

We provide these notes for players so that we can all have a better understanding of the correct procedure and etiquette for playing bridge.

Procedure and Etiquette

- Count your cards before looking at them.
- Adopt a consistent style and tempo with your bidding and your play.
- No information should be conveyed to your partner during bidding or play by way of gestures, mannerisms or hesitations.
- When making an opening lead put your card face down first.
- Agree on the number of tricks before collecting your cards.
- Do not discuss the hands until the round has ended. Any discussion should be very quiet to help keep the noise level down.

Calling the Director

- Call the Director whenever an irregularity has occurred or is thought to have occurred.
- Do not touch the cards or take any other action until the Director arrives.
- Accept the Director's ruling with grace.
- Inform the Director if you consider the ruling to be incorrect or unfair. You will be advised about the correct procedure for appealing

Alerting and Questioning

- Do not alert your own bids.
- Be aware of the situations where you will be expected to alert.
- When asked about your partner's bid give a full and frank explanation.
- You may ask about a bid ONLY when it is your turn to bid or play.
- Avoid asking questions if you have no intention of bidding.

Hesitations

If you hesitate and then pass, your partner is NOT prevented from bidding. However, it may compromise your partner's position ethically because subsequent bids and play by your partner will be expected to be normal and not influenced by your hesitation.

Announcements

Players are required to make an announcement whenever their partner opens the bidding with 1♣ Club or 1NT.

All announcements should be made in a consistent manner using the prescribed terminology. Alternative designations are not permitted.

1. Announcements required after a 1♣ opening:

- a. For Natural-type systems (e.g. Acol or Standard), the appropriate minimum length of the club suit (i.e. "1+", "2+", "3+", "4+", etc.)
- b. For Strong Club systems (e.g. Precision or Mosquito), the word "strong" together with the minimum HCP holding (i.e. "16+" etc.)
- c. For system options other than those above (e.g. Polish 1♣ which has multiple meanings), the word "unusual" should be used.

2. Announcements required after a natural 1NT opening:

- a. The appropriate HCP range (e.g. "12-14" or "15-17" etc.)

Using the Club Recorder

The South Perth Bridge Club has a Club Recorder. The role of the Recorder is that of an "unofficial" mediator. Club members who feel that a breach of ethics or propriety has occurred but

when it is not something so serious that a formal complaint needs to be made can contact the Club Recorder. Roles and contact details of the Club Recorder can be found in the “club recorder.pdf” document listed in the Document menu.

Regulations

The Laws for Duplicate Bridge are available on the World Bridge Federation web site. Also refer to the Club Championship Regulations section.