person team playing as a pair and a triangle would only meet the partnership if the total number of stanzas is 1 or 3, even though all players would meet the requirements to be awarded PQPs. This was felt to be appropriate as those pairs not achieving the partnership bonus are only playing a third of the stanzas in a partnership.

Summary

A partnership bonus of double will be applied to those PQPs earned as a pair at the time they enter the Playoffs in that partnership.

To earn the partnership bonus each pair must play as an eligible partnership in at least the designated number of stanzas in all stages of an event.

The existing PQP rule or the ability to earn PQPs is not proposed to be amended in any way.

The existing Same Unit rule will be discontinued in the Playoff Qualifying calculation.

(Note: Arithmetically, there is no difference between doubling PQPs when players meet the requirement and halving PQPs when players don't meet the requirement. This cosmetic change is proposed to highlight the reward for players who play as a partnership.)