

Excessive or Loud Discussions During Play

We've had some recent concerns with excessive or loud discussions during play or during the round while others are still playing. While the club understands that it is quite normal to have a certain amount of conversation at the table, there does come a point where it become excessive or too loud. Because of this, we find it necessary to reiterate the standing rules in this regard and to establish standing rules which the Directors will follow in response to these types of incidents.

Please understand, the goal is not to run games in a "library-like" fashion. We would like members and guests to enjoy the game, which often includes quiet, polite conversation, so long as it does not slow down the game, or interfere with others. Discussions of the hands prior to the end of one's round should be avoided, however, since they may often be overheard by adjacent tables.

The following procedure should be followed by players and Directors.

1. If you find conversation at your table or another table to be too loud or excessive, the only appropriate response is to call the Director. It is absolutely inappropriate to respond directly to the situation, however, one polite request to curb excessive conversation at one's own table will be considered appropriate.
2. When called, the Director will issue a polite warning to the offending party.
3. If the problem persists or recurs, the Director must be called again.
4. If, in the opinion of the Director, the problem has persisted or recurred, the Director will issue a $\frac{1}{4}$ Board penalty to the offending pair.
5. As clearly stated in the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy, retaliatory behavior is just as punishable as the initiating behavior, therefore, players who take matters into their own hand will receive the appropriate warning or penalty, as well.
6. Frivolous or retaliatory complaints about other players' reasonable conversations will be addressed as such by the Director.

Remember, it is possible to play our game, have normal discussions, and even joke around a little without disturbing other tables. If we keep this in mind, we can ensure that everybody can enjoy good competition and fellowship during the game.