

Appendix J
to General Conditions of Contest – All Events

Electronic Device Policy

Proposal 01.31.2022

This policy applies to all events at NABCs and events where ACBL is the Sponsoring Organization. Regional and Sectional tournaments are encouraged to adopt and apply this policy or one more well-suited to their players. A violation of any of the restrictions below will result in an automatic penalty, pursuant to Law 91 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

1 - Any electronic equipment must be kept in silent mode (except for health-related equipment, where silent mode is unavailable or could constitute a health risk).

It is recommended, though not mandatory, that any such equipment remain switched off while in the playing area during a session.

Penalties: If it is determined that an electronic equipment is not compliant with (1) above, the penalty for the first offense is 1/8 of a board, 1.5 imps, or ½ VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the third offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

2 - Players are expected to be paying attention to the game. While at the table, players may not use or interact with their electronic devices during bridge play. When between rounds or sitting out, use or interaction with electronic devices is permitted, provided it is inaudible. For other situations, permission to use or interact with an electronic device will be granted upon the Director's judgment and on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties: If it is determined that an electronic equipment was operated in violation of (2) above, the penalty for the first offense is ½ of a board, 6 IMPS, or 2 VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the second offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

The above restrictions apply to all players, captains, coaches and kibitzers, except those persons granted permission by the ACBL, and are in force throughout any playing session or segment of play.

A kibitzer in violation of these policies must leave the playing area and may be readmitted only by permission of the tournament director.

Penalties for captains and coaches: Same as for players.

For the purpose of this policy, each day of a multi-day event is treated independently.

Further restrictions and requirements may apply in events involving live internet and/or VuGraph coverage and/or instruction from the Sponsoring Organization.

For the purpose of this policy, Sponsoring Organization is the ACBL for NABCs, the organizing District for Regionals, and the organizing Unit for Sectionals.