

CHAPTER 9 - ACBL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SECTION ONE: ACBL TEACHER PROGRAMS	1
I. TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	1
A. Teacher Accreditation Program	1
B. Basic TAP Seminar	1
C. Continuing Education for Teachers	1
D. Teacher-Trainer Program	1
II. BRIDGE TEACHING MATERIALS	1
A. Basic Texts and Teacher Manuals	1
B. Additional Texts and Manuals	2
C. Teacher and Support Products	2
D. Translations into Foreign Languages	2
III. TEACHER PUBLICATIONS AND SUPPORT TOOLS	2
A. The Bridge Teacher	2
B. ACBL Accredited Teacher Resource Materials and Handbook	2
C. Online Teacher Listings	2
IV. TEACHER INCENTIVES	2
A. Reduced Price Memberships	2
B. Book Discounts	3
V. ACBL AND ABTA	3
SECTION TWO: UNIT/DISTRICT LIAISON PROGRAMS	3
SECTION THREE: NEW PLAYER PROGRAMS	3
I. NEW PLAYER PUBLICATIONS	4
II. THE JUNIOR PROGRAM	4
A. School Bridge Lesson Series	4
B. Student Memberships	4
C. Junior Corps and Youth/Junior Ambassadors	5
D. NABC Junior Program	5
E. Junior Month	5
F. Youth North American Bridge Championships (YNABC)	5

Chapter 9 - ACBL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

To help insure the future of bridge through education, ACBL currently focuses on a number of areas. These include the development of ACBL teaching materials, the training of quality bridge teachers and the cultivation of new bridge players who will subsequently become enthusiasts of bridge and members of ACBL.

SECTION ONE: ACBL TEACHER PROGRAMS

I. TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

A. TEACHER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) is a 10-hour seminar designed to recruit and train teachers. The seminar uses materials included in the ACBL Bridge Series of five texts and teacher manuals and introduces other sources of teaching material. A TAP is presented in a workshop format where teachers are trained to present bridge effectively, using special bridge teaching techniques developed by Audrey Grant.

B. BASIC TAP SEMINAR

This seminar is offered at all NABCs and local programs can be arranged. ACBL charges a flat fee to put on a TAP but these programs can be organized by sponsors as moneymaking ventures. Participants can be charged a fee comparable to what ACBL charges at an NABC. Some districts and units offer financial assistance to members interested in taking the course. Other districts and units have established programs where TAP graduates receive rebates after teaching their first course. At least every five years, units are expected to sponsor, co-sponsor or assist unit members in attending a TAP.

C. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

Special seminars and workshops are offered at all NABCs. Teacher programs can usually be arranged at sectional and regional tournaments with the cooperation of the local education liaison.

D. TEACHER-TRAINER PROGRAM

Teacher-Trainers are the seminar instructors for TAP courses. Special workshops are held periodically to re-evaluate the TAP program and to update the trainers.

II. BRIDGE TEACHING MATERIALS

ACBL develops bridge support materials to assist ACBL Accredited Teachers in presenting the ACBL beginning bridge courses.

A. BASIC TEXTS AND TEACHER MANUALS

The ACBL has developed five bridge texts and teacher manuals called the ACBL Bridge Series. They are: “Bidding in the 21st Century” (CLUB), “Play of the Hand in the 21st Century” (DIAMOND), “Defense in the 21st Century” (HEART), “Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century” (SPADE) and “More Commonly used Conventions in the 21st Century” (NOTRUMP). These books were updated between 2010 and 2012 to complement the Learn to Play Bridge computer programs and to reflect current duplicate bridge bidding and play standards. Baron Barclay Bridge Supply distributes and sells these books.

B. ADDITIONAL TEXTS AND MANUALS

Lesson plans for school courses are available for free download under “Teacher Resources” at www.acbl.org.

C. TEACHER AND SUPPORT PRODUCTS

Derivative products using the bridge materials found in the ACBL Bridge Series textbooks have been produced for teachers and their students. These include E-Z Deal Cards for each of the five textbooks and E-Z Deal “Play” Cards and analyses booklets for eight practice courses and E-Z Guide Booklets for reference.

D. TRANSLATIONS INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish and Japanese translations of the basic texts, and a French Canadian translation of the Bidding (CLUB) and Play of the Hand (DIAMOND) texts have been produced.

