



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I sign up for the Tournament?

A: Registration opens two hours before game time and remains open until the event begins. You are encouraged to register at least 15 minutes before game time to ensure your place. You and your partner must both be logged in to Bridge Base Online (BBO) in order to register. You must both have money in your BB\$ account, and your ACBL numbers must be associated with your BBO Profiles. If you are registering for a two-session event (such as Gold Rush, Mid-Flight or Open Pairs), you will register and pay for both sessions before the first session starts. There will be no need to register for the second session separately.

Q: How do I know if my ACBL number is in my profile?

A: From the home page under Featured Areas: (1) click on ACBL World, then (2) click on "Add your ACBL Number". If your ACBL number is not shown, enter it. Log off and log back on before you register for an upcoming event.

Q: How do I pay?

A: You must first purchase BB\$ (with credit card or PayPal) from BBO, and then when you register, the money will be deducted from your BBO account. Make sure you have sufficient funds in your account to pay for your entries! Check out BBO's instructions online: <https://www.bridgebase.com/purchase/pay.php>

Q: What if I don't have a partner?

A: Go to the Registration Desk of the event you wish to play in and add your name to the Partnership Desk which you'll see in the upper right side of the Registration window. Or choose a player who you see on the Partnership Desk and "invite" them to play with you.

Q: When I tried to register for the last online Regional, the games filled up right away and I was left with no way to play. Will that happen again?

A: We have dramatically increased the number of entries available for each event, especially the very popular Gold Rush Pairs. It is unlikely any events will fill to capacity.

Q: I have 150 masterpoints. In what event may I play?

A: Any player may play in any event that has no masterpoint limitation. For any event with an upper masterpoint limit, neither player may have more points than the masterpoint limit. For example, to play in a 499er event, neither player may have more than 500 masterpoints. Because you have 150 masterpoints, you may play in any event in the virtual tournament except the 99er events.



Q: How do I win gold points?

A: In order to win gold points, you must: (1) play in a two-session event; and (2) for strata of 750 masterpoints or more, place first in your section and direction or be among the overall winners. Single-session events and events or strata limits below 750 masterpoints award red points only. Gold points are also available in the Side Game Series with the following conditions: (1) you must play at least two sessions of the same series; and (2) you must place first in stratum A in your section and direction, or (3) have a series score, the sum of your two best percentage games, which ranks among the overall winners. Gold points for Side Game Series are only awarded in stratum A; strata B and C award red points only.

Q: I am a Life Master with 720 masterpoints. Am I allowed to play in the Gold Rush events?

A: Yes, as long as you do not have more than the upper masterpoint limit for the event you are allowed to play in it. Being a Life Master does not affect your eligibility.

Q: My partner and I had a 52% in the second session of the Gold Rush pairs, and we won nothing. One of the other pairs had a 49% game and won gold points. Why did they win gold points even though we scored better than they did?

A: At the end of the second session, the masterpoint award next to your names represents your total masterpoint award for the event. Remember, another pair who had 49% this session might have had a much better score during the first session. If that score was first place in its section and direction, or if the sum of their scores was high enough to rank among the overall winners for the two sessions, they would have earned gold points.

Q: My partner and I only have enough time to play one session. Where can we play?

A: 99er, 499er, and Side Games are all single-session events. If you and your partner choose to play in one of these events, you are committing to play just one session. Because these are all single-session events, they award only red points. The Side Game Series is a special exception. Playing two or more times in the same Side Game series makes you eligible to win gold points in that series. You can register for all single-session games during the two-hour window before they start.

Q: What is a Side Game?

A: The Side Game is a stratified pairs game that is just one session. It is similar to a club game. Side Games award fewer masterpoints than events which require a two-session commitment. They do offer a chance for earning gold points if you play in two or more sessions in the same series.

Q: May I play with a different partner in each Side Game?

A: Yes! You and your partner can play in the Side Game. You might play with a different partner in another Side Game. When the Series overall awards are determined, your own two best percentage games are used to determine your placing. If your partner plays only one session or with different partners, your overall scores will differ.



