

# Ethics Policy and Procedures

## San Luis Obispo Duplicate Bridge Club

### Policy

Actively ethical bridge players do everything they can within the scope of the game to defeat their opponent at the bridge table while making that experience an otherwise enjoyable one for them. A primary objective of the SLODBC is to try to instill in all players the concept that vigorous efforts should be made to insure equity and enjoyment are benchmarks of Bridge.

Every player should strive to make sure that opponents have in no way been harmed through incomplete or misleading information as to the meanings of his pair's convention calls and treatments. An active approach along these lines by all of our members will do much to make sure that Bridge remains the game we all enjoy so much.

### Principle of Full Disclosure

The philosophy of active ethics tells us that winners should be determined solely by skill, flair and normal playing luck. Actively ethical partnerships take pains to ensure that their opponents are fully informed. A major tenet of active ethics is the principle of full disclosure. This means that all information available to your partnership must be made available to your opponents.

As an example, we can look at weak two bids from the point of view of full disclosure. When an established partnership opens a weak two bid, they have a great deal of information of which their opponents are not aware. Their convention card discloses the point range, but usually little else. However, the partners are aware of the range of hands on which the bid can be made (discipline?, suit quality requirements?, five-or-seven card suits allowed?, side four-card major ok?, void ok?, positional variations?, etc). Full disclosure requires that all these inferences, restrictions and tendencies be made known to any opponent who inquires about their style.

If members are interested in knowing these things about their opponent's bid, merely say to the bidder's partner, "Would you tell me more about your style?" Members may use the style inquiry' to ask about any call your opponent makes.

The actively ethical player will often go beyond what is technically required in volunteering information to the opponents. Quite often, the declaring side in an actively ethical partnership will volunteer such information before the opening lead is made. (But remember, when there has been misinformation given, such as a failure to alert or a mis-alert, there is a LEGAL obligation on the player whose partner misinformed the opponents. He, the bidder, must give the opponents the correct information at the end of the auction if his side is the declaring side or at the end of the play if his side is defending.)

New players or infrequent partnerships usually will not have understandings about the items discussed above and it will be perfectly proper for them to reply "We have no agreement as to style."

### Social Behavior

Active ethics enables players to compete on equal terms. In addition, the actively ethical player contributes to the enjoyment of all players by continuously striving to maintain a courteous attitude toward both his opponents and his partner and by avoiding any behavior that would make anyone uncomfortable. These social attributes are VITAL to the game of bridge and duplicate bridge.

## Slow play

Failure to finish on time is distressing to waiting players. Bridge is a timed event. If a member takes more than their share of the allotted time for each round, they are inconveniencing their fellow competitors, as well as gaining an unfair advantage over them. When a pair has fallen behind it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not.

The actively ethical player makes a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. All members are expected to exhibit this good habit.

Remember: Slow play is subject to penalty, and the penalties are well earned when slow pairs disrupt the normal progression of the game. Additionally, players should be available to start each subsequent round promptly, avoiding wherever possible, being late to a table for non-bridge reasons.

At the discretion of the Director, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary or procedural.

## Statement on Conventions

Members playing at SLODBC games must have convention charts which lists those conventions permitted in the games. Conventions not included on the chart are not permitted in the games

Part of the “right” to use a convention is the responsibility of deciding when it applies in probable auctions. The opponents may be entitled to redress if members do not have a clear understanding with partners of when and how to use a convention they are playing.

We all occasionally encounter situations where we are not sure what partner’s bidding means. There exists an added responsibility if that uncertainty arises from a convention you and your partner have agreed to play. In these situations, you should tell your opponents all you know. The Director can ask you or your partner to step away from the table so that the opponents can talk openly with the remaining player.

Actively ethical players do everything possible in these situations to bring their opponents back to even terms — to remove any possible disadvantage accruing to them from their side’s failure to have a complete conventional understanding.