

Mind Your Manners

Ms. Netiquette's Do's And Don'ts For Playing Online

(NAPSA)—Playing online games requires more than just a little game know-how and the competitive will to win. To make the most of your online game experience, you'll find that communication skills and good sportsmanship are often more important than playing the game well.

Thankfully, most online gamers are friendly and fun-loving. However, there may be times when questionable behavior pops up, and it's important to know how to handle yourself. Ms. Netiquette™, the online manners expert at Pogo.com™, offers weekly tips on online game etiquette. Below is her list of do's and don'ts for playing online.

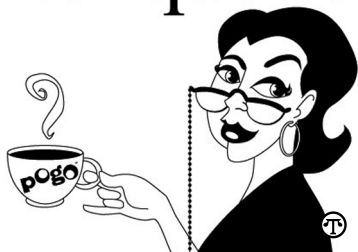
- DO choose a screen name that is appropriate. If you choose a risqué or offensive handle, it's just a matter of time before someone reports you. And if you play on a site that provides ranks, ratings, badges, stamps or some other types of goodies, you could lose all of that.

- DON'T assume you know how to play the game before trying it out. Most game sites offer a "How to Play" guide, which will give detailed instructions about each game.

- DO set the expectation. If you want to play a friendly game, tell people in the chat room that you are starting a "friendly" game. If you want to play a super-competitive game, then say so.

- DON'T stoop to the level of an abuser. As tempting as it may be to defend yourself or others, refrain. Most sites offer a "mute" or "block chat" feature that prevents you from seeing the chat of chosen individuals.

Ms. Netiquette



A popular online gaming site reminds players to mind their manners when they play games.

- DO report abuse when you see players breaking the site's rules. You may be the only one who does.

- DON'T be a poor sport. It's only a game and sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. If you lose, then do it with dignity. Don't accuse your opponent of cheating or just being lucky.

- DO be friendly in the chat room. A simple "Hello all" or "Hi everyone" will immediately let people know that you're a friendly person. This will make it easier for you to find game partners and to make friends.

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