

Annexe A1

EBL Alerting Policy

Preamble

1. The objective is to have a uniform EBL policy which is applied to all EBL events.
2. It is not intended that this should over-ride Alerting Policies developed by the Zone or NCBOs.
3. Players who participate in EBL events are expected to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter. Full disclosure is vital.
4. The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players, however, are expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (N.B. Where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction.)

Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not. (A Convention is a call that serves by partnership agreement to convey a meaning not necessarily related to the denomination named.)
2. Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
3. Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

The following called should not be alerted (except when screens are in use):

1. All doubles.
2. Any no-trump bid which suggests a balanced or semi-balanced hand, or suggests a no-trump contract.
3. All bids, with the exception of conventional opening suit bids, at the four level or higher.

Regulations in EBL Events when Screens are used

Their use is mandatory and the following shall apply.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screenmates. The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players now remove their cards from the board.

Starting with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray, from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but, subject to provisions elsewhere in these regulations, Law 25 may apply).

North and South pass the tray under the screen after their screenmate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There shall be no oral communication at the table during the auction period. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards.

The opening lead shall be made face-down. Opening leader's screenmate announces that the lead has been made; a defender raises the screen, and play proceeds. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see all the cards.