



American Contract  
Bridge League



to



Member Guide



# The ACBL from A to Z

As a member of the ACBL, you are one of more than 167,000 people who enjoy the camaraderie and fun of participating in a game of skill and strategy. ACBL members agree that duplicate bridge is one of the most challenging and exciting mind sports in the world!

The ACBL is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m-4:30 p.m. CST, 662-253-3100. You can check on your masterpoint holdings, or leave a message about your magazine, dues status or other concerns, and your call will be returned within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays). The ACBL also offers members the opportunity to check masterpoints and get updated bridge information on its website at **[www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)**.

This booklet has been created to provide information of interest and serve as a reference guide to all ACBL members. Please note these special features:

- ♣ A list of ACBL Member Benefits on page 7.
- ♣ A guide to the different types and colors of masterpoints and how to earn them on page 25.
- ♣ The masterpoint ranks that members can achieve on page 34.
- ♣ Website links to lead you to more information online.

## Enjoy!

**You hold the winning hand as a member of the ACBL.**

Be sure to visit [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) often for the latest news and activities.

Follow us on  *American Contract Bridge League* and  *@ACBLbridge*

# A

## **American Contract Bridge League**

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1937. Headquartered in Horn Lake MS, it is the primary and largest official sanctioning body for competitive and duplicate bridge in North America. Each year, more than three million tables of bridge are played under ACBL auspices at clubs and tournaments in North America, overseas, online and even on cruise ships. See “About ACBL” at <http://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/>.

### **ACBL Bridge Series**

The ACBL publishes five student textbooks and teacher manuals designed to make bridge easy to learn and fun to play. Each student text is coordinated with a teacher manual that offers lesson plans for teachers. Each course addresses bidding, play and defense in eight chapters (eight, two-hour lessons) per book. Some of the textbooks have a bonus ninth chapter. The five books are: “Bidding in the 21st Century (The Club Series)”, “Play of the Hand in the 21st Century (The Diamond Series)”, “Defense in the 21st Century (The Heart Series)”, “Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century (The Spade Series)” and “More Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century (The Notrump Series)”. Also available are sets of coded E-Z Deal Cards that allow the student to reconstruct the practice deals found at the end of each of the chapter.

The ACBL Bridge Series is available for purchase at Baron Barclay Bridge Supply at [www.baronbarclay.com](http://www.baronbarclay.com) or by calling 1-800-274-2221.

### **ACBL Bridge Museum**

The American Contract Bridge League Museum is not only the premier collection of bridge-related artifacts in the world, it is also an interactive showcase of the history of the game. From Vanderbilt to Culbertson to Goren to the modern era, bridge comes alive with photos, videos, art, instructional material and more. The spectacular collection of championship trophies must be seen to be believed. Touch-screen technology allows visitors to view the history and previous winners of each trophy. The Bridge Hall of Fame display includes hundreds of photos of the top names in the game, video interviews, and biographies of each inductee. The Joan Schepps Collection of Trump Indicators is an homage to the early days of the game featuring over 600 colorful pieces. In addition to these highlights, visitors to the ACBL Museum will find dozens of other fascinating items.

### **ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame**

The ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame was founded in the 1960s under the auspices of The Bridge World magazine. The Hall honors people who have made outstanding contributions to bridge. Now housed at ACBL Headquarters in Horn Lake MS, the Hall display includes hundreds of photos of the top names in

the game, video interviews, and biographies of each inductee. New members are inducted each summer at the North American Bridge Championships. See “Hall of Fame” at [www.acbl.org/about/hall-of-fame/](http://www.acbl.org/about/hall-of-fame/).

### **ACBL Charity Foundation**

The ACBL Charity Foundation was created in 1964 to make contributions to various charitable organizations. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible. <http://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/charity-foundation>.

### **ACBL Educational Foundation**

The ACBL Educational Foundation was created in 1987 and provides grants to promote bridge education. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible. <https://sites.google.com/site/acbleducationfoundationorg/>

### **ACBL “Play” courses**

ACBL offers a number of four-week supervised play courses to supplement the lessons found in each of the five ACBL Bridge Series courses. The “Play” courses are excellent tools for teachers to use to get students to practice what they have learned and to move them into duplicate. The Play courses can be purchased from Baron Barclay at <http://www.baronbarclay.com/category/acbl-playcourse>.

### **ACBL Resource Center**

The ACBL Resource Center is designed to be a convenient, easy-to-use tool that allows members of the bridge community to order or download virtually anything they need to grow the game, support their clubs and improve their skills. The Resource Center contains all materials offered by the ACBL in one place. The best part – ordering online is as easy as shopping on Amazon, and everything, including shipping, is free. The Resource Center has materials for players, district and unit officials, teachers and club owners.

### **ACBLscore®**

ACBL has developed a computer-scoring program known as ACBLscore® that is available to clubs and tournaments. This program enables a game to be scored almost instantly once the last deal has been played and the results entered. The program is free for ACBL-sanctioned games. For a small fee, ACBL offers an online course that teaches club officials how to use the ACBLscore® program. The course is available in the ACBL Learning Center (<https://lms.discoverlink.com/acbl/>).

### **Accredited bridge teachers**

The ACBL has trained bridge teachers since 1986 through the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP). The TAP introduces bridge teachers to the most successful methods for teaching bridge to beginning players. It is offered at all NABCs and, when requested, at regional tournaments. In addition, ACBL also

recognizes as accredited those who have successfully completed the Easybridge! Presenters course and the Better Bridge Teacher Training course.

[www.acbl.org/tap](http://www.acbl.org/tap)

### **Active Ethics**

A primary objective of the ACBL is to instill in all players the concept that vigorous efforts should be made to provide equity in bridge. Every player should take pains to make sure that the opponents have in no way been harmed through incomplete or misleading information as to the meaning of conventional calls and treatments. A proactive approach along these lines on the part of each and every individual will ensure that bridge remains a game that everyone can enjoy.

### **Advanced NABC Master**

A player who joined ACBL after Dec. 31, 2009 who has at least 300 masterpoints, of which 25 must gold or platinum, 25 red, gold or platinum, 50 silver and 50 black has achieved the rank of Advanced NABC Master.

### **Advancer**

The player who makes a response to his partner's overcall.

### **Adjusted score**

A score assigned by a club or tournament director (or an appeals committee) when either an infraction of the Laws or a procedural error has occurred. The director is empowered by the Laws to take this action.

### **“Adventures in Duplicate”**

“Adventures in Duplicate” is an excellent paperback book designed to guide beginning players through their first three years of duplicate bridge. Written by Edith McMullin, creator of the Easybridge! program, this book provides information on basic conventions and the wonderful and unique world of duplicate bridge. It is available for purchase at Baron Barclay Bridge Supply at <http://www.baronbarclay.com/> or by calling 1-800-274-2221.

### **Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee**

The Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee and its individual members work to create goodwill for the ACBL. They receive, convey and act on suggestions for the betterment of ACBL, particularly in the areas of active ethics, conduct, tournament conditions, bridge for Juniors and bridge for the handicapped. The Goodwill Committee celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2005.

### **Albert H. Morehead Memorial Library**

The Albert H. Morehead Memorial Library is the largest bridge library in the world, containing more than 2500 different volumes. The library was dedicated in memory of Albert Morehead, ACBL Hall of Fame member and bridge bibliophile whose collection of books provided the ACBL a solid foundation on which to build. Since the library's dedication, the ACBL has also

acquired the personal libraries of Edgar Kaplan, Alfred Sheinwold and Alan Truscott.

### **Alert**

Saying “Alert” is a method of drawing the opponents’ attention to the fact that partner’s call has a conventional or unexpected meaning. When bidding boxes are in use, an Alert is made by tapping an Alert card on the table or by tapping the Alert strip on the side of the bidding box and by saying “Alert.” When bidding boxes are not in use, the partner of the player making an Alertable call should say “Alert.” Either opponent can inquire as to the meaning of the call at their turn or can reserve the right to inquire at any later turn to call or play. Calls that need to be Alerted are shown in red on the official ACBL Convention Card and noted on the Alert Chart. The objective of the Alert procedure is for both pairs at the table to have equal access to all information contained in any auction.

### **American Bridge Association (ABA)**

The American Bridge Association was founded in 1932 to accommodate black bridge players. The organization continues today, although neither the ACBL nor the ABA deny membership based on race, sex or religion.

### **American Bridge Teachers’ Association (ABTA)**

Founded in 1957, this nonprofit, professional organization, composed

primarily of bridge teachers, is dedicated to promoting higher standards of bridge teaching and playing. The ABTA holds an annual convention just prior to the ACBL Summer North American Bridge Championships at the site of the tournament. This convention offers the best form of continuing education available to bridge teachers.

### **Announcement**

Announcements are an extension of the Alert System. An Announcement is a method by which a player uses one word or a short phrase to tell the opponents directly the meaning of partner’s call. Announcements are required in the following instances:

- ◆ After a natural 1NT opening bid, state the range (12-14, 15-17, etc.).
- ◆ After an opening notrump, a bid of diamonds or hearts transferring to hearts or spades respectively, say, “transfer.”
- ◆ After a 1NT forcing or semi-forcing response to a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid, say, “forcing” or “semi-forcing.”
- ◆ After a 1♣ or 1♦ non-forcing opening where the suit may contain fewer than three cards, say, “may be short.”

When bidding boxes are in use, say the Announcement word, such as “transfer” and tap the Alert strip in the bidding box at the same time. Calls that need to be announced are shown in blue on the

ACBL convention card and noted on the Alert Chart.

## **Appeal**

An appeal is a request for a review of a director's ruling. Any ruling by a director may be appealed, but an appeals committee does not have the authority to overrule the director on a point of bridge law or regulation. See the ACBL Disciplinary Code at [www.acbl.org/cdr](http://www.acbl.org/cdr).

## **Attitude**

Attitude in bridge denotes a defender's interest or lack of interest in a suit led or continued by partner. The predominant method of encouraging the lead or continuation of a suit is a high-low signal (to play or discard a high card followed at the next opportunity by the play or discard of a low card). To discourage a lead, a defender usually plays the lowest card in his suit holding.

## **Average score**

One-half the matchpoints possible on a given deal or in a particular session of a matchpoint pairs game.

## **B**

### **Balancing**

To balance means to (re)enter the auction with a bid or double when the opposing bidding has stopped at a low level.

## **Barometer**

This is a scoring method that originated in Sweden in which the results from each deal are played simultaneously. Running totals are usually posted shortly after the conclusion of play of each set of boards, thus heightening the interest for both players and spectators.

