

Daytona Metropolitan Bridge Club Mentoring Program

Our mentoring program is designed to match less experienced players with more experienced players. For simplicity, we will refer to the players as the “mentor” and the “mentee.” This program is a venue for the mentor to share your love of the game with a less experienced player and to be a part of the growth of bridge in our club. The future of our club depends on limited players staying involved, feeling comfortable at the table, and eventually moving to higher limit games. For the mentee, it is an opportunity to gain knowledge and confidence in your game while meeting new players and becoming more comfortable at the Club.

The basic program has a few simple guidelines:

The mentoring “coordinator” will match up partners via the sign up sheet. The official program will begin December 1 and last for 6 months.

Mentors don’t have to be life masters and mentees could be life masters. While primarily to help newer players, the mentoring program is intended to help players of all levels increase their success and satisfaction at the bridge table. Mentees can, and should when appropriate, also be mentors for less experienced players.

Mentors and mentees will commit to playing as partners at least once a month.

Both partners agree to set aside some time for informal discussions about specific hands, bidding, ethics and other issues. This time can be before or after a game, via E-Mail or telephone conversations.

Your mentoring partnership can play in any game for which both partners are eligible. (We are considering setting up a special “mentor” game.)

Regular game fees apply for both mentor and mentee and are paid individually.

Discussions/tutoring at the table should be MINIMAL and as a courtesy should include the opponents. The mentee should refrain from asking too many questions at the table. Instead, make a note and discuss later.

During your first meeting together, you should explore goals and priorities based on the desire of the mentee. These may change as time goes on, and you should review them again after the first few sessions. Some possible goals the mentee may be trying to reach in the program include:

- a) To mix and get to know more players
- b) To become more tournament savvy
- c) To learn and practice new conventions
- d) To solidify bidding understandings

- e) To learn play of the hand techniques
- f) To recognize their own weaknesses and gain new strengths
- g) To recognize their own strengths and receive encouragement
- h) To understand table etiquette and proper behavior
- i) To understand director rulings

In conclusion, as a mentor, you may realize that you do not have the knowledge required to be a mentor or that your personality does not mesh with that of your mentee; and as a mentee, you may realize that your mentor is not as helpful as you'd hoped or that your personality does not mesh with that of your mentor. Do understand that this is a short-term commitment, but if you wish, please contact the mentoring "coordinator" to help work out a solution.