* 1. **JUNIOR BRIDGE**

**Who is a Junior?**In our minds, and in the way we act at the bridge table, many of us are juniors. However, there is an actual age limit. You are a junior up until and including the year you become 25 years old.

**History**  
Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation introduced the World Junior Championship for the Ortiz-Patiño Trophy in 1987 and when José Damiani became President of the WBF he continued the development of this sector by introducing a Schools Bridge Championship for the Damiani Cup for younger players, and later introduced a Pairs Championship and a Girls Team Championship for which Gianarrigo Rona presented the Rona Cup. These events are all held together in what is currently known as the World Youth Championships, held in the even numbered years.

The World Youth Open Bridge Championships were introduced in 2009.

World Bridge Federation is committed to the promotion of Youth Bridge, which it strongly believes represents the future of this wonderful sport. Because of this, it has been decided that a new series of Simultaneous Pairs events will be introduced, the money from which will be used specifically to assist the development of Youth Bridge. The WBF’s Youth Projects includes:

- better teaching aids for countries trying to encourage young players;  
- assistance for youngsters to attend World Championships;   
- special Simultaneous Pairs for schools;  
- other initiatives to encourage youngsters to learn bridge.

The Junior Category

Juniors play in several categories, just as seniors, women, and mixed. The international categories are U26, U26 Women, U21 and U16. In each category, there are teams and pairs competitions.

On the Local Level

The NBOs aims to help all clubs and individuals who want to start working with junior bridge. The main support comes in the form of material and resources, while the work effort must come from the local club and its members. Each club should arrange for juniors to meet, train, and develop in their own pace, and this is something that should happen as soon as there is one full table.

In the Cyber World

BBO, Funbridge and Synrey are some portals where you can play bridge on the Internet. For example, BBO has its own junior clubs. The access is very simple. You need your own pad, laptop, or smartphone, and you can learn, but also train and play bridge.

In 2018, WBF launched the 1st Youth Online Championships with 29 teams in U26 and 13 teams in U16. In 2019, the WBF launched the 2nd Youth Online Championships. The final rankings will determine the teams which will then be split into First and Second divisions. This means that starting from 2020 WBF will change the Format of the Championships to a League, with promotion and demotion.