

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 and get your table money/vouchers ready. Complete the table money form with your name, bridge number and method of payment. North to ensure that all parts of the table money forms are completed correctly. Once you have been allocated a table number, make a note of your pair number.

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 your hand on the table **before** writing in your scorer so play can start without delay.

The Boards

At FBC, North is in control of the boards. Place one board at a time in the centre of 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 must 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. Call the Director immediately 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 correct position in the board. East/West are responsible for moving the boards to the next table at the end of the round. During play you are not allowed, without permission, to touch or handle your opponents cards. If necessary ask your opponent to show you a particular card.

Bidding Boxes

The Bidding Box is simply a substitute for bidding out loud. The box should be kept to the right hand side of each player on their side table. Do not touch the bidding cards until you have decided on your call. Toying with different

bidding cards may convey “Unauthorised Information” and restrict your partner’s actions according to Laws 16B1 and 73C.

Opening lead

The opening lead must always be made face down. This is to avoid making a Lead out of turn. Once your partner agrees it is your turn to lead, he/she may then ask the opposition any questions regarding their bidding. **Bidding cards must remain on the table until the opening lead has been faced.** When you are making the initial lead or playing to the first trick, play your card before entering details in Bridgемate. It saves time and is a courtesy to the other three people at the table.

Bidding, Announcements & Alerts

Do not make any comments during bidding.

The partner of the bidder makes the announcement or alert along with any explanation.

When explaining your partner’s bid it is very important that you avoid such expressions as: “I am taking it as...” or “I think it is...”. This gives your partner “unauthorised” information. So you can only 1) Explain the agreement 2) say that you do not know as it has not been discussed Two aspects of your bidding system must be “announced” whenever they occur. For a 1 Club opening you should state the minimum length e.g. 3 or more. For a 1NT opening state the point range e.g. 12-14. Any bids in your system which have special meanings generally require an “Alert”. This is done by the partner of the bidder saying “Alert” and showing the Alert card. An explanation of the Alert is not required unless an opponent requests one. As an opponent, don’t feel obliged to enquire each time a bid is alerted as you can always ask for a full review later.

On Play Generally

As declarer, do not call for a card in dummy until LHO has played. Do not remove a card from your hand before it is your turn to play. Any player has the right to inspect a

quitted trick (trick turned face over) until either s/he or partner has played to a subsequent trick.

Hesitation

Taking a long time to think 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 any inference from your hesitation i.e. if you hesitate and pass your partner now has to make sure their own hand justifies any call they subsequently make, with the exception of Pass. If their hand does not justify their 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 during the play of the hand to hesitate before playing a singleton.

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 where you may need a bit more thinking time. *Remember, if you do claim you must clearly state your line of play. 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 when it is Dummy’s turn. Even if it is a singleton. Keep your hands in your lap or away from the cards. Dummy is not entitled to call the Director when there has been an infraction of the law or other problem during play. Dummy may not draw declarer’s attention to anything except if they are about to lead from the wrong hand or ask if he s/he is out of a suit played. Dummy may however, call the Director after the hand has been played out.

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.

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. In other words **keep your voice down!**



FREMANTLE BRIDGE CLUB

ETIQUETTE

Be Courteous at all times

**Thank your partner and thank the
Director**

**Enjoy the magnificent game of
bridge!**



**NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THIS IS
JUST A WONDERFUL GAME TO BE
COURTEOUSLY PLAYED AND ENJOYED BY
ALL**