

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

GENERAL POINTS RELATING TO CLUB GAMES

- A neat standard of dress is required.
- All games will start promptly at advertised times.
- Players should be seated five minutes before the game is due to start.
- Play can only start once the director instructs players to do so.
- Please give the Director your attention and follow instructions promptly.
- Players **SHOULD** call the Director whenever any irregularity occurs. This does not forfeit anyone's rights, whereas failure to do so may result in a penalty.

COURTESY

A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.

- Do not touch the bidding box until you have decided on your call. Toying with different bidding cards along the way may convey "unauthorized information" and restrict your partner's actions.
- If you are on lead, make the lead before writing the details in your scorer. This also applies if you are Dummy. Put the hand on the table before writing in your scorer so play can start without delay.
- Two aspects of your bidding need to be announced. For a 1 club opening you should state the minimum length e.g. "3 or more". For a 1NT opening state the point range e.g. "12-14". Any bids in your system which have special meanings generally require an "Alert". This is done by the partner of the bidder saying "Alert" and showing the Alert card. An explanation of an alerted bid is not required unless an opponent requests one.
- During the bidding you may ask an opponent for an explanation of a call made by their side only when it is your turn to call. You must ask the partner of the player who made the call, not the person who made the call. Avoid asking questions about the bidding while it is continuing unless you need the information in order to decide what your next call should be. If you do not have a call to make, keep quiet until the end of the auction.
- A player should not summon the Director in a manner discourteous to him/her or to other contestants.

BREACHES OF ETIQUETTE

The following are considered breaches of bridge etiquette:

- Taking a long time to think and then passing may cause your partner to have a serious problem. Although it is not illegal for you to think, it is illegal for your partner to take any inference from your hesitation; i.e. if you hesitate and pass your partner now has to make sure their own hand justifies any call.
- Commenting or acting during the auction or play so as to call attention to significant occurrence or to the number of tricks still required for success.
- Showing an obvious lack of further interest in a deal (as by folding one's cards).
- Varying the normal tempo of bidding or play for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent
- Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.

- The opening lead should always be made face down. This is to avoid making a lead out of turn. Once your partner agrees it is your turn to lead he/she may then ask the opposition any questions regarding their bidding. Bidding cards should remain on the table until the opening lead has been faced.
- Keep your voice even and gestures consistent when making bids or playing the hands. All play should be 'in tempo'. Do not slap your cards down, play slowly, sigh if partner does not play the card you want them to or make any unusual movements or facial expressions to get your point across. This is considered rude and could be unethical.

If you ever feel an opponent has acted improperly, what do you do?

The Nedlands Bridge Club has a Club Recorder. The role of the recorder is that of an "unofficial" mediator. The mediator is available for club members who feel that a breach of ethics or propriety has occurred but when it is not something so serious that a formal complaint needs to be made.

The current club recorder is Peter Holloway

See the document "Recorder" for details on the duties of the recorder and how to proceed if you feel there has been unethical behaviour.