

## Insufficient Bid (IB)

Directors' Nightmare! When the Director is called the situation has usually got to one of three different places:

1. Nothing has happened since the IB (This is what should happen);
2. The next player has not noticed the IB and has called;
3. The offender has already corrected their IB to something else.

The Director may need to judge how much information will be helpful and what will only confuse!

2. Is easiest but often not accepted gracefully at the table. By calling (including pass) the next player has condoned the bid whether they meant to or not.

The auction proceeds from the point it has reached, for example: 1S, 1C (IB), Pass (condoned), 1D – perfectly legal.

1. The Director gives the following options to offender and the non-offender whose turn it is. All options should be given before any choice is made:
  - a. The player whose turn it is to call may accept the IB and the auction continues as in 2. above.
  - b. If it is not accepted then the offender will need to make any legal call. They can, but are not required to, make the bid good (ie specifying the same suit(s) at the lowest legal level). Examples:
    - i. Making Good: 1H, 1C changed to 2C (both show clubs so OK) or 1NT, (2D), 2D (meant to be a transfer showing H) changed to 2H
    - ii. Comparable Call – a separate sheet will detail this but roughly a call, other than i. which gives the same or more precise information than the IB. eg 2C (2H) 2D – meant to be negative but didn't see the interference. Pass would be comparable
    - iii. Any other bid or pass. A double or redouble is illegal unless it falls into category ii.

If the offender chooses to 'make good' or make a comparable call then there is no further penalty and the UI (unauthorised information) law does not apply. If the offender chooses another call then their partner is silenced for the rest of the auction. There may be a lead penalty (see separate sheet) if they become defenders, and there may be UI.

3. If the offender has chosen a replacement bid before the Director becomes involved then the option to accept the IB is still given to next player. If they do accept then the replacement bid is cancelled and there may be lead penalties. Otherwise the offender's replacement bid stands, and all the penalties that may go with it; they are not offered the options.

In all cases the non-offenders may request that the Director adjusts the score if they believe the IB has caused damage.

# Congleton Bridge Club – Directing notes

## Notes

It is possible that the IB was a 'mechanical error' ie the wrong card was pulled from the box. If this is suggested by the offender then the Director will have to decide if it was. If this is agreed then it is not an IB as legally the bid was never made. The player may replace the bid without penalty. If the next player has called then this also may be replaced.

There is a difference between a denomination (ie a suit or NT) being 'specified' and being 'designated'. The designation is what is 'said' or printed on the bidding card. The specification is what denomination(s) is/are shown by the call: eg

1NT (-) 2D transfer. Diamonds is the suit designated; hearts is the suit specified; or

(1C) 2C! Michaels. Clubs is the suit designated; hearts and spades are the suits specified.

In order to ascertain which bids 'make good' or are comparable it is necessary to ascertain what the insufficient bid actually meant; systemically it can't have any meaning! This can involve gleaning what was in the offender's head (if anything!!!) when the bid was made:

- Very often it is because an opponent's bid has not been seen. If this is the case then the Director can decide that the IB has the meaning it would have if there had been no bid by the opponent.
- It could be just a 'slip of the mind': Partner: 2NT; Offender: "I think I'll use Stayman ...'2C'! In this case it cannot be made good as 2C didn't specify a suit. But if 3C is also Stayman then it is comparable.
- If the bid is so extreme that no meaning can be attributed to it then any replacement call (including double or redouble) are comparable as any meaning is more precise than no meaning

If the offender replaces their IB with an illegal double or redouble then a legal replacement call must be required by the Director. The offender's partner is silenced for the rest of the auction and lead penalties may apply.

If the offender replaces their IB with another IB then Director acts as above with the addition that the second IB may be accepted by the next player.

"Making Good" may provide illegal information to a player's partner. However, the UI law does not apply but the Director is still empowered to adjust the score if he believes the non-offenders have been damaged.

The same applies to a "comparable call" but because of its definition is much more unlikely.

Lead penalties may apply if the withdrawn call specifies one or more suits that the offender does not (whether before or after the offence) specify legally during the auction; and the offenders become defenders. If this is the case then declarer may prohibit offender's partner at his first turn to lead (and for as long as they retain the lead) any one suit not specified legally.