## **Baron Barclay Bridge Supply**

The world's largest bridge supply company, Baron was founded in 1975 by Randy and Mary Baron of Shelbyville KY. In 1990, Baron merged with Barclay Bridge Supplies of Port Chester NY which was founded in 1944. Baron Barclay sends its catalog twice annually. They carry virtually every bridge book in print as well as software, playing cards and gift items. Address: 3600 Chamberlain Lane, Louisville KY 40241. Phone 1-800-274-2221. [www.baronbarclay.com](http://www.baronbarclay.com)

## **Barry Crane Top 500**

The ACBL member who has accumulated the most masterpoints during the calendar year wins the Barry Crane Top 500 race. Originally the McKenney Trophy, the annual masterpoint race was renamed in 1986 in honor of Crane who had a dominant influence on the race for three decades. Crane, a Hollywood director and producer who was murdered in July of 1985, was the ACBL's top masterpoint holder at the time of his death and was acknowledged by his peers to be unequaled as a matchpoint player.

## **Bean Red Ribbon Pairs**

The Red Ribbon Pairs is a national-rated event held during the Summer NABC. It is limited to players with no more than 2000 points who have qualified to play by placing first or second in regional-rated two-session championship events.

## **Benefits of ACBL Membership**

The main benefits of ACBL membership are:

- ♣ The opportunity to win masterpoints, have them recorded and earn new ranks.
- ♣ The Bridge Bulletin, the world's most widely distributed bridge magazine.
- ♣ Discounted entry fees for most tournament play including three North American Bridge Championships per year.
- ♣ Access to a listing of more than 3200 bridge clubs across North America.
- ♣ The option to participate in benefit programs designed especially for ACBL members.
- ♣ Support for bridge education.
- ♣ Discounts with major retailers through the Member Perks program powered by Abenity.
- ♣ For more, go to <http://www.acbl.org/membership/>

New members are allowed to record a maximum of 20 masterpoints earned in

the 12 months prior to joining ACBL. For tournament points, provide the city, date and event. For club points, provide an attendance record from the club and send it to the ACBL Club and Member Services Department.

## **Bermuda Bowl**

The biennial (odd years) World Bridge Federation Team Championship and the trophy at stake are both called the Bermuda Bowl.

## **Bermuda Contract Bridge League**

Although Bermuda is a part of the ACBL, the country has its own national contract bridge organization (NBO) known officially as the Bermuda Contract Bridge League (BCBL). The BCBL deals with sending representatives to world championship events.

## **Bidding box**

A bidding box is a device which enables silent bidding. To make a call, the player takes the appropriate card from the box and places it on the table in front of the player. All bidding cards remain on the table until the auction is concluded, avoiding the need for a review of the bidding and eliminating the possibility of mishearing a call.

## **“Bidding in the 21st Century”**

The updated version of The Club Series, the first text in The ACBL Bridge Series.

## **Bidding Toolkit**

These are explanations of how to play commonly used conventions.

<http://www.acbl.org/common>.

## **Black points**

Masterpoints awarded at club and unit level games are black. A new member needs at least 75 black points (out of a total of 500 points of all colors) to become a Life Master.

## **Blackwood**

A convention in which a 4NT bid is used to discover the number of aces held by partner that was invented by Easley Blackwood in 1933 and has attained worldwide popularity. Blackwood, an ACBL executive who was credited with putting the ACBL back on a sound financial basis in the late 1960s, became one of the most famous bridge personalities in the world as a result of this convention.

## **Blackwood Award**

Named in honor of the late Easley Blackwood, this Hall of Fame award was established in 1996 to honor bridge players, living or deceased, who contributed to the game in areas outside of bridge-playing expertise. Albert H. Morehead, an ACBL official, bridge writer, editor and player, was the first recipient of the award.

## **Blue Ribbon Pairs (Kaplan)**

See Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs.

## **Board**

1. A duplicate board.
2. The dummy's hand, so called because it lies on the table.

## **Board-a-Match**

Board-a-Match is a form of duplicate scoring used in team contests in which one matchpoint is awarded for winning the board and half a matchpoint is awarded for a tie.

## **Board of Governors**

The ACBL Board of Governors serves in an advisory capacity to the ACBL Board of Directors. This body meets during each NABC.

## **Board of Directors**

The ACBL Board of Directors determines the policies and direction of the ACBL. The Board elects a president, vice president and a treasurer, each for a one-year term. The Board meets three times a year, usually during the week prior to each NABC. It also elects five representatives to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council for three-year terms.

## **Bracketed knockout teams**

This event is run as a knockout team event with one exception. All teams will play against similarly rated opponents. Each team's bracket is determined by averaging the entire team's masterpoint holdings.

## **Bridge Bulletin**

The ACBL's monthly magazine, Bridge Bulletin, is filled with information on bidding and play for all levels of players, information regarding upcoming tournaments, reviews of bridge books and software and reports on special bridge competitions. The magazine also gives each member a personalized masterpoint update on the back of each issue.

## **Bridge Bulletin online**

ACBL members in good standing can access the Bridge Bulletin online by logging into their MyACBL account at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org). The online Bridge Bulletin link will be on the left side menu once you've signed in. Online issues date back to 2005.

## **Bridge Plus+ games**

Bridge Plus+ is a shorter duplicate experience created for students who have taken one or more of the ACBL Bridge Series courses. The game is patterned after the students' classroom experiences. These games consist of 10 to 14 deals in a two-hour time frame supervised by an ACBL accredited teacher. Bridge Plus+ game sanctions are offered free to ACBL accredited teachers. Contact the Club and Member Services Department for more information.

## **Bridge Teacher Handbook**

Presented to all graduates of the ACBL TAP seminars, this booklet contains

information to help teachers effectively present bridge lessons and includes many of the innovative ideas developed by teachers working with the ACBL Bridge Series courses. Most of the ideas were originally published in the early issues of The Bridge Teacher newsletter. The Bridge Teacher Handbook is available online at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/teachers/Teachers-Handbook-2009.pdf>.

## **The Bridge World**

The oldest, continuously published magazine dealing with contract bridge. It was founded and first published by Ely (E-Lee) Culbertson, the man credited with making bridge a popular pastime and, for many years, America's foremost authority on contract bridge.

## **Bronze Life Master**

A player who joined ACBL prior to Jan. 1, 2010 with Life Master status who has at least 500 masterpoints has achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master. Members who joined after Jan. 1, 2010 achieve the rank of Bronze Life Master when they earn 750 masterpoints.

## **C**

### **Caddy**

A caddy is an assistant at a bridge tournament. Caddies pass boards in team games, collect score slips, maintain the tournament supplies, prepare the room for play and dispense hospitality "goodies."

## **Caddy Master**

The Caddy Master is the person at an ACBL tournament who is responsible for recruiting, training and supervising the caddies.

## **Call**

Any bid, double, redouble or pass in bridge is known as a call.

## **Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF)**

Although Canada is a part of the ACBL, the nation also has its own national bridge organization (NBO), the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF). The CBF, established in the late 1960s, represents all Canadian players. It deals with its own national championships, has its own charity organization and handles its own representation in world championships. Visit the CBF at [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca).

## **Celebrity Speaker Program**

One of the features of a typical Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) Program is a series of free lectures given at tournaments by bridge celebrities. This is a wonderful opportunity for newer players to learn more about duplicate bidding, defense and conventions. Three times a year at the NABCs, bridge celebrities and bridge teachers give 30-minute mini-lessons twice a day (except for the final Sunday of the tournament). This program is offered at some regional and sectional tournaments as well.

## **Charity Fund Games**

April is Charity Month. All sanctioned club game sessions may be held as Charity Fund Games during April and once per sanctioned session in other months except for January, May and September. These games award 63.6% sectional-rated black points.

## **Chicago (Four-Deal Bridge)**

Chicago is a form of bridge frequently played in clubs and well suited to home play. It is named after the city in which it originated. For more information visit: <http://www.acbl.org/chicago>.

## **Claim or Concession**

According to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a claim or concession is a statement to the effect that a player will win (claim) or lose (concession) a specific number of tricks. Play ceases once a claim is made, even if contested. The director decides the final disposition of tricks if the claim is contested. Procedures differ in social and duplicate bridge.

## **Club**

Any individual ACBL member, group of ACBL members or nonaffiliated organization (such as a country club, a fraternal or industrial organization, or a church or other religious group) may apply for a sanction from the ACBL to conduct a duplicate game(s) at which masterpoints are awarded. Clubs allow ACBL members and others the opportunity to compete on a regular

basis in their own communities. The people holding these sanctions become club managers and they operate clubs which may offer as few as one sanctioned game a month to as many 21 sanctioned sessions a week. The games are held at specific times and locations according to the sanction of each. There are approximately 3200 clubs which run more than three million tables of sanctioned bridge annually.

Bridge clubs take many forms. Some are conducted as proprietary clubs in which the owners expect to make a profit just like a motion picture theater where entertainment is provided in return for an entry or admission fee. Some clubs are owned by the members and operated by a board with bylaws. Clubs may also be sponsored by organizations such as a country club, a service group or a residential complex. A few clubs are run in foreign countries on military bases, some are located on the Internet and others are found on cruise ships.

Many full-time clubs offer bridge lessons on site, a bridge library for members to use, social activities, tournaments for newer players and special events for ACBL members.

For detailed information on ACBL games in your area, visit Find a Club at <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

### **Club Appreciation Games**

See Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month.

### **Club Championship**

Each regularly scheduled weekly club game is entitled to four club championship sessions per year. Overall awards for club championship games in open clubs are 63.6% of sectional rating.

### **Club Director**

ACBL offers any member the opportunity to become an ACBL-rated club director in order to run a local club-level sanctioned game and award masterpoints. This title can be achieved through a self-study course or by attending a Club Director Course and successfully completing a test. See “Become a Club Director” at [www.acbl.org/become](http://www.acbl.org/become).

### **Club Directors Handbook**

This publication is available for people wishing to become ACBL club directors and for club directors to use in running games at ACBL clubs. Download at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/clubs/cdHandbook.pdf>.

### **Club game classifications**

There are five general classes of games at clubs:

- ♠ Open club games which welcome all players.
- ♠ Invitational club games which may limit participation to members of a particular organization or to participants invited by the club manager. Guests are often accepted at invitational clubs.

- ♠ Masterpoint-limited club games which are for players who are beyond Rookie level but not ready for open competition. These games may have any limitation that is determined to be best for the players in question — such as 49er, 99er, Non-Life Master.
- ♠ Newcomer club games which may operate under different titles (newplicate, novice, 0-5, 0-20, etc.), but participation is limited to persons holding less than 20 masterpoints on record with the ACBL.
- ♠ College or high school club games which are special forms of invitational club games restricted to students, faculty members and their spouses.