III. TEACHER PUBLICATIONS AND SUPPORT TOOLS

A. ACBL ACCREDITED TEACHER RESOURCE MATERIALS AND HANDBOOK

Information on ACBL’s new player membership programs, school lesson series, junior, college and teacher programs can be found in the Teacher Resource pages on the ACBL website, www.acbl.org. The ACBL Handbook for Bridge Teachers contains special tips for presenting the ACBL courses.

B. ONLINE TEACHER LISTINGS

ACBL offers a “Find a Teacher” page online. Active teachers can apply for a listing through the Teacher Resource section.

IV. TEACHER INCENTIVES

A. REDUCED PRICE MEMBERSHIPS

New bridge players are encouraged to join ACBL for the first time by the offer of a reduced price membership. Accredited or registered teachers, who sell these reduced price one-year memberships, are eligible for a \$500.00 check from ACBL for every 100 new members recruited by that teacher, regardless of the year recruited. They also receive a \$100 gift certificate to Baron Barclay Bridge Supply for each 25 new members recruited during the calendar year.

B. BOOK DISCOUNTS

Baron Barclay Bridge Supply offers special teacher discounts on ACBL textbooks (BIDDING, PLAY, DEFENSE, COMMONLY USED CONVENTIONS, MORE COMMONLY USED CONVENTIONS).

V. ACBL AND ABTA

The American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) is an organization of bridge teachers that predates the formation of the ACBL bridge teaching programs. The ACBL and the ABTA work together for the betterment of bridge and the growth of both organizations.

Many of the ABTA's members have participated in the TAP and are ACBL Accredited Teachers. The ACBL participates in the annual ABTA convention held during the Summer NABC. ACBL/ABTA teacher seminars are held in conjunction with the Summer NABC whenever they can be scheduled.

SECTION TWO: UNIT/DISTRICT LIAISON PROGRAMS

Units and districts have been asked by the ACBL Board of Directors to appoint an education liaison to work with the ACBL in the promotion of education programs at both the unit and district levels.

The ACBL suggests five ways to jump-start a Unit Education/Newcomer Program:

- Host a TAP.
- Establish a "New Player Services" Program.
- Establish ongoing communications with local teachers.
- Create a progressive newcomer schedule for tournaments and send out postcard invitations to invite new players.

- Get teachers to give lessons in local schools, working to bring the young people into the unit.

The ACBL offers handbooks online for units interested in more information on education programs (Education Liaison, I/N Coordinator). Call the ACBL Education Department 662-253-3161 for more information.

SECTION THREE: NEW PLAYER PROGRAMS

I. NEW PLAYER PUBLICATIONS

Special publications have been updated for students and newcomers to bridge:

- *Welcome to the World of Duplicate: What to expect at your first club game*
- *Welcome to the NABCs*

II. THE JUNIOR PROGRAM

A player under the age of 26 is a junior player. A number of programs are in place to encourage college, high school, junior high and even elementary school students to learn bridge. Junior players have their own website: www.youth4bridge.org.

A. SCHOOL BRIDGE LESSON SERIES

The School Bridge Lesson Series program is available to elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities in North America. It offers free bridge lessons to students. The ACBL funds this program which includes textbooks, teacher fees, T-shirts for course graduates and trophies for mini-tournament winners.

B. STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

Student memberships have been established whereby ACBL's Junior members pay a greatly reduced membership fee. Anyone under the age of 26 who is a student is eligible to receive:

- ACBL's monthly magazine, the Bridge Bulletin,
- An opportunity to win scholarship monies in the King and Queen of Bridge Contest,
- The opportunity to use discount entry coupons for all events at NABCs,
- The right to participate in all ACBL-sponsored Junior activities.

These students can join the ACBL for \$15 a year and receive all of the above benefits.

C. NABC JUNIOR PROGRAM

The NABC Junior Program consists of the following:

- Special Junior events and activities,
- Junior entries for a reduced fee,
- Junior Day, the first Saturday of each NABC.
-

D. JUNIOR MONTH

The month of January is designated as Junior month. During this month each club is authorized to hold sectional-rated black point Junior Fund games. Junior Fund games may also be run in any other month, except April, May and September. For more information contact the ACBL Education Department.

E. YOUTH NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP (YNABC)

Each summer in conjunction with the NABC, the ACBL sponsors a three-day Youth Championship known as the YNABC. This tournament is open to all players under the age of 19. Two sessions are offered each day for the most experienced down to the newest players. Two championship events that offer scholarships are held: The National Open Pairs and the National Swiss Teams of Four. More information is available at the Youth4Bridge website (www.Youth4Bridge.org).