

Slow Play

Pairs who are chronically slow deprive other pairs of their time to think and play. One chronically slow pair has ripple effects and pisses off a lot of players.

Some pairs think it's fine so long as you start your last board of the round before the announcement comes not to start any more boards; in reality, if you are finishing a round late for more than a round or two then you need to move it to catch up. It doesn't matter if some external factor caused you to fall behind; it is still your responsibility to catch up.

Avoiding slow play is considered part of [Active Ethics in Bridge](#) by the ACBL:

Failure to finish on time can do a great deal to chase players away from the game and is extremely distressing to waiting players. Bridge is a timed event. If a pair takes more than their share of the allotted time for each round, they are inconveniencing their fellow competitors as well as gaining an unfair advantage over them. When a pair has fallen behind it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not.

The actively ethical player makes a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. All players are expected to develop this good habit.

Remember: Slow play is subject to penalty, and the penalties are well earned when slow pairs disrupt the normal progression of the game.

Additionally, players should be available to start each subsequent round promptly, avoiding wherever possible, being late to a table for non-bridge reasons.

At the discretion of the TD, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary (and unappealable) or procedural. If the latter, appeals committees should tend strongly to reject all routine appeals against slow play penalties. When they do deny such an appeal, they should consider imposing an additional penalty for a frivolous appeal. The burden is on the appellant to demonstrate that some unusual circumstance makes the penalty inappropriate.

Elsewhere [the ACBL has stated](#):

“Slow play, as opposed to careful or thoughtful play, is discourteous to your opponents -- and to all other competitors as well. Players and pairs who take more than their allotted time are subject to penalty.”

"When a pair has fallen behind, it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness.

In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than two or three minutes on more than one occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness.

There is a strong expectation that the director will penalize such a pair. The size of a penalty will tend to increase for subsequent instances of slow play and for chronic or egregious slow play."

So, please: do not look at results on the Bridgemate or discuss the hands unless you are in good time, and try to follow some of these tips:

<https://lajollabridge.com/Articles/FastPlayer.htm>

More tips in this article <http://blakjak.org/splay.htm>

Slow pairs will get one warning during the session, then will start receiving procedural penalties and boards will be pulled from their table (with opponents getting 60% and slow pair getting 40% plus procedural penalties).