### **Club Managers Handbook**

This publication contains suggestions for running a successful club which have been collected over the years from club managers. It also contains basic information on sanctioning and running club games. Download at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/clubs/ClubManagersHandbook.pdf>.

### **Club Master**

A player with 20 to 49.99 recorded masterpoints that include at least five black points and no more than 15 from online play has achieved the rank of Club Master.

### **Club masterpoints**

Points earned in games with club rating are called club masterpoints. These are black points and are often distributed in fractional amounts.

### **“Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century”**

This is the title of the fourth course in the ACBL Bridge Series of student texts and teacher manuals.

### **Communication between partners**

According to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, communication between partners during the auction and play should happen only by means of the calls and plays themselves. Calls (when bidding boxes are not in use) should be made in a uniform tone without special emphasis or inflection and without undue haste or hesitation. Plays should be made without emphasis, gesture or mannerism, and insofar as possible, at a uniform rate.

### **Compact Knockout (KO)**

A compact KO is a two-session bracketed KO designed to be completed in one day. This can be a gold-point event but is limited to four-person teams.

## **Computer hands**

Hand records prepared by the computer provide not only truly random deals but also a practical, quick, inexpensive method of producing duplicated hands for a multi-section bridge event.

## **Convention**

1. A convention is a call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than the natural meaning of the call. A natural call can show a willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or an understanding regarding high-card strength or an understanding regarding length (three cards or more).
2. A defensive convention is a play by defender that serves to convey a meaning by agreement rather than by inference.

## **Convention card**

A convention card is a shortcut to allow the opponents to know what system a partnership has elected to play. It lists generally used conventions and treatments on a check off basis and provides space to list other conventions and treatments. Each player is required to have an ACBL convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout the session. Both cards of a partnership must be identical and include the first and last names of each member of the partnership. See also Standard American Yellow Card in this

publication and “Convention Cards” at [www.acbl.org/convention](http://www.acbl.org/convention).

## **Convention charts**

Each ACBL game is governed by a specific convention chart that states the conventional agreements allowed. There is a Limited Chart, a General Chart, a Mid-Chart and a Super-Chart. Convention Charts can be found at [www.acbl.org/charts](http://www.acbl.org/charts).

## **Conventional Wisdom**

Conventional Wisdom is a reprint of articles from the Bridge Bulletin magazine that shows how to fill out the convention card line by line with advice from the ACBL editors. See [www.acbl.org/conventionalwisdom](http://www.acbl.org/conventionalwisdom).

## **Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP)**

The CAP is a program available to teachers, clubs, units, districts and ACBL members who are involved with promoting bridge. CAP will refund 75% of eligible advertising costs with a maximum reimbursement of \$750. Qualifying advertisements are date-specific ad campaigns for beginner bridge lessons, newcomer programs, social bridge recruitment events and ACBL member recruitment. For more information visit: [www.acbl.org/cap](http://www.acbl.org/cap).

## **Correction period**

The time specified by the sponsoring organization during which corrections to the score may be sought is the official correction period for a sanctioned game.

## **Count signals**

Count signals allow a defender to indicate to partner the length held in a particular suit. The standard procedure is to play high-low with an even number of cards and to play low-high with an odd number of cards.

## **Crossruff**

A crossruff is a method of play whereby ruffing tricks are made in each of the partnership hands, thus using the trumps separately.

## **Cruise ship bridge**

Some ships are sanctioned annually by the ACBL to offer bridge games on its cruises. These games award masterpoints. If a ship does not have this type of arrangement, an individual may apply to the ACBL to run sanctioned games on specific cruises, with the written approval of the cruise line. To find a sanctioned cruise visit: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>.

## **Cuebid**

A cuebid is a bid in a suit already shown by an opponent and in which the bidder is not suggesting the contract be played.

## **Culbertson, Ely**

Ely Culbertson was the man credited with making bridge an internationally popular pastime. Ely (E-Lee) and his wife, Jo, are members of the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame, [www.acbl.org/culbertson](http://www.acbl.org/culbertson).

## **Customer service line**

ACBL has an automated toll-free Customer Service Line accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members can inquire about masterpoint totals and dues status instantly, report missing magazines and leave messages. The toll-free number is 800-467-1623.

## **D**

### **Deal**

Deal has four meanings in bridge:

1. To distribute the 52 cards to form the hands of the four players,
2. The privilege of distributing the cards,
3. The act of distributing the cards,
4. The cards themselves when distributed.

### **Defective trick**

A defective trick is one that contains less than or more than four legally played cards, one from each player.

### **“Defense in the 21st Century”**

This is the title of the third course in The ACBL Bridge Series of student texts and teacher manuals. It was originally called “The Heart Series.”

### **Defense database**

A database listing recommended defenses to unusual conventions is available on the website. See [www.acbl.org/defense](http://www.acbl.org/defense).

## **Diamond Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master who has at least 5000 masterpoints (at least 1000 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 500 must be gold or platinum) has achieved the rank of Diamond Life Master.

## **Director**

The director of a duplicate bridge game is the person designated to supervise the contest and to apply the laws. There are ACBL-certified club directors, five ranks of tournament directors and I/N (Intermediate/Newcomer) directors, those who have been trained to work with newer players. See also club director and tournament director.

## **Discounts for members**

Baron Barclay Bridge Supply offers a 10% discount to ACBL members on hundreds of bridge products purchased through them. Members also receive a discount on entry fees at all NABCs and at many sectional and regional tournaments. The Member Perks program through Abenity provides members with savings at hotels, restaurants, retailers, attractions and more. Hertz discounts are a year-round membership discount and your choice of the special offers each time you rent.

## **Districts**

The ACBL is divided into 25 districts. Each district elects one member to serve on the ACBL Board of Directors, three members to serve on the Board of

Governors and two alternate directors who are eligible to attend Board of Governors meetings. Each is elected for a three-year term. When someone joins the ACBL, they become a member of a specific unit and the district in which the unit is geographically located.

## **Double dummy**

When a deal is played in a way that it could not be improved upon, as though declarer were looking at all four hands, it is said to have been played Double Dummy. The term can also be used to refer to perfect play by the defenders.

## **Drury**

A conventional response (2♣ and/or 2♦) by a passed hand after partner makes a one-level major suit opening. The response asks partner to clarify the strength of the opening bid.

## **Duplicate bridge**

Duplicate bridge is a form of the game whereby the conditions of play are duplicated exactly at each table: the same cards in each hand, the same dealer, the same vulnerability. The matchpoint or IMP score does not depend on the luck of the deal. Matchpoints or IMPs are derived by comparing the scores made by players who hold identical cards under the identical conditions.

## **“Duplicate Decisions”**

“Duplicate Decisions” is an ACBL publication which presents the “Laws of Duplicate Bridge” in everyday language.

It's ideal for players who want to know more about the laws governing the game and for club directors to use in directing local games. View it online at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/clubs/DD2020.pdf>.

## **E**

### **Easybridge!**

Easybridge!, created by educator Edith McMullin, is an outstanding marketing program designed to attract and develop new duplicate bridge players and games. Visit the website at [www.Easybridge.com](http://www.Easybridge.com) for information about the program and how to become an Easybridge! Presenter.

### **Educational Foundation games**

These special games are held at clubs to benefit the ACBL Educational Foundation. The games award masterpoints at 63.6% sectional-rated black points. A charitable trust fund established in 1987, the ACBL Educational Foundation's mission is to provide grants to promote the education of bridge in ways that support the needs of the bridge community.

### **Eligibility Points**

Points added to the masterpoint totals of players who have significant playing experience outside the ACBL, especially foreign players

### **Emerald Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master who has at least 7500 masterpoints (at least 1500 silver,

red, gold or platinum, of which at least 750 must be gold or platinum) has achieved the rank of Emerald LM.

### **Ethics**

In bridge, ethics equals fair play. Breaches of ethics are generally thought of as unfair or illegal practices that include deliberate cheating. The "Laws of Duplicate Bridge" deal with questions of proper behavior at bridge.

### **Etiquette**

Much of the popularity of contract bridge is attributable to the high standards of etiquette which are observed by the players. A player should maintain at all times a courteous attitude toward partner and the opponents. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player, or that might interfere with another player enjoying the game. Players who fail to uphold these standards should be reported to the director under the ACBL Zero Tolerance policy. As a matter of courtesy, a player should refrain from:

- ♥ Paying insufficient attention.
- ♥ Making gratuitous comments during the play as to the auction or the adequacy of the contract.
- ♥ Detaching a card from the hand before it is that player's turn.
- ♥ Arranging the cards played to previous tricks in a disorderly manner or mixing the cards

together before the result has been agreed to.

- ♥ Making a questionable claim or concession.
- ♥ Prolonging the play unnecessarily.

### **Exciting World of Bridge**

See “Welcome to the World of Duplicate”

### **Explanation of any call or play**

During the auction and before the final pass, any player may, at that player’s turn to call, ask for a full explanation of any call made by an opponent. After the final pass and throughout the play, any player except dummy may, at that player’s own turn to play, ask for an explanation of opposing calls or card play conventions. It is better to ask a question in general terms, rather than call attention to one particular suit and so expose oneself to the suggestion that the question may be lead-directing.

### **E-Z Deal Cards**

E-Z Deal cards are decks of cards which have been coded to allow a foursome to create a special deal without seeing the faces of the cards. All of the ACBL’s Bridge Series texts and “Play” courses have coordinated E-Z Deal cards.

## **F**

### **Face-down leads**

Face-down opening leads are required in tournament play. Once the lead is made face down, partner may ask questions about the auction. This ensures that the partner of the leader will not influence the opening leader’s choice of lead. A face-down opening lead made by the wrong player may be picked up without penalty upon instruction of the director.

### **Factoring**

The process of adjusting matchpoint scores to the same base to make them comparable for ranking purposes is known as factoring.

### **Federacion Mexicana de Bridge (Mexican Bridge Federation)**

Although Mexico is part of the ACBL, Mexico has its own national bridge organization (NBO) known as the Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF). The MBF manages its own representation in world championship events.

### **Field**

All of the contestants entered in an event when discussed as a whole are known as the field.

### **Five-Card Majors**

A bidding method in which an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ guarantees at least a five-card suit is known as five-card majors.

## **Flighted**

In a flighted event, contestants compete only against other pairs/teams within the same point range. For example, if Flight C is 0–200 masterpoints, no player with more than 200 masterpoints may be included in the group. A player may always play up in flighted events (*e.g.*, a Flight B player could elect to enter Flight A), if the player wishes. The higher the flight, the more difficult the competition and the more masterpoints awarded to the winners.

