



## BridgeWhiz Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Agreement

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Agreement and Code of Conduct is to clearly and definitively communicate the ACBL Educational Foundation's commitment to ensuring the safety of its young players and volunteers and upholding the essence of the game of bridge – fair play. Thus, a comprehensive policy and agreement to protect youth from abuse is a necessary component to effectuate our goals of promoting a safe and secure environment for youth who participate and/or are involved in BridgeWhiz.

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### TEACHER AGREEMENTS

#### General Purpose Statement

The ACBL Educational Foundation is committed to promoting a safe and secure environment for the youth who participate and are involved in the BridgeWhiz program. By implementing this policy, ACBL Educational Foundation's goal is to protect youth from incidents of abuse, misconduct or inappropriate behavior as a direct result of participating in the BridgeWhiz program by creating good practices and communicating procedures. To this end, ACBL Educational Foundation requires all individuals involved with the BridgeWhiz program to indicate their acceptance of each practice and communication procedure listed below by checking each item.

#### ***Definitions***

The term “**youth**” includes all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years.

The term “**groups or members**” includes, but is not limited to persons and entities associated with the BridgeWhiz program:

- Persons with online contact to youth
- Persons having direct contact with youth at BridgeWhiz-endorsed events

## **Practices and Communicating Procedure Agreements**

- I agree not to share student email addresses or other contact information.
- When communicating with a BridgeWhiz class, I will use Bcc for email addresses.
- I will not initiate an email to a single BridgeWhiz student.
- I will not solicit BridgeWhiz students for any activity not related to BridgeWhiz.
- When responding to a student email, I will copy the student parent email.
- I will direct students to change their Zoom name to first name and last initial.
- I will direct students to log into Shark using first name and last initial.
- I will disable student-to-student chat in Zoom.
- I will record Zoom class and keep recording for 7 days.
- I will have an assistant in each Zoom and Shark session to monitor behavior.
- I will remove any student from class that is exhibiting abusive or disruptive behavior.
- When conducting class, I will not be critical of any student.
- I will not drive any BridgeWhiz student that is not a relative to a BridgeWhiz event.
- I will not come into contact in any way with any BridgeWhiz student that I am not related to.
- I will not sleep in the same room as a BridgeWhiz student that is not a relative.
- I will not have any sexually explicit communication with any BridgeWhiz student.

## **Zero Tolerance for Abuse of Youth**

The ACBL Educational Foundation has a zero-tolerance policy regarding abuse, misconduct or inappropriate behavior directed toward youth. Additionally, the ACBL Educational Foundation expects all groups and members to respond to youth with respect, consideration and equal treatment, regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, culture or socioeconomic status. Groups and members working with youth are expected to portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, patience and maturity. They are also to avoid any appearance of favoritism.



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## REPORTING PROCEDURES

### Reporting Requirements and Investigation

Groups or members, who observe or are otherwise made aware of suspicions, allegations, or actual abuse or violations of the guidelines set forth in this policy while at a BridgeWhiz-sponsored event, have the responsibility to report the inappropriate conduct in accordance with the guidelines set forth below.

- This duty to report applies regardless of the timing or location of the suspected abuse or the identity of the alleged abuser.
- When a group or member becomes aware of suspected, alleged, or actual abuse at a BridgeWhiz-sponsored event, it is important that the conduct be reported immediately. In the case of a face-to-face event, the report should be made to the Director-in-Charge (DIC) or the tournament sponsor, unless the suspected, alleged, or actual misconduct involves the DIC or tournament sponsor, in which case the report should be made to the ACBL Educational Foundation. Once the report is made, the DIC or the tournament sponsor should first determine if there is any immediate risk to the youth or ongoing inappropriate behavior and take steps to remedy the situation. If the circumstances involve potential illegal conduct or the youth is at risk of serious harm, the DIC or tournament sponsor should call 911 or law enforcement. Once the DIC or the tournament sponsor addresses immediate concerns, they should report the incident to the ACBL Educational Foundation. For online situations involving suspected, alleged, or actual abuse, the group or member should make a notification report to the ACBL Educational Foundation. If the circumstances involve potential illegal conduct or the youth is at risk of serious harm, the group or member should call 911 or law enforcement.
- Groups or members must report allegations of suspected abuse even if the individual or youth bringing the allegation asks for the information to be kept confidential. In addition to the group's or member's reporting requirements under this policy, many states require their citizens who are aware of suspected abuse of youth to make a report to the state.

Once a report is made, the ACBL Educational Foundation will take the steps necessary to ensure that any reports required by applicable law are made. Any BridgeWhiz member accused of perpetrating any incident of abuse will be removed from any further contact with youth at any program or activity and/or suspended until such time as any necessary investigations have been completed and it is determined that the abuse allegations are false or unsubstantiated.

**Contact For Reporting Suspected Abuse of Youth**

**Kristen Frederick**

*Executive Director*

American Contract Bridge Educational Foundation

(518) 466-7486

Kristen@ACBLEducationalFoundation.org

I hereby agree to adhere to the BridgeWhiz Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Agreement and Code of Conduct and agree to the ACBL Educational Foundation obtaining my consumer report. A consumer report is a background screening report that may contain information regarding your criminal history, driving history, and other information about you. It may bear upon your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and/or mode of living.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_