

CHAPTER XII - SYSTEMS & CONVENTIONS
A. BIDDING, BIDDING BOXES, SKIP BIDS AND ALERTS

Section 1 – Psychic Bidding

- 1.1 A psychic bid is described as “A call that deliberately and grossly misstates high-card values or suit length.”
- 1.2 The excessive, frivolous or unsportsmanlike use of psychic bidding is disruptive to the game, and may make the offenders subject to penalty.
- 1.3 When three or more psychic initial actions by members of a partnership, in any one session, have come to the attention of the director, the director should investigate the possibility that excessive psyching is taking place.
- 1.4 Any psychic action apparently inspired by a spirit of malicious mischief or lack of will to win may be interpreted as frivolous.
- 1.5 A psychic action apparently designed to give the opponents an abnormal opportunity to win a good score; or unnatural or atypical psychics against pairs or teams in contention, may be classed as unsportsmanlike psychics.
- 1.6 When a player takes an action that appears to be based on an accurate "hunch" that his partner's earlier call was psychic, although that psychic was not clearly exposed by the opponents' calls or by legal psychic control, then the Tournament Director and Committee should consider such action to be presumptive evidence of an improper partnership understanding (even if implicit.) Unless this presumption is refuted by the psyching partnership, a match point penalty should be assessed. Repeated infractions may lead to disciplinary action.
- 1.7 All psychic openings of forcing artificial bids are prohibited at ACBL sanctioned events.
- 1.8 These regulations shall be applicable to all ACBL sanctioned events.

Section 2 – Bidding Boxes

- 2.1 When bid boxes are in use, a player must say "Alert" out loud when tapping the alert strip of the bid box. This regulation will not apply when screens are in use.
- 2.2 Whenever a review of the bidding is requested alerts must be included.

Section 3 – Skip Bids

- 3.1 Players should protect their rights and the opponent's by announcing, prior to making an opening bid at the two level or higher, or prior to making any subsequent bid that skips one or more levels of bidding.
- 3.2 When bidding orally by saying, "I am about to make a skip bid. Please Wait!"
- 3.3 When using bidding boxes, by placing the stop card so the LHO sees it (the skip bidder is responsible for gaining LHO's attention.) The skip bid is made. The stop card is replaced in the bidding box.
- 3.4 Leaving the stop card out is not an infraction.
- 3.5 The skip bid warning may not be used to alert partner that a strength-showing bid is being made or not being made. The warning should be used all the time. The tournament director may assess a procedural penalty (Law 90) for failure to comply.
- 3.6 When RHO has announced a skip bid, the player following the skip bidder must wait for a suitable interval (about 10 seconds.) While waiting the player's manner must be one that suggests he is an active participant in the auction (the hand should be studied during pause.) Any obvious display of disinterest is most improper.
- 3.7 Experienced players are expected to maintain proper tempo whether a skip bid is announced or not.
- 3.8 After a skip bid, players may ask questions but must still pause an appropriate amount of time for study.
- 3.9 When a player acts with undue haste or hesitation, the tournament director may award an adjusted score (Law 16) and/or procedural penalty (Law 90).
- 3.10 The skip bid warning is effective for all ACBL sanctioned events. For sanctioned games at clubs, the club may elect to discourage it's use and require no mandated pause.
- 3.11 In the matter of pause notification, Management is charged with the responsibility of interpreting regulations governing tournament play.

Section 4 – Alert Procedures

- 4.1 See [Alert Chart](#)

4.2 See [Alert Pamphlet](#)

4.2 A pair will not be sanctioned or the score adjusted for alerting instead of announcing.