

## HESITATIONS

It's OK to think, sometimes you have to. It's not illegal to **hesitate** before bidding.

If you take **longer than usual** to bid partner will know you had something to think about.

If partner has a choice of plausible bids they can't select one suggested by your hesitation.

The Director determines the list of 'plausible choices' by polling what people would bid with your partner's hand without a hesitation. Their answers define the plausible choices.

The result may be changed but this does not mean Partner has done anything wrong. It just means they inadvertently made a choice that is proscribed by the laws as above.

The same applies if you ask a question, or look at your opps convention card, before bidding

Here are some examples:

1. Partner opens 1D – Opps overcall 1H – **You hesitate** then Pass...

Your hesitation suggests unshown values that made you think about bidding.

Your partner can't choose a bid suggested by those unshown values over any other plausible actions, e.g. Pass, (s)he might have made without the hesitation.

2. Partner opens 1S – Opps – **You hesitate** then Bid 3

Your hesitation suggests you had a dilemma and were considering an alternate Bid.

Since no-one knows whether you were thinking of 2S or 4S partner can bid what they like as no particular action has been suggested over any other.

3. **You hesitate** then make a Penalty double of Opps Contract

The hesitation suggests you aren't sure X is best and don't mind Partner bidding on.

Your partner can't bid on if Pass is a plausible action with their hand because bidding on has been suggested by the uncertainty implicit in your hesitation.

4. 1H - 4H - 4NT - 5D - **You hesitate** then bid 5H

5H is a sign-off and hesitation suggests you were thinking of bidding the Slam (6H).

Your partner can't choose to bid 6H if Pass is a plausible action with their hand because bidding on is suggested by the uncertainty implicit in your hesitation.