

**Esther discusses, "Where Do
ACBL Bridge Directors Come From?:
Director's Duties,
ACBL Director Licensure Requirements, and
ACBL Director's Test Procedures"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

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Some new or rising Players may be curious about "where ACBL Directors come from." Actually, any ACBL member can apply to be an ACBL Club-level licensed Director.

At various regional/national competitions ACBL hosts roughly day-long in-person training sessions to prepare Members to take the ACBL written exam to become a Director. Or, Members can complete ACBL on-line training. Or Members can simply read various ACBL publications, such as the ACBL Laws of Bridge, which are heavily emphasized on the exam. The exam also covers topics such as Mitchell and Howell movements, frequent Director rulings, and commands for the "ACBL Score" software.

Or, you *can not study at all*. One senior LifeMaster whom I know did not study at all for the exam, and still passed, partly because he knew a *ton* about duplicate bridge movements and rulings from his many years of play. Partly he also did not study because the exam is "open book!" During the exam you can consult *any* printed materials you wish, including materials you yourself have created, the Laws of Bridge book, and the ACBL Director's Handbook. And you can access anything available on

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

the Web during the exam.

The exam is slightly over 300 questions and includes a few fill-in-the-blank questions. Some such questions are highly technical, similar to, "How many MPs would be awarded to the 2nd place Pair in a 499er game with 5 Tables playing a Howell movement?" Also included are a few questions about directing bridge competitions *while on a cruise ship!* And the Passing Score is *lower* than the traditional cutoff of 70% or more correct. The passing score on the ACBL Director's Exam is **65%** or higher!

If you are interested in learning more about how ACBL MasterPoints are awarded, and how ACBL Directors structure duplicate bridge competition using various "movements" (e.g., Howell, Mitchell), go to:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/movement.pdf>