

The STOP Card

– Always use it or never use it–

The STOP Card: Players should protect their rights and the opponent's by announcing prior to making any subsequent bid that skips one or more levels of bidding. Place the stop card so that LHO sees it (the skip bidder is

Skip bids: The use of the skip-bid warning is discretionary.

When the skip-bid warning should be used: If players are going to use the warning, they must use it whenever they skip one or more levels of bidding — be it an opening bid, an overcall, a rebid or response, strong or weak. Players who use the warning to call attention to the type of bid being made are in direct violation of both the letter and the spirit of the regulation.

Role of the opponent: The announcement of a skip bid requires the LHO of the player who makes the announcement to consider his hand for an approximate count of 10 seconds before calling.

Purpose of the skip-bid warning: Use of the warning protects both the user and his ethical opponents (who are not put under time pressure to select a call following a bid that skips one or more levels).