

ACE OF CLUBS VIRTUAL CLUB GAMES ON BBO - INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

The Ace of Clubs, like every club, is temporarily closed due to the coronavirus, but thanks to the ACBL and BBO (bridgebase.com), we are now able to run some club games online! This provisory solution will allow you to play against your bridge friends and compete for black masterpoints, while the entry fees will be mostly redistributed to the Ace of Clubs. **Here are the detailed instructions on how to play in those online club games.**



HOW TO ENTER AN “ACE OF CLUBS” VIRTUAL CLUB GAME:

- The first step is to make sure you have a BBO account. If not, you can create one for free at bridgebase.com. You will set up your player profile that will include your name and some additional information. Next, you need to make sure that your ACBL player number is included in your account. To check that, log in and go to “ACBL World”, then click on “Update your ACBL number”.
- Next, you need to have some money in your BBO account. To import some money into your account, go to “BB\$” on the top right part of your screen and follow the instructions. Once that is done, you are ready to enter our virtual club games! Important note regarding BB\$: Please be sure to buy credit with BBO through a browser to be sure you get dollar for dollar.
- Check our schedule of games (see below) and log in before game time to register for our game. The games will show up 2 hours before game time on BBO. We strongly encourage you to log in at least 15 minutes before game time to register, to avoid last-minute confusion. However, you don't have to stay online until game time once you've registered, you just have to be online a couple of minutes before the game starts!
- To register, log in, go to “Competitive” on the left side, then “ACBL Virtual Clubs”. Then, click on our game (we will always include “Ace of Clubs” in the name of our game, so you can find it easily by using the “search” browser). You can then register, indicating who your partner is, and buy your entry! Then you simply have to wait until game time and start playing, the director will take care of the rest!
- **A COUPLE OF IMPORTANT THINGS:** To register, both you AND your partner need to be online, as your partner is supposed to accept your invitation to play in that game. If you do not have a partner, you can also use the partnership desk feature after clicking on the game and see who you can find!



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- At the beginning at least, we will be holding shorter games (18 boards or so for under 2 hours of play), until the players get used to the formula. We might increase that number if players ask for it.
- We are giving the players only 6 minutes per board (in open games at least), as online play goes much faster than face-to-face play. To speed up the game, try to use the claim button when

the rest of the play is “obvious”. If you are not done playing at the end of your time period, you will automatically be moved to the next round and the director will adjust the score as fairly as possible.

- We do not allow “undos” in our games, so if you click on the wrong bid or wrong card, there is no way to go back. To prevent that, you can activate the “confirm bids and plays” option by going to “account”, then “settings”.

- The main difference between online play and face-to-face play lies in the Alert Procedure. When you play online, you have to **alert your own artificial or unusual bids**. Your explanation will be visible to the opponents only. When you are going to make an artificial or unusual bid, hit the alert bid and then type in your bid. You will be then directed to explain your bid. And if you would like to know what an opposing bid means, click on that bid and it will ask your opponent to explain it!

- To call the director, click on the blue rectangle on the top left of your screen, then “Call the Director”. The director will come to your table and assist. The Ace of Clubs director will be logged in under the username **vacb191601**. If you have any questions before or during the game, you can send a chat message to that username and the director will help you! There is a chat feature at the bottom of the screen where you can talk to the table and ask questions of the opponents privately.

- Scoring corrections are possible up until 20 minutes after completion of the game.

- The games will award black masterpoints and the awards will be 50% higher than in regular club games!

- A gentle reminder. No phone or online chatting with partner during the play. BBO and The Common Game run vigorous background algorithms to detect cheating. We realize that cheating is much easier when playing online, but for the good of the game let's avoid that! The consequence would be an immediate ban from our games.

- **For any questions, comments and feedback, you can text or call Staci at (503) 806-5796 one hour prior to the game or reach us at staff@the-ace-of-clubs.com. We understand that some of the above might be confusing or unfamiliar for some of you and we are here to help! Our goal is to keep our club alive until the health crisis is over! We will also post all this information on our website, where it will be updated when needed.**



SCHEDULE:

Our virtual club games have started on **Monday, April 6th**. Here is our current schedule:

- Open Pairs on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **10:30AM**

- Open Pairs on Tuesday Afternoon, **1PM**

- a 299er on Wednesday Morning, **11AM**

- a 749er on Thursday Morning, **10:30AM**

- a 199er on Friday Morning, **10:30AM**

- a 199er on Saturday Morning, **10AM**

- a 499er on Sunday afternoon, **1PM**

IMPORTANT: This is a provisory solution and all we want is accommodate the players. Please send us any suggestions and we will be happy to adjust the schedule by popular demand!