

**Regulating Authority's Powers under Law  
Determinations of the ABF as Regulating Authority**

**As at August 1, 2017**

Note: RA = Regulating Authority

**Definitions "Alert"**

Method of alerting specified in ABF Alerting Regulations section 7

**1B RA may require the face of each card to be symmetrical**

Not Required

**12C2(b) Average plus at IMP play may be varied by TO subject to RA's approval as provide for by Law 78D**

For events scored against a datum or using X-IMPs, the score awarded (as average plus or average minus) shall be plus or minus 2 IMPs.

**12C2(d) RA may provide for circumstances where a contestant fails to obtain a result on multiple boards during the same session**

See ABF General Regulations - Appendix 7.

**16B2 RA may prohibit a player announcing that he wishes to reserve his rights in situations of unauthorised information**

Not Prohibited

**18F Methods of making calls**

Specified in ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes

**20F1 RA may specify written explanations of call**

Written explanations only required under ABF Regulations for Play with Screens

**20G3 RA may allow player to consult own card/notes during auction and play**

See 40B2(b)

**21B1(a) Misinformation where alert required by RA**

ABF Alerting Regulations apply

**40A1(b) Manner of revealing agreements**

Specified in ABF Alerting Regulations

**40B1 Special partnership understanding (SPU)**

See ABF Alerting Regulations

**40B2(a) RA may restrict or allow SPU**

Specified in ABF System Regulations

**40B2(a) RA may prescribe alerting methods**

Specified in ABF Alerting Regulations

**40B2(a) RA may restrict psychic artificial calls**

ABF System Regulation 9.6 prohibits the psyching of conventional opening bids that are forcing and made by agreement on strong hands (e.g., a Game Forcing 2♣ or a Precision 1♣)

**40B2(a) RA may disallow variations in agreement after an irregularity committed by the opponents**

Variations of agreement by a partnership are allowed following an irregularity committed by the opponents. No such variation of agreement is permitted for a partnership who has committed an infraction.

**40B2(b) Right to consult one's own system card/notes during auction and play**

Not permitted. However, reference to written defence to Yellow systems and Brown Sticker conventions are permitted in most events.

**40B2(c) Right to consult opponents' system card during auction and play**

Players may consult the opponent's system card during the auction or play periods.

**40B2(d) RA may permit aids to memory, calculation or technique**

Not Permitted

**41A & 45A RA may require the opening lead be made face up**

The opening lead shall be made face down.

**70E2 RA may specify an order in which the Director shall deem a suit played if it has not been specified in the statement of claim**

(a) Top down - A declarer who states that he is cashing a suit is normally assumed to cash them from the top.

(b) Different suits - If a declarer appears unaware of an outstanding winner, or losing line of play [but see (a) above], and a trick could be lost by playing or discarding one suit rather than another, then the Director should award that trick to the non-claiming side.

**73A2 RA may require mandatory pauses after skip bid warnings (i.e. use of Stop Cards)**

The ABF does not require the use of any mandatory pauses during either the auction or the play.

**76A2**            ***RA may make regulations for electronic transmission of play (eg. BBO)***

The Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for deciding which matches should be broadcast on BBO. The Tournament Organiser is also responsible for the prior training of the operators and the efficient delivery of the service on site. BBO must not intrude on the players' amenity or impede the rate of play. It is the responsibility of the BBO operators to keep pace with the play, not the reverse.

**76C2**            ***RA may specify how to deal with irregularities caused by spectators***

The right to penalise an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the non-offending side is responsible. The right to correct an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the offending side is responsible.

**78D**            ***RA may approve other scoring methods***

The use of VP scales as determined by the WBF is authorised. Alternative scoring methods are also permitted. These may include (but are not limited to) X-IMPs and Butler when scored against a datum.

**80A3**            ***RA may delegate or assign powers***

The ABF has assigned to State and Territory Associations the power to regulate Red and Green Masterpoint events held within their geographic boundaries for a period of 5 years commencing 1-08-17 (until 1-08-22).

**86B3**            ***RA may provide differently for circumstances where multiple boards have been played at only one table between the same or multiple contestants***

See ABF General Regulations - Appendix 7.

**93C1**            ***RA may establish procedures for further appeals***

**93C3(a)**        ***RA may deem the decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee final***

**93C3(b)**        ***RA may authorise modification, omission or alteration of the stages of the appeals process set out in the Laws.***

Any request for a qualified review by the ABF National Authority of a ruling made at a tournament conducted under the auspices of the ABF shall be forwarded in writing to the ABF General Counsel.

The ABF National Authority may review any decision arising from any tournament run under the auspices of the ABF. The National Authority will however limit its functions to the interpretation of the said Laws of Bridge and will not decide facts or change or purport to change any ruling that has been made under those Laws. It follows that the Authority will not overturn the result of an event but may issue an opinion in order to establish or confirm a legal precedent or procedure.