

Pittsburgh Bridge Association



Guidelines for behavior, Unit 142

The purposes of this document are

- To make the game more pleasant
- To educate players and directors about appropriate behavior
- To suggest alternatives to bad behavior
- To prescribe the procedure when bad behavior occurs

The unit hopes that common sense will be used in applying these guidelines to either your own behavior or your expectation of other players' behavior. The absence of a behavior from this document doesn't necessarily mean that it is acceptable. Unacceptable behavior is anything that makes bridge less enjoyable for others, including your partner.

Expected Behavior

- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
- Make a concerted effort to make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.
- Have a fully filled out convention card readily available to your opponents.
- Give credit when opponents make a good play or bid.
- Remain silent when you get a good result.

Unacceptable Behavior (Hint: if it makes bridge less enjoyable for the opponents, your partner, or yourself, don't do it!)

- Rude behavior and or rude comments
- Badgering, insinuations, profanity, threats of violence
- Negative comments concerning opponents' and/or partner's play or bidding.
- Objecting to a director call
- Arguing with a director's ruling. It is acceptable to politely ask the director to explain a ruling if you don't understand it, or if you disagree with it.

Alternatives to Bad Behavior

- If you inadvertently violate these guidelines ("in the heat of the moment"), stop the behavior and apologize immediately.
- If you feel that you must have a conversation with your partner, do it after the round, away from the table, and where others can't hear.

Remedies for Bad Behavior

- If you feel that a fellow player is in violation of these guidelines, call the director. Please do so in a polite manner. You may judge that it isn't necessary to call the director in the case of a single brief behavior immediately followed by an apology.
- Don't escalate the situation by commenting.
- No discussion of the behavior should occur by the opponents or partner unless the director is present.
- Players may file a recorder form if indicated and desired.
- If there is an extremely serious offense, a player may file a disciplinary complaint.

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Expected actions by the director

- If a director hears or sees undesirable behavior at the table, go to the table—do not wait to be called!
- Defuse the situation
- Determine what happened
- Give a matchpoint or IMP penalty if warranted (suggested penalty: ¼ board at matchpoints, 3 IMPS at teams)
- File a recorder form if warranted
- Fill in the “director” portion of a recorder form if one has been filed
- File a disciplinary complaint if warranted

If an offending player is on probation, immediately create written notes for yourself and notify the Disciplinary Chair or Unit President of the offense