

Gainesville Bridge Club

Bidding Requirements

Bridge is a game, like other games, based on rules. In the chart of Conventions listed by the ACBL, there are parameters of what each bid and response represents in the quality of a given hand based on factors such as high card points (HCP), suit quality and distribution. A good bridge partnership is constructive, using these conventions to reach the optimum contract.

In contrast to this, partnerships using agreements designed to make opponents go wrong is considered destructive. The primary purpose of destructive 'conventions' is to confuse opponents by systematically misrepresenting a hand. Destructive bidding is unsportsmanlike and unethical.

The Director will penalize the destructive bidder. The following outlines what is specifically prohibited under the ACBL Chart of Conventions. Use of any of these prohibited bids or conventions will result in an adjusted score. Repeated use of these prohibited conventions may incur disciplinary action.

The intent of these recommendations is to stop the practice of destructive bidding systems. Inexperienced pairs are the chosen victims of this unsportsmanlike behavior. This is illegal according to the ACBL convention chart and the spirit of Zero Tolerance.

The current ACBL Convention Chart can be found here:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Convention-Chart.pdf>

The chart specifically states that conventions and/or agreements designed to destroy the opponents' methods are disallowed.

The recommendations are threefold:

I Specific Disallowances From the Chart

1. Direct non-jump overcalls or takeout doubles with fewer than 7 Goren points including distribution.
2. Opening one of a suit with fewer than 8 HCP.
3. Opening 1C to promise a 5 card suit in an undisclosed minor.
4. Non-Precision 1C opener with fewer than 2C.

II Specific Disallowance for Destructive DONT

1. Direct non-jump interference (including doubles) over 1NT with fewer than 8 Goren points including distribution (DONT) is prohibited.
2. The distribution of the interferer's hand must adhere to the distribution outlined by ACBL:
http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Commonly_Used_Conventions/dontover1nt.pdf

III Sanctions for Violations

Note: the argument that they fooled their partner as much as the opponents is not valid. No deviations from these conditions should be permitted.

First violation: Record the event but do not penalize. Warn violators in a friendly way.

Further violations: The Director will award the Actual result or average minus, whichever is worse.

Conclusion

Note that this would not apply to our sectional tournament where ACBL Tournament rules are in effect. But some of these bids are not allowed in tournament play.

These rules will make things fairer for all players. A few players may complain, but most will welcome these restrictions that make their experience more enjoyable.