

CODE OF CONDUCT AT BRIDGE

Play tough, be competitive, but be a good sport.

- Be pleasant to the opponents (and partner!). Welcome new opponents to your table. Don't conduct lengthy post-mortems.
- Don't stare at opponents, their cards, or where in their hand they play a card from.
- Slow players – make the effort to catch up; it's not fair to use more than your share of the clock, and finishing late disrupts the schedule. Claim if it's clear.

Make beginners welcome

- Make a special effort to explain your bidding.
- When claiming, state your line clearly and explain it if required. Less experienced players may not see it as quickly as you.
Tell the opponents what they need to know about your system
Provide two fully completed system cards
- Make every effort through alerts and explanations to tell your opponents what they need to know about your system.

No trickery, no tip-offs

- Don't tip partner off – and ignore partner's tips. Ethical players will try to avoid revealing mannerisms, and make a point of ignoring any information they accidentally get from partner's hesitations or mannerisms.
- Don't deceive the opponents by hesitations or mannerisms. If you accidentally hesitate without a problem, apologise: "sorry – I didn't have any reason to hesitate. I was asleep!"

Correct wrong explanations as soon as you can. If partner accidentally misinforms the opponents, **you can't give a correction during the bidding (because you mustn't tell partner the correct explanation).**

- If your **side becomes declarer, you *must* give the correct explanation *before* the opponents make their opening lead.**
- If your side ends up defending, apologise and give the correct explanation at the end of the hand. Call the director if opponents may have been damaged – that's why he's there!

Hesitations

- You are allowed to think! But if you do take a long time over something, it shows you had other choices. Your partner must not use that information to influence what they do later.
- If partner hesitates, you can still pass, double or bid whatever you want (but without – even subconsciously – using the knowledge that partner apparently had other options).

