CARD SNAPPING AND 
OTHER ANNOYANCES

Some of this will just be good ol' common sense and politeness.
Not all of these fall strictly under the category of "bridge ethics," but none of your opponents will like it if you:
1) Come to the table dressed like a bum.
2) Come to the table reeking of strong perfume.
3) Come to the table smelling like you never take showers.
4) Chew/pop gum.
5) Snap cards (or play them in any obnoxious way).
6) Delay the game by:
   a) Postmortemming before the round is complete. b) Writing in your scorecard when it is your turn to bid or play. c) Doing anything (scoring, commenting, day-dreaming) that holds up the game when it is your turn. [Don't mix this up with THINKING -- which is always allowed if you have a bridge reason to think.]
7) Call attention to a bid or play by making it in an exaggerated manner. (Example: You signal with the 9 and want to make sure partner sees it--so you leave your finger on it just an extra few seconds before turning it over; or worse, make eye contact with partner before turning it over). If your bid is alertable and partner isn't alerting, don't give the show away. Act calmly. Don't stare at partner or draw extra attention to your bid with a stare or dazed look! 8) Fumble with the bidding box. Decide on your call, then reach into the box and make your bid. Don't let your fingers "hover" over the bidding box. 9) Criticize your partner or even worse, the opponents. If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all.

FACES AND GESTURES

"See No Evil, Hear No Evil" is good advice for bridge. Better might be: "Make no facial gestures, see no facial gestures." Yes, we can get emotional at times, but if your partner leads a spade and you make the face shown here, you are saying, "Partner, I don't like spades." Who needs legitimate bridge signals if we can signal attitude with a frown or a smile? Need I state the obvious? It is unethical to make any gestures during the bidding or play of the hand. This 'includes (but is not limited to): Smiles, frowns, agitation, staring at partner, frustration, confusion and anger.
If your partner forgets to alert your alertable bid, you must keep a poker face. Say nothing, show nothing. To do anything else is unethical. If you do commit such a sin, your partner needs to bend over backwards not to notice or act on the illegally gained information.

If you are confused by partner's bidding (what else is new), you can't show it with gestures of puzzlement or frustration. Don't do what you see here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNaEx9BskVM

If you don't like your partner's bid or play (what else is new again), don't show it! Keep a poker face. Don't do what you see here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5RjNOjUoJA

If you are annoyed (by partner or an opponent), don't show it. Stay calm, cool and collected (I know, it isn't easy). Don't do what you see here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RaxNzfzBR0 Any facial gesture or emotional reaction during the bidding or play of the hand is verboten. Period.

For any golf fans reading, I wanted to call this article, "spot the hacker." That should give you a clue as to the path I am heading down. I know that most bridge players want to have a good time and enjoy the game. Wonderful! But, along the way, here are some tips on how to appear/act more professional. It will be good for your image.

**PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Sit up straight (no slumping) in the chair. Hold your cards close so nobody else at the table can see them (the sure sign of a beginner is to hold his cards out too far in front). Concentrate! Or, at least appear to concentrate. Try to block out the fact that it might be too hot or too cold or too noisy. Don't let others see your mind/eyes wandering. No faces during the bidding or play. Keep a poker face at all times.

**WHAT TO SAY (and not say).**

No yelling at or criticizing partner. Try some smiles and laughter. No unsolicited post-mortems (better to be silent and thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt). Don't show ignorance by reacting to a travelling score-slip ("look Madge, everyone else made it!") So what? Maybe every other table gave bad defense. Travelers are for amusement purposes only. Show good manners. Be polite to partner and the opponents. Anything less shows a lack of professionalism.
TEMPO
Don't snap out any fast plays or bids. All bridge actions must be made in a calm, even-mannered tempo. This isn't to say that you won't have to think extra long at times—thinking is allowed. No problem there. But, avoid any fast and snappy actions that convey unauthorized information. No coffee housing (thinking when there is nothing to think about). Always strive to display perfect ethics.

TIME
Don't needlessly hold up the game. Don't postmortem the previous deal when time is short. Pick up your hand, sort it, and get to the bidding without delaying the game. When you are on opening lead, don't first start writing in your personal scorecard. Make your lead, and then write.

DURING THE AUCTION
If ever your RHO opens, say 1, and you happen to have 7 of them, don't give the show away. Don't ask, "How many diamonds does that promise?" Also, don't ask silly or useless questions. If you really need to know the meaning of an alert (because you are thinking of entering the bidding), wait until your turn and then ask. Most alerts (especially when you are passing throughout) can wait until after the auction—you do yourself a disservice by asking during the auction. If your opponents have the auction to themselves and suddenly jump to 4NT, what good is it to ask the meaning? You only help the opponents by asking. Avoid making silly doubles. If you open 2, and the opponents later cue-bid 3, you show your naivety if you innocently double and maybe laugh and ask if it is your lead. By giving them extra space to pass or redouble to convey information, such doubles only help your opponents.

AFTER THE GAME
It is always a good idea to seek (open-mindedly) the advice of better players. When you do so, don't then argue with their answer. Good idea: Give them your hand in order with 13 cards. It is the sure sign of an amateur to say, "Well, 5 clubs, to the ace, I think...and four hearts...no three hearts...and something in spades, wait a minute..."