
Chapter 9 - ACBL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

SECTION ONE: ACBL TEACHER PROGRAMS

I. TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

A. TEACHER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP), updated for 2007, is a ten-hour seminar designed to recruit and train teachers. The seminar uses materials included in the ACBL Bridge Series of five texts and teacher manuals and introduces other sources of teaching material. A TAP is presented in a workshop format where teachers are trained to present bridge effectively, using special bridge teaching techniques developed by Audrey Grant.

B. BASIC TAP SEMINAR

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

C. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

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

D. TEACHER-TRAINER PROGRAM

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

II. BRIDGE TEACHING MATERIALS

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

A. BASIC TEXTS AND TEACHER MANUALS

The ACBL has developed five bridge texts and teacher manuals called the ACBL Bridge Series. They are: *Bidding in the 21st Century (CLUB)*, *Play of the Hand in the 21st Century (DIAMOND)*, *Defense in the 21st Century*

(HEART), *Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century (SPADE)* and *More Commonly used Conventions in the 21st Century (NOTRUMP)*. These books were updated in 2006/2007 to complement the Learn to Play Bridge computer programs and to reflect current duplicate bridge bidding and play standards. Baron Barclay Bridge Supply distributes and sells these books.

B. ADDITIONAL TEXTS AND MANUALS

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

C. TEACHER AND SUPPORT PRODUCTS

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

D. TRANSLATIONS INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ACBL has assigned the rights to produce Spanish and Japanese translations of the basic texts, and a French Canadian translation of the Bidding (CLUB) and Play of the Hand (DIAMOND) texts.

III. TEACHER PUBLICATIONS AND SUPPORT TOOLS

A. THE BRIDGE TEACHER

The Bridge Teacher, a newsletter published three times a year for ACBL Accredited Teachers, includes information on ACBL Education Programs, teaching tips and pertinent information.

B. STAR TEACHER PROGRAM AND BOOKLET

A teacher who submits the names of 100 or more students for any one course of instruction (CLUB, DIAMOND, HEART, SPADE or NOTRUMP) becomes a star teacher for that course. There are one-star, two-star, three-star, four-star and five-star teachers. Star teachers are featured in the Bridge Teacher newsletter.

C. ACBL ACCREDITED TEACHER RESOURCE MATERIALS AND HANDBOOK

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

D. ONLINE TEACHER LISTINGS

ACBL offers a "Find a Teacher" page online. Active teachers can apply for a listing through the Teacher Resource section. If a teacher submits the names of 25 students, a star is added to the online teacher profile.

IV. TEACHER INCENTIVES

A. REDUCED PRICE MEMBERSHIPS

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

B. BOOK DISCOUNTS

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

V. ACBL AND ABTA

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

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

SECTION TWO: UNIT/DISTRICT LIAISON PROGRAMS

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

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

- Host a TAP.
- Establish a "New Player Services" Program.
- Establish ongoing communications with local teachers.
- Create a progressive newcomer schedule for tournaments and send out postcard invitations to invite new players.
- Get teachers to give lessons in local schools, working to bring the young people into the unit.

Regular mailings are sent to the liaisons to keep them updated on new developments in bridge education.

The ACBL offers handbooks online for units interested in more information on education programs (Education Liaison, I/N Coordinator). Call the ACBL Education Department ext. 1262) for more information.

SECTION THREE: NEW PLAYER PROGRAMS

I. NEW PLAYER PUBLICATIONS

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

The New Member Newsletter: Four issues are sent to new ACBL members during the first year of membership to help them learn about the organization and its services.

Play Bridge section of the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*: The center section of ACBL's magazine is designed to appeal to students and newcomers to bridge.

ADVENTURES IN DUPLICATE: This book was created to serve as a reference guide for new players and complements the ACBL's beginning bridge materials.

In addition to the publications above, a number of special pamphlets and brochures have been created for new players, including:

- *The Exciting World of Bridge*
- *The ACBL from A to Z* member guide
- *Welcome to the NABCs*

II. THE JUNIOR PROGRAM

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

A. SCHOOL BRIDGE LESSON SERIES

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

B. STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

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

- ACBL's monthly magazine, the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*,

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

A student who is 19 or under and has graduated from one of ACBL's school lesson programs can join the ACBL for \$5 a year and receive all of the above benefits except the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*.

C. JUNIOR CORPS

The Junior Corps is an association of Junior players who are charged with working with their local unit officials and tournament organizers to promote Junior bridge in their home areas.

D. NABC JUNIOR PROGRAM

The NABC Junior Program consists of the following:

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

E. JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

In even-numbered years, the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) offers the Junior Trials at the summer NABC. This is an event designed to select Junior Teams who will represent Zone 2 in the World Junior Team Championship. The USBF is responsible for the training program for these Juniors.

F. JUNIOR MONTH

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