

SBU Online - Etiquette (August 2021)

Online tournaments are first and foremost friendly events played in an atmosphere of trust. Any rudeness at the table should be reported to the Director who may take further action.

Please ensure that your real name is on your profile.

It is friendlier and more in keeping with the SBU ethos if we know who our opponents are – you wouldn't play F2F and not introduce yourself to your opponents.. We therefore ask that those members who have not entered their full names on their BBO profile would now do so. It's a small request and would be courteous to your fellow SBU members.

At the start of each round

Please greet your opponents on arrival at the table

Please provide via Chat to the Table a summary of your system and discards. This should include

- NT range
- Whether you play 4 or 5 card majors
- The minimum length of your club and diamond suits if these are < 3
- How you play 2 level openers
- Carding
- Discards

An example would be

Hi opps, Bill and Ben here. We play 12-14 NT, 4CM, 3 weak 2s, standard carding, discards are odd encouraging, even McKenney.

If you have completed a system card on your profile, then you can also refer the opponents to this.

During play

Please respect the Director at all times and be aware that the Director may be particularly busy between rounds.

Please bid and play in tempo as far as possible. Please be mindful of the clock and claim as soon as you can, either as declarer or opposition, to save time. If you feel that your opponents are being slow then you should call the TD

If BBO is set to clocked play, then a specified number of minutes are allowed for a round or a match. For pairs tournaments this is usually set to the equivalent of 7 minutes per board. At the end of the allotted time, you will not be able to complete an unfinished board and will be moved to the next round. If there are fewer than 2 minutes on the clock, you will not be allowed to start a new board.

The time remaining for the current match is displayed at the top left of the screen.

If a board has not been completed, the director will adjust the score to that which is most likely from the point when the last card was played. There is software to assist the director in these situations. The adjusted scores are not based on the outcomes at other tables unless very few cards have been played.

UNDOS

UNDOS are permitted for misclicks in the bidding only and **NOT** after your partner has bid.

Changes of mind or loss of concentration are not reasons to ask for an UNDO

Use the Table Menu as above to request an UNDO from the drop-down menu. The opposition are invited to accept or refuse.

(An alternative way to ask for an undo is to type "UNDO" quickly into Chat and send this to the table – you may find this quicker)

If a request for an UNDO is refused you should call the director who may overrule the opposition. You must allow an UNDO if instructed to do so by the director

UNDOS are NOT permitted during play of the cards.

Alerting Procedure

Remember that Bridge is a game of full disclosure. Your opponents are entitled to be made aware of all your agreements

Alerting on BBO is different from playing F2F. There is no facility to alert your partner's bid so on BBO you must alert **your own bids** where appropriate. Your alerts are visible to the opponents but not to your partner.

You must **ALERT and FULLY EXPLAIN** all conventional bids at all levels **including 3N and above.**

Doubles, redoubles and passes should be alerted if they have a specific meaning for your partner which your opponents may not understand. Examples include forcing passes, support doubles, and doubles of 1NT opener's which are not for penalty.

Before you make a conventional bid, pass, double or redouble, click on alert and fill in an explanation and then and only then, click on the bid itself.

If you forget to alert, then you should click on your bid as soon as possible. This opens up a box into which you can type an explanation. Your explanation will be displayed to both opponents.

You should ensure that your explanation does actually explain the bid and doesn't just state a convention. For example, in the auction

[1H] 2NT* * 2NT Would be alerted and explained as "5+ 5+ in clubs and diamonds" not simply as "Unusual"

Bids alerted by the opposition without explanation will be visible to you and outlined in red. To query an opponent's bid, click on it and they will be prompted to provide an explanation. If necessary, you can send a message to one or both of your opponents.

If an opponent asks you a question about a bid or perhaps about your discards, you must ensure that you reply **only to the person who has asked the question,**

DO NOT under any circumstance send a message to the TABLE to explain any of your bids/plays as you may be giving unauthorised information to your partner.

Ethical issues

Cheating will not be tolerated, and all allegations will be appropriately investigated.

If you suspect someone is cheating, convey your suspicions in private to the TD or directly to the Laws and Ethics Committee via the SBU website at

<https://www.sbu.org.uk/component/contact/contact/15-contacts/8?Itemid=101>

Dissemination of unproven allegations or insinuations is a breach of etiquette. These are corrosive to the atmosphere of online bridge.

For all other breaches of etiquette inform the TD in private or report to Laws & Ethics as above.

BBO rules are available online https://online.bridgebase.com/v2/doc_rules.html. If you encounter a violation of any rules on BBO inform them on abuse@bridgebase.com.

SBU Tournament Convener (tournament@sbu.org.uk) August 2021