



Mentoring Program Agreement

May 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

(Mentoring pairs review together, sign, and return)

The goals of the mentoring program are to:

- engage newer bridge players, giving them a positive experience and encouraging them to advance in their play by playing with a more experienced partner in an ACBL sanctioned game setting;
- engage experienced players as mentors, tapping into their expertise and commitment to the game; and
- promote good bridge behavior and etiquette.

Expectations for Mentors and Mentees

For both partners:

1. Discuss in advance your goals for participating in the program. As a mentee are your goals enjoyment, learning something specific, playing with better players, gaining an assessment of current abilities, being challenged, or something else? As a mentor, are your goals to enjoy the game, to welcome someone new to the game or to a higher level of play and to give them a positive experience, to teach a specific set of new things, to help a less experienced player grow in the game, to have a strong teaching experience or something else? Do your mentor and mentee goals align? In a mentoring partnership, the mentee's goals should have priority.
2. Discuss in advance your typical availability to play together. Can you find agreeable times twice each month? If your schedules don't align, it may be best to seek a different pairing. If schedules or goals are not matching up within the first two months of the program, the Mentoring Committee will do its best to assist with re-matching.
3. Prepare and use a partnership Convention Card the mentee is comfortable with. (The Mentorship Committee has examples of various Convention Cards.) Add new agreements as the partnership progresses.
4. Demonstrate active ethics, etiquette, and positive interactions with everyone at the bridge table.
5. Complete an individual mentor program application (separate form which includes contact information) and sign this agreement with your mentor/mentee.

For Mentors:

1. Ask your mentee what she/he hopes to gain from the Mentorship Program and if there are any specific things she/he wants to learn.
2. Meet your mentee where they are on their bridge journey. Share new information in manageable doses, when your mentee is receptive, and always away from the table. Too much information too quickly can be overwhelming!
3. Be a role model for good bridge etiquette with both your mentee and others at the table. Teach your mentee to keep a complete convention card on the table and to practice positive behaviors such as greeting other players at the table, leading before writing, complimenting the play of others, and saving suggestions or pointers for a time away from the table.
4. Compliment your mentee when she/he plays well, that goes a long way towards building your mentee's confidence.
5. Mentors receive a \$5 discount on their table fee up to two times per month when playing with their official mentee.

For Mentees:

1. Discuss with your mentor what you want to get out of this program. Let her/him know if there are specific areas you want to focus on, such as play, bidding, or defense.
2. Do your best to absorb the information your mentor gives you. If she/he recommends reading material, please read it. The more effort you put into the partnership, the more successful you will be.
3. Welcome the opportunity to play with your mentor against better players (including in the morning game if that opportunity is presented). Your game will improve when you play with and against better players.
4. Stay in touch with your mentor and keep your scheduled commitments to play.
5. Enjoy this chance to learn and develop as a bridge player.

Mentor _____

Mentee _____

E-mail _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ (text OK? Y, N)

Phone _____ (text OK? Y, N)

ACBL Number _____ (required)

ACBL Number _____ (required)

Program requirements:

- All participants must be current ACBL members.
- Prior mentorship pairs are not eligible to be paired together a second time.
- Mentees should have under 200 masterpoints (MPs). Those with 200-500 MPs may be a mentee but only if they agree to be a mentor to a newer player. Those with fewer than 200 MPs can also apply to be a mentor to a new player. There must be a minimum of 50 MPs separating the mentor from the mentee.
- A player may mentor only one mentee at a time under this program.
- It is recommended that partnerships play at least twice a month at a time convenient for them.
- Partnerships may play at any regularly scheduled club games for which both parties are eligible. Two Monday and Wednesday afternoon games each month are typically designated as invitational, allowing all mentoring pairs to participate. See the mentoring calendar to confirm dates.