

CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CLUB ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY
(following guidelines adopted by the ACBL)

The ultimate purpose of the Zero Tolerance policy is to create a pleasant atmosphere in our games. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge 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.
- Playing at a consistent tempo, avoiding delays within and between hands.
- Respecting the limitations of other players – physical and otherwise.
- When leaving a table, not leaving anything behind – especially trash.
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)
- Consistently observing duplicate procedures: counting one’s cards before looking at them, checking that the correct boards are being played, carefully entering and verifying contracts in the BridgeMates. (These are also regulations.)

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

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, raised voices, threats or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents’ or partner’s play or bidding. Politely calling attention to a possible mistake is not a violation, although it is generally discouraged.
- Constant unrequested lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing
- Repeated slow play or delaying tactics, after being warned.
- Any other avoidable behavior that disrupts, or significantly delays, a game.

This policy does not deal with any form of cheating. Allegations of cheating fall under different rules, and are handled by the Discipline Committee.

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 ACBL Law 74. ACBL Law 91 gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

If the director of a game violates this policy, it can be reported to any member of the Board of Directors, and will be addressed by the Board or an appropriate committee thereof.

The Procedures

The following procedures have been given to directors for implementation.

1. This policy shall always be posted on a bulletin board at the club, and published on its website.
2. From time to time at the start of an event, the director shall make an announcement that the club 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.
3. The director, when called for a behavior issue or upon disruption of the game, shall make an assessment of the situation. If it is established that there was significant 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 up to 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).
4. 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, the Board of Directors (or a committee thereof) may be convened to determine whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
5. Warnings are 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.
6. In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty (or not) may be appealed to the Board of Directors. The Board may not overturn the director's decision, but can recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. The club is aware of procedures applicable to Club Discipline Issues as spelled out in Chapter IV, section H, of the ACBL Handbook, especially in regards to probation or suspension from the club.
7. The Director shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Board of Directors. A log of all infractions shall be kept at the club. All clubs and directors in the Unit will be informed of each report.