

# Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc.

## Code of Conduct

Playing bridge should always be enjoyable and adhering to the laws of bridge is essential. However, we must go further than that. Courteous behaviour is an important part of our enjoyment of bridge.

This Code of Conduct describes examples of behaviour that is considered unacceptable at the bridge table or at the bridge club. Such unacceptable behaviour may incur sanctions from the TBA Committee.

We also include descriptions of behaviour that we expect from all players. Such behaviour ensures courteous, enjoyable and considerate interaction at the bridge table.

### **Unacceptable behaviour at the bridge table that may result in sanctions**

- Arguing or raising voices with partners, opponents, Directors or officials.
- Being rude, sarcastic, belittling, insinuating, intimidating, profane, threatening or violent.
- Excessive or loud talking during the bidding or play of the hand.
- Negative and/or sarcastic comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table. However, if someone asks for help, it is acceptable to offer suggestions.
- Conduct that is less than polite.
- Criticising your partner or your opponents in public.
- Gloating over good results.
- Objecting to a call for the Director.
- To dispute or argue about a Director's ruling. You may appeal if you consider a ruling to be wrong, but do not argue the case at the table or at subsequent tables.
- Any loud or disruptive behaviour.
- Snapping or slamming cards on the table, or any other emphatic play of the cards that is designed to stress a point.

### **Unacceptable behaviour that may result in sanctions**

Such behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- Harassment or badgering.
- Disturbance of the peace.
- Unwelcome jokes, innuendo or teasing about a person's looks, body, attire, age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation

- Condescending, patronising or threatening actions that undermine self-esteem and/or diminish performance.
- Coercive behaviour by someone perceived by the player to be in authority, where a player's status is threatened, or rewards are given or promised.
- Practical jokes that cause awkwardness or embarrassment or may endanger a person's safety or negatively affect their performance.
- Unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching.
- Unwelcome requests or invitations.
- Any form of bullying.
- Any behaviour that brings Tasmanian Bridge or the game of bridge into disrepute.
- Postings on social media or email messages that involve any of the above negative actions.

### **Best Behaviour and Expectations at the Bridge Table**

Bridge should always be enjoyable and courteous behaviour is an exceptionally important part of that enjoyment.

- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to the start of play of each round.
- Be a good "host" or "guest" at the table.
- Make the necessary effort to make bridge enjoyable for yourself, your partner and your opponents.
- Be aware that discussions relating to the play of the hand, tricks won, score must be quiet enough that it can't be heard at an adjacent table.
- Give credit when your opponent's make a good bid or play.
- Avoid the use of language that others may find offensive or even socially unacceptable.
- Ensure that your mobile phone or any other type of communication device is switched off.
- Enjoy the company as well as the game.
- Try not to do anything that might annoy anyone or stop whatever it is if anyone suggests that you are annoying them.
- Take care to summon and address the Director in a courteous manner.

### **Behavioural Penalties**

- Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks, inappropriate language or any other conduct that might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by **Law 74A**.

The TBA is aware that almost all Players naturally follow this Code of Conduct

- **Law 91A** gives the Director the authority to assess and impose disciplinary penalties. These may include immediate disciplinary penalties and, if a further violation is incurred at the same event, suspension or disqualification from future competition in that event.

## Officials of TBA

- Officials must undertake their activities with integrity and with the interests of Tasmanian Bridge and the game of bridge in mind.
- All officials must take utmost care to be completely objective in their judgement and in any recommendations that they give, so that issues are never influenced by anything other than the best and proper interests of bridge in Tasmania.
- Officers and committee members must respect confidentiality and must not share personal or sensitive information.

## Harassment:

Conduct that is insulting, abusive, intimidating, humiliating or offensive.

Harassment is totally unacceptable throughout any session, including occurrences:

- before play, during play, during breaks and after play;
- in the clubrooms, on the grounds of or in the near vicinity.

## Badgering:

To question, criticise or pester someone **repeatedly**. It is irrelevant whether the matter is important or not irrespective of the purpose of the action.

Such conduct is egregious and disgraceful if the aim includes a self-serving benefit, e.g. the enjoyment of seeing the recipient angry, upset, distressed or embarrassed.

Badgering is totally unacceptable, including occurrences:

- before play, during play, during breaks and after play;
- in clubrooms, on the grounds of or in the near vicinity.

For this definition, the word "repeatedly" can refer to historic interaction between the individuals concerned.

Where there is a "history" of disagreement between the individuals, all involved must carefully avoid any action that could aggravate the encounter. If the individuals find it difficult to be cordial, silence is recommended.

## Disturbance of the peace:

Interruption of the peace, quiet and general good order during the playing of bridge by inconsiderate behaviour that continues despite requests to desist from such behaviour.