

ST LOUIS BRIDGE CENTER “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY

The St. Louis Bridge Center is dedicated to training and educating the bridge-playing community, as well as providing an enjoyable environment for the game. To help assure this, it has adopted the ACBL’s Zero Tolerance Policy to prevent disruptive behavior.

Offenses

Offenses consist of behavior which violate [Law 74 of the Rules of Duplicate Bridge*](#), or the [Zero Tolerance Policy of the ACBL**](#) (for example by being rude, negative or intimidating), or behavior which disrupts or poses a danger to the enjoyment of the game or the players. Actionable offenses may be observed by a Director, or called to the prompt attention of the Director, or reported in writing by a player.

Penalties and Appeals

Unacceptable behavior should immediately be called to the attention of the Director, who has the power to assess disciplinary penalties. The Director, when called, shall make an assessment of the situation and if it is established that there was a violation, shall assess an immediate penalty. This may range from an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games)(additive if both members of the partnership are guilty, i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ board) to expulsion from the game.

In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director’s decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final. Penalties short of being banned from a game or from the Bridge Center may be appealed to the Senior Director in writing after the game. The Senior Director may give deference to the decision, may recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty, or may recommend a more severe penalty.

The Senior Director shall report incidents resulting in penalties to the Board.

Serious penalties, such as being banned from a game or from the Bridge Center, may be appealed in writing to the Bridge Center Board of Directors which shall hold a hearing as soon as practicable. The Board has the authority to uphold, alter, nullify, reduce or reverse a sanction after a hearing.

The Board may place a player who has committed repeated violations on probation for a period of up to three years or may suspend that player from the Center for an appropriate period of time. In the event of a suspension, playing privileges can be restored only if the player appears before the Board and discusses their self-correcting behavior actions, and makes a convincing case for Board reinstatement of playing privileges.

*LAW 74 CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

** Some examples of behavior not tolerated by the [ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy](#) include - Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.

- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.