



The Table Assignment Board

by Bob Gruber

The Table Assignment Board assigns a table (actually a pair of tables) to a team for playing the next match. Teams are randomly matched the first round/match (or maybe two) and thereafter assigned to pit teams of similar records/scores against one another. Unlike a typical pairs game, where the N-S's are stationary and only the E-W's move, all pairs move in a team game except for those with special needs—mobility or vision—who request a stationary table¹. Normally, one partnership plays in Section A, where the table indicators are white, and the other partnership plays at the same table number in Section B, where the table indicators / markers are yellow. Blue and pink table indicators (Sections E & F) may be used, but both partnerships still play at a table of the same number, one pair N-S, the other pair E-W. In each match, **it's essential that one pair play N-S and the other E-W. It's also essential that one member of each pair keep a private score.**

Teams are assigned an arbitrary number for the event. That number has nothing to do with the table the team starts at. Be sure to note and remember your team #. The Table Assignment Board has pockets labeled with the team #s. Locate your **team #** on the board. **You'll focus on that pocket for the entire event.**

When a team's table assignment becomes available, a director puts a card with a color-coded Section & Table Number into that team's pocket, such as E2 or F3. That table is the team's **"home" table, where its N-S will play** that round. That table may be in Section E or Section F. The E-W pair will go to the corresponding table in the "complementary" section.

If E2 (blue) is the "home" (N-S) table, E-W go to F2 (pink) to play as visitors at the away table.

If F5 (pink) is the "home" (N-S) table, E-W go to E5 (blue) to play as visitors at the away table.

When your team is assigned, the opposing team is also assigned. The pocket for their team number will receive the same table number, but in the complementary section and in the appropriate color. That is their "home" table. Their N-S will play at that table and their E-W will come to your home table as your opponents for that round.

This procedure is repeated for each round/match of the event.

- Find your team # pocket on the Table Assignment Board (the # is independent of your starting table and is your number for the entire event)
- The color-coded section & table number in your team's pocket is your "home" table for that round/match
- Your N-S pair plays at your home table
- Your E-W pair plays at the same table # in the "complementary" section. Complementary sections are: A & B, C & D, E & F, etc.
- At each table, at least one team member must keep a private score
- After all boards have been played (and scores verified), E-W return to their home table to compare results with their N-S teammates

¹ Stationary is synonymous with permanent (for the event). Furthermore, if your N-S are stationary at table "x," say E3, your E-W will also be stationary, but at complementary table "y," which, in this case, will be F3.