

Zero Tolerance Policy

Adopted by Fargo Duplicate Bridge Club Board October 11, 2023

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our Club. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table

Greeting others in a friendly manner

Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents

Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety)

The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence

Negative comments concerning opponent's or partner's play or bidding

Constant and gratuitous lessons and analysis at the table

Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling

If a player at the table 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. The following procedures have been given to the directors for implementation.

At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament/game will be observing ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.

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 the tournament/game.

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 future competition in 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 offence and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament/game, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine

whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament/game and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.

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 punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.

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. An appeals committee 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 committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee.

The DIC shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Tournament Chair/Club President/and or recorder.