## **Force**

In bridge, force has two meanings:

1. Noun: Any bid or call making it incumbent upon the bidder's partner to bid at least once more.
2. Verb: To cause a player to use a high card or a trump.

## **Foundation for the Preservation and Advancement of Bridge**

This foundation was created to foster an appreciation of the historical development of the game of contract bridge and its impact on our culture by celebrating the history, honoring the champions, inspiring youth and preserving the legacy of the sport of bridge. For more information, email [fpab@acbl.org](mailto:fpab@acbl.org).

## **Fouled board**

A deal in which a card or cards or hands have been placed in an incorrect pocket constitutes a fouled board. Since the nature of duplicate is to play the exact

same deals at each table and then compare results, a deal that changes during the course of play can no longer be compared and must be scored by a formula known as the fouled board formula.

## **G**

### **Game**

Game in bridge is a level of bidding (the four level in the majors, the five level in the minors, the three level in notrump) which, when bid and made, awards 100 points or more in trick score and a 400-point bonus nonvulnerable, 600 vulnerable.

### **George Burns Trophy**

This trophy, inaugurated in 1993, is given annually to the ACBL Senior Player of the Year. It is named for George Burns, famous comedian, who played bridge daily at his country club into his late 90s.

### **Gerber convention**

A bid of 4♣ over a notrump opening or natural bid which asks partner how many aces are held. The convention was created by ACBL Hall of Fame member John Gerber.

### **Gold Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master who has acquired at least 2500 masterpoints (at least 500 silver, red, gold or platinum) has achieved the rank of Gold Life Master.

## **Gold points**

Gold points are a type of masterpoint. They are awarded for topping your section or placing overall at regionals and NABCs in events of two or more sessions which have either no masterpoint restriction or a minimum masterpoint limit of 750 points or more. Partial gold point awards are given for certain special events.

## **Golden Age Master**

A special category was set up by the ACBL to recognize the achievements of older members. There are two ways to qualify to become a Golden Age Master:

1. 70 years of age with 300 points of any color.
2. 80 years of age with 100 points of any color.

## **Grand Life Master**

The highest rank in the ACBL is Grand Life Master. To achieve this rank, a player must have earned 10,000 masterpoints and won at least one NABC+ event with no upper masterpoint limit.

## **Grand National Teams (GNT)**

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a major ACBL team championship conducted with district qualifying rounds in clubs, units and/or districts, leading to a final round held in conjunction with the Summer NABC.

## **Grand slam**

A grand slam awards a bonus (1000 points nonvulnerable, 1500 points vulnerable) for fulfilling a contract at the seven level in any strain (denomination).

## **Guidecard**

A printed card used in duplicate bridge to give the progression of the players and the boards is called a guidecard. There are table guidecards and individual guidecards.

## **H**

### **Hand**

A hand constitutes the cards held by one player. The term is also used to indicate the order in bidding and playing rotation, as in “second hand” or “fourth hand.”

### **Hand records**

Hand Records refers to three things in bridge:

1. The sheets distributed to the players at the conclusion of a game on which all of the deals from that session are printed.
2. The sheets on which individual computer-generated deals are printed for distribution to players, who usually construct the deals for other contestants to play.
3. Diagrams set up by the players after a deal in a major match is completed.

## **Handicap games**

ACBL clubs may offer handicap games where the contestants are given a handicap (either plus or minus) based on masterpoint holding, previous performance or degree of competence to create a more level competitive group.

## **HCP**

HCP stands for high-card points, a basis for determining the relative strength of a hand, especially when evaluating a hand for notrump play. The most common valuation is: Aces = 4 points, Kings = 3 points, Queens = 2 points, Jacks = 1 point.

## **Handling cards**

The handling of cards other than a player's own is illegal. If a player wishes to see an opponent's cards after the play of a deal has been completed, that player must ask permission. If there is a problem, the director resolves it.

## **Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs**

The vast majority of ACBL members play in local club games. To recognize achievement at the club level, the Ace of Clubs competition was created in 1984. These club champions are recognized at the unit level and ACBL-wide. All points won at the club level are counted in this contest with the exception of those won in STaCs. This award was renamed in 2011 in honor of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac FL. Shanbrom was one of the most active players in the ACBL for decades and

won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history.

## **Hold-up play**

The refusal to win a trick right away is called a hold-up play. A player may elect to use this play to control a suit an opponent has led or to break the opponents' communication.

## **Homestyle game**

Homestyle games are fun, fast and social. They are especially attractive to players who do not play many conventions and prefer a less serious form of competition. Homestyle games can be sanctioned for clubs and award fractional masterpoints on the same scale as duplicate games. For a guide to running Homestyle games visit: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/clubs/homestyleBridge.pdf>.

## **Hospitality**

Hospitality is the general term used to describe the efforts by a host unit at a bridge tournament to make the players feel more comfortable and welcome. A more concentrated effort is generally made with newer players. This could take the form of free gifts, food, special events and the formation of local committees known as New Player Services (a public relations effort to ease new players into the game). The New Player Services guide can be found at: <http://cdn.acbl.org/documentLibrary/units/NPS.pdf>.

## **Howell movement**

The Howell movement is a type of progression in duplicate where most pairs move and where all or most pairs meet.

## **Huddle**

A huddle is a longer-than-usual pause preceding an action in the bidding (usually) or the play of a deal. If the huddle is followed by a positive action, usually no harm is done to the opponents. The ethics of the game, however, require that the partner of the huddler not take advantage of the information that the huddler “had a problem.”

## **I**

### **ICC**

See Inter-Club Championship.

### **IMP**

An IMP is an International Matchpoint, a unit of scoring used according to a schedule established by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. In a team game, a difference in trick and bonus scores of the North-South pair and the East-West pair on the same team is used to determine IMPs from a chart. IMPs are sometimes converted to Victory Points by way of a chart based on either a 20- or 30-point Victory Point scale. A copy of the IMP and VP scales is printed inside each ACBL Convention Card.

## **I/N**

See Intermediate/Newcomer Program.

### **Individual**

An Individual event is a method of duplicate competition in which each contestant plays with a different partner each deal or set of deals.

### **Instant Matchpoint Game**

An Instant Matchpoint Game is a game in which players are given their matchpoint score on each board immediately after playing each deal.

### **Inter Club Championship (ICC)**

The ICC is an event which combines face-to-face play and scoring at a single site with across-the field scoring with a number of sites through the Internet to determine overall rankings.

### **Intermediate/Newcomer Program (I/N)**

The ACBL has developed a program of games and activities designed to make duplicate experiences fun and comfortable for new players and new members. Edith McMullin introduced the idea at the Summer NABC in 1984. All NABCs now offer an I/N Program and so do many regionals and sectionals throughout North America. There are, in addition, special I/N sectionals and regionals. Many of these tournaments have all of these basic features:

- ◆ Games each session for players with 0–5, 0–20, 0–50, 0–100 masterpoints.

- ◆ Celebrity Speaker Programs.
- ◆ Social events.
- ◆ Trophies for each overall winner.
- ◆ Photographs of the winners.
- ◆ New Player Services Program.
- ◆ A special area for all I/N activities.
- ◆ Directors trained to run games for new players.
- ◆ Fliers to invite the players and guarantee partners.

### **International Fund games**

Held at clubs or tournaments, International Fund games raise funds to defray the expense of North American participation in international World Bridge Federation (WBF) competition. For clubs, September is International Fund Month. All sanctioned sessions at clubs may be held as International Fund games during September and one per sanctioned session per month in other months except for January, April and May. These games award 80.8% sectional-rated black points.

### **Internet terms**

Bridge players on the Internet have created a language of abbreviations to quickly relay a message during online play. For a list of these abbreviations visit:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/language-online-bridge.pdf>.

## **J**

### **Jacoby Transfer bid**

Introduced by Oswald Jacoby, a member of the Bridge Hall of Fame, a Jacoby transfer bid is a conventional response to an opening bid of 1NT (2NT) where 2♦ (3♦) shows hearts and 2♥ (3♥) shows spades. Jacoby transfer bids are addressed in ACBL's "Play of the Hand in the 21st Century" text.

### **Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month**

During October, clubs may hold Club Appreciation games. They offer masterpoint awards calculated at 81.8% sectional-rated black. In Club Appreciation Team Games overall awards include 5% gold (not to exceed .25 gold points); the rest are sectional-rated black points. The games run during this month recognize the contributions of Jane Johnson, longtime manager of ACBL's Club Membership Department, to the ACBL.

### **Junior Master**

A player holding 5 to 19.99 masterpoints has achieved the rank of Junior Master.

### **Junior memberships**

The ACBL offers a discounted membership to players under the age of 26.

### **Junior Month**

January is Junior Month in the ACBL. During this month, clubs are

encouraged to run special games to benefit the ACBL Junior Program that supports activities for Junior bridge players. Participants pay an extra \$1 fee per game that is donated to this fund for Juniors. All sanctioned sessions may be held as Junior Fund during January and one per sanctioned session per month in other months except April, May and September. These games award 63.6% sectional-rated black points.

### **Junior Player of the Year**

Each calendar year, the Junior player (ages 20 up to 26) earning the most masterpoints during the year is declared the Junior Player of the Year.

### **Junior Team Trials (JTT)**

The Junior Team Trials is the method the United States Bridge Federation uses to select teams for the biennial World Youth Bridge Team Championship, inaugurated by the World Bridge Federation in 1987.

## **K**

### **Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs**

This is one of the most prestigious of the annual North American Bridge Championship events. The Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, named in honor of ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame member Edgar Kaplan, is contested at the Fall NABC. Entry is limited to players who have qualified to participate. The most common methods of achieving qualification are:

- ◆ To have finished high in North American Championship events, or to have finished first or second in regional-rated championship events (at least two sessions) with an upper masterpoint limit of more than 1500 with the exception of senior events.
- ◆ To be one of the top 100 masterpoint holders.
- ◆ To be a member of current official teams representing the ACBL or any of its member countries in international competition.
- ◆ To be a winner of one of the district Grand National Teams championships.

### **Kaplan-Sheinwold**

The Kaplan-Sheinwold system, devised by ACBL Hall of Fame members Edgar Kaplan and Alfred Sheinwold, is based on the weak notrump and aimed at more precisely limiting the strength shown by all bids.

### **Kibitzer**

A person who watches a game from the sidelines is called a kibitzer.

### **King or Queen of Bridge**

This honorary title is awarded annually to an ACBL Junior member who is a graduating high school senior. Cited for outstanding tournament performance, this Junior player is someone who has excelled also in bridge-related administrative, recreational and promotional activities. The ACBL

Educational Foundation presents a \$1000 scholarship to the winner.

