



# TEACHERS' ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

**A Professional Development Plan**

*Revised (2015)*





## Background

The ABF Strategic Plan 2013-17 has as a goal (*number 5*) – *Demonstrate and support the highest standards in good administration.*

One of the objectives (*5.3*) is to ensure that bridge teachers are **highly skilled** and possess the necessary **interpersonal and communication skills**. To achieve this objective, the ABF will:

1. develop a National curriculum and a format for an accreditation program for bridge teachers; and
2. require teachers to adhere to the ABF values, in particular being:
  - a. *tolerant and respectful*
  - b. *fair and professional in all our dealings; and*
  - c. *being honest and acting with integrity.*

Responsibility to progress this item was assigned to the ABF National Teaching Coordinator and an estimated budget of \$5,000 was considered *appropriate*. The ABF approach to Objective 5.3 must be approved by the ABF Management Committee and responsibility for implementation rests with the ABF National Teaching Coordinator.

As part of this objective, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator will promote and develop a community of practice for bridge teachers whereby *learnings* and new initiatives will be shared around Australia. The objective is to continually improve the quality of teaching to the Australian bridge-playing community.

The ABF National Teaching Coordinator will also create an '*intelligence*' database so that '*learnings*' can be shared and so that we can better understand the needs/wants of our members. A culture of evaluating our activities is critical to achieving this outcome.

A commitment to best practice in teaching is also an excellent way for a club to improve retention rates from beginner classes and thus grow the sport in Australia.

## ABF Teacher Accreditation Program

The club teacher is perhaps the most important person in a student's introduction to our sport and to their development. This program will demonstrate that an ABF affiliated club's teaching program meets a recommended standard and set of criteria. It will ensure that club teachers have a solid foundation in bridge education, are innovative, use modern teaching techniques and materials and cater for the development needs of their members (*and potential members*).

For potential club members, having a club teacher who is accredited will demonstrate that the club has a proven commitment to high quality teaching, ensuring professionalism and adherence to ABF values.

The ABF will acknowledge such teachers with a **Certificate of Achievement in Teaching**. This will acknowledge that their practices are consistent with ABF approaches and that the club undertakes continuous quality assurance for all its teaching programs. The ABF will also present the teacher's



home club with a Certificate of Achievement In Teaching to acknowledge its commitment to best practice in teaching.

Essentially, an accredited teacher is one who has demonstrated that they:

- possess an advanced level of training and knowledge
- has experience in applying their skills and knowledge competently
- maintain an appropriate level of professional development
- adhere to the ethical standards of practice and to the ABF values; and
- are able to communicate effectively to develop skills and knowledge in their students.

A professional development program will allow teachers to publicise/ advertise to members and prospective members that they are conducting classes to appropriate standards and provide a benchmark for maintaining that competence.

The ABF will provide an online directory of its accredited teachers which will be updated regularly.

### **Accreditation of Bridge Teachers**

The ABF will provide Teacher Accreditation status to bridge teachers who accrue **65** points.

Completion of the current **2 day** (9 hour) ABF Teacher Training Program (*the how to teach*) conducted by the ABF National Teaching Coordinator is a **pre-requisite** for embarking on this professional development program. Successful completion of the ABF Teacher Training Program will guarantee a teacher **15** points towards accreditation. Subsequent to completing the TTP a teacher has 24 months to accrue the remaining 50 points required for accreditation.

For teachers who are unable to attend an ABF Teacher Training Program an on-line presentation will be made available (*this is currently under development*). Completion of a questionnaire from the on-line presentation will accrue **5** points. This presentation will cover STEAM and techniques for running student-centred classes using cards and/or deal records. This presentation is designed to enable teachers who are unable to attend a TTP (*eg remote location*) to have a taste of the recommended methodology for teaching bridge.

