

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AL SMITH VIA EMAIL NOVEMBER 13

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ACBL Visitor Policy: The new policy has two visitor statistics (1) % visitor pairs and (2) total visitors. While the ACBL email about the new policy says that only visitor pairs will be counted, the ACBL has not released the actual policy that says what they are actually doing nor defines the allowable visitor percentages. Sort of feels like trying to drive a car using only the rear-view mirror.

There are four categories of people: (1) members, (2) free agents, (3) visitors that have an ACBL number, and (4) visitors that do not have an ACBL number.

Members and free agents may invite and play with anyone (member, free agent, or visitor) in an SE Carolina game. Whoever you invite will not be blocked. You do not need approval from the director to play with anyone.

You are a member if you can see the SE Carolina games after you click on “Virtual Clubs” and then “ACBL – North America” within two hours of a scheduled game.

What is a free agent? A person that joined the ACBL since March 2020 that did not associate with a local club when they joined or an ACBL member who did not play in a local club’s face-to-face game between 1 January 2019 and March 2020. We have sent an email to those that we know are free agents. If you think you are a free agent, send us an email with your BBO name so we can check for you. For a free agent to be able to play, we need to add them to our Free Agent List and approve them to play in or BBO games. Once approved, a Free Agent will be treated as a member. The free-agent status is lost if you: (1) play in any club face-to-face game, or register to play in a special 99er game.

A Free Agent can only see the SE Carolina games after they click on “Competitive”, then “All Tournaments”, and then put “caro” in the search area. This is the same access path that a visitor uses.

Visitors who are in our approved Visitor List may register in a game in the same manner as a Free Agent. The approved Visitor list is currently comprised of people from NC, SC, VA, TN, GA, and FL that have played in our game. People from other states and provinces have been temporarily removed from the list until we can figure out how we are doing with regard to the new ACBL edict.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience and consternation these actions are causing you. During the past 18 months, SE Carolina gave a free 12-week online bridge course to more than 2,000 people. It is very disheartening to me that I have to tell our students, some of which have played with over a year, that they can no longer play in our games. The same is true of long-distance friends.

What makes the situation even more maddening, is the ACBL approach that one size shoe fits all, unless, of course, you have two left feet. (Al has lost it!) In terms of club size, we are the smallest club that offers four games a day. We are currently averaging about six tables per game. 12 pairs times 15% says we can have about two visitor pairs. Trying to manage the 15% target is a nightmare! As we used to say at the office in dire situations, "Floggings will continue every morning until morale improves!"

Two left feet. If you happen to be a virtual club that has never had a local club (e.g., Audrey Grant) since they don't have any members they have no visitor limitation – everyone is a visitor and everyone is welcome. This incongruity seems to be perfectly fine with the ACBL. Bizarre isn't it! I guess it all comes down to who you are and who you know! (I have nothing against Audrey and wish her great success. She is a great teacher! However, I do have major heartburn over a policy that does not treat everyone the same, which is rife throughout the ACBL online program.)

We are trying our best to meet the ACBL mandate so that we can continue to offer online games. Unless something changes, we will probably not survive to January.

We want to thank everyone for their wonderful emails of support. Again, we are sorry for the challenges and difficulties many of you are facing, especially those that are home-bound or have health problems. Bridge, for both you and us, is supposed to be fun! I wish I had a magic wand to make everything better!

If you try and register in a game and are blocked, send the director a chat. If there is room "in the inn, or the stable", we will see if we can fit you in the game.

If the game is less than five (5) tables, we will allow visitors up to five tables so that they can participate in a viable game. Nothing is more frustrating for you and us than registering for a game and then watching it implode after sitting there for a ½ hour or longer. If this causes us to exceed our visitor quota, so be it!

SE Carolina Lesson Information

Defense 15.2.08 Trump Suit Preference Signals: **16 November** When the trump suit is led by the Declarer or a Defender, it creates another opportunity to signal what suit you would like led. Understanding when and how to use this final suit preference signal is another tool in your defense toolbox. The lesson is Tuesday, 16 November, at 3:00 Eastern (NY) time. The lesson is \$15. Use the following link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QEzAE1cgT8Wal2O_ms_F_A

More lessons will be scheduled starting in January. Happy holidays!

We have added several more roadmaps the Learning Bridge Roadmap Atlas. Take a look! Comments, whatever will be greatly appreciated. It and other lessons are available on the following webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/view/eastern-carolina-online-bridge/se-carolina-bridge-academy>

New Rank Achievements in October: Congrats on your achievement! You guys are doing great! Wow, look at all the Life Masters!