### **Knockout Teams**

A Knockout Team event is one where one team plays an entire session against one other team. The winning team from each match advances to play the next round and the defeated team is eliminated. See also Bracketed Knockout Teams.

## **L**

### **LHO**

A player's left-hand opponent is often referred to LHO.

### **Land cruise**

Individuals may apply to the ACBL for a sanction to run bridge games and award masterpoints in conjunction with a vacation program that may be held at one location or at various locations as the group travels.

### **Law of Total Tricks**

The Law of Total Tricks is the theory that on any given bridge deal the total number of trumps held by both sides will be approximately equal to the total number of tricks that both sides could win. The total number of tricks is the sum of how many tricks North-South would take if they played in their best fit added to how many East-West would take in their best fit. The Law gained popularity in the 1990s when it was the subject of a book called "To Bid or Not to Bid" written by Larry Cohen.

## **Laws**

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge, as enforced in the western hemisphere by the ACBL, are prepared under the auspices of the ACBL Laws Commission. <https://www.acbl.org/tournament/#laws>.

### **Learn to Play Bridge I and II**

Expert Fred Gitelman developed the Learn to Play Bridge I & II (LTPB) software for the ACBL. The program is available for anyone to download free of charge by going to <https://web3.acbl.org/newmembers/free-learn-software>. The ACBL Bridge Series texts have been coordinated with this software.

### **Learn to Play Bridge Online**

An online, interactive, learn-as-you-play web-based program powered by BridgeBase robots. LTPB online proves a safe environment for players to test and learn new skills. LTPB online can be accessed from any device with an internet connection. <http://learn.acbl.org/>.

## **Lessons**

ACBL offers a Find-a-Teacher section at its website. The listings are by state and will help locate a teacher who is offering bridge lessons in the area. <https://my.acbl.org/clubs/directory>.

### **Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs**

The Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs is an ACBL event with national rating for players 55 years of age or older. It is held

annually at the Spring NABC. Players earn qualification by placing first or second in a regional-rated, two-session championship senior event.

### **Life Master**

Life Master is the most highly sought level of bridge achievement. Members who joined the ACBL after January 1, 2010 must earn 500 masterpoints (at least 75 black, 75 silver, 100 red or gold/platinum, of which at least 50 must be gold/platinum) to achieve the rank of Life Master.

### **Life Member**

Members who joined the ACBL prior to Jan.1, 1996 and who achieve the rank of Life Master are also Life Members. They are members for life unless they resign or their membership is revoked per established procedure. Life Members are not required to pay dues but are required to pay an annual service fee in order to maintain an active status and receive services from ACBL.

### **Limit raise**

A limit raise is an invitational raise made with closely defined limits of strength. The chief application is the jump raise of a suit from one to three. The bid indicates at least four-card trump support with 10 or 11 high-card points or the distributional equivalent.

## **M**

### **Masterpoint**

This is the unit which measures bridge achievement in duplicate play.

Masterpoints come in black, silver, red, gold, platinum and unpigmented, and they are awarded for different levels of play.

- ♥ Black points at club and unit games.
- ♥ Silver points at sectionals, progressive sectionals and STaCs.
- ♥ Red points in all events at regionals and NABCs.
- ♥ Gold points for section tops and placing overall in regional-rated events of two or more sessions with either no MP restriction or a minimum MP limit of 750 points or more. Partial gold points are awarded in some special events.
- ♥ Platinum points for all NABC+ championship events.
- ♥ Unpigmented points for online play.

See “Ranks” for the number and color of points needed to attain various levels of recognition: Rookie, Junior Master, Club Master, Sectional Master, Regional Master, NABC Master, Life Master and upper levels beyond Life Master.

### **Masterpoint Plan**

The Masterpoint Plan is the system used by the ACBL to rank every member according to performance at tournaments and clubs.

## **Masterpoint Records**

Masterpoints won at tournaments and at clubs using ACBLscore are sent electronically to ACBL. Other clubs mail in lists of players and points won for recording. Non-members are given receipts at club games when they win points and can credit their accounts with up to 20 masterpoints (won in the 12 months prior to becoming members) when they join the ACBL. Members can check their masterpoint holding by calling the Customer Service Line or online by logging into their MyACBL at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org). Members also receive a personalized masterpoint update each month in the Bridge Bulletin.

## **Matchpoint**

A matchpoint is a unit used in a method of scoring duplicate contests in which two or more scores are compared. A pair receives one point for each result it bests and one-half point for each result it ties.

## **McConnell Cup**

Named in honor of Ruth McConnell, former ACBL president and WBF treasurer, The McConnell Cup is awarded to the winners of a knockout team event for women played at the World Bridge Championships at the same time the Rosenblum Cup is contested.

## **Mentoring Programs**

Mentoring programs provide an opportunity for both newcomers and mentors to meet and get to know each

other on a basis other than as opponents at the table. Many clubs and units use a Pro-Am game format to launch their mentoring programs. Partnerships are made by a program coordinator and the pairs are encouraged to play a recommended minimum number of times during the month. For more information visit:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/units/UnitMentoringProgram.pdf>.

## **Michaels cuebid**

The Michaels cuebid is a convention that uses an immediate cuebid in the RHO's suit to show a two-suited hand with either both majors or a major and a minor. It was devised by the late Mike Michaels.

## **Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs**

To participate in this special NABC event, players must have a Blue Ribbon Pairs qualification (See Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs) and less than 5000 masterpoints.

## **MiniBridge**

MiniBridge is a simplified form of the game that has no bidding. Originally developed in France, MiniBridge is widely used as a precursor to learning bridge for all ages. It is both effective and enjoyable. Many school bridge programs in North America use the form of MiniBridge developed by the English Bridge Union (EBU). A MiniBridge packet (teacher manual and practice disk) can be purchased from the EBU at [www.ebu.co.uk/education/minibridge/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/education/minibridge/)

minibridgepack.htm. For simple instructions on playing the game, visit: [www.acbl.org/documentLibrary/teachers/Minibridge.pdf](http://www.acbl.org/documentLibrary/teachers/Minibridge.pdf) or download the program at: [www.bluechipbridge.co.uk/MiniBridge.htm](http://www.bluechipbridge.co.uk/MiniBridge.htm).

### Mini-McKenney

In 1974, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize the masterpoint achievements of all players and the Mini-McKenney races were established. The winners at each level of achievement are recognized by the ACBL each year in the April issue of the Bridge Bulletin and at the district and unit levels. Eligibility is determined by each player's masterpoint holding at the beginning of the calendar year. The home unit of each winner may purchase a Mini-McKenney medallion to present to the player. Standings are updated monthly at the ACBL website. See "Masterpoint Races" at <https://web3.acbl.org/mpraces/>

### Mini-Spingold Teams

This special NABC team event is open to teams of four, five or six players, each of whom is a paid ACBL member and has less than 5000 masterpoints if entering Flight I or less than 1500 masterpoints if entering Flight II.

### Mississippi Heart Hand

This is a famous trick hand from the days of whist. A diamond lead holds South to six tricks in a heart contract, and a game cannot be made in any denomination. South can take nine tricks in a spade contract or 10 tricks in a club contract.

♠ —	♠ 10 5 4 3 2	♠ J 9 8 7 6
♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ —	♥ —
♦ A K Q J 10 9	♦ 5 4 3 2	♦ 8 7 6
♣ —	♣ 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6
	♠ A K Q	
	♥ A K Q J 10 9	
	♦ —	
	♣ A K Q J	

### Mitchell Movement

The Mitchell movement is a duplicate progression in which the players seated North-South remain stationary and those sitting East-West move each round to the higher numbered table. The players get "older" and the boards get "younger."

### Mixed Pairs

A Mixed Pairs event is one in which partnerships must consist of one man and one woman.

## **More Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century**

This is the title of the fifth course of The ACBL Bridge Series of student texts and teacher manuals.

### **MUD**

This is a lead convention in which the original lead from three low cards is the middle one, followed in play by the higher. The name is the acronym of middle, up, down – the order in which the cards are played.

### **MyACBL**

The MyACBL portal is where you can check your masterpoints, renew your membership, view the Bridge Bulletin online and more.

MyACBL also allows club managers to see their monthly reports, sanctioned games, etc.

Click on “MyACBL” at the top right of the ACBL home page at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org).

## **N**

### **NABC**

This is the term for the three North American Bridge Championships that are held annually by the ACBL. These tournaments are held in the spring, summer and fall and are rotated around the United States and Canada. Each NABC offers events for all levels of players and features the NABC+ events and an I/N (Intermediate/Newcomer)

program for players with less than 500 masterpoints.

### **NABC+ (NABC-Plus) Events**

NABC+ events are the highest-rated events offered by ACBL. Held only at the three annual NABCs, they are national-rated events with no upper masterpoint limit. The Player of the Year contest is won by the player winning the most platinum masterpoints in these annual events.

### **NABC Master**

A player with at least 200 masterpoints, including at least 65 pigmented points of which at least five must be gold/platinum, at least 15 must be red or gold/platinum, at least 25 must be silver, and at least 20 black and no more than 70 from online play has achieved the rank of NABC Master.

### **NABC Welcome Book**

[Welcome to the North American Bridge Championships](#)

### **Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year**

Each year the ACBL president honors a member with the title of Nadine Wood Volunteer Member of the Year.

### **Nationals**

This is the original name for the NABCs. The tournaments next were called the NACs (North American Championships) and then renamed the North American Bridge Championships (NABCs) in the 1990s.

## **Negative double**

In 1957, Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone introduced a modern negative double, originally called “sputnik,” into championship play. What was formerly a penalty double by responder of a suit overcall became a takeout double, suggesting the two unbid suits.

## **New Player Services (NPS)**

New Player Services is a public relations program designed to welcome new players to tournaments and club games by helping to create a fun, friendly and comfortable atmosphere within the duplicate environment. Local volunteers work together to provide information and direction to newcomers at all levels of play.

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/units/NPS.pdf>

## **Newcomer**

Newcomer is the name given to a new player who is new to bridge or who is new to duplicate.

## **Newcomer game (or Novice game)**

This is an event that is typically restricted to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints. Participation may be even more restricted with an upper limit as low as 5 masterpoints.

## **Norman Kay Platinum Pairs**

An event started in 2010 at the Spring North American Bridge Championship. The qualifications for this event are:

- ◆ Earned at least 50 platinum points in the three calendar years prior to the event
- ◆ Earned at 200 platinum points in lifetime
- ◆ Attained the rank of Platinum Life Master or Grand Life Master.

The Platinum Pairs event are held at each Spring North American Bridge Championship.

