

Rules, Guidelines, Myths

When do the following "rules" not apply?

Second hand low, third hand high.
Cover an honor with an honor.
Lead the unbid major.
Return your partner's opening lead.

Lead fourth-best from your longest & strongest.
Lead the top of a sequence.
Lead middle of a broken sequence.
Be less aggressive at unfavorable vulnerability.

Split your honors.
8 ever, 9 never.
Safety play to set up the suit.
Never let opponents play in 2 of a major.

6-5, come alive!
Aces are for taking kings.
3-level belongs to the opponent. So does the 5 level.
Don't lead low from a Jack-empty suit.

If your doubles always succeed, you don't double enough.
Never double in a team game.
Don't double a shape hand.

Never lead from a worthless doubleton.
Open 4th seat only with Rule of 15.
Lead trump against a slam.
When partner doubles a NT contract for penalty, lead your shortest suit.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Wisdom of Carlos Ocsaborp:

Table sense is more important than bidding conventions.

Counting cards and points of opponents is essential; practice when dummy.
Even in the most structured system, flexibility is needed.

If declarer has no appreciation of a defender's strategy, declarer is as helpless as defenders who do not anticipate declarer's strategy.

Notable BRIDGE QUOTES

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.
The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in trouble.

There are only two acceptable excuses for not leading the suit your partner had opened; having no cards in the suit, and sudden death.
One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.

Where's the hand you held during the auction?
If you have the slightest touch of masochism you'll love this game.

Most bridge players prefer consistency in their partners rather than brilliance.

Bridge is a great comfort in your old age.

It also helps you get there faster.

Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a substantial number of antisocial people.

It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

I'd like a review of the bidding with all the original inflections.

The real secret of the expert is to make logic seem like flair.

The average defender operates in a fog of uncertainty.

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbor, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.

I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list, but I know learning to play better is definitely last.

Your play was much better tonight, and so were your excuses.

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

When I take a 50-50 chance I expect it to come off 8 or 9 times out of 10.

If I did everything right, I wouldn't be playing with you!