

# GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT

August 2023

## Preamble

The Statement of Purposes of Geelong Bridge Club Inc was adopted by GBC Members in January 2010 and approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria in February 2010 as part of GBC's approval as an incorporated association.

Two of these purposes are:

- To provide a congenial, fair, competitive and actively ethical environment that is conducive to bridge participation, excellence and enjoyment at all levels;
- To ensure that members and visitors are received with friendly hospitality and that all participants extend respectful and courteous behaviour towards their opponents, partners and officials at the table and in the premises at all times.

The Committee emphasises to members that, while the first purpose provides for competitive play in accordance with the Laws of Bridge, the second purpose is equally important. Serious competitive play can and should be conducted in a harmonious, non-aggressive manner respectful of all players and directors.

## Code of Good Conduct

The Committee has adopted the following principles and actions as guidelines to the behavior expected of all members and visitors:

- be polite and courteous to all players, your partner and the director at all times
- greet your opponents in a friendly manner promptly on arrival at the table
- especially welcome new players and visitors
- encourage inexperienced players and show them patience and understanding
- before calling the director, explain politely to your opponents why you are about to do so and calmly call 'Director Please'
- when the Director is called to your table, avoid using loud, aggressive, accusatory or smug language [Remember it is not 'what you say' but 'how you say it']
- always respect the Director's authority, rulings and instructions. If you disagree, talk quietly to the Director later and away from the table and lodge an appeal if you wish
- play in tempo with the clock and respect the 3-minute warning bell
- avoid deliberate mannerisms that may unsettle opponents
- have a completed system card on the table.

Other good habits include:

- acknowledge your opponents' good play; do not gloat in your own successes or opponents' errors
- avoid criticism of your partner during the session: a quiet, private review after play is much better
- don't discuss hands between boards: lengthy post-mortems delay play and risk that they may convey unauthorized information to players at nearby tables (to their detriment)
- avoid giving gratuitous advice especially to less experienced opponents: they may find this confusing, belittling and unwelcome.
- tidy up around your table and the room at the end of play.

If you get it wrong:

- If you do the wrong thing, say sorry immediately and resolve (to yourself) to do better next time. Serious or repeated violations of this Code may result in remedial or disciplinary action
- Bridge is a game for all to enjoy. Sometimes this means holding back or not reacting to something out of line. If there is a Rules infraction, call the Director (politely). If you are affected by poor conduct, talk to the Director later. For most other things, just smile and move on.
- However, bullying and derogatory comments are not acceptable – EVER. If you see it happening or experience this yourself, talk to the Director.

*Acknowledgement: Based on the Club Rules at Waverley Bridge Club.*