## **North American Bridge Championships**

See NABC.

## **North American Pairs (NAP)**

Formerly known as the Grand National Pairs, the NAP or North American Pairs is a major ACBL championship which is staged in qualifying rounds at the club, unit and district levels. It culminates in a final held in conjunction with the Spring NABC. This contest is run as a flighted event, with the flights:

- Flight A – unlimited
- Flight B – less than 2500 masterpoints
- Flight C – less than 500 masterpoints

## **O**

### **Odd-Even discards and signals**

This is a signaling method that assigns special meanings to odd- and even-numbered spot cards. An odd-card discard or signal encourages in that suit; an even-card discard or signal

discourages and often doubles as a suit-preference signal. This practice is allowed in ACBL play only on the first discard.

### **“The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge”**

“The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge” is a comprehensive book of facts about bridge and bridge personalities since the inception of the game.

### **Olympiad**

A world championship team event renamed in 2008 when it became part of the World Mind Sports Games. The contest has open, women’s and senior divisions. Every country may field a team no matter the size of its individual bridge population, provided it is a member of the World Bridge Federation.

### **Online bridge**

More and more players are gravitating to online play as the number of bridge tournaments available on a daily basis increases. Sites like Bridge Base Online, OK Bridge and Swan Games offer ACBL members the opportunity to win masterpoints in online play.

### **Online Player of the Year**

An award recognizing the player who accumulates the most unpigmented masterpoints (won during online play) within a calendar year.

### **Online points**

Online points are masterpoints awarded for online play in ACBL-sanctioned events and are unpigmented.

### **Open event**

In open events, there are no restrictions due to expertise, gender or age.

## **P**

### **Par**

Par is the result on a deal if both sides have done as well as possible.

### **Partscore bonus**

In duplicate competition, the 50 points given for fulfilling a partscore contract is called a partscore bonus.

### **Patron Member Program**

ACBL members may opt to become Patron Members and receive an enhanced benefits package. ACBL appreciates the support of its Patron Members. A listing of all Patron Members is published annually in the Bridge Bulletin. Personalized membership badges are provided for all Patron Members so staff can better serve them.

Here are the benefits of the program:

- ♣ Guaranteed reservations at the NABC host hotel when reserved in advance;
- ♣ Personal delivery of the Daily Bulletin to your door each day (host hotel only);

- ♣ Express service for purchasing NABC entries;
- ♣ Invitation to the Patron Member NABC reception in the ACBL president's suite;
- ♣ \$50 merchandise credit (\$75 for household members) to be used at Baron Barclay Bridge Supply;
- ♣ 50% discount on the price of a ticket to the Bridge Hall of Fame Banquet, held annually at the Summer NABC;
- ♣ Upon request, a complimentary set of Daily Bulletins from each NABC mailed to your home;
- ♣ Complimentary membership in Hertz Corporation's #1 Club Gold program.

For more information or to become a patron member, visit <https://www.acbl.org/membership/>.

### **Penalty**

In bridge, a penalty is an obligation or restriction imposed upon a side for violation of a law or regulation.

### **Penalty card**

A card that has been prematurely exposed by a defender and which must be left face up on the table until legally picked up or played is called a penalty card. Please call the director when this type of infraction occurs at your table in a duplicate game.

### **Percentage play**

A percentage play is the play having the best (highest percentage) chance of success.

### **Pianola**

A pianola is a deal at bridge which presents no problems to declarer, so easily playable that it almost plays itself. The name derives from the old player piano or "pianola" which would "play" itself.

### **Pick-up slip**

This is a form used to record the results on the play of all deals in a round. The pick-up slips are collected at designated times and the results are entered in a computer or on a recapitulation sheet by the director or a designated scorer.

### **Platinum Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master who has at least 10,000 masterpoints (at least 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 1000 must be gold or platinum, with a minimum of 100 platinum) has attained the rank of Platinum Life Master.

### **Platinum Points**

Masterpoints awarded for overall placing in NABC+ events are platinum. (These events include the three Senior and various Women's championships but do not include Junior, Flight B or other restricted events).

## **Play**

1. The contribution of a card from one's hand to a trick, including the play of the first card, which is the lead.
2. The aggregate of plays made.
3. The period during which the cards are played.

## **Play Courses**

See ACBL Play Courses.

## **“Play of the Hand in the 21st Century”**

“Play of the Hand in the 21st Century” is the title of the second course in The ACBL Bridge Series of student texts and teacher manuals which is sometimes referred to as The Diamond Series.

## **Player number**

The seven-digit number issued to each member of the ACBL is that person's player number. Please use your player number in all ACBL-sanctioned games. The first digit is changed to a letter when the member achieves Life Master status.

## **Player of the Year**

An annual award (since 1990) for the ACBL player who earns the most platinum points in North American Championship events with no upper masterpoint limit (NABC+). The Soloway Trophy (formerly the Goren Trophy 1990-2007) honors the Player of the Year.

## **Postmortem**

The analysis of a deal after play is completed is called the postmortem.

## **Private Scorecard**

The convention card provides a table for players to record their board-by-board results. While it is not mandatory that one or both partners keep a private score, it is encouraged in the event of a disputed result.

## **Pro-Am Game**

Pro-Am games are frequently run at clubs as part of a mentoring program. They consist of “Pro” players (experienced players) with a specified minimum number of masterpoints (e.g., more than 300) and “Amateur” players (newcomers or less experienced players) with fewer points.

## **Progression**

The progression of the players in bridge is the movement of players used to complete a session of play.

## **Proprieties**

The Proprieties was initially the section of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge that dealt with conduct and ethics. Its purpose was to make the game more enjoyable for everyone, no matter what the situation. Starting with the 1987 version of the Laws, the Proprieties were incorporated into the Laws.

It is a breach of the Proprieties to:

- ◆ Use different designations for the same call.
- ◆ Indicate any approval or disapproval of a call or play.
- ◆ Indicate the expectation or intention of winning or losing a trick before play to that trick has been completed.
- ◆ Comment or act during the auction or play to call attention to a significant incident thereof, or to the state of the score, or to the number of tricks that will be required for success.
- ◆ Look intently at any other player during the auction or play, or at another player's hand, for the purpose of seeing those cards or observing the place from which a player draws a card.
- ◆ Vary the normal tempo of bidding or play for the purpose of disconcerting the other players.

### **Protest**

A protest in bridge is an appeal of a decision made by a game director.

### **Psychic Bidding**

Psychic bidding is a term coined in 1931 by Dorothy Rice Sims, which describes any bid that is a deliberate and gross misstatement of honor strength or suit length. These bids are bluffs.

### **Pump**

The word "pump" is a colloquialism for "tap" or "force." Forcing declarer to ruff

is sometimes referred to as pumping the declarer.

### **Push**

The most popular use of the term "push" in bridge is to denote a deal in a team match on which the result is the same at both tables.

## **Q**

### **Quack**

A contraction of "queen" and "jack" used to indicate (1) either the queen or the jack in situations where it is of no consequence which of the two cards is held or played in the context of a decision involving the theory of "restricted choice," (2) the two cards together in the context of hand evaluation: Possession of "quacks" usually means the hand holding one or more of the combinations is not as good as the high-card point count might indicate.

### **Qualifying sessions (or rounds)**

The early rounds of championships after which there is a reduction (cut) in the field (the contestants entered in the event) are the qualifying rounds.

## **R**

### **RHO**

A player's right-hand opponent is often referred to by RHO.

## **Ranks**

As a player accumulates points, certain milestones or ranking levels will be reached that indicate progress. There are 14 grades: Rookie, Junior Master, Club Master, Sectional Master, Regional Master, NABC Master, Life Master (LM). These additional levels can be attained after the rank of LM: Bronze LM, Silver LM, Ruby LM, Gold LM, Sapphire LM, Diamond LM, Emerald LM, Platinum LM, Grand LM. Each ranking requires that the player have a certain number and a certain “color” of points.

(See individual ranks for more information or go to <http://www.acbl.org/masterpoints/#ranks>).

## **Recapitulation sheet (Recap)**

This is a large printed form on which the results (written on pick-up slips) are posted at bridge tournaments and on which matchpoints are assigned to scores and totals computed. In most cases, a computer-generated recap sheet has replaced the manual recap sheet.

## **Red Points**

Masterpoints won in all events at regional tournaments and in regional-rated events at the three annual NABCs (North American Bridge Championships) are red, unless they are gold. A player needs 50 red points (or the equivalent) as part of a total of 500 masterpoints to become a Life Master.

## **Regional (regional tournaments)**

Each of the 25 districts within the ACBL sponsors regional tournaments, although a specific unit may be delegated the responsibility of planning and organizing the tournament. A regional tournament usually runs for seven days, attracting people from many states, and offers games for all levels of players. In addition, Non-Life Master Regionals and Senior Regionals (limited to players born before Jan. 1, 1959) are available periodically.

## **Regional Master**

A player with 100 recorded masterpoints, at least five of which are red or gold/platinum, at least 15 of which are silver, and at least 15 of which are black and no more than 40 from online play has achieved the rank of Regional Master.

## **Registered Teachers**

A category of ACBL Accredited Teachers resulting from a program in 1988 when units were asked to honor longtime, area bridge teachers with this title.

## **Reisinger Memorial Trophy**

This trophy was donated in memory of Curt H. Reisinger and is awarded to the winners of the Fall NABC Reisinger Board-a-Match Team Championship.

## **Renegé**

The term “renegé” indicates a failure to follow suit when holding one or more cards of the suit led. It is a colloquial synonym for “revoke.”

## **Revoke**

A revoke indicates the play of a card of another suit by a player who is able to follow suit or comply with a lead penalty. It is permissible in ACBL-play to ask a partner who doesn't follow suit if partner holds a card of the suit led.

## **Richmond Trophy**

The Richmond Trophy is awarded annually to the Canadian Bridge Federation member who wins the most masterpoints during a calendar year.

## **Rookie**

A player holding less than five masterpoints is known as a Rookie.

## **Round-Robin**

A round-robin is a form of competition in which each of the contesting groups (usually teams) plays against each of the other groups entered in head-on competition.

## **Ruby Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master who has at least 1500 (at least 300 silver, red, gold or platinum) has attained the rank of Ruby Life Master.

## **Ruff and Sluff (or ruff and discard)**

When a defender leads a suit in which both declarer and dummy are void, the declarer may ruff and sluff – discard a loser from one hand and ruff in the other.

