

# BCPC Basic Poker Etiquette & Sanctions

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## List of Basic Etiquette

We are a poker club that plays in a pub, but we still have rules on etiquette and behaviour. If in doubt, ask “what etiquette would a casino enforce?”

### 1. Don't Play Out of Turn

While you may be so excited about how good your hand is you can hardly wait to raise the pot, you have to wait until it's your turn to do so. Same goes for folding hands you can't wait to get away from. If you jump the gun, it gives other players information they shouldn't have before they make their own decision and can confuse the action.

### 2. Don't Talk About the Hand if it Could Influence the Action

Don't provide commentary on what other players in a hand should do – this may influence their decision, for example they may call where previously they had been considering a fold.

Once you've folded, it's tempting to chat about what would have happened if you had stayed in, but if anyone who's still in the hand hears, it'll give them information that they might use to their advantage.

### 3. Don't Show Your Cards (Until the Showdown)

When you fold, make sure you don't flash or flip over your cards as you toss them into the muck. Unless you are all-in and heads-up, there is no reason to show or expose your cards until the showdown.

### 4. Don't Splash the Pot

It's a no-no to toss chips in a big mess in the centre of the pot.

### 5. Don't Make String Bets

You have to declare whether you're simply calling or raising right away - once you say "call," that's all you can do. If you're going to raise, say raise and the amount right away.

### 6. Don't Be Rude or Mean

Even if you're having a bad losing streak, it doesn't give you the right to curse other players or be rude to the dealer. It will win you neither pots nor friends. There is something to be said for needling a player into going on tilt, but it is likely to get you in trouble or worse. And there's never a good reason for being mean to the dealer.

### 7. If You Show One, Show All

If you win a hand before the showdown but want to show your cards anyway, you can't just show them to the one player to your left or right, you have to turn them up for the whole table to see.

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## **8. Do Pay Attention**

If you're in a hand, don't make everyone remind you that it's your turn - keep up with the action so the game keeps moving. Talking on your mobile phone while in a hand is prohibited in every cardroom and will result in your hand being killed. Texting, surfing the web, or playing on your tablet are not generally prohibited specifically but aren't recommended as they interfere with your ability to follow the action.

## **9. No casual racism or sexism or bigotry**

We play in a public environment so what could be considered harmless banter by you may not be considered so by others. Just be aware of others' feelings and apply some common sense.

## **10. Playing under the influence of alcohol**

Merry and tipsy are OK, but drunk to the point that you can no longer effectively participate is a problem. If you can no longer pay attention then you are no longer playing...

## **11. Foul and abusive language**

If the intent is to abuse and offend, then this won't be tolerated.

## **List of Sanctions**

This is the list of sanctions that can be applied:

- At first, a friendly warning will be given.
- If the behaviour persists, a 'yellow card' warning will be given.
- If the behaviour continues, a 'red card' will be shown, resulting in a 5-hand penalty.
- If the behaviour still doesn't stop, the player will be eliminated from the game (hopefully we will never get to this stage).

Any committee member at the table may apply these rules. If no committee member is present, they can be called over.