

Bridge scoring

While a deal of bridge is always played following a unique set of rules, its scoring may vary depending on the type of event the deal is played on. There are two main categories of scoring: rubber and duplicate. Rubber scoring, and its popular variant Chicago, are mostly used in social play. Duplicate scoring is focused on tournament competition and has many variations that compare and rank the relative performance of partnerships and teams playing the same deals as their competitors.

Terminology

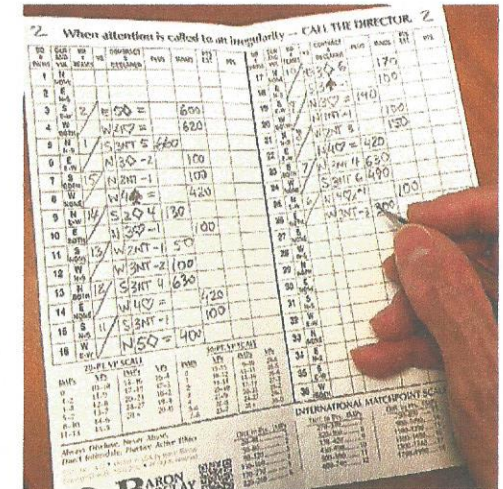
The following terms and concepts, defined in the [glossary of contract bridge terms](#), are essential to understanding bridge scoring:

- [Contract](#)
- [Denomination](#)
- [Down](#)
- [Honors](#)
- [Make or Made](#)
- [Odd tricks](#)
- [Overtrick](#)
- [Slam and grand slam](#)
- [Undertricks](#)
- [Undoubled, doubled and redoubled](#)
- [vulnerable, not vulnerable and none vulnerable](#)

Scoring elements

Bridge scoring consists of nine elements. Not all elements are included in all game variants and the method of accumulation of the elements over several deals varies.

- If the [contract](#) is made, the score for each such deal consists of:
 - Contract points, assigned to each [odd trick](#) bid and made
 - Overtrick points, assigned for each [trick](#) taken over the contracted number of odd tricks
 - A slam bonus for a small slam or grand slam contract bid and made
 - A bonus, colloquially known as 'for insult', is received at the end of any deal in which a doubled or redoubled contract is bid and made
- If the contract is defeated, the defenders receive:
 - Penalty points, assigned for every [undertrick](#)
- In rubber bridge only:
 - A rubber bonus is received at the end of a completed rubber by the side that is first to win two games. A rubber bonus is also awarded for some game and part-game scores at the end of an unfinished rubber
 - An honor bonus is received by any player at the end of any deal in which the player held particular honor cards.
- In duplicate bridge only:



Duplicate bridge score sheet for ACBL tournament

- A partial-game bonus is received at the end of each deal for any partial game contract bid and made
- A game bonus is received at the end of each deal for any game contract bid and made

Contract points

Contract points are awarded for each odd trick bid and made. Their values depend on the suit (or notrump) and whether the contract is doubled or redoubled; they are not affected by vulnerability. Tricks won beyond that necessary to fulfill the contract are referred to as overtricks and their scoring points are accounted for separately because their values are dependent upon declarer's vulnerability.

Denomination	Contract Points Per Trick		
	Undoubled	Doubled	Redoubled
Notrump			
▪ First odd trick	40	80	160
▪ Subsequent tricks	30	60	120
Major suits	30	60	120
Minor suits	20	40	80

Overtrick points

When declarer makes overtricks, their score value depends upon the contract denomination, declarer's vulnerability and whether or not the contract is undoubled, doubled or redoubled. In an undoubled contract each overtrick earns the same as in contract points (30 for notrump and major suit contracts, 20 for minor suit contracts); values increase significantly when the contract has been doubled or redoubled, especially when vulnerable.

Contract	Overtrick Points Per Trick	
	Vulnerable	Not Vulnerable
Undoubled in:		
- Notrump	30	30
- Major suit	30	30
- Minor suit	20	20
Any doubled	200	100
Any redoubled	400	200

Slam bonus

Bonuses are awarded for all slam contracts bid and made:

- a small slam, or successful contract to win 12 of 13 tricks, earns a bonus of 500 points if not vulnerable and 750 points if vulnerable;
- a grand slam, or successful contract to win all 13 tricks, earns a bonus of 1000 points if not vulnerable and 1500 points if vulnerable.

Doubled or redoubled bonus

When a doubled or redoubled contract is made, a bonus is awarded to the declaring side. It is colloquially referred to as a bonus for "insult", meaning that the opponents have insulted the pair by suggesting that the declarer will not make the contract.

- 50 points are awarded for a doubled contract made, and

- 100 points are awarded for a redoubled contract made.

