

CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CLUB ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

(following guidelines adopted by the ACBL)

The ultimate purpose of the ZeroTolerance policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our games. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good “host” or “guest” at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents’ or partner’s play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game are specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

The Procedures

The following procedures have been given to directors for implementation.

1. At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.
2. The director, when called, shall make an assessment of the situation. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board minimum disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board!). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our games.

3. If it is determined that the same offender is responsible for a second offense in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event. No masterpoints will be awarded, and no refunds will be made. All previously-obtained results shall, however, remain valid as to their effect upon other competitors. In the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the club and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate. Consistent responses to infractions should be implemented.

4. Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.

5. In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision but could recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee. While not all clubs are expected to have a committee in this area, some larger clubs have standing Conduct and Ethics Committees, or such items may be heard a by the Board of Directors. A club should also be aware of procedures applicable to Club Discipline Issues as spelled out in Chapter IV of the ACBL Handbook, especially in regards to probation or suspension from the club.

6. The Director shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Board of Directors and/or the club recorder. A log of all infractions shall be kept at the club. All directors who share the space will be kept informed.