

FAQs about On-Line Play at 7NTWorld

What is 7NTWorld?

7NTWorld is a group of local clubs banding together to provide a great virtual game experience for all of our players.

Who can play in 7NTWorld Virtual Club games?

The game has been created through BBO to serve the ‘regular’ patrons of local clubs. As long as you played at one of our clubs with the past year, you should be fine. The ACBL has a list of who has been playing at which clubs, and the roster of eligible players begins with the list of our recent masterpoint winners. If you’ve been away for a while (or didn’t win points at the Club in the last year), you can request us to place you on the roster, but the intent is to re-create the normal Club experience on-line, not to recruit outside players.

Must the players be ACBL members?

Yes. Each player in the virtual game must be an ACBL member; if you have not entered your ACBL number with BBO, you must do so before registering for the virtual Club game. (To do this, log on, click on “ACBL World”, and locate the blue tab that indicates “Update Your ACBL Number”.)

Why?

There are several reasons why players need to be ACBL members. BBO needs to identify you in some other way than through your screen name. You cannot receive masterpoints from ACBL without that link.

Additionally, the ACBL needs to affirm that you are a patron of a 7NTWorld club. And finally, stratification in these games is based upon your current masterpoint holding.

Do I get assigned a partner, or can I bring my regular partner?

You should bring your regular partner (or a new partner) to the game, assuming they are also ACBL members and have registered with BBO for on-line play. There is a partnership desk associated with each online game. If your regular partner isn’t registered with BBO, please recruit them to join you.

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Are robots used in the Club play?

Sometimes. Most of your opponents will be live people. Since they have all played at one of our 7NTWorld clubs, you probably know many of them. If we have a half table, we occasionally will fill in with robots, and sometimes we may substitute a robot for a player who dropped offline. Most of the time, we find real live players to substitute.

Can I earn regular ACBL masterpoints for playing at the Virtual Club?

Absolutely! Open pairs games at the Virtual Club award ACBL black points at the same rate as play at the physical Club location. The games are stratified according to the Masterpoint holdings of the registered pairs. Awards are (as at the Club) by stratification.

Okay, how many boards will we play?

A regular scheduled session will consist of 18 boards, depending upon the number of tables registered for the game. We may experiment with both shorter and longer games.

What's the pace of the game? How long is a session?

The game will be conducted at a pace of 6 minutes per board. You can expect to finish an 18 board session in approximately 2 hours.

What happens if I can't keep up?

The computer is keeping track of the time, and if the time runs out in a round, you will be taken directly to the next round (even in the middle of a hand). If that occurs, the computer will determine what would have occurred, and will assign a score. In the event the outcome is not determined, the computer will ask the presiding Director for a ruling, just as at the Club. But play will not be delayed if a table does not keep up a proper pace.

So, there is a Director?

Yes. Your on-line game Director will be one of us! Mostly we are there to help with movement, drop outs etc. Many of the “normal” director call, like revokes, insufficient bid etc. can’t happen online.

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How much does a session cost to play?

Most virtual games at the 7NTWorld cost \$6. BBO returns 80% of revenues collected to us to help keep all of our 7NTWorld clubs in business until the CoronaVirus has retreated. Your support is truly appreciated.

... and how do I pay?

Payment on BBO is made at registration time when you invite your partner and they accept your invitation. Payment is through the use of BridgeBase dollars (BB\$).

What are BridgeBase dollars (BB\$), and how do I get them?

BB\$ are simply credits that a player may purchase (through the BBO site). There several methods by which one can purchase BB\$ (credit card, PayPal, etc). Information can be found on the BBO site by clicking on the BB\$ tab at the top right of your screen (next to your name) after logging on.

What else is different about playing on-line?

There are several things that you should be aware of when playing online. The pace of play is a bit ‘brisker’ than at the club. While there remains a social aspect, it usually occurs after the hands in the current round are concluded. And we expect that if you can claim (or concede) the rest of the tricks, we ask that you do so promptly to keep the game moving. There is a “Claim” or “Concede” button on the screen when you are playing or defending a hand.

Additionally, players ‘self-Alert’ their artificial bids. Unlike the Club, where you Alert your partner’s bids, on-line we Alert our own bids and calls. You do this by entering the meaning of Alertable bids on the line provided when it is your turn to call; then hit the Alert button before actually entering the call you are making (bid, pass, double, or redouble). YOUR PARTNER WILL NOT SEE YOUR ALERTS. When you receive an Alert from an opponent, they are NOT CHEATING... remember, their partner cannot see their information to you.

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Chatting at the table is permitted (there is a message button available at the bottom of your screen), but anything you say to the Table is public information and can be seen by all parties. You are able to communicate privately with either or both opponents, but not privately to your partner.

And (fortunately, for the game Director) there is no Bridgemate upon which you can enter or approve wrong results. All results are recorded automatically, so you don't have to worry with checking the accuracy of the final results.

When should I expect to find games on-line?

We have a full schedule of online games. Morning games start at 10:10, Afternoon games at 12:50 and evening games at 7:10. In addition to Open games, we have many limited games for Novices, 299er, 499ers and a special mid-flight game for players up to 1500 points.

We will always have Open games every morning and afternoon. Most days have some limited games. We will be adding games as the demand indicates, so the schedule may change.

Check 7NTWorld.com for the latest information.

Remember that the scheduled games will not show up on the BBO website until 2 hours before the start of the game. Registration will be available at that time.

And where, exactly, do I pre-register for a game?

Log in to www.Bridgebase.com. Find the section for “Play or Watch Bridge” (blue stripe). Under “Featured Areas” (green stripe), click on “Virtual Clubs” then “ACBL North America”. Look for games identified as 7NTWorld. Click on the game to see details about the game or to send an Invitation to your partner for play in the event.

If you don't see the game listed, try clicking on “All Clubs” and searching for 7NTWorld.

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Hint: Unless you plan to pay for your partner, your registration will be pending until your partner also logs on and accepts your invitation to play. Please stay on-line until this occurs and you receive a confirmation that your entry has been completed. Once the registration is complete, you do NOT need to stay on-line. Please log back on 5-10 minutes before the game start time to make certain you have no connection issues.

Help! I'm BLOCKED!

This is an error from BBO indicating that one or both of you aren't in our online membership list. Send an email to help@7NTWorld.com, or message to VACB277178 on BBO with the details and we'll do our best to fix it promptly.

Hint: The further before game time you send the email, the better the chance we can get you into the game you're trying to sign up for. If everyone sends an email 2 minutes before game time, we most likely won't be able to add you until the next day's game.