In scoring notation, a doubled contract is indicated by an 'X' after the contract (e.g. a contract of four hearts doubled is indicated by 4♥ X); a redoubled contract is indicated by "XX" (e.g. 4♥ XX).

Penalty points

When a contract is defeated, penalty points are awarded to the defending side. The value of the penalty depends on the number of undertricks, whether the declaring side is vulnerable or not vulnerable and whether the contract was undoubled, doubled or redoubled.

Number of Undertricks	Points Per Undertrick					
	Vulnerable			Not Vulnerable		
	Undoubled	Doubled	Redoubled	Undoubled	Doubled	Redoubled
1st undertrick	100	200	400	50	100	200
2nd and 3rd, each		300	600		200	400
4th and each subsequent		300	600		300	600

Without a double or redouble, every undertrick has a fixed cost of 100 or 50 points. The scores for (re)doubled undertricks are such that after the first **vulnerable** undertrick, n vulnerable undertricks cost the same as $n+1$ undertricks when not vulnerable; for example, four undertricks when doubled and not vulnerable cost 800 points (**100+200+200+300**), the same as three undertricks when doubled and vulnerable (**200+300+300**).

Rubber bonus

In rubber bridge only, a bonus is awarded at the conclusion of the rubber as follows:

- for a completed rubber, the side which wins the rubber, i.e. is first to win two games, receives a rubber bonus:
 - if the opponents have won no games, i.e. they are not vulnerable, the rubber bonus is 700 points; colloquially known as a 'fast rubber'
 - if the opponents have won one game, i.e. they are vulnerable, the rubber bonus is 500 points; colloquially known as a 'slow rubber'
- for unfinished rubbers:
 - if but one side has won a game, it scores 300 points, and
 - if but one side has a part-score, it scores 100 points.

Honor bonus or honors

In rubber bridge only, a bonus is awarded for any one hand holding four or five of the honors, i.e. an ace, king, queen, jack or ten.

- 100 points are awarded for any one hand holding any four of the five trump suit honors, and
- 150 points are awarded for any one hand holding all five trump suit honors, or all four aces in a notrump contract.

Honors may be declared and scored at any time after the auction but for strategic reasons it is best to do so at the conclusion of play so as not to give the **opponents** information about the lay of the cards. Honors may be held by any of the four players, including dummy.

Game or part-game bonus

In duplicate bridge only, game and partial-game bonuses are awarded at the conclusion of each deal as follows:

- any partial contract, i.e. one scoring less than 100 contract points, scores a bonus of 50 points, and
- any game contract, i.e. one scoring 100 or more points, scores a game bonus of 300 if not vulnerable and 500 if vulnerable.

Rubber bridge

For additional scoring information for the rubber bridge variant Chicago, see [Chicago scoring](#)

The score sheet

Rubber scoring is tallied on a score sheet divided into four parts where each partnership accumulates points either above the line or below the line.

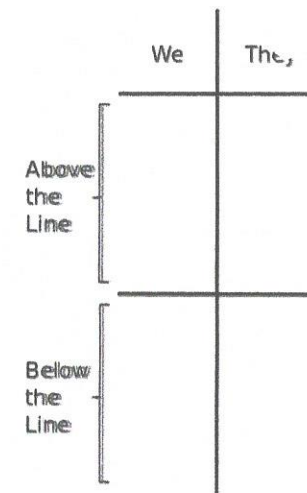
The objective is to win by scoring the most total points in the rubber; the rubber is completed when one side has twice accumulated 100 or more contract points below the line.

Only contract points are recorded below the line; all other points are recorded above the line. Any of the four players may be the recorder, his side being represented in the "We" column and the opponents in the "They" column. In the ensuing examples, South is the recorder (the 'We' on the score sheet).

An example rubber

The following table summarizes the results of a rubber consisting of six deals.

Deal	Declarer	Contract	Made	Down	Contract Points	Overtrick Points	Slam Bonus	(Re)doubled Bonus	Penalty Points	Honor Bonus	Deal Total NS	Deal Total EW
1	N	2NT	3		(1×40)+(1×30)=70	1×30=30					100	
2	W	4♥	4		4×30=120							120
3	W	5♣		2					2×100=200		200	
4	S	4♠ X	5		2×(4×30)=240	1×100=100		50			390	
5	N	3♣	4		3×20=60	1×20=20					80	
6	E	6♦	6		6×20=120		750			150		1020
Rubber Bonus												500
Total											770	1640



Rubber bridge score sheet

The following panels illustrate the progression of the scoring on the score sheet.

Deal 1	Deal 2	Deal 3	Deal 4	Deal 5	Deal 6	Rubber Bonus	Total																																																																																																																												
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