

# Palm Coast Duplicate Bridge Club

## Standing Rules

*(Revised August 2023)*

**Conditions of Contest and Zero Tolerance Policy:** The Club follows the prescribed guidelines of the ACBL General Conditions of Contest (CoC) and the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy (ZTP), as published by the ACBL, for all events taking place at the Club. Members are encouraged to review these documents on the ACBL Website. Directors are authorized to issue penalties for ZTP violations. When an incident results in the issuance of a penalty, the Director will send a report of the incident to the Club Manager for possible review by the Board. Further, any player who refuses to play a board against an opponent, or leaves a session without cause, which is anything other than an emergency requiring the attention of the player or an illness which requires the player to leave, or any player who is disqualified from a session by the Club Director pursuant to the CoC or ZTP shall receive an immediate one week suspension from the Club, while the Board considers the possibility of additional action.

**Psychic Bidding:** Excessive psychic bidding creates implied and concealed partnership understandings. The Club's policy is to allow 1 psychic bid (as defined by the ACBL Convention Charts) per session, however, certain players with a history of psychic bids may be prevented from using psychic bids entirely, at the discretion of the director or the Club Manager. Players are strongly encouraged to call the Director immediately if they believe a psychic bid has been made. The Director is authorized to issue a penalty if excessive psychic bidding has been employed, however, opponents of a psychic bidder are not entitled to an adjustment or a favorable score if a psychic bid has been made. Habitual, excessive psych bidders may be subject to an additional response from the Club. It should be noted, however, that many bids which players believe to be psychic bids are not actually psychic bids.

**Convention Cards, Alert Procedure, and Convention Charts:** Players are required by the CoC to have two properly filled out convention cards at the table. Pick-up partners should attempt to fill out a card prior to playing, however, all established pairs are required to adhere to this policy. Established pairs without two identically filled-out conventions cards may not be given the benefit of the doubt when their bidding, alerts, or explanations may result in misinformation. The Club uses the ACBL Basic Convention Chart for 499er games and the ACBL Open Chart for Open games, and the ACBL alert procedure for all games.

**Director Cooperation:** All players are required to cooperate with the Director. This includes, but is not limited to table assignments, which the Director assigns based on physical limitations of players and game stratification requirements. While personal preference will be accommodated if possible, table assignments are not made on a first come, first served basis. Further, the Laws require that the Director must be summoned immediately when an irregularity occurs. Players may not argue with the Director but may request that the Director review a ruling.

**Director Rulings Appeals Process:** Players may ask the Director to check the ruling. The Director will review the relevant Law(s) with the player at the earliest convenient opportunity. If the player still believes the ruling is incorrect, the player may file an appeal with a Club Manager within 24 hours. The Club Manager will research the relevant Law(s) and will inform the player of his decision. If the player still disagrees with the ruling, a second appeal may be filed, in which case, the Club Manager will convene a committee of Directors to review the ruling. The decision of the committee shall be final.

**Slow Play:** Bridge is a timed game. Directors are required to complete the session within the prescribed period of time. The Club policy is to not allow a new board to be played when the play clock reaches 2 minutes remaining in the round, however, the Director has full authority to use discretion and judgement when preventing a board from being played when time does not allow. The club policy is to issue an AVE- to the players at fault and an AVE+ to the players not at fault.

**Tardiness:** Players must arrive prior to game time. If a player knows they will be running a little late, they should call the Club or the Club Manager. Certain movements do not lend themselves to adding a pair after game time. Players who arrive after game time may not necessarily be able to play in that session. Habitual tardiness may result in an administrative penalty.

**Food, Beverages, and Trash:** Players are required to dispose of their food, beverages, and trash prior to leaving.

**Cell Phones:** Players are required to leave all cell phones in the "off" or "silent" mode. Making or answering calls is prohibited in the playing area, except during breaks, and only in the lobby or away from the playing area if other players are still playing. Quiet use of cell phones is allowed in the playing area between rounds. Directors are authorized to issue penalties for ringing cell phones. If a player has a legitimate critical need they should inform the Director, and an accommodation may be made.

**Political Discussion:** In today's polarized political environment, political discussions often have a way of deteriorating into a heated and possible acrimonious situation, therefore, political discussions are not permitted within the club.