



Bridge Topic of the Week

# HESITATION

- Hesitation is not an infraction in itself. An infraction occurs when their partner is influenced by the hesitation in the action they take.
- Hesitation generally reduces the options available to partner. They may not take any action that is suggested by the hesitation where other logical alternatives to that action exist.



## Bridge Topic of the Week

# DUMMY

- Dummy can attempt to stop Declarer committing an infraction, but cannot be the first to call attention to an infraction once committed.
- For example, if Declarer plays from the wrong hand by either calling for a card from Dummy, or playing incorrectly from their own hand, Dummy must not draw attention to this, as the infraction has occurred.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **MORE ON DUMMY**

- Dummy should not play a card until Declarer has called for it. This applies even when the card to play is obvious, for example, when Dummy has a singleton in the suit led.
- Dummy should only touch the cards when playing a card nominated by Declarer, or to reorganise them. Dummy should not move the cards to fill a space created by a suit void, as this is disruptive to Declarer and Defenders.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## COUNT YOUR CARDS

- Players should count their cards before looking at them.
- If missing or extra cards are discovered once play commences, affected players can be disadvantaged. For example, a missing card is deemed to be part of the hand at all times, and a revoke may have occurred.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## OPENING LEAD

- The player on lead (Declarer's LHO) should select their opening lead, and place it face down on the table in front of them. Their partner should then acknowledge that it can be faced. This minimises the possibility of making an opening lead from the wrong hand.
- Once placed on the table, the card cannot be changed without the Director's consent, even though it may not have been faced.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## REVOKE

- When attention is drawn to a revoke, the Director should be called. They will determine whether it is established or not.
- If the revoke is established, the Director will determine rectification after the play of the hand is completed. There are statutory trick adjustments laid down in the laws that cannot be reduced, but the Director can award more tricks to the non-offenders if more damage has been caused by the revoke.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## PENALTY CARDS

- Whenever a card, other than the card being played, is accidentally or intentionally exposed by a defender, it becomes a penalty card. The Director must be called when this occurs.
- Whether it is a minor or major penalty card will be determined by the Director. Player obligations differ depending which it is, and the Director will inform the table of everyone's rights and obligations.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **CALL THE DIRECTOR**

- Whenever an infraction occurs at the table, you must call the Director.
- Players cannot make their own rulings. If they do, the Director has the right to have players forfeit rights to rectification they would otherwise have had.





Bridge Topic of the Week

## **CLAIM BY DECLARER**

- When a claim is made by Declarer, they must state their proposed line of play. This should make mention of any outstanding trumps (e.g. "drawing trumps"), and how they plan to travel between hands if relevant.
- A careless or incomplete claim may cost you tricks that you would otherwise make.
- Claims should be made where possible - it is discourteous to continue play when the outcome is certain.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **CONCESSION BY DEFENDER**

- When a concession is made by a Defender, their partner may dispute it. The director must be called, but the concession can be withdrawn and play can continue.
- Any comments made by the player in making the concession, or any cards exposed in this process, remain as Unauthorised Information to their partner.
- The Director should be called if this happens.
- You cannot concede a trick that you can not lose.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **REMOVING AND REPLACING CARDS**

- Cards should not be removed from the board until at least one player from each side is present.
- This also applies to a sit-out pair – they must not remove the cards from boards on the sit-out table.
- Cards must be shuffled before being returned to the board.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **QUESTIONS DURING THE AUCTION**

- During the auction, at your turn to bid, you may ask questions about any part of the opponent's auction. It is unwise to ask about a specific part of the auction, as this may convey unauthorised information to your partner.
- It is prudent not to ask questions unless the answer affects your call. Showing seemingly unwarranted interest in an opponent's call, particularly an alerted one, may pass unauthorised information to partner.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **RECORDING RESULTS**

- When you're on opening lead, your first priority after the auction is to make the opening lead. This should be done before entering the contract into the Bridgемate or writing on your personal scorer.
- The same applies to dummy – after the opening lead is faced, spread your hand before doing anything else.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## WHEN IS A CARD PLAYED?

- For a Defender, a card is played when it could have been seen by their partner. It doesn't matter whether or not partner did see it, nor does it matter if Declarer saw it.
- For Declarer, a card is played when it is placed on or near the table in the played position. It doesn't matter whether or not a Defender has seen it.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **MIS-INFORMATION**

- If your partner makes an incorrect explanation during the auction, say nothing at the time, but:
  - (a) If your side ends up Declaring, you advise the table before the opening lead is selected;
  - (b) If your side ends up as Defenders, advise the table at the completion of play of the hand.
- The director should be called if either side may have suffered damage.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **EXPLANATIONS**

- When explaining a bid, explain it fully. Don't just state the convention name.
- For example, don't just explain a Michael's bid as "Michaels". State "Michaels, showing 5/5 in the other major and a minor, less than an opening hand".
- Don't explain your partner's bid unless asked by an opponent.





Bridge Topic of the Week

## **ASKING ABOUT A REVOKE**

- Dummy may ask Declarer about a possible revoke.
- Either Defender may ask their partner about a possible revoke.
- The usual form is “No spades, partner?”
- It is not necessary for a player, when showing out, to state “having none”, and can indeed be irksome to the opponents.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **DECEPTION**

- You cannot attempt to deceive an opponent except in your bids and cards played.
- This includes things like deliberating for a few seconds before playing a singleton to make an opponent think you have a choice of cards to play, or hesitating when an opponent is finessing through you in order to make them think you have the missing honour.
- Bridge is not poker – bluffing is not allowed!