



ETIQUETTE

Play Nice – The Law
Charlotte Bridge Association
July 2018

(Don't forget to check out the QUIZ - link at the end of email).

This month the Charlotte Bridge Association's etiquette newsletter will focus on a difficult, often misunderstood topic – [Zero Tolerance](#).

- The Zero Tolerance policy was first implemented in 1998 in national-level tournaments. All CBA games adhere to this policy.
- [Zero Tolerance eliminates “warning” systems, and provides concrete procedures for directors to follow when assigning a penalty for bad behavior \(i.e. ¼ of a board in a pairs game, 3imps in a team game, etc.\)](#)
- Zero Tolerance is intended to address EXTREMELY bad behavior. While we don't see this type of thing very often at CBA, it can come up from time to time.

The ACBL specifically references these behaviors:

- o Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.
- o Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- o Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- o Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

• ACBL Laws 81, 90, and 91 also give the director the power to assess penalties as he sees fit, for offenses such as obstructing the game, blatantly violating correct game procedure, or severely inconveniencing other players.

The overarching theme here is to try to put yourself in your peers' shoes before making comments, faces, or engaging in behavior that may result in another player feeling degraded or disrespected. We are not trying to scare you! These procedures are for the worst-case

scenario situations.

The main points CBA players should be on the lookout for are:

- **Gratuitous comments**
- **Unnecessary remarks**
- **Bullying/intimidation**
- **Gloating**

Bridge can certainly get each of us riled up from time to time; very few people could deny that. **Beware of how your words and actions are coming across to your peers – and on the flipside, try to dole out compliments when you see fit!** More examples of inappropriate behaviors will be covered in the coming months.

For anyone interested, here is the link to the Zero Tolerance document produced by the ACBL: [Zero Tolerance document](#).

Check out this month's [QUIZ](#).

