

Bidding Boxes – Instructions for use

Making a Call

Players place their selected calls in front of them in turn, facing towards the centre of the table, in a row from left to right, with every call in the sequence visible. Note that some left-handed bidding boxes are available, where the calls are placed in a row from right to left.

When is a Call Deemed to be Made?

A call is deemed to be made when the bidding card is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent. Players should decide which call they are going to make before touching any card. To hesitate between choices is UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION to Partner.

Correction of Call

A call may be changed without penalty ONLY if it is inadvertent, ie a mechanical error, not a change of mind. The player must change or attempt to change the inadvertent call without pause for thought from the moment that he REALISES he has made the wrong call.

Originally, it was advised that changes should not be allowed if the player had let go of the card, or if it was from a different part of the box. This is not now the case.

If LHO made a call before the change was allowed, he may withdraw that choice and replace it with another without penalty.

STOP and ALERT Cards

(A) The STOP card should be placed on the table before any jump bid and stay there for about ten seconds. The next player may not call until it is removed and should wait about ten seconds however fast it has been removed.

(B) When the ALERT card is required, it should be taken from the box and shown to both opponents (making sure that it has been seen by both) before being replaced in the box.

Incorrectly Exposed Bidding Card

Calls not made should not be visible. An incorrectly exposed call can be subject to penalty if the Director judges that an opponent has been misled.

At the End of the Auction

The bidding cards should remain in place until the opening lead has been made face down and all explanations have been obtained, after which they should be returned to their boxes.