



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

4th EBL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS COURSE

31st August – 5th September 2001
Tabiano di Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy

EBL ALERTING POLICY

[Note: the statements on this paper may be subject to review before the next EBL Championships.]

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 override Alerting Policies developed by the Zone or NBOs.
- (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.)
- (5) A recent decision of an EBL TAC stated that if players at a table accept an irregular method of making an alert and continue play without protest there is no reason for the Director or an Appeals Committee to step in with technicalities. In the case in point the appeals committee took the view that players had accepted an irregular method of alerting where players had made their alerts by pointing and this had been the practice on all boards played in the match. The method of alerting was not permitted to influence the outcome of the appeal.

Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- (1) Conventional calls should be alerted, non-conventional calls should not.

- (2) Those calls 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 organisation). 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 calls 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.

Grattan Endicott
August 2001