

# AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

## REGULATIONS FOR PLAY WITH SCREENS

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Screens must be used if at all possible during the final rounds of all Australian Bridge Federation events and during the Australian Team Selection Playoffs. Any agreement by Players/Captains to play without screens is ineffective.
- 1.2 When screens are in use these Regulations apply as varied by the Supplementary Regulations and at the discretion of the Tournament Director in Charge (TDIC) in any manner necessary to facilitate the reasonable conduct of the event.
- 1.3 Each player must provide his/her screen-mate with an ABF authorised system card correctly filled-in and any relevant system notes.
- 1.4 From the time that the screen is closed at the beginning of a hand to the conclusion of the play of that hand, there is to be no oral communication at the table and no player is permitted to communicate with players on the other side of the screen except through the Director.
- 1.5 All queries are to be made and responded to in writing. The written queries and responses must remain on the table to be collected by the Tournament Director for retention until the expiry of the correction periods (see Laws 79C and 92B).
- 1.6 The duties of a BBO operator or a match recorder are to record the bidding, the play and the score. A BBO operator is entitled to reserve any position including either corner of the screen (NE or SW). A BBO operator is not permitted to draw attention to, or summon the Director to report, any irregularity.
- 1.7 When both non-playing captains are present at the same table they must both sit on the side of the screen selected by the captain of the N/S pair. They may not occupy positions that might impede a BBO operator in the performance of his/her duties.
- 1.8 Where the TDIC determines that one or more boards in a round or session are to be arrow-switched, the players on the same side of the screen must change seats. The relative orientation of the boards with respect to the screen must not be varied.

### 2 SCREEN OPERATION

- 2.1 The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screen-mates.
- 2.2 The board must remain in the centre of the table throughout play. The board is placed by N/S on the moveable bidding tray ('chariot') or the written bidding record sheet or on the table under the screen in such a position that it can be seen on both sides of the screen.
- 2.3 West closes the screen so that the bidding tray can just pass under it.
- 2.4 The players now remove their cards from the board.

- 2.5 The auction is carried out by using written bidding record sheets or bidding boxes
- 2.5.1 Written bidding record sheets: Each call is entered in the next vacant box working from left to right of a player's segment of the record sheet.
- 2.5.2 Bidding boxes: Each call is made by placing bidding cards silently on a player's section of the tray, starting from the extreme left-hand edge and neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards. Declarer or dummy then removes the tray, but the board remains in the centre of the table.
- 2.6 A call is not valid until the player has written the appropriate symbol with an appropriate numeral, if necessary (written bidding) or released the bidding card onto the tray (bidding boxes).
- 2.7 North or South (as the case may be) transfers the tray under the centre of the screen. The players receiving the tray are then responsible for ensuring that the entire auction is visible on their side of the screen.
- 2.8 Alerts are made by displaying or indicating an alert card or by placing it on the screen-mate's segment of the tray. The recipient should acknowledge the alert or remove it from the tray. The player who makes an alertable call must alert the screen-mate. After the bidding tray is transferred under the screen the partner must alert the opponent on the other side of the screen.
- 2.9 When a player alerts partner's call, it is that player's responsibility to ensure that the opponent is properly alerted. If the Director is satisfied that the opponent has not been properly alerted, he may treat the situation as a 'failure to alert'. There shall be no appeal against the Director's judgement about whether a call has been properly alerted.
- 2.10 All requests for information (Law 20) about the auction or any alerted call must be made with the screen closed. They are made to, and responded to, by the screen-mate in writing. A claim of misinformation should be supported by written evidence. Failure to do so may invalidate any claim of damage.
- 2.11 A player who removes his bidding cards from the tray with the intention of passing is deemed to have passed.
- 2.12 The opening lead is made face down. Opening leader's screen-mate announces that the lead has been made; either declarer or dummy opens the screen in a manner that permits all players to see all the cards and play proceeds.

### **3 IRREGULARITIES**

- 3.1 The Director should be called at once after a bidding irregularity [Law 9B1(a)]. The Director removes evidence of the attempted infraction and the auction continues.
- 3.2 The tray is not to be transferred to the other side without the correction of an irregularity. The Director may penalise offending players.
- 3.3 The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 apply except as specified below.

