

Ten Basic Rules of Bridge Etiquette

1. Be nice, smile. No matter how good or poor you play bridge, you are an Ambassador for the game. You can drive people away or you can make them love it. We need people.
2. Don't Gloat. Don't compliment yourself or your partner on a bid or the play of the hand until the opponent leaves the table. Also, don't thank the opponent for a good board or a trick you shouldn't get. This makes people feel bad and makes you look like a jerk.
3. Don't give lessons to anyone at the table. If your opponent or partner wants to know what they did wrong or how to better play or bid a hand they will ask.
4. Don't tell opponents or winners how lucky they are. Don't undermine their successes. You only make yourself look like a poor loser and a poor sport. Be gracious.
5. Learn not to get offended when a director is called on you. This is part of the game. The director is there to protect everyone and especially the integrity of the game.
6. Keep your voice even and the gestures consistent when making bids or playing the hands. Don't snap your cards or make any unusual movements to get your point across. Be ethical.
7. When on lead against a contract, LEAD and then write down the contract on your scorecard. Same thing for dummy, lay your hand down and then write down the contract.
8. Don't discuss the hands until the round is over. This takes time like #7 and it is rude.
9. Help the director. His/Her job is tough enough without you adding to their problems.
10. Don't make decisions that the director should be making, even if you know the rule.

"If you can't say something nice, Don't say anything at all" - Thumper -
11. Use care with the stop card.
12. Avoid covering posted scores with your hand at a tournament after a session.
13. Avoid playing with the bidding box.
14. If you tank on a singleton, etc. simply state that you don't have a problem with this trick.
15. Avoid taking a card out of your hand before it is your turn.
16. Avoid asking opponents what a simple bid means after it is NOT alerted.