

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

COURTESY: The Golden Rule of Bridge – always be courteous at the bridge table. This applies to how one relates to Partner, the Opponents and the Director when s/he is called.

We encourage all our members to comply with the following guidelines:

ARRIVAL TIME: You should arrive before 7:20 ; Play starts at 7:30. If you arrive after 7:20 you are late. It is unfair to the Tournament Director to have to change the movement to accommodate late arrivals.

BIDDING:

Always count your cards when you take them out of the board.

Announcements: You must announce your system before any bidding takes place, informing opponents of the strength of your No Trump and whether you play 4 or 5 card majors.

Silent Bidding: When the play commences, please use the bidding boxes. Talking is not permitted during the bidding.

Bidding Boxes may not be touched until you are ready to make a bid.

There must be no undue hesitation if the bid is Pass. Remember if you pause for an unduly long time you may silence your partner.

Don't bid after your partner has made an unduly long pause before passing, unless the bid you make is clearly permissible on your own hand. The onus will be on you to show that your partner's pause could not influence your bid.

Unauthorised Information from Partner: Any unauthorised information from partner includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwanted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.

Bid without emphasis. Don't vary the tone of your bidding -it should always be flat and unemphatic. Don't look at your partner during bidding. No facial expressions are permitted during bidding.

Remember to alert all bids which are not natural. It is the partner of the player who makes a conventional bid who puts out the alert card

clearly on the table (the Alerter). The Alerter should explain the partner's bid when asked by the opponents. The Opponents are entitled to a full explanation of the meaning of the bid.

You can only ask questions of the opponents bidding, when it is your turn to bid.

The player on lead is the only person who can ask for a recap of the bidding, until the lead is made.

Bidding cards: All bidding cards must be left on the table until after the first card is played.

DURING THE PLAY:

Leads: The opening lead must be placed, faced down on the table until declarer or your partner confirms you are correct in leading, after which you turn it over.

Play without emphasis. Don't vary the tone of your play-it should always be flat and unemphatic. Don't look at your partner during play. No facial expressions are permitted during play.

During the play, if all four cards are placed face down you cannot look back at the cards played **unless you are** the player on **lead** and then you can only look back at the **last card** you played, but only until the first card is played to the next trick.

Dummy: When Dummy, don't play any card however obvious until asked by partner.

When Dummy, don't look at opponents or partner's hand.

North's Role: It's North's responsibility to manage the table. Check that you have the correct boards and opponent's.

Input the contract correctly on the scoring unit and allow opponents to verify.

Slow Play puts pressure on everybody. Bridge is a timed event. The recommend playing time is 7.5 per board.

After the Play: Don't take the cards from the board when they have been returned to it after play.

Any disputes arising during the course of play should be referred to the Tournament Director.