

BIDDING BOX REGULATIONS

USE OF BIDDING BOXES

1. Bidding boxes will be used in all events held at NABC's except I/N events (0-500). Their use will be optional in I/N events.
2. Units and Districts are encouraged to use bidding boxes in their games.
3. Handicapped players requiring bidding boxes will have preference when availability is limited.
4. Non-handicapped players may use bidding boxes, if available, in games in which such use is not mandated as long as no player at the table objects.

ACBL Bidding Box Policy

Any player has the right to use bidding boxes (assuming they are available) for any ACBL event in which they play if they are needed because of a hearing impairment. As a policy, we do not question players as to the details of a handicap when they state that one exists.

When bidding boxes are in use for this reason, no player has the right to refuse to play with them. Players who have a handicap which preclude their use will have a distinctive card. The card will be displayed on the table and read, "due to a physical or visual handicap, we are not using bidding boxes."

CHOOSING A CALL USING BIDDING BOXES

A player is obligated to choose a call before touching any card in the box.

Deliberation while touching the bidding box cards may subject the offending side to the adjustment provisions of Law 16.

A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made. We should use unauthorized information where reasonably appropriate (where we can rule that a bid has not been made). For close cases simply judge that the card had not left the confines of the box; therefore, a call has not been made.

The onus is on the player to convince the director that a mechanical irregularity has occurred. Calls from different pockets should rarely, if at all, be judged as inadvertent. One understandable exception is placing the double card out followed shortly with a bid card that skips the bidding. This appears clear that the double card was placed inadvertently on the table.

THE STOP CARD

The Stop Card should not be used. No verbal or visual Skip-Bid Warning is required. Following the Skip Bid, LHO 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.

NOTE: If a player accidentally uses the stop card, there is no penalty. It is each player's responsibility to maintain appropriate tempo at all times.

ALERT PROCEDURE

Except when screens are in use, a player must say "Alert" out loud when tapping the alert strip of the bidding box.