

System Cards

Although you may only play at Club level it is wise for both partners to have a systematically identical system card. These provide details on your basic system along with any conventions you may play as well as the meanings of your leads, signals and discards. These should be left on the side table throughout the round so that your opponents can consult them. You are not permitted to consult your own system card during the hand.

Filling out system cards together is also an excellent way for you and your partner to fine-tune the system you play.

"Director Please"

Duplicate Bridge does have rules. The rules ensure that the game is fair for everyone. Along your bridge journey you will learn about certain rules which will help you with the game but this does not qualify you to make rulings at the table. Please act in the best interests of all concerned and politely call the Director to your table if you think there has been an irregularity. Never be intimidated when the Director is called for something you may have done. It has happened to all of us. A good Director will assess the situation and present a solution in a manner that doesn't embarrass or offend anyone. As in other sports, players do not always agree with the rulings. Accept the ruling with grace and move on. Remember that the Director is there to protect your interests and those of the opponents.

About North Shore Bridge Club

We are a friendly, inclusive Bridge Club with a large Online and Face to Face community. We have a great teaching program, from the complete beginner to intermediate bridge lessons - both face to face and online.

We are not for profit and pride ourselves in supporting the community.

Thank you Partner

Bridge is only as friendly as the players and it is as important to be a good partner as well as a good opponent. Introduce yourself and your partner to the opponents at the start of each round. Always say "thank you Partner" when they put dummy on the table and wish everyone good luck before you start the game. Don't get upset about a bad result and never criticise your partner at the table. Good partnerships of long standing will discuss difficult hands and situations in private after the game.

Don't give lessons

Do not offer up gratuitous advice on how the hand should have been bid or played. If your opponent or partner wishes to know, they will ask.

Where are they?

It is unfair and discourteous to keep players waiting. When the round change is called move to the next table as quickly and quietly as you can. Failing to do so takes valuable playing time from the next round.



Venues



2b Carlyle Road, East Lindfield



325A Eastern Valley Way, Middle Cove, Chatswood



www.northshore.bridge-club.org/RealBridgeSessions



www.northshore.bridge-club.org

Arriving at the Table

Whilst you wait for the game to commence introduce yourself to the other players, inform them of what system you play, complete the table slip. The table number where you start will generally be your pair number for the session.

Personal Scorer

Collect this before you sit at the table, if you are on Lead, make the Lead before writing the details in your scorer. This also applies if you are dummy. Put the hand on the table before writing in your scorer so play can start without delay.

The Boards

North is in control of the Boards. Place one board at a time on the table ensuring it is facing in the correct direction. As mistakes do happen, every player should take an interest in this to minimise errors. Players should not remove their cards from the board until all players are at the table. It is your responsibility to count your cards, face down, and ensure you have 13. Immediately call the Director if you have less or more. Once you have finished playing the hand and agreed on the score, shuffle your cards before putting them back in the board. East/West are responsible for moving the boards to the next table at the end of the round.

Bidding Pads

The Bidding Pad or Bidding Box is simply a substitute for talking out loud. Do not touch the Bidding Pad or Box until you have decided on your call. Indecisiveness on a bid may convey “unauthorised information”; and restrict your partner’s actions according to laws 1681 and 73C.

Announcements and Alerts

The Partner of the Bidder makes the announcement or alert along with any explanation. Two aspects of your bidding system need to be “announced” whenever they occur. For a 1C Opening, you should state the minimum length. e.g. “three or more.” For a 1NT opening state the point range e.g. “15 - 17”. Any bids in your system which have special meaning require an “alert”. This is done by the Partner of the Bidder saying “alert” and circling the bid on the bidding pad or showing the Alert Card if bidding boxes are being used. An explanation of an alerted bid is not required unless the opponents request one. As an opponent do not feel obliged to enquire each time a bid is alerted as you can always ask for a full review later.

Questions, Questions

During the bidding you may ask an opponent for an explanation of a call made by their side only when it is your turn to call. You must ask the partner of the player who made the call, not the person who has made the call. Avoid asking questions about the bidding while it is continuing unless you need the information to decide what your next call should be. If you do not have a call to make, keep quiet until the end of the auction.

Hesitation

Taking a long time to think and then passing may cause your partner to have a serious problem. Although it is not illegal for you to think, it is illegal for your partner to take inference from your hesitation. E.g. if you hesitate and pass, your partner now has to ensure that their own hand justifies any call with the exception of pass, they may subsequently make. If their hand does not justify the call then the Director will probably be called and an adjusted score may be awarded to the opposition. It is also considered a breach of ethics to hesitate before playing a singleton.

Opening Lead

The opening Lead should always be made face down. This is to avoid making a lead out of turn. Once your partner agrees that it is your lead, he/she may then ask the opposition any questions regarding their bidding.

Claim if you can

If you are declarer and you can see all the remaining tricks are yours, claim them rather than continue playing the hand. This saves time for those difficult hands when you may need more thinking time. **Remember if you do claim that you must clearly state your line of play.** E.g. “Drawing trumps and then the rest are mine” or “Giving you the Ace of Clubs” etc. Once a claim has been made all play stops, if, as defender you do not agree with the claim do not say anything about your hand and do not request that the hand be played out. Call the Director.

Dummy is just that

You must not play any card from Dummy until Declarer has called for it. Keep your hands in your lap or away from the cards.

Be consistent

Keep your voice even and gestures consistent when making bids or playing the hands. All play should be “in tempo”. Do not slap your cards down, play slowly, sigh if partner doesn’t play the card you want them to or make any unusual movements or facial expressions to get your point across. This is considered rude and could be unethical.

Don’t Gloat - don’t Argue

It is acceptable to compliment your partner or the opposition on a well-played hand but leave it at that. Any other comments should be kept between you and your partner and not discussed until away from the table. It is also extremely uncomfortable for the opposition to hear you berating your partner. Top bridge players discuss hands, they rarely apportion blame and certainly never at the table. *No post mortems please.*

Keep your voice down

Being subjected to constant chatter from neighbouring tables can be extremely annoying particularly if you are playing a difficult hand. If you cannot help yourself from discussing hands at the end of the round you must do so quietly. If the table next to you hears that on a board coming to them in the next round 7NT is unbiddable but makeable then ethically they must report this to the director and they are now prevented from playing that board. If you offending this manner you will receive a warning on the first occasion and the Director may award a procedural penalty for any subsequent offence.

Try our online Bridge

Play from anywhere, multiple sessions per day, using the Realbridge Platform you can see and hear your Partner and Opponents. It is fun, friendly, convenient, and a great tool to improve your bridge and connect with friends around the world. Visit our website to see all of our session times.