Duplicate Match Scoring

How do you score duplicate bridge is a question I and others who do the scoring are often asked. Rosemary Monahan asked recently and prompted me to prepare an answer and circulate it. As you know there are N/S and an E/W partnership at each table and both are scored the same way, and so on.

Match scores for partnerships seated the same direction (N/S and E/W) for each board are examined and the partnership with the highest score is awarded 1 point for each partnership whose score is lower. Thus, if one partnership (with 5 partnerships total) has THE highest score, it earns 4 points. If another partnership has the second highest score it earns 3 points since three partnerships had lower scores. Perhaps the process is more easily understood with an example which follows.

Assume 5 tables, thus scores of 4,3,2,1, and 0 are possible:

a score of 4 is awarded if one partnership’s score is higher than the other four;

a score of 3 is awarded if another partnership’s score is higher than 3 others;

a score of 2 is awarded if another partnership’s score is higher than 2 others ;

a score of 1 is awarded if another partnership’s score is higher than one other; and

a score of 0 is awarded to the partnership whose score is the lowest of the 5.

If there are ties, the match score values of the number of tied scores are added and divided by the number of scores: if there are 3 “high” scores with values of 4, 3, 2; these scores total 9; and when divided by 3, each partnership is awarded 3 points.

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