

Bridge Etiquette

Bridge is played with a strict set of laws that must be followed. These were established to provide equity and fairness for all that play the game. The responsibilities for the results include the Director, the Players, the Declarer, the Dummy, and the Defenders. Those are:

Director:

- To maintain the technical management of the game, administer and interpret the laws of the game, rectify errors of procedure and maintain the progress of the game, and award penalties for improprieties of the game

Players:

- Be courteous and respectful to opponents and partner, don't complain, ask questions regarding the auction, meaning of calls and bids, lead agreements, carding agreements, and remain at the table until the director calls the movement
- Make calls at your turn, inquire as to the meaning of opponent calls, pay attention to proceedings
- Think and make calls before touching any card in the bidding box. Don't approach the bidding box until you are ready to act. Doing so can result in unauthorized information and result in a penalty
- Agree on the result of the play prior to returning cards to the board
- Let the director do his job
- Mentor a new player

Declarer:

- Play his/her hand and the dummy's, make correct calls from the dummy's hand, and make every effort to make the contract

Dummy:

-Act as the declarer's agent in the play of the dummy hand, warn the declarer from leading from the wrong hand, and inquire about a revoke

- The dummy may not on his own initiative, participate in the play of the hand, make any comment on the bidding or play, or draw attention to the score.

North:

-Insures the boards are correctly placed, each player has 13 cards, each player controls their own cards, and that hands are returned to the proper place in the board. (If East/West are stationary, East has that responsibilities)

-Score the hand and offer the opponents the chance to verify the results

Communications:

Non Verbal:

- Bridge is a game of nonverbal communications. All communications are done through calls (bids, passes, doubles, redoubles) that are made during the auctions.

Verbal:

Listen to the Director at all times. They give important information as to the movements and direction of boards. This is very important to keep the game on pace.

The Auction

- Calls are normally made through the cards in the bidding boxes
- Verbal questions regarding bidding can be made at your turn to call. This is done for clarification and to receive a full explanation of calls made by your opponents. (Not to provide unauthorized information to your partner).

After the Auction:

- During the play period the declarer or either defender may request such an explanation of opposing calls, and the declarer may request an explanation of defender's card play conventions.

-the declarer or either defender can ask what the contract is entitled to be informed of the final contract is , and whether, but not by whom, it was doubled or redoubled.

Unauthorized Information:

- Hovering over the bidding box. Think before you act.
- Holding a played card in a manner that may be distracting or may signal partner and give unauthorized information. Place the card on the table.
- Removing a card from your hand prior to your turn to play. This can alert the declarer or partner of hand distributions or expected lead. Don't do it!
- Placing your hand on the table
- Hesitation during the auction or play when it is misleading
- Talking about hands that have been played.

Other Improprieties:

- Hogging the table
- Slow play
- Lead before recording in the Bridge Pad or your score sheet
- Place dummy after the opening lead
- Not paying attention
- Acting as the director when an irregularity occurs