

### Online Gaming



As online communities have grown, competitive and recreational gaming has moved online as well, expanding opportunities to compete any time with like-minded players anywhere in the world. Gaming communities are very similar to other public competitive environments--youth athletic events, professional sports, the chess club, or even a casino. The rules of good conduct apply to the virtual arena as well.

- As always in a public space, watch that your conduct is in line with the norms of your community.
- *Rules of good sportsmanship apply.* Be a good winner and a good loser.
- Emotion can run high in competitive environments. Remember to keep your emotions in check and think before you post.
- Good-natured trash talking, cheering, and even some jeering can be okay if they're in line with good sportsmanship and the character of the site.
- Be a responsible teammate and player. Keep appointments, communicate clearly, and treat the group facilities with respect and consideration.

### Online Casinos

When you're playing for real money the rules of etiquette apply even more. The basics of gambling etiquette apply equally online:

- Respect yourself: Don't risk what you can't afford to lose. The game should be fun, but not if it puts your budget basics in jeopardy.
- Is it legal? This applies not only to where the game originates, but where you're playing from as well. Winnings are reportable and taxable.

- Check out the rules on your site. Many sites have different versions of the same game.
- Keep up. Unless it's a chess game and you and your opponent have agreed to a week between moves, play should be timely.
- Keep it polite. Don't vent when you lose. Remember, you're not playing against bots--your opponents are real people, too.