4. Where screens are in use the scheduled adjustments to the normal provisions found in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge shall apply.

**SCHEDULE:**

**Law 9A3; Law 42B(3); Law 43A(1)(b) Dummy's Rights**

Dummy may not call attention to a defender's card exposed prematurely by a screen-mate, but should try to avoid exposure of a premature opening lead.

**Law 13**

The adjusted score and penalty prescribed in Law 13B2 apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.

**Law 16**

During the auction, a breach of tempo may be identified by the slowness or speed with which the tray is returned. If a player takes more than a normal amount of time to decide upon his/her call, it is an infraction until the end of the play period for either player on the side of the screen where the variation in tempo occurred to draw attention to it.

If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there may be unauthorized information as a result of an abnormally slow return of the bidding tray, the procedure set out in Law 16B2 applies. The Director may be summoned at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.

A failure to summon the Director prior to the screen being opened supports the premise that it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo and not the player receiving the tray. If the wrong member of the partnership did draw attention to the break in tempo the Director may rule that there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised 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/her screen-mate (see 2 below).

**Explanation of calls**

1. During the Auction: At any time a player may request, in writing, of his/her screen-mate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply, also, is in writing.
2. During the Play Period: Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is opened after the response has been made in writing.
3. At no time prior to completion of the hand is any communication permitted between a player on one side of the screen and a player on the other side of the screen concerning the auction or explanations given and received.

**Laws 25 through 32; Law 34, Laws 36 through 39:**

Only those calls that comprise the legal auction should pass through the screen. When an irregularity is corrected the players on the other side of the screen are not informed of any occurrence. For infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

- (a) **Tray not passed:** Before the tray is passed, either the offender's screen-mate, or the offender himself, should call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The

Director shall see that the infraction is put right without any further rectification. Infringing calls may not be accepted and any irregularity must be corrected.

- (b) **Both sides at fault:** If an 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 Director. The player who has passed the irregularity through the screen is deemed to have accepted the opponent's call on behalf of his side in those situations where the normal laws would permit LHO to accept it (i.e. for Laws 25B, 27A, 29A and 32A). The tray should only be returned to the offending player for rectification of an infraction to which the laws do not permit acceptance (e.g. Law 35).
- (c) **Only one side at fault:** 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). Either player on the other side of the screen has the ability to call attention to the infraction and summon the Director. The player receiving the tray may exercise the right to accept the infraction where such right exists under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If the infraction is not accepted, the Director returns the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and applies the appropriate law.
- (d) **Irregularity not noticed:** If the infringing call is passed across the screen, and neither player there 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 correction or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Laws 36A, 37A and 38A still apply.
- (e) **Authorized and unauthorized information:** Information from withdrawn calls (including those not transferred to the other side of the screen) is unauthorized for any partnership at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity (Law 16C).

### **Law 33** **Simultaneous Calls**

The subsequent call is cancelled without restriction.

### **Law 40** **Alerts**

When a player makes an alertable call, he/she should immediately alert his/her screen-mate. When the bidding tray arrives on the other side of the screen his/her partner should immediately do the same.

### **Law 41A** **Opening Lead out of Turn**

The offender's screen-mate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A face down lead out of turn may be retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn may be retracted without penalty if the screen has not been opened. When the screen has been opened after a faced opening lead out of turn - through no fault of the declaring side and:

- (a) The other side has not yet led face up; the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.
- (b) The other side has also led face up; the card becomes a major penalty card.

When the declaring side has opened the screen, the faced lead out of turn must be accepted and the player who first mentioned the denomination of the final contract becomes the declarer. The Director shall award an adjusted score if he/she considers that the player who opened the screen could have been aware that it would be to his/her advantage to do so.

**Law 45A** **Play of a Card from Hand**

Cards must always be placed on the table in the same manner as previously played cards; either vertically or horizontally. Violation of the correct placing procedure is subject to penalty.

**Law 73D** **Variations in Tempo**

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.

A delay of the tray on one side of the screen of up to 20 seconds (at any time during the auction and whether or not out of tempo) shall not give rise to any inference of unauthorized information. Players are advised to vary the time the tray is passed so that pauses of up to 20 seconds (or perhaps longer in unexpected situations) may be considered not to convey information.

**Law 76** **Spectators**

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