## **Rule of 11**

The “rule of 11” involves a mathematical calculation applicable when the original lead is construed as a fourth highest one. It is sometimes possible to obtain an exact reading of the distribution in the led suit in all four hands. The rule states: “Subtract the pips on the card led from 11; the result gives the number of cards in the three hands other than the leader's which are higher than the one led.” (See The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge for other popular “rules” of the game: Rule of Two and Three, Seven, 12, 16, 18 and 22.)

## **Rule of 15**

A guideline to help determine in close cases whether to open the bidding in the pass-out seat: add the number of high-card points to the number of spades in the hand. If the total is 15, the recommendation is to bid. Person points also refers to the number of high-card points plus the number of spades.

## **S**

### **Sacrifice or Save**

A sacrifice or a save is a bid made knowing that it probably won't be fulfilled. It is based on the premise that the penalty to be paid will be less than the adverse score were the opponents permitted to play and fulfill their contract.

## **Sanction**

A sanction is the permission given by the ACBL to a club, unit or district to award masterpoints based upon the results of a duplicate bridge event.

## **Sapphire Life Master**

An ACBL Life Master with 3500 masterpoints (at least 700 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 350 must be gold or platinum) has attained the rank of Sapphire Life Master.

## **School Bridge Lesson Series (SBLs)**

The ACBL funds an extensive school bridge program that includes a teacher manual, free textbooks, t-shirts and stipends for teachers.

[www.acbl.org/teachers-lounge/#programs](http://www.acbl.org/teachers-lounge/#programs).

## **Score (how to)**

There are several types of scoring methods used for rubber, duplicate pairs, team games and Chicago.

<https://www.acbl.org/learn/#scoring>

## **Section**

A section in bridge is a group of contestants who constitute a self-contained unit in one event for one session of a tournament. An event might consist of one section of players or of many sections of players.

## **Section markers**

Section markers are signs at tournaments indicating the location of

each group of tables forming a section. These are usually single letters but may be double or triple letters or sometimes numbers.

## **Sectional Master**

A player with 50 recorded masterpoints, at least five of which are silver points, at least 10 black and no more than 25 from online play has achieved the rank of Sectional Master.

## **Sectional Player of the Year**

An award recognizing the player who earns the most silver points in a calendar year. Silver points are awarded at sectional tournaments.

## **Sectional tournaments**

Units are the sponsors of sectional tournaments, which usually run from three to five days. Units also may run Intermediate-Newcomer Sectionals and STaCs (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs). Masterpoints won at sectional tournaments are silver.

## **Seeding**

Seeding constitutes the assignment of certain tables to particularly strong contestants to assure there will not be a preponderance of strong pairs in direct competition within any one section. In pair events, tables 3 and 9 usually are reserved for seeded players. Some team events are also seeded.

## **Senior Pairs (ACBL-wide)**

The ACBL-wide Senior Pairs is a special event held at clubs every year in

February. The game is restricted to players born prior to Jan. 1, 1959.

### **Senior Player of the Year**

The player born prior to Jan. 1, 1959 who wins the most masterpoints each year in senior tournaments and senior events at all tournaments is the Senior Player of the Year. The George Burns Trophy honors this player.

### **Session**

A period of play during which a specified number of boards is scheduled to be played is called a session.

### **Set**

To set a contract is to defeat the contract. The term “set” is also used to refer to the number of boards played in a round or session, as in, “We had a good set.”

### **Side Game Series**

Side Game Series, formerly Continuous Pairs, is a series of at least three one-session games open to all players. Participants may enter as many or as few sessions as they wish and play with the same or different partners. Overall ranking is done on an individual basis by computing the sum of each player’s two best games. At NABCs and regional tournaments, gold points are awarded to players who win their section in strat A and have competed in at least two sessions of the same series.

### **Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award**

This award was established by Sidney Lazard in honor of his son, Sidney Lazard Jr., who died in 1999 at the age of 41 after a year-long battle with cancer. Administered by the ACBL Educational Foundation, the award is given annually to a top level player, one who has scored a high-level finish in a major national contest. According to Lazard, the object of the award is to “enhance sportsmanship among the top players and to salute those who tried to win with class and dignity.”

### **Silver Life Master**

A Life Master with at least 1000 masterpoints has attained the rank of Silver Life Master.

### **Silver Points**

Silver points are masterpoints awarded at sectional tournaments, progressive sectionals and STaCs (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs). One of the qualifications for advancing to the rank of Life Master is to earn 50 silver points.

### **Sit, Sit For**

A player sits for the contract when that player elects to pass partner’s double.

### **Skip Bid Warning**

The Skip Bid Warning is used whenever a player skips at least one level of bidding. When opening at the two level, for example, a player would say “Skip bid, please wait,” or use the red Stop

card in the bidding box. The opponent is expected to hesitate 10 seconds before bidding. The skip-bid warning and the stop card are used to avoid problems with unauthorized information that can be transmitted when the player to the left of the skip bidder huddles before passing or bidding. Equally inappropriate is a fast pass, indicating a poor hand, or a fast double indicating a very good hand.

### **Slam**

Contracting for and winning 12 or 13 tricks constitutes a slam.

### **Slow Play**

Bridge is a timed event. Players are given an average of 7.5 minutes per deal and should learn to use the time wisely. Slow play is discourteous not only to the opponents of the moment, but to all of the other competitors in the event as well. It is the responsibility of every player at the table to try to catch up when their table has fallen behind.

### **Small Slam**

Contracting for and winning at least 12 tricks constitutes a small slam, and collects a 500 point bonus non-vulnerable and 700 points vulnerable.

### **Speedball Swiss Team**

Speed of play is a major factor in this type of event. Each match consists of five boards, and an average of only five minutes per board is allowed for play. Usually five rounds are played, and the event sometimes is called a five-five-five

Swiss. This event is frequently offered as a late-night game during a sectional, a regional or an NABC. It is sometimes flighted or stratified.

### **Spingold Trophy**

The Spingold Trophy was donated in 1934 by Nathan Spingold and is awarded for the NABC Spingold Knockout Teams Championship played annually at the Summer NABC. This event ranks with the Vanderbilt as one of the most highly prized trophies on the ACBL calendar.

### **Split Regional**

A tournament with 80% regional rating held at two widely separated sites within an ACBL district is called a split regional. Scores are compared between the two sites to determine the first- and second-place winners of regional-rated pair games. Swiss teams and knockout teams are separate events with different winners at each site.

### **Square Hand**

Bridge geometry is peculiar; square hand, flat hand and round hand all describe a 4-3-3-3 distribution.

### **STaC**

This is an abbreviation for a special kind of sectional tournament known as a Sectional Tournament at Clubs. It offers sectional rating and is played in a number of clubs in a specific area over a period of several days. The results of all games are sent to one location, which is staffed by the director-in-charge of the

event. Overall pair game awards are determined by comparing the results of all games conducted at a particular session just as if all of the games were played at one site. The masterpoints awarded in this type of tournament are silver points.

### **Stack, stacked**

1. The cards are said to be stacked against one player when a single opponent holds all or nearly all of the cards in a crucial suit.
2. To stack a deck is to arrange cards in an undealt deck in order to put predetermined holdings into one or more hands, a practice that is highly unethical and illegal.

### **Standard American**

Standard American is a nebulous term applied to the method of bidding most commonly used in the U.S. It approximates the method advocated by Hall of Fame member Charles Goren, who was known to millions as “Mr. Bridge” during the last half of the 20th century.

### **Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC)**

The Standard American Yellow Card is a convention card that has been filled out to display a simple, modern method that leads to a good, solid understanding in a partnership. This approach has gained popularity in online play. Few sequences are defined in the later rounds of Standard Yellow Card auctions. Players

are free to assign forcing, invitational or non-forcing meanings to natural calls in such sequences. Players may still exercise their bridge judgment, such as in deciding to open a four-card major in third seat. The SAYC normally five-card majors approach can withstand an occasional deviation.

### **Stayman**

The response of 2 ♣ to 1NT (or 3 ♣ to 2NT) asks opener to bid a four-card major suit. This convention, invented by Hall of Fame member George Rapée was popularized in an article written by Sam Stayman, also a member of the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. The convention was named for the writer rather than the inventor.

### **Strain**

This is the modern term used to encompass all four suits plus notrump. It is a synonym for denomination.

### **Stratified**

This is a type of game movement where all players are assigned to a group (strat) based on their current masterpoint holdings. Each contestant plays against players of all point ranges. Masterpoints are awarded to leaders of each strat. If a Strat C player scored better than one of the leaders in Strat B (a higher ranked strat), the C player will be awarded the points for Strat B.

### **Stratiflighted**

An event that is a combination of flighted and stratified is called

stratiflighted. The upper level stratum has no masterpoint restriction and is played as a separate game. The other players are subdivided into two or three strata with specific lower and upper masterpoint limits. Participants may enter either the unrestricted (“play alone”) group or the stratified group with a masterpoint restriction for which they are eligible.

### **Swish**

“Swish” is a colloquialism indicating when a bid is followed by three passes. A similar term is “float.”

### **Swiss Teams**

In a Swiss team event, each team will play six- to nine-board matches against a number of teams. Matches are arranged by pairing teams with approximately equal records as the game progresses.

### **Systems On (or Systems Off)**

To a bridge player, systems on (or systems off) indicates an agreement to apply (or not to apply) certain conventional methods in contested auctions.

## **T**

### **Table Presence**

One of the things that separate a good bridge player from an expert is the indefinable something that is referred to as table presence. It is a combination of instinct, the drawing of correct inferences from any departure from

normal rhythm by the opponents, the exercise of discipline in bidding, the ability to coax maximum performance from partner and the ability to make the opponents feel that they are facing a player of a higher order. This is also referred to as “Table Feel.”

### **Tap**

This is a colloquialism for shortening a hand in trumps by forcing it to ruff.

### **Team games**

A team consists of two pairs who play in different directions at different tables for a common score. One pair plays North–South for a designated number of boards and the other plays East–West for the same boards at a different table. At the mid-point or at the end of the set, the scores are compared.

### **Texas transfer**

The Texas transfer is a transfer bid, originated independently by David Carter of St. Louis and Olle Willner of Sweden. It is used after an opening 1NT or 2NT bid to make the strong hand declarer in a high suit contract. The responder jumps to 4♦ holding a six-

card or longer heart suit; the opener is required to bid 4♥. Similarly, 4♥ requires the opener to bid 4♠

## Top

Slang for the maximum matchpoint score you can make on a hand in duplicate is “top.”

## Tournament Director

The tournament director is the official representative of the sponsoring organization, responsible for the technical management of the tournament. The tournament director is charged with restoring equity at a table when an irregularity has occurred. When a player summons a director to the table, it should be done in a clear, courteous manner. It is suggested that you call the director to the table by saying, “Director, please.” Tournament directors are trained by the ACBL and ranked according to ability and experience. The I/N (Intermediate/Newcomer) directors have a special knowledge of the problems arising with new players and have been trained to address them.

