

Bridge Etiquette

(Friday Mini-Lesson - 14 June 2019)

- Do you count your cards before you look at them?
Each player counts his/her cards face down to be sure he/she has exactly thirteen cards.
- Do you alert your bids?
You should warn the opponents, by saying "alert" when your partner has made a bid that requires alerting. You do not give any other information at this stage. An opponent may ask, at his/her turn to bid, the meaning of the alerted call. You are then bound to give a full explanation.
- Do you call the director whenever something goes wrong?
It's the proper procedure, and the director will advise you of relevant rulings. The director is there to keep things equitable.
- Do you agree on the number of tricks before packing up your cards at the end of the play of the hand?
A player should not disturb the order of his/her played cards until agreement has been reached on the number of tricks won by all players at the table. A player who fails to comply with the provisions of this can jeopardize their right to claim ownership of doubtful tricks or to claim (or deny) a revoke.
- Do you keep to the time limit?
There is a certain amount of time per hand, and it's not fair to constantly be slow. Don't take too much time. At the Brisbane Bridge Centre, on average, 6 minutes is allowed per board plus 1 minute for moving between tables.
- Do you leave the discussion of a hand to the end of the session?
Discussing a hand played earlier might be a hand your opponents may not have played. You may be giving them an insight into what they should do.
- When entering or verifying the Bridgемate, do you check that the data (i.e. contract, declarer and tricks) was entered correctly for each board?
Incorrect scores may not be 'caught' until after the session when it may be too late to correct. It is best to check carefully at the time of entering/verifying the result for each board.

- Do you make appropriate comments when looking at the results in the Bridgemate from the other tables on a particular board?
You are welcome to praise your opponents when they receive a good score. However, it's best not to comment on your successes, which are also the opponents' failures. Saying things like: "Oh that's a top partner" is very bad manners.

Lesson prepared by Chris Larter. Based on material from the ABF Website (www.abf.com.au/education/tactics/). For personal use only - not for duplication or dissemination.