Name	City	State	New Rank
Catherine Gay	Troy	MI	Club Master
Dermott O Reilly	Tiverton	ON	Club Master
Ginny Padgett	Columbia	SC	Club Master
Susan Quirk	Sechelt	BC	Club Master
Mary Roemer	Winston Salem	NC	Club Master
Bebe Krewson	Winston Salem	NC	Sectional Master
Maureen Watkins	Pisgah Forest	NC	Sectional Master
Preeti Kini	Covington	GA	Regional Master
Paul Leake	Mill Valley	CA	Regional Master
Harihara Mahadevan	Calgary	AB	Regional Master
Donna Bianco	Naples	FL	NABC Master
Ron Briggs	Halifax	NS	NABC Master
Maureen Busta	New Hampton	IA	NABC Master
Pamela Folz	Wilmington	DE	NABC Master
Diane Gaskill	Myrtle Beach	SC	NABC Master
Dianna Gilbreath	Maple Ridge	BC	NABC Master
Jeanne Loving	Mechanicsville	VA	NABC Master
Karen Magley	Great Falls	VA	NABC Master
William Nealon	New York	NY	NABC Master
Konrad Wu	Hicksville	NY	NABC Master
Shakti Chandra	St Johns	NL	Adv NABC Master
Eileen Evans	Mount Pleasant	SC	Adv NABC Master
Martha Mullen	Midlothian	VA	Adv NABC Master
Caleb Soong	Cumming	GA	Adv NABC Master
Andy Symmes	Greensboro	NC	Adv NABC Master
Krishna Tadepalli	North Potomac	MD	Adv NABC Master
Alice Hughley	Durham	NC	Life Master
S Reese Koppel	Metairie	LA	Life Master
Linda Bucklin	Mill Valley	CA	Bronze Life Master
Alice Hughley	Durham	NC	Bronze Life Master
Marcia Maury	Greensboro	NC	Bronze Life Master
Ann Paschold	Lewisville	NC	Bronze Life Master
Carol Scully	Edmond	OK	Bronze Life Master
Lauren Dougherty	Jamison	PA	Silver Life Master
Duke Hayden	Southport	NC	Silver Life Master
Barbara Hooks	Mount Airy	NC	Silver Life Master
Judith McNutt	Pittsfield	MA	Silver Life Master
Barbara Neustadt	Atlanta	GA	Silver Life Master
Cynthia Polayes	Chicago	IL	Silver Life Master
Ernest Rosenthal	Overland Park	KS	Silver Life Master
Donna Sinrud	The Villages	FL	Silver Life Master

Marie Sugar	Somers	NY	Silver Life Master
Thomas Vitanza	Virginia Beach	VA	Silver Life Master
James Dahlberg	Arlington	VA	Ruby Life Master
Thomas Din	Salt Lake City	UT	Ruby Life Master
Alice Folger	Charlotte	NC	Ruby Life Master
David Johnson	Milledgeville	GA	Ruby Life Master
Walter Kerns	Gaithersburg	MD	Ruby Life Master
Zev Wajsman	Atlantic Beach	FL	Gold Life Master
Eric Branfman	Chevy Chase	MD	Sapphire Life Master
Lawrence Derito	Jupiter	FL	Sapphire Life Master
Robert Hale	Greensboro	NC	Diamond Life Master
Richard Logan	Diamondhead	MS	Emerald Life Master
Mel Norton	Burlington	ON	Emerald Life Master

**SCROLL DOWN FOR TWO-WEEK SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE REMAINS UNCHANGED.**

Please Support Your Local Club F2F Games

Limited Games \$ 4.50

Open Games \$ 4.75

All Times are Eastern (NY) Time Zone

SE Carolina Game & Lesson Schedule						SE Carolina Academy Al Smith Zoom + SharkBridge Register on SE Website
Open ^{ST-N} = Stacked Tables for N limited games						
		Morning	Early Afternoon		Evening	
Mon 15 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	
Tues 16 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	\$15 3:00 Eastern (NY) Time Defense 15.2.08 Trump Suit Preference Signals
Wed 17 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	David
Thurs 18 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	
Fri 19 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	David
Sat 20 Nov		10:45 0-500 11:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	No Games
Sun 21 Nov		10:45 0-500 11:00 Open ^{ST-1}	John	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	No Games
Mon 22 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	
Tues 23 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	
Wed 24 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Gloria	David
Thurs 25 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	Thanksgiving
Fri 26 Nov		10:00 0-500 10:15 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	David
Sat 27 Nov		10:45 0-500 11:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Ben	No Games
Sun 28 Nov		10:45 0-500 11:00 Open ^{ST-1}	John	1:45 0-500 2:00 Open ^{ST-1}	Al	No Games
Director Contact Information						
Al Smith		910-457-6674	se.carolina.bridge@gmail.com			
Anne Dickstein		843-209-8630	anneplaysbridge@hotmail.com			
Ben Reischer		703-593-6317	ben.reischer@gmail.com			
David Newcomer		478-361-8988	davidn640@yahoo.com			
Gloria Halstead		202-213-5672	howlerdemondeacon@gmail.com			
John Pieper		603-614-8065	keenebridgeclub@gmail.com			