

ZERO TOLERANCE in NVBA

The purpose of Zero Tolerance is to create a more pleasant atmosphere at the table FOR ALL PLAYERS.

Law 74, Section A, Item 1 reads as follows: "A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times".

Item 2 states: "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."

Behaviors which will NOT be tolerated 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.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**.

The fact that we may be opponents at the table does NOT mean that we should be enemies.

PLAY NICE! It's OK to play hard; it is not acceptable to play in a manner that violates the spirit of Zero Tolerance.

To the NVBA Unit Game and Sectional Directors:

- 1) At the start of the game, remind all players that Zero Tolerance is in effect.
- 2) When called to the table for a ZT issue, the Director will make an assessment of the situation, after listening to all players at the table. If the Director establishes that a ZT violation has occurred, an immediate ¼ board (3 IMPs in a team game) penalty will be assessed to all offenders. All 4 players at the table may be subject to penalty if all contributed to the situation. If both members of a partnership are involved, the penalties are additive (¼ board + ¼ board= ½ board penalty total).
- 3) Warnings are **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**. Offenders should, in most cases, receive an immediate penalty. Retaliatory behavior and frivolous accusations are both punishable behaviors under this policy.
- 4) If the same offender(s) commits a second offense in the same event, the repeat offender(s) shall be removed from further competition in said event. No masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made.
- 5) A note of all assessment of ZT penalties will be forwarded to the Unit Recorder (for NVBA Unit Game and Sectionals) for further action.

Note that each ACBL District, Unit, and Club (including Clubs in NVBA) sets its own policies and procedures, which may differ from what NVBA does.

Information compiled and edited by Steve Fama of Elizabethtown, PA and originally from NVBA, who states 'Much of the material is taken from the ACBL website. I rearranged and rephrased to make it more readable for I/N players and added some commentary or extra emphasis where I felt it was needed.'

NVBA-specific edits by Kevin O'Brien