

Rules for Online Bridge

Playing bridge on an online platform is different from playing live in-person events. Some Laws, created to address occurrences like bidding out of turn, playing out of turn, revoking etc. are now superfluous. Others require a different emphasis. These include:

- Review and explanation of calls
- Legal and illegal changes of calls
- Partnership understanding (Alerting)

The WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge (2017) as well as the current SABF “Regulations for the Control of Conventions” and “Supplementary Regulations” will be followed whenever applicable.

1. ALERTING:

All pairs are required to give a brief summary of their system at the beginning of each round / match. The easiest way to do this is to include it in your BBO profile under “Other” – then refer your opposition to the applicable player profile. All players must have a BBO profile containing brief summary of system which should include:

- Basic system type
- Strength of NT opening
- Minimum length of opening suit
- Strong/Weak opening bids
- Leads
- Signals

All artificial or systemic bids must be **self-alerted** and explained in full in the designated “Explain box”, by the player making the bid, not announced via the “table-chat”.

Players must only alert their own bids, not partner’s. Do not just state Convention – explain the meaning, e.g. Instead of Ghestem state the suits.

Any explanations given to the table will be deemed unauthorized information, and may be subject to a procedural penalty.

IMPORTANT: While it is incumbent on every player to alert, the opposition must ensure they understand each bid. Clicking the bid made asks the Self-alert for additional information.

2. UNDO:

In case of a genuine misclick, an UNDO may be requested. This is not for a change of mind, or a lapse of concentration, only a clear misclick:

- Tournaments: Undos will be allowed only if both opponents accept the undo request. If this is not the case then the TD should be summoned to make a ruling

3. PSYCHES:

Psyche bids, are allowed, but must be reported to the TD, for the purpose of recording frequency and description of the psychic call made.

Psyching or forcing artificial calls such as a precision club or opening of strong 2 clubs is not allowed.

Very light openings or overcalls, when considered to be a partnership agreement, must be included in the pre-alert of the system summary.

4. APPEALS:

Rulings which require a TD to exercise judgment may be appealed. An appeal / request for a review must be made in writing to the Tournament Reviewer no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the match or the pair's session.

5. ETIQUETTE:

In line with SABF's zero-tolerance policy for misconduct, all players are expected to behave in a friendly manner. Please be kind to yourselves, your partner, your opponents and your TDs.

- Do not make comments that may be deemed discourteous to your partner or opponents
- Unless asked do not give bridge lessons at the table
- If visible, dress appropriately and do not eat or perform any other function that may be a distraction to your partner or opponents
- If audible ensure that there are no background noises but if this is impossible please mute yourself