

Zero Tolerance Policy

ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy (restated by Ken to apply to club games)

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our NABCs. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. If a player behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. Examples of unacceptable behavior include:

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

The following steps constitute director's procedures for dealing with

1. The director, when called, shall make an assessment of the situation. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our Club.
2. If it is determined that the same offender is responsible for a second offense in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. All previously-obtained results shall, however,

remain valid as to their effect upon other competitors. In the case of a serious offense or in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a session,

3. Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are subject to Zero Tolerance penalties.
4. In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed to the Board of Directors. An appeal may not overturn the director's decision, but could recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the Board may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may take further action.
5. The director shall report of all behavioral penalties to the Board of Directors.

Proposed Zero Tolerance procedures for the Lexington Club

The purpose of the Zero Tolerance policy is to create a pleasant atmosphere at our Club. We hope to eliminate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

1. Upon determining that a party has demonstrated offensive behavior during play, the game director should take the player aside and, in even tones, state: Your behavior is out of line and I am issuing your only warning. Please settle down to avoid making me impose a penalty.
2. If the offending party persists in offensive behavior, the game director should again take the player aside state that such behavior will entail a procedural penalty of a $\frac{1}{4}$ board (3 points in team games) deducted from that session's playing score. The director should further inform the offender(s) that they will be on probation for the next 30 days and, if such behavior recurs, it will result in a 30-day suspension from play at the Club.
3. The game director should make note of steps 1 and 2 in the directors' log and report the incident to the Board of Directors. Pending the outcome of Steps 1 and 2 above, the director may make a recommendation to the Board that the offending party receive a 30-day suspension.
4. If, within the 30-day probationary period, the player again demonstrates offensive behavior, the director shall take the player aside and inform them of their behavior and the fact that it automatically triggers a 30-day suspension from play at the Club.
5. Upon returning to play, if the same player again demonstrates what the director deems to be offensive behavior, it will result in a one-year suspension from play at the Club.