

## ST LOUIS BRIDGE CENTER “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY

The St. Louis Bridge Center is dedicated to training and educating the bridge-playing community, as well as providing an enjoyable environment for the game. It has adopted the ACBL’s Zero Tolerance Policy to prevent disruptive behavior.

### Zero Tolerance Offenses

Offenses consist of behavior which violate [Law 74 of the Rules of Duplicate Bridge\\*](#), or the [Zero Tolerance Policy of the ACBL\\*\\*](#) (for example by being rude, negative or intimidating), or behavior which disrupts or poses a danger to the enjoyment of the game or the players. Actionable offenses may be observed by a Director, or called to the prompt attention of the Director, or reported in writing by a player.

### Procedure, Penalties

When an alleged offense is observed by a Director, or immediately called to the attention of the Director, that Director shall assess the situation and, if it is established that there has been a violation, impose an immediate penalty. This may range from a warning to expulsion from the game or from the Bridge Center.

For an offense reported in writing, the Director shall conduct a timely investigation, determine whether a violation occurred, and if so, impose a penalty.

Notwithstanding the above, the Board may conduct its own investigation of an alleged Zero Tolerance violation and impose sanctions independently of the Director, if a majority of the Board agrees.

### Appeals

A sanctioned player may appeal penalties short of being banned from a game or from the Bridge Center, to the Senior Director in writing after the game. The Senior Director may give deference to the decision, may recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty, or may recommend a more severe penalty.

A sanctioned player may appeal serious penalties, such as being banned from a game or from the Bridge Center, in writing to the Bridge Center Board of Directors which shall hold a hearing as soon as practicable. The Board has the authority to uphold, alter, nullify, reduce or reverse a sanction after a hearing.

The Board may also place a player with repeated violations on probation for a period of up to three years or, may suspend that player from the Center for an appropriate period of time. In the event of a suspension, playing privileges can be restored only if the player appears before the Board and discusses their self-correcting behavior actions, and makes a convincing case for Board reinstatement of playing privileges.

### Senior Director

All Directors who have imposed a penalty for violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy shall report this in writing to the Senior Director, who maintain a record of it in a permanent file, and advise the Board of the result. The Senior Director will advise

game directors of their responsibility to communicate their findings, whether or not there was a violation, to the involved parties.

**\*LAW 74 CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE A. Proper Attitude**

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

**\*\*** Some examples of behavior not tolerated by the [ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy](#) include - Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.  
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.  
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.  
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.