

# How To Play Bridge Online With Ventura Bridge Club

The Ventura Bridge Club is excited to be hosting club games online at Bridge Base Online (BBO). These games are ACBL sanctioned for black Masterpoints, just like playing at the club, and cost \$6 (same as usual). The schedule of games can be found at our website [www.vcbridge.com](http://www.vcbridge.com).

Anyone that has played at any of our regular Unit games (Ventura, Ojai, Camarillo, Country Clubs, Sunday Townhouse) since January 2019 will automatically be in our list of permitted players. If you have not played in one of these games, but would like to play with us, please contact Barry Brenner ([barry@brenners.net](mailto:barry@brenners.net)).

## What you need to do to play in our online games

1. Create an account at BBO ([BridgeBase.com](http://BridgeBase.com))
2. Load money into your BBO account (at least \$6)
3. Register for a game (15 minutes to two hours before it starts)
4. Be logged into BBO and ready to play at start time
5. Have fun and win some masterpoints

## Creating an account at BBO ([BridgeBase.com](http://BridgeBase.com))

- If you are not already playing on BBO, review our BBO Quick Start Guide (below on this web page).
- If you are an ACBL member and want to earn masterpoints, your BBO account needs to be setup with your ACBL Member Number. You can verify BBO has this by logging in, clicking on ACBL World in the FEATURED AREAS, then clicking the button at the bottom labeled [Update your ACBL number]. If you see your ACBL number there, you're all set. If not, please enter it.
- If you are not an ACBL Member, now's a great time to become one. [You can Join ACBL here](#). When you see a section asking for strange information. Please enter the following:
  - How did you hear about us: Bridge Club
  - Recruiting Club Number: 131102
  - Recruiting Club Name: Ventura Unit Bridge Club
  - Recruiting Member Number: 7833326
  - Recruiting Member Name: Rose Buckley
- As stated in general steps, you need to load money into your BBO account to play in our tournaments. This needs to be done BEFORE registering for the tournament. [Learn how to load funds into BBO](#)

## Registering for tournaments

- You and your partner need to register together on the day of the tournament, no sooner than two hours before it begins, and no later than 10 minutes before it begins. For example, to play in a 12:30 game, you both need to log into BBO and register together between 10:30 and 12:20.

- If you are registering for your first tournament, we strongly recommend doing this at least 30 minutes before it starts so there's time to resolve problems.
- Here's how to register (during the registration period explained above):
  - Both partners login
  - One of the partners clicks on "Virtual Clubs World" in the FEATURED AREAS section while the other partner waits for an invitation from them
  - Click "ACBL Virtual Clubs"
  - You are now seeing a long list of pending tournaments. Our tournament title will include the word "Ventura" and a start time. You can find our tournament quickly using the Search box in the top right corner. Type "Ventura" and it should pop right up. Click on our tournament.
  - You are now on the Register tab and need to type your partner's BBO username on the line saying "Partner." After entering their BBO username, click the "Invite" button.
  - Your partner should see an invitation popup on their screen. They now need to Accept your invite, and when they do, you're all set.
  - Now that you're registered you can wait on the Home page or start a practice table until the tournament begins. You will automatically be taken to the tournament when it starts. You can even logout to do other things and log back in 10 minutes before the tournament starts.
  - Don't panic if the tournament doesn't start precisely on time. The Director might be making some last-minute adjustments.
- If you have trouble registering, send the Director a message in BBO using the Director's friend address (will always be VACB131102). Whether you have a problem or not, it's a good idea to add VACB131102 as one of your friends by clicking on the People tab (right side), typing VACB131102 in the Add Friend box, and clicking Add.

## Partnership Desk

- The Partnership Desk is a feature built into BBO that facilitates the creation of partnerships just prior to the start of a tournament. It allows players without a partner to place themselves on a list along with other people looking for a partner. Anyone on the list can invite anyone else on the list to be their partner.
- Watch this brief [Partnership Desk Tutorial](#) to get a sense of how this works.  
NOTE: The tutorial opens on a black screen. Click the Play button in the lower left corner to start it.
- Our Guaranteed Partner program works in conjunction with the Partnership Desk. The guaranteed partner volunteer for that day's game watches the Partnership Desk as the tournament start time approaches. If the Partnership Desk becomes empty because everyone wanting a partner got one, the

guaranteed partner is not needed for that game. If, however, one person remains on the Partnership Desk with less than two minutes to the tournament's start time, the guaranteed partner volunteer will invite them to play.

## Convention Cards

- Your partnership is required to have a convention card. If you don't fill one out, BBO assigns the Standard American Yellow Card to your partnership, and you're expected to follow its conventions.
- To fill out a convention card, go to the Accounts tab (on right) and click "Convention Cards" in the top menu. You can choose a stock card or create a personal card by clicking "New ACBL Convention Card."
- You can create more than one convention card and identify which partner each one is used with.
- To view the opponent's convention card during a game, click the three white horizontal bars in the blue box on the table layout, and then select from the menu to view their card.

## Self-Alerting

- Artificial bids are normally alerted by the bidder's partner. In BBO, bidders are responsible for alerting their own bid. Only opponents see alerts, not partners (to avoid tipping off a partner asleep at the wheel).
- Opening No Trump bids are also self-alerted (a simple "15-17" will suffice).
- To make an alert, bidder clicks the Alert button and types a description BEFORE making their bid. See this [Tutorial](#) for an example.

## Additional resources for learning

### From BBO

- [New to Bridge Base Online?](#)
- [What you need to know to play on BBO](#)

### Sagamore Bridge Club videos (click for URLs you can copy)

- [How to Join BBO](#)
- [How to add BB\\$](#)
- [How to find YOUR club's games](#)
- [Need a Partner? Learn how to use Partnership Desk](#)
- [How to Bid & Play on BBO](#)
- [How to Alert bids on BBO](#)
- [How to make a BBO Convention Card](#)
- [COMPREHENSIVE Tutorial \(38min\) for new players](#)

Hope to see you online!