

ACBL Unit 547

Zero Tolerance Policy

(June 2024)

Bridge Unit 547, the Ventura Unit, is a Zero Tolerance Policy Unit. We expect common sense behavior and respect toward every person and toward the rules and ethics of the game.

Discourtesy must be avoided. Players should treat the director, their partners, and their opponents with respect. Players may communicate only by appropriate use of the bidding box. They should do nothing to otherwise receive or convey information about a hand. In fact, they should actively avoid extraneous communication.

In case of disputes, please understand that, at the table, the director's decision is final. The director may impose immediate sanctions. Post-game appeal procedures exist for some infractions, but for the duration of the game, the director's decision is final. The director will notify the players immediately if they have a right to appeal. (Clearly defined matters of law, like revokes or behavior-related penalties, are not appealable.) Players wishing to appeal must notify the director before the completion of the final round. The director will appoint a committee to meet, hear testimony, and adjudicate the matter.

In the case of behavior-related offenses, the director may also choose to report the incident to the Unit Board. Or a player with first-hand knowledge of the incident may also report it to the Board. The Board/Ethics Committee will then investigate and determine what action to take. If the Committee finds that the inappropriate behavior is extreme, and/or if the player has a history of similar incidents of inappropriate behavior, the Board may put the player on probation or suspend the player.

For more information please visit the ACBL website ethics section:

<https://www.acbl.org/ethics/#policies>

Please note that the purpose of zero tolerance is to make the game pleasant and enjoyable for everyone.



Zero Tolerance

for

Unacceptable Behavior



The primary reason newer players leave the game of duplicate bridge is bad behavior. Zero Tolerance for Unacceptable Behavior started in Units 166, 246 and 249 in southern Ontario during the 1990s to combat this type of behavior.

These are some of the guidelines for Zero Tolerance:

Expected Behavior

Anything that makes bridge more enjoyable for others

1. Greeting others in a friendly manner at the start of each round.
2. Being a good “host” or “guest” at the table.
3. Making two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents.
4. Doing *EVERYTHING* possible to make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and the opponents.
5. Giving credit when the opponents make a good bid or play.

Unacceptable Behavior

Anything that makes bridge less enjoyable for others

1. Publicly criticizing partner or the opponents or giving unasked for lessons.
2. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, profanity, threats or violence.
3. Negative comments concerning the opponents' or partner's bidding or play.
4. Gloating over good results.
5. Objecting to a call for the director.
6. Loud and disruptive arguing about a director's ruling.



It is understood there might be a natural reluctance to complain about fellow players. Should unacceptable behavior occur, call the director and simply state, "The player is interfering with my enjoyment of the game." This conduct is specifically prohibited by [Law 74A1](#) in the [Laws of Duplicate Bridge](#).

Many Bridge Organizations Have Adopted Zero Tolerance With the Following Guidelines

- ◆ First Offense – a procedural penalty of $\frac{1}{4}$ board or 3 IMPs in team games.
- ◆ Second Offense – ejection from the game.