

ACBL Virtual Club (VACB) Policy FAQ

August 2023 (rev. 8/18/2023)

1. Why did the ACBL Virtual Club (VACB) policy change?

The original VACB policies were created during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide a revenue stream to our clubs, our directors and the ACBL. Thankfully, it served its purpose, but successive attempts to patch the VACB framework has caused significant difficulty for players, clubs and the ACBL support team.

Because the bridge world is evolving, we need to do the same. This reset of the VACB platform meets the current needs of our clubs, because it has leveled the playing field for all clubs to compete equally. It eliminates the tasks of managing and maintaining lists. And it meets the needs of our players, because it gives them what they've asked for since the beginning: to play wherever they want.

2. In this new, open environment, what constitutes “one club,” for those who manage more than one club sanction?

If multiple clubs behave as one club, then they must adhere to the rules of one club, by:

- Not taking advantage two clubs' worth of sessions
 - No more than 12 games/day (16 during a VACB special event), combined
- Adhering to the same Conditions of Contest for special events like NAP
 - 2 NAP games/session/month, across all clubs, combined

In fairness to all clubs, groups with multiple sanctions can market their games together, and have combined calendars of events, and name their online games similarly, ONLY if they act as one club. Once these clubs exceed the per/session games limit combined, they must separate every aspect into completely different entities. Anyone with questions about this is encouraged to email VACB@acbl.org.

3. What happened to the Include List?

There is no longer any Include List created by the ACBL for your VACB. You can allow any player entry to your games. No player has designated “home clubs,” so they may play anywhere. Edit any pending tournaments to uncheck the box that says “include custom list,” and modify them. Since you no longer have an Include List, if you leave this checked nobody will be able to register for your games. ([See #10 below.](#))

4. Is there still a Friends List?

Yes, your Friends List (players that your VACB account has followed) remains intact. You may add to it (using "follow"), or you may remove players (changing "follow" back to "neutral").

However, since every player is able to register for your games, there is no longer a need to add anyone to Friends just to authorize them. If you have players who still require assistance finding you, you should "follow" those so you can watch for them to login. For the self-sufficient ones, please change their status from "follow" back to "neutral." A large Friends list chews up precious resources, and there is no longer a need for one.

These changes also eliminated the need for a Visitor Policy, since there are no longer visitors to any club.

5. What happened to the "APB: call for subs," and the "what are my Include Friends up to" on my VPortal?

For premium subscribers of the VPortal, these things continue to function with an include list. All you need to do is upload one. (1) Go to your Dropbox folder, and download your roster.CSV. This list of players also includes BBO IDs. (2) Copy the BBO ID column, and paste it into a .TXT file, making sure each ID is on a separate line (and there are no empty lines in the middle). (3) Now see #9 on this FAQ to upload it. Remember that just because you have an include list after this, you don't have to use it to limit your games to that list. Just don't check the "Include custom list" box.

6. How will the VACB games be listed on Bridge Base Online (BBO)?

The VACB games will be shown to all players as a list ordered by their start times. You may still title your games as before so that your previous players are able to search for you and more easily find your games in the list.

7. What if I don't want to admit other players?

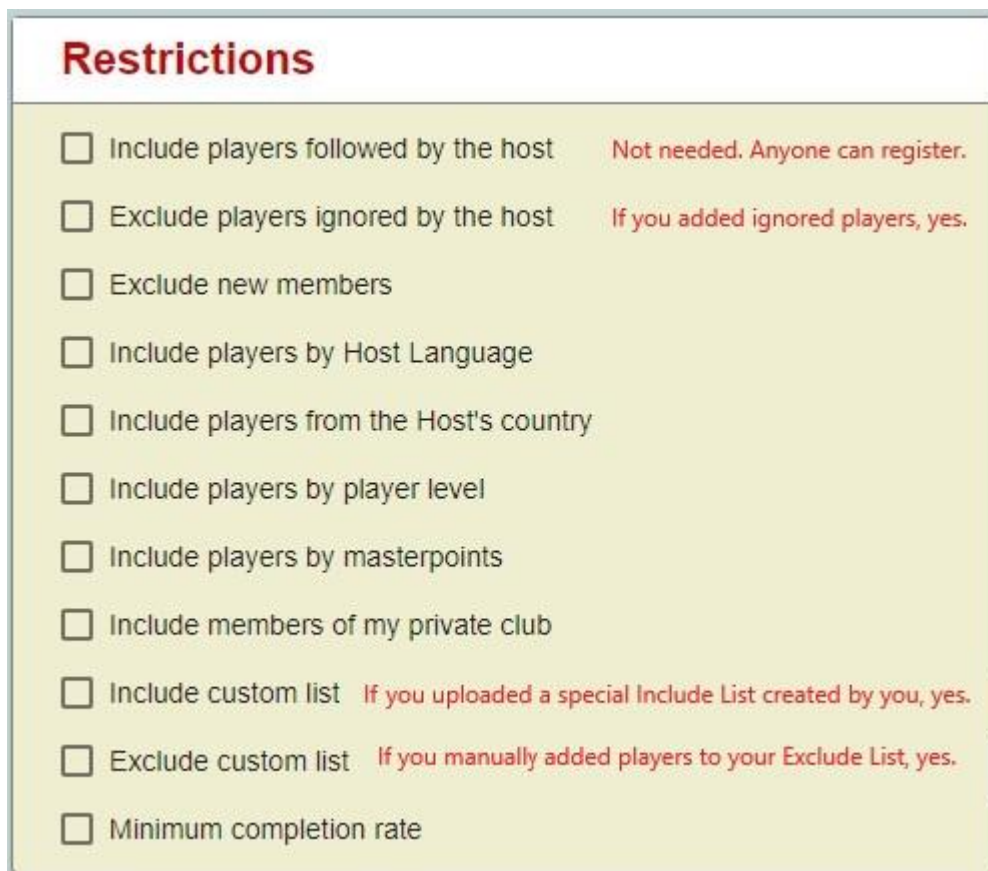
Your club is your domain, and as such, you may keep specific players out if you have a reason to not allow them entry. There are two ways this could be done:

