

# BASIC GUIDE FOR PLAY

All members (new and experienced) should be trying to develop good Bridge habits. So please pay attention to the following points.

- Cards should not be taken out of the board until 3 players are at the table.
- If you are the Dealer, start bidding as soon as possible. Nobody can do anything until you do.
- When using the bidding box, decide what your bid is going to be before reaching for or touching cards in the bidding box.
- If your partner makes a bid that has a special meaning in your partnership you are required to Alert this by displaying and announcing the 'Alert' card.  
*(Bridge is not a game of secret messages; the auction belongs to everyone at the table. Simply naming a convention is not sufficient. If they desire it, your opponents are entitled to know every system agreement you have.)*
- When an Alert is given, do not ASSUME. Make sure you know when to clarify an explanation or a failure to Alert. Do not ask for information unless it is your turn to call or play. Do not ask for information unless you are intending to bid. It is unethical to question an opponent on any facet of the auction if you have NO INTENTION of bidding. You may ask at the end of the auction.
- When you are making the opening lead, play your card face down as soon as possible and wait for your partner's agreement before turning it face up.  
*(NOTE:- Play of the cards should take precedence over any other action.)*
- Don't put the bidding cards away until after the lead has been made to the first trick and all questions have been answered.
- From the lead of the first card Dummy may not speak, except to draw Declarer's attention to the fact that s/he is about to lead from the wrong hand or ask if s/he is out of the suit played.
- Dummy may call a Director **after** the hand has been played if s/he has observed some infraction during play.
- Once declarer has played or nominated a card from dummy, it must be played. Only the defenders can request play from the correct hand.
- If the lead to the final board has not been made by the time the warning bell sounds, the Director should be called, and may award an adjusted score or ask you to play it during a break.
- Make sure you agree on the number of tricks before gathering your cards at the end of play.
- Please shuffle your cards before returning them to the board.
- Wait until the game is over for post-mortems - **if you must have them** - and speak softly and generally, so as not to be overheard at other tables. For example, "I only had 7 points." - gives information to others as it means you cannot have both the missing aces.

**NOTE:- More complete guides are available on the website and should be read thoroughly to fully understand and adopt the correct modes of play.**