

Naples Bridge Center – Mentoring and Coaching Program

One of the goals at the Naples Bridge Center is to provide tools to improve the skills and level of play of our Non Life Masters. These tools include formal and informal classes, chalk talks, and mentoring and coaching programs. This document outlines the official policies for the Naples Bridge Center Mentoring and Coaching Program.

Mentoring Program

The Mentoring Program objective is to pair a Non Life Master with an experienced Life Master, for the purpose of providing individual coaching and skills improvement through live play and post-match review. This temporary pairing allows the Non Life Master to play 4-5 times with an experienced partner, and allows for direct feedback and Q&A between the partners.

The Naples Bridge Center has established the following policies governing the Mentoring Program.

1. A Mentor shall be paired with a Student by the Mentoring Program chairperson. The Mentor and Student shall find mutually acceptable times to play together for 4-5 games over a period of 4-8 weeks.
2. A Mentor shall have attained the rank of Silver Life Master OR shall be approved as a Mentor by the Club Manager. A Student shall be a Non Life Master who has learned the basic fundamentals of bridge and has been playing duplicate bridge on a regular or semi-regular basis for at least one year.
3. Students may apply to have a Mentor assigned to them by sending an e-mail to naplesbridge@gmail.com. Each such application should include the Student name, e-mail address, phone number and number of masterpoints earned. The e-mail will be forwarded to the Mentoring Program chairperson, who will maintain a list of Students desiring a Mentor and the date of the request. The chairperson's e-mail address will be listed on the club's website under the Board of Governors contact information tab.
4. Mentors shall volunteer to be on a Mentoring list by notifying either the Club Manager or the Mentoring Program chairperson. Each Mentor on the list should provide his/her name, e-mail address, phone number, number of masterpoints earned, and the period of time they are available (not traveling, not at a residence outside of Naples, etc.).
5. When the Mentoring Program chairperson assigns a Mentor to a Student, the chairperson will e-mail both participants with the other's name and contact information (as listed above). The Student shall be responsible for contacting the Mentor to arrange mutually agreeable times to play.
6. Students are **required** to play with the Mentor in an open game. This will introduce the student to more advanced players and will provide an opportunity to become comfortable in the open game.
7. Mentors are **strongly encouraged** to play the convention card that the Student is most comfortable with, and to refrain from overloading the Student with new conventions. Students should be cautious about adding more than one or two new conventions during the Student-Mentor period. Mentors should plan to spend 30 minutes with the Student after each game, reviewing any specific bidding, declarer play or defense issues that have arisen during that day's game.
8. Financial arrangements: The Student shall pay the game fee for both himself (or herself) **and** the Mentor. The Mentor shall not be paid any additional money for the game by the Student. When a Mentor completes the program with a Student, by playing the requisite 4-5 games, the Mentor shall notify the Club Manager of the completion of this assignment, and shall receive two Free Plays to be used in any normal club game (not including a Sectional or other tournament game). If a Mentor agrees to play more than 4-5 times with a Student, he or she may do so, but only two Free Plays shall be awarded for each Student mentored.
9. Upon completion of the Mentor-Student assignment, the Student shall send a brief e-mail to the Mentoring Program chairperson, providing feedback on the experience with the Mentor. This feedback may be shared with the Mentor, at the sole discretion of the chairperson. The Student shall be removed from the list of potential students by the chairperson, unless the Student is interested in another mentoring experience. If he or she is interested, then the Student's name shall be placed at the bottom of the Student applicant list and shall be eligible to have another Mentor once all of the other Student applicants have had a chance to play with a Mentor.
10. Upon completion of the Mentor-Student assignment, the Mentor shall send a brief e-mail to the Mentoring Program chairperson, stating that the assignment has concluded, and telling the chairperson whether the Mentor wishes to be placed on the Mentor volunteer list once again.

Coaching Program

The Coaching Program objective is to connect an experienced Life Master with a pair of Student partners, for the purpose of providing coaching and skills improvement to both Student players, through the observation of live play and post-match review. This coaching assignment allows a pair of Non Life Master players to play 4-5 times with an experienced Coach, and allows for direct feedback and Q&A between the Coach and the regular partners.

The Naples Bridge Center has established the following policies governing the Mentoring Program.

1. A Coach shall be connected with a pair of Student Partners by the Mentoring & Coaching Program chairperson. The Coach and Student Partners shall find mutually acceptable times for coaching to take place for 4-5 games over a period of 4-8 weeks.
2. A Coach shall have attained the rank of Silver Life Master OR shall be approved for coaching by the Club Manager. Students shall be regular partners.
3. Student Partners may apply to have a Coach assigned to them by sending an e-mail to naplesbridge@gmail.com. Each such application should include both Student Partner's names, email addresses, phone numbers and the number of master-points each has earned. The e-mail will be forwarded to the Coaching Program chairperson, who will maintain a list of Student Partners desiring a Coach and the date of their request. The chairperson's name and personal e-mail address will be listed on the Center's website under the Board of Governors contact information tab.
4. Coaches shall volunteer to be on a Coaching list by notifying either the Club Manager or the Coaching Program chairperson. Each Coach on the list should provide his/her name, e-mail address, phone number, number of master-points earned, and the period of time they are available (not traveling, not at a residence outside of Naples, etc.).
5. When the Coaching Program chairperson assigns a Coach to Student Partners, the chairperson will e-mail the participants with one another's names and contact information. One of the Student Partners shall be responsible for contacting the Coach to arrange mutually agreeable times for Coaching.
6. Students must play as North-South partners with their Coach in nearby attendance. The Coach will keep notes on each hand played and make brief verbal comments during breaks when time permits.
7. Coaches should plan to spend up to 30 minutes with the Student Partners after each game, reviewing any specific bidding, declarer play or defense issues that have arisen during that day's game.
8. Financial arrangements: Each Student Partner shall pay the Coach an amount equal to a game fee. The Coach shall not be paid any additional money by the Student Partners. When a Coach completes the program with the Student Partners, by coaching the requisite 4-5 games, the Coach shall notify the Club Manager of the completion of this assignment, and shall receive two Free Plays to be used in any normal club game (not including a Sectional or other tournament game). If a Coach agrees to meet more than 4-5 times with Student Partners, he or she may do so, but no extra Free Plays shall be awarded.
9. Upon completion of the Coach-Student Partners assignment, the Student Partners shall each send a brief e-mail to the Coaching Program chairperson, providing feedback on their experience with the Coach. This feedback may be shared with the Coach, at the sole discretion of the chairperson. The Student Partners shall be removed from the list of potential students by the chairperson, unless they are interested in another coaching experience. If they are interested, their names shall be placed at the bottom of the Coaching applicant list and they shall be eligible to have another Coach once all of the other applicants have had their turn.
10. Upon completion of the Coach-Student Partners assignment, the Coach shall send a brief e-mail to the Coaching Program chairperson, stating that the assignment has concluded, and telling the chairperson whether the Coach wishes to be placed on the Coaching volunteer list once again.

This policy has been adopted by the Naples Bridge Center Board of Governors on March 19, 2019.