



Welcome to new bridge players!

Greetings, and welcome to bridge! The Northern Virginia Bridge Association (NVBA) Board of Directors would like to welcome you to this marvelous game and our local community of bridge players. We are so glad that you have expressed an interest in learning to play bridge, and we hope you will continue your journey with us to have a lifetime of friends and fellowship around the card table.

Congratulations on taking the first steps to learn to play bridge. We hope you will enjoy your lessons and come to love the game as so many others have before you. We are glad you are here and look forward to seeing you at the bridge table!

Bridge can be played casually in the comfort of your home with friends and family, in clubs around the world, online and even on cruises! It is a clever game of thinking and strategy, but most importantly, of fellowship with other bridge players. Consider inviting your friends and family to learn bridge with you. Bridge is a game for everyone, and players of all ages are welcome!

As you progress with your lessons, you may wish to play in some games that are designated as “novice”. You will be able to learn and grow in a friendly, supportive environment while playing with your peers. There are also opportunities to play and learn online with special games designated for newer players.

NVBA – Northern Virginia Bridge Association

We hope that you will visit our Northern Virginia Bridge Association website at www.nvba.org.



It is full of helpful information about local clubs and opportunities to play and meet other bridge players.



NVBA has a weekly newsletter that highlights local bridge news and events happening in the area. You will receive this newsletter upon joining ACBL, however, if you would like to begin receiving the weekly newsletter right away, please send an email request to announcements@nvba.org.

NVBA offers frequent programs for newer players, sometimes including free lessons on Thursday evenings before our weekly unit game, as well as mentoring opportunities with more experienced players. We also offer a partnership program to help you find partners for our weekly unit game – see the NVBA website for information.

We want to support you any way we can! Please do not hesitate to reach out to other bridge players for help and guidance. We all started as a beginner, and most bridge players are happy to help.

ACBL – American Contract Bridge League – Join for free!

We invite you to become a member of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) www.acbl.org. When you join ACBL, you will automatically become a member of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association if you live within our geographical area. Best of all, you can join ACBL with a guest membership for free! <https://www.acbl.org/membership/>

The guest membership never expires and allows you to play in local club games and sectionals, as well as online! You can earn up to 20 Masterpoints as a guest member. You will receive four months of strategy tips to help you learn and grow as a bridge player. You can upgrade to full membership at a discount when you are ready and gain access to even more benefits.

As a guest member of ACBL, you will be eligible to earn Sapphire badges to recognize your own personal accomplishments! <https://www.acbl.org/sapphires/> This is a fun way to mark milestones such as playing in your first club game, bidding and making your first slam, and so much more.

The NVBA board is so pleased to welcome you into our bridge community! We look forward to meeting you. Please look for board members wearing our NVBA name tags at bridge games, and do not hesitate to come up and introduce yourself! We are so glad you are joining us, and we wish you great success and fun on your bridge journey!

The NVBA Board of Directors