

Virtual Vacation Tournament



August 27-30
Break Away to Bridge



Q: I've never played online bridge. How do I get started?

A: ACBL has compiled several videos to help players get started and find their way around BBO. You can find those here: <https://www.acbl.org/bbotutorials/#players>

Q: How do I know if my ACBL number is connected to my Bridge Base account?

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: Where can I find the schedule? How much do games cost? What time are the games?

A: You can find the schedule for the Virtual Vacation Regional here:
https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Virtual_Vacation_Schedule.pdf

All events are \$15 per person per session. For single-session events you will pay \$30 per pair at registration. For two-session events you will pay \$60 per pair at the time of registration. All game times listed on the schedule are Eastern Daylight Time.

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 Top-Flight 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 pay for my entry?

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: There are identical listings for the Gold Rush Pairs. Which one should I register for?

A: For practical reasons, very large events are split into manageable pieces. You can register for either listing of the event. They are both the same.

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 corner of your screen) and you will see an option to view their card.

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 listed on the Partnership Desk and "invite" them to play with you.

Q: If I don't sign up two hours before the game, will it fill up?

A: We have dramatically increased the number of entries available for each event, especially the very popular Gold Rush Pairs. New sections will be added if the ones originally available fill up. We will have room for all players who register before game time.

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: Can I win Gold points if I play two sessions of a 499er or 99er event?

A: No. 499er and 99er games award only red points. Even if you play more than one session, points will still be only red.

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 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 side game and the Friday morning side game and have those count as combined two sessions?

A: Yes! There are four different Side Game Series, (1) the Campfire Side Game Series, which runs across the 10:45 am ET Sessions, (2) the S'mores Side Game Series runs across the 2:15 pm ET sessions, (3) the Firefly Side Game Series runs across the 5:45 pm ET sessions, and (4) the Moonlight Side Game Series runs across the 9:15 pm ET sessions. You can play in any two sessions of the same series to have those count towards your overall placement.

Q: What is a two-session event? May I play the first session of the Thursday Gold Rush and the first session of the Friday 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 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 where the upper limit is 750 masterpoints?

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. You are eligible to play in the Super Gold Rush, where the upper limit for the event is 1250 masterpoints. You would also be eligible to place in the 300-750 strat in that event, because the average masterpoint holding of your partnership is less than 750 masterpoints. 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 do I do if the game starts and I am not taken to a table?

A: Click on the box to the left of the event you were going to play in "ACBLTour" for help before or at the start of the event, send an email to online.tournament@acbl.org, or from your people tab, click on "hosts" and chat to anyone with an ACBLT# BBO handle.

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

A: If you get disconnected try to log back on 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 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: Does my partner 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.

Q: Whom do I contact if a score was adjusted incorrectly?

A: The Director in Charge of your event will send out chats during the session to let you know whom to contact with score corrections or other issues once the session is complete.

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: Why were the masterpoints for my first session crossed out when I looked on ACBL Live?

A: Your masterpoints were not taken away. Your total masterpoints for both sessions are shown next to your name in the second session results of a two-session event. ACBL Live puts dashes through your first session total to indicate that those points are now included in your final result.

Q: Whom do I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Send an email to online.tournament@acbl.org with questions about the tournament.