In some instances it is possible for teachers to accrue between 1 – 10 points in recognition of teaching activities prior to the completion of a Teacher Training Program. The decision to approve or decline allocation of points in recognition of prior learning rests solely with the ABF National Teaching Coordinator. Individual teachers should submit their claims for consideration to [alanamowb@hotmail.com](mailto:alanamowb@hotmail.com). The claim should provide an outline of activities including methodologies and materials used, level of student participation, retention rates and length of beginner course.

**Note:** ABF Teacher Accreditation status does not refer to the state of legally being able to conduct bridge classes. Rather it requires the demonstration of a certain level of competence.

### **Accreditation Points**

Points may be accrued in any of the following ways:



Activity	Comments	Points
Attendance at a Teacher Training Program ( <i>the how to teach</i> )	Must attend full 9 hours	15
On-line presentation of Teacher Training program – completion of questionnaire	Forward to <a href="mailto:alanamowb@hotmail.com">alanamowb@hotmail.com</a>  ( <b>Note:</b> Once only allocation of points regardless of how many times someone attends the workshop or does the on-line questionnaire.)	5
Beginner Course – Introduction to Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation sheets sought from all participants</li> <li>Provide an outline of the course structure, materials used and length of the program</li> </ul>	5 per course
Supervised play sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide curriculum</li> <li>Outline materials used</li> <li>Evaluation sheets sought from all participants</li> </ul>	5
Intermediate and Advanced workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Competitive Bidding – using ABF materials supplied at Continuing Professional Development workshop</li> <li>Evaluation sheets sought from all participants</li> <li>Other topics – to be agreed with ABF National Teaching Coordinator (<i>course outline and materials</i>) prior to introduction</li> </ul>	5
Participant – Continuing Professional Development Workshop (1 day) ( <i>the what to teach</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted by the ABF National Teaching Coordinator</li> </ul> ( <b>Note:</b> Once only allocation of points regardless of how many times someone attends the workshop or does the on-line questionnaire.)	10
Complete the Continuing professional Development Workshop on-line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the questionnaire and forward to <a href="mailto:alanamowb@hotmail.com">alanamowb@hotmail.com</a></li> </ul> ( <b>Note:</b> Once only allocation of points regardless of how many times someone attends the workshop or does the on-line questionnaire.)	5
Innovations in teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course content and materials used to be provided as ABF National Teaching Coordinator to decide if warrants allocation of points</li> <li>Evaluation sheets sought from all participants</li> </ul>	5

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and teachers can submit claims for activities they have conducted which they feel contribute to the goals of the program. The decision to approve or decline allocation of points rests solely with the ABF National Training Coordinator.

Teachers should submit their claims and evaluation sheets to [alanamowb@hotmail.com](mailto:alanamowb@hotmail.com) .



To retain accreditation status, a teacher must accrue a minimum of **20** accreditation points in every 24 month period.

Note: To achieve accreditation status a teacher must have conducted a **minimum** of **5** teaching 'assignments'.

### **The benefits of the ABF National Teachers' Accreditation Program**

There are many benefits associated with the implementation of an accreditation program for our teachers. These include:

- creating a standardised approach to teaching newcomers to our sport (*which should play a huge role in increasing the number of people who choose to continue from beginner classes to club membership*).
- the development of an 'intelligence' database which will enable the ABF National Teaching Coordinator to share information with all teachers and with the ABF National Marketing Officer so that we can better inform our 'recruitment' and 'retention' strategies and approaches.
- persuading many clubs and teachers to provide beginner classes of only 4-6 weeks duration – which is considered best practice.
- assisting teachers with a structured approach to the provision of 'help with play' sessions.
- providing teachers with materials and advice on how to advance people from beginner to intermediate play levels.

In addition, having teachers who are accredited will enable:

- i. the ABF National Teaching Coordinator to advise cruise companies of teachers who are accredited in Australia; and
- ii. the ABF and our State/Territory Associations to consider, when providing any marketing grants, whether a club has demonstrated a commitment to best practice in how it operates.