

## Basic Rules of Bridge Etiquette

Please help us keep our games fun and comfortable for everyone. Below are some of the key rules highlighted by the ACBL. We should all adhere to these rules.

1. Don't discuss the hands until the round is over.  
This takes time and it is rude.
2. Don't give lessons to anyone at the table.  
If your opponent or partner wants to know what they did wrong or how to better play or bid a hand they will ask. If you must give your partner any lessons, please step away from the table or wait for your opponents to leave the table.
3. Be nice, smile.  
No matter how well or poorly you play bridge, you are an ambassador for the game. You can drive people away or you can make them love it. We need people.
4. Don't Gloat.  
Don't compliment yourself or your partner on a bid or the play of the hand until the opponent leaves the table. Also, don't thank the opponent for a good board or a trick you shouldn't get. This makes people feel bad and makes you look like a jerk.
5. Don't tell opponents or winners how lucky they are.  
Don't undermine their successes. You only make yourself look like a poor loser and a poor sport. Be gracious.
6. Learn not to get offended when a director is called on you.  
This is part of the game. The director is there to protect everyone and especially the integrity of the game.
7. Keep your voice even and the gestures consistent when making bids or playing the hands.  
Don't snap your cards or make any unusual movements to get your point across. Be ethical.
8. When on lead against a contract, first make your lead and then record the contract on your scorecard. Same thing for dummy – first lay your hand down and then record the contract.
9. Help the director.  
His/Her job is tough enough without your adding to their problems. And, don't make decisions that the director should be making, even if you know the rule.
10. Avoid touching the bidding box until you are ready to make your bid.
11. Avoid taking a card out of your hand before it is your turn.
12. Avoid asking opponents what a simple bid means after it is NOT alerted.
13. If your table is running late for the next round, please help the game run smoothly by passing boards you have finished playing to the table behind you.