

MAFIA ON FACEBOOK

ETIQUETTE GUIDE

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Mafia On Facebook Etiquette Guide

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The Ten and a bit Commandments of Mafia Etiquette [More may be added as we go along] :-)

A Message/Preface from Sigi:

We here at Mafia have one simple rule for players to follow:
"Don't be a dick"

Now there are many ways to be a dick and we would like to remind you of several examples of how to be just that

- 1) You out your allies maliciously.
- 2) You vote based solely on vendettas.
- 3) You swear on or slander other players.
- 4) You threaten other players in a manner which would clearly get you reported to Facebook or Legal Authorities.
- 5) You use racist, sexist, or other epithets.
- 6) You message people regarding a game once your dead.
- 7) You don't vote first day because someone called a No-vote.
- 8) You tell people your a role at the last second, which is generally pointless.
- 9) You call players older than you game-wise, noobs. They aren't.
- 10) You vote at such a time as to not give the other player time to defend themselves, this is a game as much about communication as voting.
- 11) You vote for the game host day 1.
- 12) You idle out of games just because you don't like being a certain role.
- 13) You do anything else which you know is generally unfriendly which you couldn't say to your own family or who ever else you care about. We're all people here folks.

01 You out your allies maliciously.

This is a game, and people are here to play for the fun of it. It isn't fun to find the game ruined when your supposed ally tells the opposition who you are. This isn't just an etiquette point, it is actually considered CHEATING because it doesn't give the rest of the team a chance to play. This rule is true regardless of which side you are on. In other words, if you're on the citizens side, DO NOT tell the mafia who the Doc and Cop are. If you are a Mafia, DO NOT tell the citizens who the other mafia are.

This sort of behaviour is often reported and the person perpetrating it is often banned for it. It doesn't matter that you don't like your team mates or you like someone on the other team better. Everyone deserves a fair go at winning.

02 You vote based solely on vendettas.

This sort of behaviour ruins the game for all. It also causes a tit-for-tat reaction that results in two (or a few players) constantly trying to vote each other out, even when they're both on the same team. What ends up happening is these 'vendetta' players drive others out of the game. The chance of being Mafia or any other role is pure luck, so there is also a chance the person you are voting out is your teams Cop or Doc, or even your own mafia partner. It's probably best to be grown up about it and accept the fact that a person voting for you on a 'vendetta' basis probably has a problem. Don't retaliate, as you're only compounding the issue.

NOTE: Not everyone who votes for you every game or almost every game is doing so out of a vendetta. Some people like to vote for someone to get a grasp of what they play like under different conditions, or because they know how you will react in each role.

[I have someone who does vote for me first turn every game, but they do so as I am a good person to vote for day one. They get a good idea which role I am in, and are able to watch others voting and work out who others are in each role. Don't take it too personally, or if you do, take it as a compliment. I know I do. :-) - David]

03 You swear on or slander other players.

Dependant on the laws in your country, you may actually be infringing laws in another country. Just because you're on the Internet doesn't suddenly make you immune to the law. There is a saying in law enforcement concerning on-line crimes. 'If it is a crime OFF the Internet, it is also a CRIME on the Internet. The only thing which has changed is the delivery method'.

[NOTE: I know this as I work for the Police Department, and I attended a seminar at the beginning of the year on this exact subject. - David]

Swearing, by definition is a form of harassment and most countries have laws concerning this. So, be careful NOT to call people everything under the sun, regardless of how stupid you think they're game play is.

Slander is also against the law in most countries, so also be careful NOT to slander other players. In both these cases you can end up facing a nasty lawsuit that could result in you serving time or getting a nice big fine.

The Police in most countries do that this sort of thing seriously, and I do know of cases which have

crossed borders and people have found themselves in sticky situations.

Try putting yourself in the shoes of the person at the other end of the swearing and slandering. You wouldn't want it happening to you, so don't do it to others.

04 You threaten other players in a manner which would clearly get you reported to Facebook or Legal Authorities.

This is exactly the same as the point above in the fact that 'If it's illegal in real life, it's illegal on the Internet'. Threatening behaviour is once again taken seriously by the Police and I know of cases personally, one where the Australian Federal Police have ended up knocking on a guys door in Melbourne because he threatened physical harm on a lady in Singapore.

If you don't like the idea of being banned from Facebook, or you don't want Police knocking on your door, then please refrain from this sort of behaviour.

