

Orange Bridge Club

Etiquette, Procedures and Laws

Newsletter No 1

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It is in the best interests of everyone at the club for all members to follow the appropriate etiquette, procedure and rules at the bridge table. In order to promote consistency in following the protocols of Bridge, particularly for new players, we hope to progressively cover a range of topics through this newsletter and on our website.

We sincerely hope you will take the time to read through the information. If there is any point you do not understand, please ask a director to clarify it for you.

It may take a while to get used to some of the procedures but please do persevere as they will soon become second nature. It will be OK for everyone at the table to remind each other over the next few months until we get used to following these protocols which will benefit all members and the game itself.

The Director

The Director is there to see that a smooth, on-time game is played. S/he selects the movement likely to provide the maximum opportunity to play as many of the opponents and boards as possible.

The Director is also there to enforce the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge and to ensure that equity is restored when an irregularity occurs. Anyone can make a mistake and it is then the Director's job to rule accordingly so that the non-offending side is not disadvantaged by an error made by an opponent. It would be courteous for all players when calling the Director, to request "Director please" in a pleasant manner. The Director's role is not to be a judge, but instead, one who establishes a level playing field after an irregularity has occurred.

You may call the director to your table, even if you are not sure an infringement has occurred, to clarify a concern. However, dummy should not initiate a call for the Director during play, unless attention has been drawn to an irregularity by another player. Dummy can only draw attention to an irregularity after the play has concluded.

Calling the Director to your table to clarify a concern is another way of

learning the rules. You also have the right of appeal after the session has finished if you are not satisfied that equity has been restored.

Asking & Replying to Bidding Questions

When asking the meaning of a bid, the proper method is to ask “What is your agreement?” or “What do you understand by that bid?” To ask, “Is that a weak two?” or “Is that a strong bid?” runs the risk of conveying unauthorised information. (You could be reminding the opponent about an agreement s/he may have overlooked.)

Sometimes we explain incorrectly.

If the DECLARING side has erred in explaining, declarer or dummy must correct the explanation prior to the opening lead. If the DEFENDING side has erred, the defenders must wait until the completion of the hand and then correct the explanation. The Director may adjust the score to restore equity if s/he determines that the incorrect explanation by the defenders materially affected the line of play declarer chose.

Making the Opening Lead

You may check with partner that it is your turn to make the opening lead.

If you want to ask any questions about the bidding before the opening lead is played, you must ask for an explanation of the whole sequence not just one bid. Then the opening lead should be made face down. Do not turn it over until partner has accepted it.

Partner may also want to ask questions before dummy is displayed and this must be done before the opening lead is displayed. In providing information about the complete sequence of bidding, only Declarer gives the explanation.

