

# Hastings Bridge Club – Ethics and Etiquette Policy

## INTRODUCTION

The Committee at Hastings Bridge Club is committed to improving player behaviour at all times. In accordance with Laws 73, 74, 80B, 81, 90, 91 and 92 (Laws of Duplicate Bridge) the following policy outlines what is expected of all players on Club playing sessions, and at tournaments sponsored by the club. This policy should be read in conjunction with Hastings Bridge Club Ethics and Etiquette Reference Document; which provides details of what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

## PURPOSE

The ultimate purpose of this Ethics and Etiquette policy is to ensure that bridge is played fairly, within the spirit and the letter of the Laws, and in a pleasant and friendly environment at our club. The Committee wants to:

- Improve the understanding of and adherence to Laws 73 (Communication) and 74 (Conduct and Etiquette) by all of our members.
- Eradicate unacceptable behaviour in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

## FOCUS AREAS

This policy will have three focus areas.

**EDUCATION:** To improve the understanding of all our members regarding the detailed clauses of Laws 73 and 74. This will include:

- The production of the Hastings Bridge Club Ethics and Etiquette Reference Document.
- Provision of lessons on what are, and how to deal with, infractions of Laws 73 and 74.
- Encouraging all members to call the director whenever they perceive an infraction of Laws 73 and 74 may have occurred.

**DIRECTORS:** To ensure that our directors are strongly supported by the committee in all rulings they make at the table regarding infractions of Law 73 and in particular of Law 74.

**MEDIATION:** Recognising that it may be embarrassing to highlight infractions of Law 74 at the table; a mediator will be appointed to whom incidents of perceived bad behaviour can be reported. Information provided to the mediator will be treated seriously and will be dealt with in a confidential and timely fashion with all concerned.

## IN GENERAL – GOOD BEHAVIOUR

The following are examples of the types of good behaviours the Committee is seeking to promote:

- Having a clearly completed systems card available at all times when playing

- Bidding and playing in a consistent manner – actively refraining from any mannerisms, comments or body language that could pass unauthorised information to your partner
- Being a good “host” or “guest” at the table
- Greeting others in a friendly manner
- Remaining pleasant and courteous to everyone at the table throughout the set of boards being played
- Praising the bidding and play of opponents

#### IN GENERAL – BAD BEHAVIOUR

The following is a list of behaviours that will not be tolerated:

- Bidding or playing with undue or un-necessary emphasis that is intended to convey additional (and unauthorised) information to one’s partner.
- 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 a director’s ruling

#### ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES BY DIRECTORS

Our directors have been instructed to enforce the Ethics and Etiquette Policy as follows

##### **For infractions of Law 73.**

If opponents are damaged: by awarding an adjusted or assigned score under the provisions of Laws 16 and 12C

##### **For infractions of Law 74.**

The director, when called, will assess the situation. If it is established that there was unacceptable behaviour an immediate  $\frac{1}{4}$  board disciplinary penalty (3 IMPS in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders: this may be one, some, or all players at the table. (Penalties are cumulative. If both partners are assessed for a penalty then  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$  board penalty –  $\frac{1}{2}$  board penalty will apply). Retaliatory action will also be regarded as an offence and will attract immediate penalties.

The Committee will encourage Directors to apply immediate penalties rather than issue warnings.

If it is determined that a second offence has occurred during the same session or tournament, or that a serious offence has occurred, then the Committee expects that Directors will apply the penalties allowed under Law 91 which may result in offender(s) being banned from any further part in the session or tournament.

Directors are asked to inform the Committee of penalties assessed taken under the Laws in response to infractions of Law 74. This should be done in writing – using the form attached. Directors can expect the full support of the committee.

For serious infractions, or repeated infractions over a period of time, the Committee may choose to take further action against the offender(s).

#### FOR ISSUES BROUGHT TO NOTICE OF THE MEDIATOR

The mediator will investigate the complaint by speaking with all the people concerned; attempting to reach a position where all involved parties have an opportunity to assess for themselves whether they might employ different behaviour and/or reactions at the table in the future. This will be a confidential process.

#### MEDIATOR OR RECORDER?

The mediator's role does not replace the role of the recorder. The mediator will provide a mechanism by which complaints about perceived poor behaviour may be dealt with in a confidential manner without an official record of the complaint being kept. Members should still bring matters to the attention of the Recorder if they wish their issue or complaint to be officially recorded and dealt with formally.

#### REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee and updated as necessary

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This construction of this policy and the wording used in this document owes much to the work of Wellington Bridge Club in introducing and documenting their Zero Tolerance Policy 2001.

**Hastings Bridge Club**  
**Law 74 Infraction – Directors Report**

**Date:**        /    /

**Session**

**Details of Infraction**

**Details of Penalties**

**Director**

**Signature**