1. First, using your VACB account, place the player on "Ignore" status. This will turn the player's ID to black and prevent them from registering for your VACB games. Remember to also click "Exclude players ignored by the host" on the Entries tab.
2. Or, using the Exclude List, click the + sign at the top and add the player's BBO name. This accomplishes the same thing as long as you also check the box that says "Exclude custom list" on the Entries tab of your games.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In both of these cases, after you take the action to bar the player, you will need to remember to modify any existing tournaments that are pending. If you fail to do this, the player will still be able to enter the games created before barring them.

8. What changed in the setup of my BBO games? Is there anything that I need to do differently other than what's outlined above?

VACBs are no longer required to check any of the boxes on the Entries tab listed under Restrictions. If you have anyone on "Ignore," you will want to click the second box that says "Exclude players ignored by the host." You can click "Include custom list" if you have created and loaded an Include List, and you should click "Exclude custom list" if you've added players to your Exclude List. Check your requirements according to the image below. Your club may not need to check any of these boxes.



The image shows a screenshot of the "Restrictions" settings page in BBO. The page has a light yellow background and a red title "Restrictions". Below the title is a list of ten checkboxes, each with a corresponding label and a red note. The notes are: "Not needed. Anyone can register." for the first checkbox, "If you added ignored players, yes." for the second, "If you uploaded a special Include List created by you, yes." for the eighth, and "If you manually added players to your Exclude List, yes." for the ninth. The other checkboxes do not have notes.

Restriction	Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Include players followed by the host	Not needed. Anyone can register.
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude players ignored by the host	If you added ignored players, yes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude new members	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include players by Host Language	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include players from the Host's country	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include players by player level	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include players by masterpoints	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include members of my private club	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include custom list	If you uploaded a special Include List created by you, yes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude custom list	If you manually added players to your Exclude List, yes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum completion rate	

9. I do not have an Include List (see Q1). Why would I click "Include custom list" if I have no Include List?

With this platform change, you can create different Include Lists for different sorts of events. For example, if you have a Swiss game planned, you can ask your players to pre-register for the event and warn them that only those who have pre-registered will be allowed to enter that game. After the pre-registration deadline, you can upload an Include List file to BBO that only has those who have pre-registered. Once that has been done, modify your Swiss pending game so that only the players you authorized be able to register. After the game, you can delete that Include List and "wipe the slate clean" for future games. *Other examples of a custom list would be a Pro/Am game, or a private game held for a country club, golf club, etc.*

10. How do I do this list management?

First, create your lists in .txt format, with one BBO username per line. You can then manage your lists under the Director tab by clicking on Include/Exclude Lists at the bottom. When the window you see on the left (see below) opens, click “Manage List” at the bottom. Enter your username (vacbxxxxxx) and your VACB password. Next, choose the list you wish to create or adjust (Include or Exclude) and pick an action (i.e., Replace, Append, Remove or Download). If you are uploading a special list, click on “Choose File” where it says, “Source file.” Then click “Execute.”

If you just wish to just add one player at a time, click the “+” sign beside the list name in red. This will allow you to add a single player at a time to either list.

The screenshot displays two overlapping windows from a software interface. The left window, titled "Include/Exclude Lists", is divided into two panes: "My Include List" and "My Exclude List". The "My Include List" pane contains a list of eight usernames: 0468mcc, 07701VKS, 07922, 07974, 0mikes, 11Cleo11, 123gordon, and 138WO. Each username is accompanied by a red pencil icon (edit) and a red trash can icon (delete). At the top of each list pane is a red "+" sign. At the bottom of the window are "Close" and "Manage List" buttons. The right window, titled "Director", is a form for managing lists. It contains the following fields: "Username" (text input), "Password" (password input), "Type" (dropdown menu with "List type is:" selected), "Action" (dropdown menu with "Pick an action" selected), and "Source file" (with a "Choose File" button and "No file chosen" text). An "Execute" button is located at the bottom of the form. The background shows a navigation bar with "Chat", "Create Tournament", and "Include/Exclude Lists" buttons.

11. I previously had clubs who were pooled to me. How do I continue to help the clubs that originally authorized this if there is no longer pooling documentation?

The Common Game has agreed to continue providing the same billing files previously sent to your Dropbox. [Please email The Common Game](#) to inquire about continuing this service for your club.