

Structure and Responsibilities of the Unit, the Bridge Center, the Club Owners and Club Managers, the Club Directors, and the Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 146

- The official name of American Contract Bridge League (“ACBL”) Unit 146 is the Virginia State Bridge Association, Inc. (the “Unit”).
- The Unit was created to promote and support the game of duplicate bridge within the geographic area defined by the ACBL. Unit 146 is one of eight geographic areas (units) within ACBL District 6.
- The Unit is incorporated in the State of Virginia and is a 501(c)(7) entity that meets the legal definition of a social club and operates according to established by-laws and articles of incorporation.
 - The Unit is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the Unit’s general membership. The Unit’s Board of Directors has 11 directors and directors serve 2 year terms. The Board of Directors elects the Officers (e.g., President, Secretary, Treasurer) for the Unit.
 - ACBL members who live in Unit 146 are eligible for membership in the Unit. A portion of the membership dues of such ACBL bridge players is shared with Unit 146.
- The Unit is specifically responsible for promoting the game of bridge by adhering to the principles and guidelines established by the ACBL.
- The responsibilities of the Unit (within its boundaries) include:
 - promoting activities that encourage participation in the game of bridge,
 - promoting bridge related educational activities and programs,
 - conducting unit games and hosting special games such as unit championships,
 - coordinating and managing ACBL sanctioned tournaments (the Unit has the exclusive right to host sectionals in its territory), and
 - encouraging members to adhere to the standards of conduct and ethics established by ACBL.

The Bridge Center of Hampton Roads

- The Bridge Center of Hampton Roads (“Bridge Center”) is incorporated in the State of Virginia. It is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which allows tax deductible charitable contributions to be made. The Bridge Center was created by some members of ACBL Unit 146 to provide a facility where people could go to receive instruction in the game of bridge, to play duplicate contract bridge, and to promote the game of bridge within the Unit 146 geographic area.
- The Bridge Center operates in accordance with its established by-laws and articles of incorporation.
- The Bridge Center is governed by a 4-6 member Board of Directors. All members of the board are required to be members of Unit 146. The directors serve for a 3 year term. The Bridge Center’s Board of Directors are to be elected by its current board of directors. The Bridge Center has no members.
- The Bridge Center leases the current building at 4966 Euclid Road (Suites 101-103), Virginia Beach, VA and is legally responsible to pay a monthly rental fee to the owner of the building.

Unit 146 was the original lessee of the Bridge Center building and is currently the guarantor of the lease.

- The Bridge Center also pays certain utilities (e.g., electric, water), janitorial services, and insurance for the leased space at 4966 Euclid Road.
- The Bridge Center is also responsible for the cost of any interior/cosmetic (versus exterior/structural) changes in the building.
- The Bridge Center's revenues come from charging Club Owners and Unit 146 table "rent" for holding their bridge games at the Bridge Center and from charitable contributions.
- The Bridge Center subleases the building (or a portion thereof) to each of the individual Club Owners so they can operate their games. The Bridge Center is also available to individuals and/or organizations to rent based on the approval of the Bridge Center Board, provided that the rental does not conflict with Club Owner scheduled games.
- The Bridge Center subleases the building (or a portion thereof) to Unit 146 so it can operate the unit game and tournaments (e.g., sectionals).
- The Bridge Center also provides the funding for and/or directly purchases the following items:
 - the bridge tables and chairs used for the games at the building,
 - the bidding boxes, drink holders, table mats, and boards with decks of cards,
 - the computer systems housed at the building that are used to operate the duplicate bridge games, the printer, paper,
 - the bridge dealing machine; and
 - the refrigerators and microwave.

The Club Owners & Club Managers

- Club Owners are individuals (or entities) who have been certified and authorized by the ACBL to conduct ACBL sanctioned duplicate bridge games.
- Every ACBL sanctioned game must designate an active ACBL member as its manager. The Club Owner and Club Manager are often the same person, but it is not required (e.g., the unit game).
- Club Owners sub-lease the building (or a portion thereof) from the Bridge Center so they can operate their games at that location. Club Owners are not required to hold their games at the Bridge Center. There are ACBL sanctioned games throughout Unit 146 that are held at locations other than the Bridge Center.
- Club Owners are allowed to determine the per player fee that they will charge for their games. The fees are not set by ACBL or by the Bridge Center; but are set by the Club Owners.
- Club Owners use the card fees paid by the players to cover the following per game costs:
 - the cost of subleasing the building (or a portion thereof) from the Bridge Center,
 - ACBL's per table sanction fee (which increases for certain "special" games),
 - the cost of hiring a Club Director to run their game (if they are not a Club Director),
 - the cost to purchase coffee and snacks for their games, and
 - the cost to purchase other essential game related supplies (i.e. convention and scoring cards).
- Club Owners and Club Managers can set certain additional rules and regulations (e.g., master point limits) for the players in their games.

- Club Owners are responsible for determining the outcome when violations of ACBL ethical or regulatory standards occur during their regular club games.
- The Club Manager also provides the ACBL with:
 - monthly masterpoint and financial reports.
 - The application for sanction renewals.

The Club Directors

- ACBL accredited games are required to be run by ACBL Club Directors.
- Club Directors are individuals who have been certified by the ACBL and authorized by a sanctioned Club Owner to direct one or more of the Club Owner's games.
- Club Directors are hired by Club Owners to run their ACBL sanctioned games.
- Club Directors run ACBL sanctioned games in accordance with applicable ACBL rules and regulations.
- Many of the Club Owners and Club Managers are also Club Directors, and may be acting in more than one capacity depending on the game.

The Bridge Players

- The bridge players who attend the games held at the Bridge Center are responsible for paying the per person table fees as set by the individual Club Owners.
- The bridge players are responsible for complying with all applicable rules and regulations set by the ACBL, the Bridge Center, the Club Owners/Club Managers, and the Club Directors for the ACBL sanctioned games held at the Bridge Center.
 - Each individual player is also responsible for ensuring that the bridge games played at the Bridge Center are conducted in an ethical and supportive manner.
 - Players are also collectively responsible for assisting in the efforts to maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment at the Bridge Center.
- Most bridge players at the Bridge Center are ACBL members, but it is not required (it is to earn ACBL masterpoints).
- Most bridge players at the Bridge Center are members of Unit 146, but players from other units are welcome to play.
- There is no membership requirement for the Bridge Center or any specific Club Owner's game.