

OUR DIRECTORS NEED OUR SUPPORT

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Bridge being the timed game that it is requires each player to be courteous to the directors, as well as to other players. We must abide by directives given by the director in charge. On many occasions, this is not done. There are certain things that a director must do prior to the start of a game. The most important is knowing the number of tables that will be in play. As we are aware, this is determined by the number of players present. When a director sets up a movement for a game and players arrive late requiring the director to change the movement is unfair both to players and the director. You are delaying the game, as well as being unfair to players who arrived on time for the game. Rather than walk in late and feel that the director is obligated to make room for you let the director or some player know you are coming. This allows the director to include you in the count.

Generally, it should take 5 to 6 minutes to play a board. Therefore, when change is called moving players should move. When a pair takes out a hand to play after the call has been made, we again show disrespect to fellow players and the director. There are very few hands that are so difficult that they require more than the allotted time to play. In most instances, players waste time talking about a past hand or being upset with a partner for a past bid or play. The director has the authority to refuse to let slow players begin to play a board(s) after change has been called. This has not been done by our directors. But is this fair to the director, as well as to the next table in play and the pair waiting for your table? There will be times when a delay in play is necessary, but this should happen infrequently for no more than one round of play. A pair should not be late for the entire session. Don't take advantage of the director and feel that you have the right to disregard the allotted time. Don't get angry if the director refuses to allow the board(s) to be played. He/she is only following the rules.

Our directors are rendering a service. We should show our appreciation by doing whatever we can to make the game run smoothly. Games should be enjoyed by everyone playing. It is also our responsibility to help make a director's job as easy as possible. This can be done by not creating unnecessary problems. Each time a director is called for something other than a Handbook ruling, it creates a distraction.

Show compassion and consideration for lower ranking players. Don't

forget that at some point in time we were once there. Someone had to have patience with us. We all had a beginning point. We are becoming senior citizens therefore, some of us don't have as much pep in our step and the 20/20 vision that we had a few years ago is no longer there. Show patience and understanding. Compliment and encourage don't discourage. Don't be afraid to give pointers to those players wanting to improve their game. We need the competent dependable directors that we have. Let's do all that we can to keep them.

Go, Grow, Learn and Be Congenial