



## Handling Scoring Errors

The EBU's up-to-date *Schedule of Standard Penalties* (applicable from 1 August 2012) can be found at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/misc/publications.htm>. The guideline penalty for "incorrectly scoring or agreeing scores" (pairs or teams) is none for the first offence, a warning for the second, and a procedural penalty (see below) only for the third. Nevertheless, members have received repeated warnings (which "include any announcement to the room as a whole") and *if you decide to award a penalty, I will support you*.

The basis in law for applying a penalty is Law 90A, which says "The Director ... may also assess procedural penalties for any offence that ... inconveniences other contestants ...". However much a scoring error may waste your time, you are not penalising it for that reason; if you do penalise it, it is because the scoring error has inconvenienced other contestants (by, most likely, delaying the publication of the final results).

To avoid delaying at least the initial publication, I now enter contracts and scores exactly as they are recorded on the traveller, even if they are nonsense (more politely, 'internally inconsistent'). Thus 1♥ by N making 6 tricks for NS +50 will be scored as such; the players have the 'correction period' within which to ask me to amend it. The only exception I make is where a successful game has been scored for the wrong vulnerability; so I will amend 400 to 600 for a vulnerable 3NT. Undertricks are not so clear: down one NV may be scored as -100, but is that because the scorer mistook the vulnerability or was it down two? I therefore score it as recorded. If anyone complains...

The travellers are the vital link between players' performances at the table and their positions in the rankings. Any player taking such a keen interest in his or her performance and in the resulting rankings should take a similar interest in ensuring that the scores are entered correctly.

## Scale of Penalties

Section 12.5 of the *White Book* prescribes 'standard amounts' for various methods of scoring: at Matchpoint Pairs, 10% of a top; at Teams-of-four, 3imps.

In 90.2 it says "If a TD feels a greater penalty is in order because the offence is either worse than normal, or because it has been repeated, or in aggravated circumstances, then it is normal for him to fine twice the 'standard amount', or three times the 'standard amount', and so on".

*Mike Clements*

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