

# Single Session Events vs. Two Session Events

## Why Discuss?

Following the tournament committee's conclusion and the publishing of the article in the SUN outlining the results, I had a few folks approach me with surprise that we hadn't shifted to single session events as part of the committee findings. This wasn't part of the survey, and we did not have significant discussion around the topic.

## Masterpoint Awards

I did some research on this on bridgewinners, by talking to players and directors, and reading a few articles published on the subject by other units, most notably La Jolla (unit 526), but this is something that has changed over time, so online articles were often out of date. I ended up mainly relying on director feedback.

Per research with directors, if you purely look at award amounts and number of awards given, the consensus seems to be that there is little if any reason to run a two session event at a sectional. The tournament rules require at least one 2-session event to be held, but this is satisfied with a 2-session Swiss on Sunday. The masterpoint awards don't inherently favor a 2-session event, and single session events allow greater flexibility for both directors and players.

Masterpoint-based arguments for 2-session events were that they may pay deeper in rank (albeit with smaller awards but a smoother "decay rate"). Also, one director noted, "common sense would tell you that more unique pairs would get an overall award in the two-session event since you'd encounter overlap with the two one-sessions," but went on to note that it depends how much overlap occurs in the overalls and having two single sessions may mean one or both is larger than it would be with two sessions, resulting in higher awards.

Another impact of the masterpoint plan to note is that if you have a stratiflighted event specifically, the A/X event gets "credit" for the players in the B/C/D event. But if the A/X is 2-sessions and the B/C/D is one session, that is no longer the case. If both are single session, the bonus to A/X remains.

## Other Considerations

These are other notes I gathered, not related to masterpoints, as I investigated.

	Single Sessions	2-Session Events
Directing/logistics challenge	Need to make sure there's a sufficient break between sessions for entry sales	"Mildly more challenging" (providing stationary, movement choices, etc.)
Player Bias/Happiness	May not be considered a "real event" by some Flight A players; less prestigious (arguably)	Newer players find this format intimidating The bottom of the field may be annoyed by having to play an event they can't win in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half, or may bias results by swinging.
Revenue/attendance	Players aren't "locked in" for both sessions – may lose some revenue	Players might not go at all if they can't stay for both sessions – possible untapped revenue
Timing	Allows "daylight" players to play afternoon only	