

Bridge Proprieties

An accepted code of bridge etiquette and bridge ethics has come together over the decades in which the game has been played. While there are penalties for a breach of ethics, the game is most enjoyable if everyone looks after his or her own ethics. Intentional violations of bridge proprieties are dishonest and subject to penalty, but also important are the minor breaches that destroy the social nature of the game.

Always maintain a courteous attitude to everyone, partner, opponents, director, kibitzers and teammates.

Do not express displeasure or satisfaction at a lead, play, bid, double or any other call partner makes.

Always make sure that any conventional bids used by you and your partner are alerted and clearly explained to the opponents when questioned. Make sure your convention card is correctly filled in, legible and available to your opponents.

Do not look to see the place in his hand from which another player pulls a card in playing, nor draw inferences from them.

Always make bids and plays in tempo -- without special emphasis or inflection of the voice or method of playing the bidding cards that would give partner information on the nature of your hand

Do not draw any inference from the fact that partner has hesitated, or has bid with any special emphasis or inflection of the voice.

Always make sure that you announce skip bids before making them, and that you pause at least the recommended time after a skip bid, while looking interested. Clearly counting the seconds or looking bored while waiting after a skip bid is a very serious breach of ethics.

Do not hesitate, either in the bidding or in the play, in order to deceive the opponents.

Always claim to speed up the play if you are certain that all the tricks are yours and there is no doubt whatsoever as to how many tricks each side is going to make.

Do not prepare to lead to a trick before the previous trick is completed. Do not play early.

ALWAYS call the director at the first sign of an irregularity. Never make your own rulings.
For Duplicate players

NEVER FAIL to exercise active ethics and full disclosure. Keep your (filled-out) convention cards available for your opponents. *For Duplicate players*

But it is not your duty to call attention to your own breach of law, such as a revoke made by you or your partner.

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