

SCDBC Slow Play/No Play Guidelines

October 2018

These guidelines are proposed to keep play moving in a timely manner. This allows the directors to meet their obligation to players to not allow one or two persons to make the game unpleasant for the majority. There is nothing more frustrating for a pair than to follow two slow players all day and never be able to begin a round on time.

Players can help in preventing slow play by:

- Making the opening lead right away when the bidding is complete, before writing down the contract.
- North entering the result of each hand in Bridge Mate before writing down the result or discussing the hand. This way the opponents can approve and move to next table without delays.

3-Minute Rule

If, with 3 minutes remaining on the clock, the bidding has not started on any board, the board will be pulled and will be placed in a “no play” status for that round.

This is **not** intended as a punishment or penalty. The policy has been established to provide a clear method to maintain the tempo of the game for the benefit of all players.

If the players start a board after the 3-minute warning, a penalty may be assigned to both pairs at the table.

The 3-minute rule should help alleviate ¼ board penalties for slow play.

Definition of No Play Status

A board put into a “No Play” status for that round just means it was not played. It is not an average minus or any other such penalty. It has the same impact on a player’s score as a board not played due to a skip or sit out round. ***Again, it is not intended as punishment but to maintain the tempo of the game.***