

LIGHTMAN BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW BRIDGE ETIQUETTE RULES

The M.A. Lightman Board has adopted new bridge etiquette/zero tolerance rules! Our goal is to make the rules clearer, but less harsh, so that we can have more frequent and consistent enforcement. Violations are viewed as momentary breaches of bridge etiquette, similar to a revoke or a bid out of turn, not a reflection on the player's overall personality. Yes, we have to penalize the behavior, because what is to one player a small breach of etiquette may be viewed by another player as deeply humiliating or aggravating. But these rules keep the penalties for the rare violation small. A first violation may get a warning or a quarter board penalty – less than a player who revokes might suffer. At the same time, folks who are constantly violating the etiquette rules or who engage in conduct that embarrasses the club will be subject to stiffer penalties.

The rules go into effect on Monday, March 5. Short classes will be offered on the new rules throughout March. If you're concerned about how the new rules might apply or why they cover one behavior and not another, this is your opportunity to get all your questions answered.

Class dates and time are: Friday, March 9 at 1:30pm; Tuesday, March 13 at 1:30pm, and Saturday, March 17, at 12:30pm. Please sign-up in advance. Sign-ups are posted at the club or you can contact Deborah Harrington at deborahbridge01@gmail.com, (901) 488-9217. You can also read here every month for a column discussing how the rules apply. Summaries of the new rules are available at the club, next to the convention cards. If you would like to see the full text of the new rules, please ask Deborah Harrington or Bill Demetriou.