

2026 JSOB Mentor/Mentee Program

Mentee Guidelines

Introduction:

The JSOB Mentoring Program is designed to help individuals who have not yet achieved Life master status improve their bridge skills. The program provides a wonderful opportunity to increase a developing player's skill in all facets of the game by working and playing with a more experienced partner (Mentor) in an Open play environment.

The Primary Objectives of the program are:

- To provide a safe learning environment so that developing players can gain comfort and confidence while playing in a highly competitive environment.
- To help the mentee develop their game - to teach and instill sound bridge fundamentals and judgement in bidding, defense, and play of the hand.
- To aid and facilitate the transition of players to the open section.
- To teach and model bridge ethics and etiquette.
- To help developing players meet their bridge goals.

Mentees are eligible for up to 3 years in the program provided they meet the requirements described within. Mentees do not need to take the 3 years consecutively, allowing for an individual growth pace. The program is progressive in nature, with requirements for play increasing commensurate with years in the program. The program is for those serious about learning, playing, and practicing on a regular basis. Mentees should aspire to play at least twice per week at JSOB, and continue to take classes, lessons, and/or participate in Chat Bridge to further develop their game.

There are general requirements that apply to all individuals enrolled in the program as well as some specific requirements depending on the number of years in the program, all of which are indicated below.

General Requirements:

1. The program period is from January 1 through December 31.
2. A mentee must be a current paid member of JSOB.
3. In order to participate, a mentee must have no more than 500 masterpoints and not have attained Life Master status by Jan 1.
4. Mentees should be able to play with your mentor once a month, or a minimum of 10 times during the year. Any month missed may be made-up during the program year as schedules allow.
5. Mentees must arrange play with their mentor at a time that is convenient to their mentor.

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General Requirements (cont.):

6. In addition to the times you play with your mentor, mentees must play at least an additional 40 times per year at JSOB (significantly more for second and third year participants). Chat bridge and supervised play are not included.

Additional Specific Requirements:

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| 1st year:
Mentees | A desire to improve your game.
Open to learning new concepts, conventions, and strategy.
A desire to play bridge on a regular basis (2+ times week) as schedules allow.
Play in at least 1 sectional during the year (STAC games and on-line tournaments do not count)
In addition to the 1 game/month with your mentor, you must play at least 1 additional game/month in the open game at JSOB (12 times/year) to qualify for a 2nd year in the program. |
| 2nd year:
Mentees | A strong desire to improve your game.
An interest in transitioning to the open play environment.
A willingness to put in extra effort to learn and apply what is being taught.
A desire to play against stronger competition and in local tournaments.
In addition to the 1 game/month with your mentor, you play at least 30 times/yr in the open game.
Play a minimum of 60 times/year at JSOB.
Play in at least 3 different sectionals/regionals/nationals during the year (STAC games and on-line tournaments do not count) |
| 3rd year :
Mentees | Dependent on mentor availability and a minimum of 75 masterpoints.
A strong desire to improve your game and transition to the open section.
A strong willingness to put in extra effort to learn and apply what is being taught.
In addition to the 1 game/month with your mentor, you must play at least 42 times/yr in the open game.
Play a minimum of 70 times/year at JSOB.
Play in at least 3 different sectionals/regionals/nationals during the year (STAC games and on-line tournaments do not count). |

If mentees are unable to fulfill the requirements for their respective year in the program, they may be required to withdraw from the program at the discretion of the program coordinator, and will be unable to register for the next year. However, they remain eligible for any years remaining and can request to rejoin the program after they complete the respective requirements.