

Sunset Bridge Club Online

The online directors have what they call the “Onboarding Document.” It outlines updates, new features, issues, etc. about running our online clubs. I thought it would be a good idea to have a similar document for the club. I’ll try to keep this in some sort of order, but I’ll be adding information as it becomes available.

Club Policies

- First and foremost, everyone must be kind to everyone. Anyone who is rude to their partner, their opponents, or the director is subject to suspension from the club.
- Keep an eye on the clock and claim when you can. We do not have the luxury of holding up a round for slower players to finish. I know the time constraints are a problem for some, but I have found that regardless of the number of minutes allocated to a board, someone is going to be late.
- If BBO takes a board away after a couple of tricks, and it is not obvious what the result would have been, BBO will assign an Average to each side.
- No Gloating (the Steve Kipperman Memorial Rule): Steve was a strong believer that there should be no gloating at the table, and I agree. Law 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge addresses Conduct and Etiquette. In particular Law 74A2 states:

A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game

So typing things like “wdp” or complimenting your partner in any way is not allowed as it may make your opponents feel bad. Likewise, when you compliment your opponents, your partner may feel bad.

BBO Policies

- Self-alerts: in BBO games, one alerts their own bids. Please follow this rule strictly. Often disagreements occur between opponents when someone does not explain their bid properly. If you want to know what a bid means, click the bid. Look for a box in the upper right of the table to see if your opponents are asking you to clarify a bid. If the opponents do not respond in a reasonable time, call the director. As a last resort, you can privately chat with the person who made the bid.
- Chatting: be sure you’re chatting to the right person. In the lower left of the table, there is a blue box that defaults to Lobby. If you click that box and you haven’t chatted with anyone in the current session, you will see “Table” or “Private.” Table lets you chat with the table and Private lets you chat with someone privately. In the middle of a round, you can usually only chat with your opponents or the director (VACB236000 for Sunset).

- Guests: over the course of a week, only 5% of the players for a club can be guests. Guests are those who did not play at Sunset in 2019. Two guests cannot play together as a partnership, so a guest can only be the partner of a regular member
- Always make sure you have enough money in your BBO account. The money is not taken out of your account until the game actually starts. So there may be a rare case where you register for a tournament, register and play in another tournament, and you have run out of funds before the first tournament you registered for starts.
- BBO does all the seeding, stratifying, and dividing into sections. If there are more than 15 tables, BBO breaks the game into two sections. For the limited games, I am never sure if we will have enough tables so I set it up for a Howell movement. If the section has more than six tables, a Mitchell movement is used. For six or less, a Howell movement is implemented.
- BBO gives me only 20 minutes to make final adjustments to the score. Many directors are asking BBO to increase these times, but change sometimes goes at a glacial pace at BBO.

Notes of interest

Players can see what other tables did after a hand is played, but I cannot.

I can see how a hand has been played until a claim is made or until time runs out, but as I mentioned in the preceding Policies, if the hand times out too quickly, I am just going to give an average.

Apparently, some players (probably not you) bounce from one game to the next. The result of this is that sometimes people have seen the same hands in The Common Game for an earlier game before our game is played (it happened with substitutes once). So until they come up with a set of hands for the West Coast, I will just create random hands and post them on the website.

Regarding substitutes, if there would be a sit-out pair, I have the ability to choose from a list of subs from all over the world. I try to find one with at least an Intermediate rating. If you are in the Partnership area or just happen to be online and want to substitute, please let me know. Then when I need someone to fill in, you will see an invitation to join the game (for free even).

One change BBO finally made was that there is a sound that now comes with a director call. Up until this change (first used June 10th), I would have to stare at the screen to see if there was an issue.

Regarding chat, unless I am at a table, I cannot see what table talk has been going on. There may be a way for me to capture chat, but I have to look into that.

