

DEBBIE BARNETT'S GOLDEN RULES OF MAH JONGG:

1. Wait until all your tiles are dealt out before racking them; this will prevent a misdeal and someone ending up short on tiles.
2. Keep your hands to yourself. In other words, don't touch anyone else's tiles or racks.
3. Keep your exposures spaced that are atop the flat part of your rack.
4. Don't dive across the table and grab the joker when doing a joker exchange. You are not diving for a buried treasure!
5. Keep your tiles on the sloped part of your rack close together. In other words, no spaces between them.
6. When you pick a tile from the wall, place it on the sloped part of your rack, don't hold it in your hand and admire it.
7. When you call a tile, place it on the flat part of your rack, not on the sloped part of your rack.
8. When a game has ended, if you were the bettor, don't ask a player why they chose the hand they played as opposed to another. The tiles and hands are in the "eyes of the beholder."
9. After a game is over, don't ask another player why they made a chosen move. You are not the mah jongg police patrol, and each person is entitled to make their own decisions about what or what not to do during game play.
10. No announcements please. If someone misses a Joker exchange or discards a Joker, don't point it out.
11. Snap, crackle and pop are sounds that are better suited to a bowl of Rice Crispy cereal. Leave the gum at home please!
12. Keep the chitter-chatter to a minimum during game play. For those of us that are getting a tad bit older, we need to concentrate.
13. Keep your phone on silent or vibrate while playing, everyone will appreciate this. If you are waiting on a call i.e. from a doctor, please let everyone know ahead of time.
14. Play at a nice pace. Everyone is entitled to take time but don't make me get out the egg timer.
15. Be considerate by keeping food and drink off the mah jongg table. If you enjoy some treats, please remember before touching the tiles, to wipe your hands my dear peeps.
16. Be a humble winner, no one likes a gloater, you have not just won the lottery.
17. Praise the winner and or their winning hand, you would expect nothing less from others.