

# American Mahjong Table Etiquette Cheat Sheet

## The Golden Rules

- ✓ Be present — pay attention and avoid distractions
- ✓ Be clear — communicate calls, exposures, and mahjong declarations clearly
- ✓ Be respectful — treat players, hosts, and equipment with care
- ✓ Keep the game moving — think ahead and respect everyone's time

## Calling, Exposing & Declaring

- ✓ Confirm a tile fits a valid hand before calling
- ✓ Keep exposures fully visible
- ✓ Once exposed, you're committed
- ✓ Declare mahjong clearly
- ✓ Show the matching hand on the NMJL card

## At the Table

- ✓ Stay focused — phones away, eyes on the game
- ✓ Call tiles clearly and audibly
- ✓ Handle tiles with care
- ✓ Think ahead and be ready on your turn
- ✓ If you're slowing the game, simply say "thinking"

## For Hosts & Regular Players

- ✓ Welcome new players warmly
- ✓ Explain house rules before starting
- ✓ Correct mistakes kindly
- ✓ Set the tone you want at the table

## New Player Tips

- ✓ Tell the table you're new
- ✓ Ask about house rules before play begins
- ✓ Save non-urgent questions for between rounds
- ✓ Mistakes happen — acknowledge them and move on

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ⚠ Slow play without acknowledgment
- ⚠ Unclear calls
- ⚠ Harsh corrections
- ⚠ Questions during active play
- ⚠ Hiding a dead hand
- ⚠ Complaining about joker exchanges

## Jokers, Dead Hands & Disputes

- ✓ Joker exchanges are a normal part of the game
- ✓ Declare dead hands promptly
- ✓ Resolve disputes calmly using the card or rulebook

## Quick Etiquette Reminders

- ✓ Ask about house rules before play begins
- ✓ Never pass jokers during the Charleston
- ✓ Keep exposed sets fully visible
- ✓ Declare dead hands promptly
- ✓ Joker exchanges are part of the game
- ✓ Resolve disagreements calmly
- ✓ Let players finish calls before speaking

### Remember

Good etiquette isn't about being perfect.  
It's about being respectful, welcoming,  
and enjoyable to play with.

