**BRIDGE ETIQUETTE AND RULES**

St Francis Bay Bridge Club

1. Once the bidding has begun, general conversation should cease The use of a non-South African language is not allowed while the cards are out of the board.

2. Keep post mortem discussions and comments on Bridgemate results to a minimum and at a voice level whereby they cannot be heard by adjacent tables.

3. Keep your mannerisms and intonations consistent at all times. Neither your partner nor the opponents are entitled to information gained from deviations in behaviour or voice fluctuations.

4. Always be consistent in your bidding and play. Use the ALERT cards when appropriate and be courteous to your opponents when they do the same. The STOP cards have been withdrawn.

5. Playing deliberately is not the same thing as "slow play". The latter comes about mostly because of bad habits such as

a) too much general conversation and waste of time,

b) not concentrating on bridge when the opponents pause to think about bids or plays,

c) by spending too much time discussing the results from the last board.

Remember that consistently slow play may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the Director.

6. Any player, except dummy, MUST call the Director when law infractions, hesitations, rude behaviour, or problems of any kind occur and there is NO stigma or personal agenda attached to this course of action. The Director's responsibilities include handling all law and rule infractions as well as running a smooth and pleasant game. It is also in your best interest as a bridge player to learn the basic bridge laws covering such things as dummy's rights and penalty cards as well as those concerning your responsibilities as a participant at the table.

7. There are certain table manners and rules that all bridge players should know. Some of these are:

a) The cards should not be taken out of a board until all players are present. When you have removed your hand, but before looking at the cards, count them to ensure that you have thirteen.

b) When it is your turn to call, you may ask any questions about alerts or the auction.

c) Avoid ‘hovering’ over the bidding boxes and do not touch any bidding card until you have decided on your bid.

d)North is responsible for the proper observance of all procedures at the table, such as ensuring that the right opponents are present and the right boards are being played with the correct orientation. Only one board is permitted on the table during play**.** North is responsible for the input of the contract and the result, while East is responsible for the correctness of the entry.

e) Bidding cards must remain on the table, with the bids made clearly visible, until the opening lead has been faced.

f) When you are on opening lead, lay your chosen card face down on the table. This prevents irregularities such as leading when it is not your turn to do so and allows questions about the auction and any alerts to be answered. All players, except dummy, may now request a review of the auction and an explanation of any alerted calls.

g) When play commences, do not detach a card from your hand until it is your turn to play. Do not pull up a card, push it back into your hand, and then pull up another card. You should never rearrange your hand when you are out of a suit. Any of these manoeuvers could provide information to the declarer or to your partner

h) As dummy, you may not call attention to anything other than declarer is about to lead from the wrong hand, to ask if declarer is void in the suit being played or that declarer has a trick count card incorrectly orientated. As dummy you may not play or touch any card in dummy (even a singleton) until declarer calls the card. If declarer designates a suit, but not the rank, declarer is deemed to have called for the lowest card of the suit indicated. If declarer designates a rank but not a suit, declarer is deemed to be continuing the suit in which dummy won the last trick.

i) When ruffing a trick or when discarding, a player must NOT state ‘having none’ as this could be construed as imparting information to their partner. However, it is quite lawful, and indeed desirable, for the player’s partner to enquire ‘having none?’ and can help to prevent revokes.

j) Cell phones must be turned OFF and out of sight during play. The penalty for an infringement is a ‘Top’ in Pairs Competitions and 3 IMPs in Teams Competitions.

8. In bridge, as in other competitive endeavours, it is extremely important to learn how to win and to learn how to lose. While it is acceptable in sport to do ‘high fives’ when completing a successful manoeuver, it is not proper behaviour at bridge. A simple ‘well played’ or ‘well defended’ will suffice. It is also poor behaviour to berate partner when they play less than perfectly.

9. And last, but certainly not least, please **ENJOY THE GAME!**