As with the above point, put yourself in the shoes of the other person. Having someone threaten you isn't nice, and in most cases you wouldn't put up with them doing it to you, so why should they put up with you doing it to them?

05 You use racist, sexist, or other epithets.

In some countries [like Australia], this behaviour fits in the same category as the last two points. It is illegal. Other countries don't have laws against racism and sexism [check your own countries laws], but still, we've all come here to play a game. Being persecuted over something you have no control over [like your sex, your race or even your country of birth] is stupid, so don't do it to others. I would also add a few other things not worth persecuting people over. They include religion, their job, or even their financial status. I could possibly add more and more. Generally, Facebook is a place to have fun and should be free from any form of harassment. So, don't indulge in it if you wouldn't want it to happen to you.

06 You message people regarding a game once your dead.

This is considered cheating. Once you are dead in the game you are dead. In real life you would have no means of contacting the living [not without a pottery wheel and Whoopi Goldberg :-)], so don't try to control the game after you're dead. If you are the COP, then message someone whilst you are still alive, or post it on the wall. Police Officers do not possess supernatural powers that allow them to keep functioning after they're dead. [I would know this if it was true. I know a lot of Police officers in my line of work, and none of the ones who have died have solved any crimes after death ... at least not to my knowledge. - David].

07 You don't vote first day because someone called a No-vote.

Put in other words, 'just because someone screams for everyone NOT to vote day one, is NOT a good enough reason to without your vote'. Most of the 'Advanced Players' vote day one. [It's not a RANDOM, so don't call it that]. Maybe your style of playing is not suited to this, but if people are voting day one, you will need to start grasping the intricacies of Advanced play. [Don't claim their playing style is ruining your playing style. It's like asking another athlete to run in your style or play a sport in your style because you can't handle the difficulty of their style. After all, if you think you have the right to demand they play in your style, then by rights they have the right to ask you to play in their style ... which leaves us in the situation that they get to vote day one regardless

of what you do].

A 'NO VOTE' on day one is a little like junior soccer where all the players run around chasing the ball without any structure to their game. Where ever the ball goes all twenty players follow it. [Note, the Goalies normally aren't running after the ball, else it'd be twenty two players chasing the ball.]

The 'NO VOTE' relies heavily on the COP and the DOC living in the game to find the mafia. It falls over drastically when the COP and DOC die early and the players then have no idea how to work out who is who. This game has been, and still can be, played without a cop or a doc.

Day one voting is important in games as it often gives players a good idea as to who is which role. It might have one or both the Cop and Doc come out in order to protect themselves. In a normal game though, the Cop and Doc won't die day one [unless they're having refresh problems or talk too late to save themselves]. However, this in no way means players should be relying totally on the cop and doc to do all the work either.

Mafia is a game of interaction and watching. It is often easy to see who the mafia are by their voting patterns, who defends who and who jumps often and where they jump to. Learn to watch and learn to pick up peoples habits when they play. You'll be surprised how much you see actually happening and how often you can catch the mafia without the need of the cop or doc.

[Reciprocally, it is also often easy for the Mafia to work out the cop and the doc by watching.]
Good players often work hard at hiding their true identity, this is part of the fun of the game.

08 You tell people your a role at the last second, which is generally pointless.

I think this rule needs little explanation, but just in case you can't work it out here it is. If you are a Cop or a Doc and you have a huge bandwagon happening on you, do not yell out at the last second telling the room who you are. There is little or no time for people to switch to another vote, and people have a habit of refreshing at different rates. Just because you refresh every five seconds, don't think that ten seconds will be enough reaction time for them to change.

There are occasional problems that do occur, like a sudden ten second bandwagon, or a refresh problem where you have no time to react. We're not talking about those, we're only specifically talking about when you have a minute to ask everyone to vote someone else and you don't say anything, or you say it last second. If you die under these circumstances, too bad. It's also not nice for your team mates who may have been relying on you as Cop or Doc.

09 You call players older than you game-wise, noobs. They aren't.

I can't count the amount of times I've been insulted by noobs coming into a game. Sure, a lot of advanced players may seem like noobs when you first go from a noob game to an advanced game [or an advanced player comes into a noob game]. There is generally a huge style difference in the game play. I would use the same analogy as before, it's like the difference between junior [everyone chase the ball] soccer and moving into understanding the game of soccer more once tactics and spreading out the players is introduced.

There are a lot of advanced moves [such as the 'gambit', the 'spiderpig' and others] which most noobs will not have seen [though they'll be included in the guide, so you can read about them]. Just because an advanced player is doing something you can't understand doesn't mean they're a noob.

