

Bridge Tournament Etiquette

- When checking the Bridgemates, take some time. Each detail needs to be confirmed in your mind. A casual verification of an incorrect score can affect the final outcome to a surprising extent.
- Bridge is a timed event, it has to be. Nobody is entitled to more time than anybody else. Serial offenders may well find they receive a procedural penalty
- Calling a tournament director is not an act of hostility as some players think, but is in general the best way to avoid a problem. Just do so in a civilised way.
- Ensure that the players at nearby tables do not hear your conversation about a board. If this happens, they cannot play the board because of unauthorised information and are awarded a 60% score while the culprits are penalised.
- North is required to deliver the boards to the next table. Which means you must not go to collect the boards you are about to play as you might see the hands.
- When you alert Partner's call, the next player in bidding rotation is entitled to ask you for an explanation. Give a full explanation. To offer a name is generally a poor idea. For example, to say: "That's a Bergen raise" overlooks the fact that players choose to assign different points ranges to different bids.
- Make sure you agree the number of tricks made before returning your cards to the board at the end of a hand.
- Observe correct procedures, such as leading face-down at trick one, and leaving the bidding cards on the table until there are no further questions about the auction.
- Keep the board that is in play in the middle of the table (or as close to that as is practical), to avoid a mis-board.
- Some bids are announced, rather than alerted. Here is the list of announcements:
 1. NT range for openings and rebids
 2. Transfers
 3. Weak 2's
 4. Multi
 5. Jump overcalls – weak or strong
 6. Minor suit openings that only promise 2 or fewer cards
- Any bids over the level of 3NT (except opening bids) are not alerted, but lower cues (below the level of 3NT) have to be alerted.
- If you hesitate discernibly, you compromise your partner (although this does not mean Partner is automatically barred from bidding or doubling). However, your hesitation might lead to an adjusted score.

- The stop card is no longer used, but the mandatory 10-second pause is still required after a jump in the auction.
- When a Howell movement is being used, the movement card must be noted with care. Check the Bridgmate before you start the round, and again at the end of the round to see where you move to next.
- Doubles are not alerted