

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 Tournament Director, the Tournament 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 any 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 matchpoint 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 bidding boxes are in use, a player must say "Alert" aloud while tapping the Alert strip/card from the bidding 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 The Stop card should not be used.

- 3.2 No verbal or visual skip-bid warning should be used.
- 3.3 Following a jump in the bidding, left-hand opponent is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

Section 4 – Alert Procedures

- 4.1 An Alert Chart is available at acbl.org/alerts.
- 4.2 See a pamphlet describing all Alert Procedures at acbl.org/alerts.
- 4.2 A pair will not be sanctioned, or their score adjusted, for alerting instead of announcing.