In fact, not recognizing a common advanced move will mark you as a noob when you call an advanced player a noob for performing it. A little bit of respect goes a long way, and I'd also suggest that any player who first enters advanced games take a little while to get to know the other players before insulting them. [Even if it means taking a few insults about being a noob along the way]. Most advanced players are actually VERY helpful once you get to know them, and most love to impart their knowledge to players who are willing to listen. The big problem often occurs when a noob player comes into advanced and tries to tell advanced players how to play and calls them noobs.

[One noob told me he was much better at playing mafia than me, he had only just started playing advanced and his noob percentage score as a mafia was at 85%. I did tell him that as he played more advanced game he'd see that drop considerably, as playing the mafia role is near impossible in advanced. Two days later I saw him and I checked his mafia percentage. It had dropped to 54%. This is another reason to not call advanced players noobs. They will know how good a player you really are by how well your percentage is maintained once you hit the advanced levels. Noob percentage scores are not a good indication of how good you will do in advanced games. Often the ones who think they know it all lose a lot of percentage really quick if they don't learn to listen.]

So, my advice to anyone entering into advanced games is 'hold your tongue till you've been there a while'. A little respect will earn you a lot of kudos with the advanced players and you should learn a lot of advanced survival skills whilst there.

10 You vote at such a time as to not give the other player time to defend themselves, this is a game as much about communication as voting.

This is often called a *snipe*. [Some noobs often call Day One Voting sniping, but this is a misnomer. See 7 above for thoughts on day one voting]. Some players love to snipe as it gives them some sort of sense of power. The problem with sniping is it often hits the cop and doc as much as it hits the mafia. It however is a detraction from the game. There will be times when you might have to change votes at the last second because a cop or doc has revealed themselves at the last second, or maybe you realize who the mafia is and have to change votes. Usually a bandwagon might have formed in these cases and players have been given adequate time to defend themselves.

However, players deserve a chance to defend themselves. As the title says, the game is as much about communication as it is about voting. Some slick mafia players can convince people to vote others rather than themselves and even the odd deception on the part of innocent citizens can cause a mafia player to reveal themselves. Communicating is another skill of the game to be developed as much as your watching skills and voting skills.

11 You vote for the game host day 1.

Voting for the game host is usually considered bad etiquette, as they are the host. Some of those who start the game often wait for long periods of time before they start, therefore it is considered poor practice to vote for them.

The only possible exception to this would be if they are an obvious mafia player, missing a whisper, or if you are a mafia and you find out that they're cop or doc and have only one chance to vote them out during daylight hours. The rest of the time it would be wise to select targets who are not the host. If you really think they are on the opposing team, there is always the night turns and day two.

12 You idle out of games just because you don't like being a certain role.

Some players of mafia don't like playing if they are without a role. In noob games it might be true that a citizen is little more than a pawn with only a small vote. That's actually only because noobs see the role that way and play it that way. Many advanced players actually PREFER the role of the citizen and loath being a mafia. [Because the citizen has more power and the mafia role is almost impossible to win.]

If by chance you happen to hate playing a role, in most cases the role of a citizen, then for the sake of the other players, don't just leave a game. Many a game has been lost due to the timeouts of citizen players, or the mafia partner being missing. Some others hate the doc and cop roles. Regardless of which role you hate, DO NOT leave the game just because you don't want to play it. If you have that big a problem, then it's better not to play at all. After all, these are games of ten or more people and the other players deserve the right to a good game. How would you like it if every time you got to play your favourite role someone left the game?

13 You do anything else which you know is generally unfriendly which you couldn't say to your own family or who ever else you care about.

We're all people here folks.

[This does not include general game play, that would just be silly.]

This point speaks for itself. It's just a matter of a little respect going a long way. Keep your fingers from typing those insults [or if you must type them, then delete them before posting them].

If you begin to act unfriendly, the general perception in the game world is that you are unfriendly. It doesn't matter how nice you are in real life, if you take your frustrations out on other users, you will find yourself being banned from mafia or Facebook [or in trouble with the law].

We're all human, we all deserve a little respect, and if you're joking by what you're saying, include a smiley or two so we all know it. :-) Not hard to include. Just be careful not to be abrasive on other people. It actually doesn't take much to be a little caring, and if you joined Facebook to find friends, then I can't think of a better group of people than the Mafia Addicts. :-)