

Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate bridge is a competitive game where your bidding and play are scored and compared against others who play the same boards. The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) is an organization that promotes, grows and sustains the game of bridge. Points and ranks of players, director certification, club sanctions and bridge laws are all managed by the ACBL. For more information about the ACBL go to www.acbl.org.

Duplicate play involves tools that are used during the game play. The following table highlights those that are used:

Duplicate Tools	Description
Bidding Boxes	A bidding box contains all bids that could be made by a player; each player will have a bidding box to use. During bidding, bids are removed from the bidding box and placed facing the center of the table. Subsequent bids are played such that they do not cover preceding bids. Use of bidding boxes facilitate the bidding process.
Convention Cards	Convention cards contain the agreements, such as No Trump point range, conventions played, defender leads and defensive carding, between two partners. Players should fill out convention cards and have them available for opponents to review. Players cannot refer to their convention cards during the bidding process.
Directors	Directors ensure that games are played according the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If infractions occur, the Director is called and determines what remedies are needed and how play should proceed.
Duplicate Boards	Prior to play, cards are dealt and hands are stored in duplicate boards in their respective north, south, east and west slots. After boards are played, hands are returned to the board and the board is moved to the next table for play.
Laws of Duplicate Bridge	Laws of Duplicate Bridge are established by the ACBL. These laws cover both bidding and play of the hand.
Table Cards	Table Cards are placed on each table to facilitate player and board movement.
Travelers	Scores are recorded on travelers which are folded and returned to the board after scoring has been completed. Travelers are not looked at until after the board has been played. At other games scoring may be done automatically using BridgeMate scoring machines.