Q: Can I play in the Thursday morning Orange Slice side game and the Friday morning Orange Slice side game and have those count as combined two sessions?

A: Yes, as long as you play in two sessions of a Side Series with the same name, even if you play on different days, your two sessions will be combined for eligibility for Gold points and overall awards.

Q: What is a two-session event? May I play the first session of the Thursday Super Gold Rush and the first session of the Friday Super Gold Rush?

A: A two-session event is one in which a partnership commits to play in and pays for two sessions in advance. At this tournament, all two-session events are played on the same day, and the second session begins three and one-half hours after the first session begins. Therefore, if you want to play in the Thursday morning Super Gold Rush, you are also paying for and committing to play in the Thursday afternoon session. The Thursday morning and Friday morning games are not part of the same event.

Q: If my partner and I sign up for the two-session Super Gold Rush Pairs on Thursday, may we withdraw after the first session?

A: If you plan to withdraw, **PLEASE** notify the director that you are withdrawing. Although you are allowed to withdraw, your money for the second session will not be refunded.

Q: If my partner and I do not do well in the first session of Gold Rush Pairs, may we switch into the 99er game for the second session? Or just get our money back for the second session?

A: Your entry fee can only be used in the event you entered and is not refundable. Keep in mind, however, you still have a chance to win masterpoints, even gold points, if you stay in the event and do well in the second session.

Q: My partner has 80 masterpoints, and I have 40. May we play in the 99er pairs, even though our combined total of masterpoints is more than 100?

A: Yes. To qualify for the 99er pairs, each player must have fewer than 100 masterpoints. Your combined total does not have to be under 100.

Q: I have 800 masterpoints, and my partner has 400. Since we average only 600, may we play in the Gold Rush pairs that has a 750 masterpoint limit?

A: No. To qualify for an event with a 750 masterpoint limit, both players must have fewer than 750 masterpoints. Since you have more than 750 masterpoints, you are not eligible to play in this event. Remember, eligibility for events is based on the higher player's masterpoint total. Once you are eligible to play in an event, your stratum is determined by the average of the two players' masterpoint totals.



Q: What happens if I get disconnected during the tournament?

A: If you get disconnected try to log back in as quickly as you can. Your seat will be held for you. Generally, you will be taken immediately back to your table once you log back on. If it takes some time for you to log back on, a substitute player may be put in to complete a hand or round. Once you are back online, you will be returned to your table as soon as the hand or round is complete.

Q: How do I contact the Director if there is a problem?

A: The blue box with three white horizontal lines in the upper left hand corner of your screen is your menu. If you click on the menu box you will see an option to Call the Director. Write a brief note in the box that appears explaining what the issue is.

Q: Do my partner and I need a Convention Card and how do we make one?

A: Yes, every pair should have a completed Convention Card available for their opponents to view. To create a convention card with your partner, click on the "Account" tab on the right side of your screen and choose "Convention Card" from the menu at the top, then "new convention card". IMPORTANT: Put your partner's BBO User name (not their real name) in the box to the right of the word "partner". If you do this, your Convention Card will automatically upload to any tournament in which you play. Once you've completed and saved your Convention Card it will show up under "Personal Cards" in both you and your partner's accounts. To view your opponents' Convention Card during the tournament, click on the menu (blue box with three white horizontal lines in the upper left hand side of your screen) and you will see an option to view their card.

Q: Does my partner still Alert my bids by chatting to the table?

A: No, unlike live bridge, when you make an alertable bid online you must Alert it yourself. This includes announceable bids such as opening NT range, transfers and "short club". When you intend to make an alertable bid, first click on the red Alert Box (located below your rows of bids), then type in a brief explanation of your bid, THEN click on the bid. Your opponents will see a pop up with the explanation. If you have a question about an opponent's bid, click on the bid and they will see a pop up box requesting an explanation. If you forget to alert a bid, click on the bid and you will see a box in which you can type your explanation. Do not ask questions about bids or explain bids in the table chat as this could lead to Unauthorized Information for your partner and your opponents.