

# Washington Bridge league

## Prepare to play duplicate

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You have taken a few bridge lessons, and you are going to your first tournament. Congratulations, and welcome to one of the greatest competitive games in the world. Here are a few things you need to know to prepare for your experience.

§ **First**, you need to decide which event to play in. There are two types of events that you can enter.

**Pairs:** You play with your partner against the other pairs in the field. Each result you have is compared against all other pairs in your event. Your objective is to maximize your score, or minimize your loss versus the other pairs sitting in your direction.

**Teams:** There are various names for team events. Knockout teams, swiss team, and round robin are three different kinds of team events. In team scoring, you play in a team of four, head to head against other teams of four. The score comparison is only against the one team you are playing against.

© **Next** you, and your partner need to prepare for your game.

**Preparation:** Try to have agreements as to what bids mean. The convention card is an excellent vehicle for reviewing common bidding situations. The more agreements you have with your partner, the more confident you will feel in your partnership. Similarly, having agreements about carding will help your defense immensely.

**Mistakes:** Everybody makes them. The best players, and the worst make them. Maintaining your composure after a bad result is critical. Similarly, not getting overly confident and careless after a good result is important. In the end, your score will be the result of all of the boards you play, not just one.

**Attitude:** Most successful players are able to maintain a positive attitude throughout the game. It does not help your partner play better when you criticize their actions, particularly if they don't work out well. Better to make a note, and discuss after the session. <sup>a</sup>

**Finally**, what should you do after the game?

**Results:** Results are posted immediately after the game. For a pair game, you can get a score for each hand. In team games, you can see how your team's score compared to others. You should check the score to see that your pair or team's score is captured correctly.

**Hand records:** After pair games, most times there will be a hand record. It is a one or two page record of all of the hands played. Take a hand record, and review it. Look at your good results, and figure out why you did well. Look at your poor results and figure out what you might have done differently.

**Mentor:** Try to find more experienced players to get advice from. Many of the better players are willing to talk to you about bridge, and answer some of your questions.

Do your best and enjoy. Happy playing!