## Tournament handbooks

ACBL has developed handbooks for planning sectional, regional and I/N tournaments. The handbooks contain sanctioning information, checklists, committee assignments and more. All three of these handbooks can be found on the ACBL website:  
<https://www.acbl.org/document-library>

## Tournaments

The ACBL sanctions the following types of tournaments:

- ♠ **NABCs** — three major North American championships each year
- ♠ **Regionals** — sanctioned to each of the 25 districts
- ♠ **Sectionals** — sanctioned to the 300+ units.

## Tournament Events

Tournament events may be classified by:

- ♣ **Type:** Individual, Pair, Team.
- ♣ **Expertise** (masterpoint holdings) as: Open, Flighted, Stratified, stratiflighted, Handicapped, Bracketed (Teams), Masters, Non-Masters, Life Masters, specific masterpoint restrictions (0–5, 0–20, 0–50, etc.). Events may also be restricted by
- ♣ **Restricted:** Women’s, mixed, Junior, Senior
- ♣ **Scoring Methods** are: Matchpoints, IMPs, board-a-match and total points.

## Trap pass

A trap pass is a pass by a player holding a strong defensive hand. The player is hoping that the opposition will bid themselves into difficulties. A trap pass is usually made by a player holding length and strength in the suit bid by the opener on the player’s right.

### **Traveling score slip (or traveler)**

A traveling score slip, often called a traveler or pickup slip, is a score sheet that stays with a duplicate bridge board during play. Each table records its results after the play of the deal. At the end of the game, the score slips for all of the boards are matchpointed and the director adds the matchpoints to determine the winner. Travelers are sometimes used in games scored by computer to enhance the social side of the game.

### **Treatment**

A treatment is a systemic agreement that defines whether a natural bid is forcing, invitational or signoff.

## **U**

### **Unauthorized Information (UI)**

Law 16 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge says that a player may not make a call or play that could have been suggested over another by information the player has received extraneously from partner. Extraneous information includes actions such as a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unmistakable hesitation, unusual speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, mannerism, etc.

### **Unit**

A unit is a division of the ACBL covering a designated area. Some units include only a part of a city, and others include entire states. The unit supervises bridge activities at ACBL games in its territory

and conducts tournaments at the local and sectional levels. Groups of units form ACBL districts, and officers and board members of units elect the district's representative to the ACBL Board of Directors. ACBL has more than 300 units. ACBL members are placed in the unit where they are geographically located.

### **Unit championships**

Each unit may conduct 24 unit championship sessions per year. These games award masterpoints based on 63.6% of sectional rating. These games may be held at one centralized location or with "split-sites" at various clubs throughout the unit. In addition, each unit is allotted four unit fund/foundation championships per year.

### **Unit-wide championship**

A unit-wide championship is a game with unit-championship rating held simultaneously at three or more locations within the unit boundaries with a minimum of five tables at each site.

### **United States Bridge Federation (USBF)**

The United States Bridge Federation was formed in 2001 by the ACBL and the ABA (American Bridge Association) in order to conform to Olympic rules that require each sport be governed by a national (not zonal) organization. The purpose of the USBF is to advance the interests of the United States in

international bridge competition, including the selection and support of United States bridge teams and players in international competition.

[www.usbf.org](http://www.usbf.org)

### **Upgraded club championship**

An upgraded club championship is a game with a higher rating that a club has earned by recruiting 10 new members during the year. The game awards full sectional-rated black points.

## **V**

### **Vanderbilt Cup**

The Vanderbilt Knockout Team Championship is contested annually at the Spring NABC. It ranks with the Spingold as one of the most prestigious events on the ACBL calendar. The Vanderbilt Cup was donated by Harold S. Vanderbilt, a member of the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. Individual replicas of the trophy are given to the winners of the team championship.

### **Venice Cup**

The Venice Cup became a world championship in 1978. It is a contest among champion women's teams and is held every other year alongside the Bermuda Bowl.

### **Victory Points**

A scoring method based on IMPs used in Swiss teams or round robin events where there are many teams and each team plays a relatively small number of deals against each of the other teams.

When using victory point scoring, the IMP score on each board is calculated. The total IMP score on the boards of the match are then converted to victory points in accordance with a predetermined scale.

### **Von Zedtwitz Award**

Named for Waldemar von Zedtwitz, this Hall of Fame award was established in 1996 to honor living or deceased bridge players whose contributions to bridge were through bridge playing talents or in other key areas of bridge. P. Hal Sims, one of the giants of the early game of bridge who was involved in several highly publicized bridge matches, was the first recipient of this award.

### **Von Zedtwitz Gold Cup**

The von Zedtwitz Gold Cup is awarded annually at the Summer NABC for the Life Master Pairs Championship, one of the most highly regarded pair events on the ACBL calendar. It was donated by Waldemar von Zedtwitz, one of the great bridge players and personalities of all time.

### **Vugraph**

A vugraph offers a method of presenting bridge play to an audience larger than can be accommodated around a bridge table. Onsite at the NABCs, the ACBL conducts the Peter Pender Memorial Vugraph show to cover the final rounds of the Vanderbilt, Spingold and Reisinger Teams Championships. Vugraph for major bridge events is also offered online through Bridge Base

Online (BBO). The presentation is complemented by commentary designed to make the audience both understand and enjoy the bidding and play of the experts competing in the event.

### **Vulnerability**

This is a condition of play in which premiums and penalties are increased. In rubber bridge, vulnerability comes about by having won one game toward rubber. In duplicate bridge, vulnerability is arbitrarily assigned.

## **W**

### **Warning partner**

There are certain situations in which a player has the right to warn partner if that player feels that partner is about to commit an irregularity during the play. This includes any time partner fails to follow suit (under ACBL rules) and, as dummy, whenever it appears partner is about to lead from the wrong hand.

### **Welcome to the North American Bridge Championships**

This booklet is designed to help a new player understand and enjoy the ACBL's premier tournaments. It can be adapted for use at sectionals and regionals in conjunction with an I/N Program.

<http://web2.acbl.org/nabc/NABCWelcome.pdf>.

### **Welcome to the World of Duplicate**

This brochure is an excellent publication to use at clubs to introduce new players

to the special features of duplicate games. You can download it to your computer or order copies from the ACBL Resource Center at <https://www.acbl.org/learn/#duplicate>.

### **Win/Loss Swiss**

To receive credit for a full win, a team must win by 3 or more IMPs. A win by 1 or 2 IMPs constitutes a 3/4 win (called a winning tie), with the losing team getting the other quarter of a point. However, the team winning the match receives the entire match masterpoint award.

### **World Bridge Federation (WBF)**

The World Bridge Federation was founded in August of 1958 by delegates from Europe, the United States and Australia. In 1977, it was incorporated in New York State as a not-for-profit organization. [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org)

### **Worldwide Bridge Contest**

This international competition is held in June of each year. It is scored as usual at the local level and matchpointed around the world at the world level.

[www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)

This is the location of the ACBL's official website.

## **X**

### **X**

1. A symbol used in lowercase in bridge literature to signify an insignificant low card in any suit, a card lower than a 10. Thus K-x-x means the king and two low cards in that suit.
2. A capital X indicates a double. These symbols are used in all forms of written bidding – texts, stories, newspaper columns, hand records for important matches, etc. Similarly, XX means “redouble.”

## **Y**

### **Yarborough**

A yarborough is any hand at bridge containing no card higher than a nine. It was named after an English lord who customarily would offer to wager 1,000 pounds to one against the chance of such a hand being held by a player. In postmortem discussions, the term “yarborough” is often used to describe bad hands even if they do not meet the strict requirements.

### **Youngest Life Master**

To become a Life Master is a goal of all serious bridge players. Some never make it in their lifetime; others seem to have a special gift for the game and become Life Masters within a very short time. The record for becoming the youngest Life Master is currently held by Zach

Garrison of Spring TX who attained the rank at the age of 9 years, 2 months and 7 days. He took the title from Richard Jeng of John’s Creek GA who attained the rank at the age of 9 years, 6 months and 12 days.

### **Youth Bridge Program**

The Youth Bridge Program and Youth division, established in 2009, provides playing and social activities for players under the age of 20.

### **Youth NABC**

The Youth North American Bridge Championships was started in Atlanta, GA in 2008. The YNABC is held each summer in conjunction with the Summer North American Bridge Championships.

### **Youth Player of the Year**

Each calendar year the Youth player (under the age of 20) earning the most masterpoints during the year is declared the Youth Player of the Year.

### **Youth Sportsmanship Award**

The winner of this annual award is elected from the nominations submitted by the youth members at the Youth NABC. The person selected must be under 20 years of age and an ACBL member in good standing. He/she would be encouraging and supportive of youth activities, inspire and encourage younger players, exhibit ethical behavior and display good sportsmanship.

tournaments. It strives to promote a friendly atmosphere at the table, while eliminating unacceptable behavior including rudeness, intimidation, gloating, profanity and a variety of other offenses. Automatic penalties are part of the program. If you feel an infraction of Zero Tolerance has occurred at your table, please call the director.

<https://www.acbl.org/ethics/#policies>

## Z

### **Zero Tolerance**

This is a policy recommended by ACBL and followed at many clubs and



# www.acbl.org

- ♥ **Find a Teacher**  
Online directory of accredited teachers. <https://my.acbl.org/teachers/directory>
- ♥ **Find a Club**  
Online directory of club locations and game times throughout North America. <https://my.acbl.org/clubs/directory>
- ♥ **Tournament Calendar**  
Information on every tournament scheduled in North America for the year. <http://tournaments.acbl.org>
- ♥ **Special Events**  
See the **Special Events Schedule** for games at clubs offering extra masterpoints. <https://www.acbl.org/special-events-events/>
- ♥ **Convention Cards**  
Download and edit convention cards. <https://www.acbl.org/document-library/#players>
- ♥ **My ACBL**  
The exclusive member portal where you can check your masterpoints, renew membership, read the Bridge Bulletin online and more. <https://my.acbl.org/>
- ♥ **Play Online for Masterpoints**  
The website includes links to the online clubs that offer ACBL masterpoint games (Online club membership or game fees are not included in the ACBL Membership). <https://www.acbl.org/play-bridge/#4points>
- ♥ **Learn to Play Bridge Online and Software**  
Practice your skills on the Learn to Play Bridge site at: [www.learn.acbl.org](http://www.learn.acbl.org)
- ♥ **Submit a Question**  
Have a question for us? Email [service@acbl.org](mailto:service@acbl.org).

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