

## **Appendix G**

### **Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens**

These Conditions of Contest (CoC) may not be changed during the course of an event. Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exemption.

#### **BIDDING BOXES (no screens)**

1. Players must choose a call before touching any card in the bidding box. A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching, or nearly touching, the table — or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made.
2. A call may be changed without penalty, under the provisions of Law 25A, only if a player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and the player corrects or attempts to correct his mistake without pause for thought and the player's partner has not made a call.

#### **SCREEN PROCEDURES**

At tables with a VuGraph operator present, players and kibitzers shall surrender all electronic communications devices to the VuGraph operator before beginning play. These devices will be returned upon completion of all the boards in the segment.

The purpose of the screen is to prevent information from being transmitted from one side to the other. Players should strongly endeavor in all situations to ensure that sounds of any kind are not heard on the opposite side of the screen during the auction.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screenmates (unless otherwise required as a reasonable accommodation to a disabled player). The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove their cards from the board and make their calls.

Beginning with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but law 25 may apply). North or South slide the tray under the screen after his screenmate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There will be no oral communication during the auction. After three consecutive passes, all players remove their bidding cards. At this point, the declaring side may offer information about their own explanations.

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal timing by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced in front of, but not on, the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray. It is not proper for a player to use this procedure where the overall time taken to pass the tray may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information. One should also endeavor to refrain from asking questions where the answer to those questions is not relevant at that time, and where the time taken to ask and respond to those questions may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information.

The opening leader's screenmate shall raise the screen aperture or indicate for the screen aperture to be raised. The opening leader's screenmate is entitled to delay the

## **Appendix G**

### **Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens**

opening of the screen for up to fifteen seconds after a lead has been made. During that period and throughout the play the leader may not take any action to indicate to the other side that his lead was delayed by the declaring side. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see the cards. The opening lead shall be made face-up on the table. The defending side should refrain from touching the opening lead until it becomes a quitted trick. (It may be touched by the declaring side.)

If the tray is removed from the table, only the declaring side may do so.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge North American Edition are in effect except as specified below:

LAW 9A(4); LAW 42B(3); LAW 43A(1)(b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed.

LAW 13:

The Adjusted Score and Possible Penalty prescribed in Law 13B shall apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.

LAW 16:

A. When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, his screenmate should not inform those players on the other side of the screen. The screenmate should not report the delay to the director prior to the completion of the hand.

B. If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorized information under Law 16B2, he should reserve his rights or call the Director. He may do so without prejudice at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen is opened.

C. Failure to do as (B) provides may persuade the Director that it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so, he may well rule there was no perceived delay on the other side of the screen and thus no unauthorized information.

LAW 20:

Review of the Auction: Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screenmate.

**EXPLANATION OF CALLS:**

**1. During the Auction:**

At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply also is in writing.

**2. Prior to the Opening Lead:**

a. The opening leader is permitted to ask for clarification in writing from his opponent on the other side of the screen.

b. Preferably before the opening lead, the declaring side is strongly encouraged to confirm explanations given on the two sides of the screen if

## **Appendix G**

### **Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens**

there is any possibility those explanations might have been different. If the explanations were different, the director must be summoned to ensure the defenders both have access to the information to which they are legally entitled. In cases where one side's explanations were different as a result of the other side giving different explanations of their own calls, the director shall protect the non-offending side from misinformation as the Laws provide. If in such cases the exchange of information across the screen resulted in the defenders becoming aware of their own misunderstanding, the director shall protect the declaring side from the resulting unauthorized information.

3. After the screen is raised:

a. Third hand (opening leader's partner) is permitted to ask for clarification in writing.

b. If based upon the appearance of dummy, declarer has reason to suspect there may be need for clarification of explanations, before playing from dummy, those remedies provided in 2.b. are also in effect.

4. During the Play Period:

Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.

5. Misunderstandings:

Failure to provide a written response may be resolved in favor of MI or both sides may be ruled against.

LAWS 26-32; LAW 34-39:

For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the TD. The TD shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These calls may not be accepted.

B. Both sides at fault:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player — North or South — moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the TD. In situations where the laws permit LHO to accept the infringing call, it is accepted on behalf of the non-offending side when the screenmate passes the tray (Law 23 may apply). Otherwise, the TD shall return the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These calls may not be accepted.

C. Only one side at fault:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction — East or West — also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are

## **Appendix G**

### **Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens**

responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the TD. The TD shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

#### **D. Irregularity not noticed:**

When the infringing call is passed across the screen and neither player draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

#### **E. Information:**

Authorized or not: Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity.

#### **LAW 33:**

The subsequent call is canceled without penalty.

#### **LAW 40:**

Alerts: When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screenmate silently. The preferable way to alert is to silently place the alert card over the alertable call and then remove it after receiving acknowledgement. It is the responsibility of the person alerting to ensure that the alert has been noticed. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call. There are no delayed Alerts when playing behind screens.

#### **LAW 41A:**

Opening lead out of turn: The offender's screenmate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced-down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced-opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side:

A. and, the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.

B. and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card. When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The TD shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

#### **LAW 73D:**

During the Auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced in front of, but not on, the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray. It is not proper for a player to use this procedure where the overall time taken to pass the tray may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information.

It is considered that normally there can be no implications if a tray returns after 20 seconds or less (this period may be extended in the later stages of a complicated or competitive auction without necessarily creating implications). However, if the players

## **Appendix G**

### **Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens**

have not been controlling the tempo of the auction as recommended above or if the nature of the auction makes it apparent that only one side could reasonably have been thinking then even a delay of materially less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as significant.

LAW 76:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.