



World Bridge Federation
an International Sports Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

Using Bidding Boxes with Screens Published February 2024

1. Bridgemates

Bridgemate devices are used to enter results.

Players are required to enter all the scores in a timely, accurate manner. North or South should enter a result the moment both sides agree upon the board's outcome. If a ruling is called for, unless unable to determine the outcome of a board, North or South must enter the table result while awaiting the final ruling.

North/South are responsible for entering the scores. Failure to enter the score before leaving the playing room is subject to a standard penalty.

The official score will be that keyed in by North or South and agreed by East or West. Players are responsible for the accuracy of scores at their table.

Repeated violations of correct entering procedures are subject to penalty.

2. Regulations with Screens in use

2.1 Procedure for play

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely. Thereafter, it remains closed for the duration of the auction period. The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. Violations of correct procedure are subject to penalty.

A call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more calls made from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the entire bidding tray under the centre of the screen so that it is visible only to the players on the other side who then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen.

Both sides are responsible for ensuring the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right to have the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards neatly in their respective bidding boxes. At this point, the presumed Dummy or Declarer removes the tray from the table, leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the aperture is opened, and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened. At the end of play, the tray is put back on the table.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened to permit all players to see dummy's cards and cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, the declarer does not see it, the dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

When leading or following suit, players are expected to play their cards in a consistent manner. Cards played to quitted tricks should be placed vertically or horizontally according to the winner of the trick, per Law 65, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

Violation of correct placement procedure is subject to penalty.

2.2 Alerts and Explanations

- a) A player who makes an alertable call, as defined in the WBF Alerting Policy, must alert his screenmate, and his partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives. The alert must be made by placing the alert card in a position clearly visible to the screenmate. The alerting player is responsible for ensuring that her opponent has seen the alert. To that end, the opponent should acknowledge with a small gesture.
- b) At any time during the auction, a player may write to the screenmate requesting a full explanation of an opponent's call. The screenmate must reply in writing.

- c) From the commencement of the auction to the completion of play, each player receives explanations regarding the opponents' methods only from his screenmate. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been given. The tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

2.3 Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use.

- a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws with the following provisions:
- i) An inadmissible call - see Law 35 - must be corrected
 - ii) If a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise, Law 72c may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by the screenmate, the latter is deemed to have accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.
- b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen, the offender or her screenmate should draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified, and the Director will ensure that only the legal auction is passed through the screen. No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it. The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has yet to be opened. Otherwise:
- i) When the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 - ii) When the declaring side has opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer (see Laws 54B1, 54B2). Law 72C may apply.
 - iii) When the defending side faces two opening leads, the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
 - iv) For a card faced by the declaring side, see Law 48.
- c) When an alertable call is made, see 3.2 above.
- d) When a player takes more than a normal amount of time to make a call, it is not an infraction if that player draws attention to his own break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.
- e) A player on the side of the screen receiving the tray who considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. This may be done at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.
- g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew

attention to the break in tempo and may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not considered significant.

h) However, if the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as recommended in section 2.1, paragraph 4, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may be considered significant.