Clear Lake Bridge Club - Zero Tolerance (ZT) Policy

(Effective 09/11/2025)

The Clear Lake Board of Directors is committed to always requiring acceptable player behavior. In accordance with the ACBL Laws of Duplicate Bridge the following policy outlines what is expected of all players during Clear Lake Bridge Club sponsored events or while on Clear Lake Bridge Club Property.

The ultimate purpose of the ZT policy is to create and maintain a pleasant atmosphere in our bridge games. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to an improved playing atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
- The ACBL requires players to have two clearly completed convention cards readily available for the opponents to review.

The following list contains examples of ZT behavior which will not be tolerated at the Club:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, violence of any kind or any other inappropriate or retaliatory behavior.
- Negative comments concerning opponents or partners play or bidding.
- Unwelcome, gratuitous lessons and analysis at the table.
- Loud, disrespectful or disruptive behavior involving a Director's ruling.
- Frivolous ZT accusations.
- Falsely accusing a player of cheating or being a cheat. Any accusation of cheating or ethics issues should be discussed with the Director away from the table or brought to the attention of the Club Board.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the Director should be called immediately. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might

interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited. The Board gives the Director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

The following ZT procedures have been given to the Directors for implementation.

I. It is requested that the Director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.

II. The Director, when called, shall assess the situation. If it is established there was unacceptable behavior the Director will assess a total of 5 full boards penalty for that game session.

IV. The offender may appeal. Upon request for appeal, the Director will form a 3-party panel of knowledgeable and experienced bridge players to review the facts and determine if the offending party has indeed displayed unacceptable behavior. If so, the 5 full board penalty will be assessed. If the panel determines that leniency should be given for a valid reason, the penalty will not be assessed. The board of directors will be notified of all facts in either case.

V. Directors will not assess penalties when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined.

VI. The game Director is required to report all incidents of ZT to the Club President who will forward the report to the Clear Lake Board. The Board may choose to investigate any ZT offense they wish. All serious offenses, multiple offenses or offenses by repeat offenders will be investigated by the Board. The Board will make a reasonable attempt to talk with the parties involved in the ZT incident. The Board may also choose to talk with other players who may have information about the incident. Additional sanctions from the ACBL may also apply.