



Unit 390 Bidding Box Policy

Effective September 2019

Background

The use of bidding boxes has become standard practice at duplicate bridge games world-wide. Their use has several advantages over oral bidding: it reduces noise in the room, prevents bidding from being overheard at other tables, allows easier review of the auction, and reduces the opportunity to pass unauthorized information to one's partner (intentionally or not) by the manner and intonation in which one makes one's bid.

In addition, the use of bidding boxes enables players who are hearing-impaired to enjoy a game that is primarily visual. However, some individuals have impairments that make the use of bidding boxes difficult or impossible. For example, a player may have a visual impairment that necessitates verbal bidding; a player may have a physical impairment that makes using a bidding box painful, difficult, or perhaps impossible. This policy is designed set appropriate procedures to achieve a reasonable outcome for all players.

The mixed use of verbal bidding and bidding boxes during an auction can create problems. Many find this mixing of verbal and visual bidding to be distracting, thereby reducing their enjoyment of the game and making it difficult for them to play at their best.

The following policies and procedures will apply at Unit 390 events to ensure that all individuals having difficulties with respect to bidding boxes have their rights protected as fully as possible.

Unit Policy

1. Bidding boxes will be used at all tables in Unit 390 bridge events.
2. Any player has the option to bid verbally if, in their opinion, physical limitations make the use of a bidding box difficult, uncomfortable or impossible. The authenticity of anyone's impairment will not be questioned and no one will be asked to substantiate a disability.
3. Bidding cards will be placed on the table for every bid made.
4. Procedures listed below will apply to all situations where the use of bidding boxes varies from the norm.

Procedures

1. When a player is unable to use a bidding box, the player's partner or an assistant will place cards from a bidding box on the table corresponding to verbal calls by the player unable to use the bidding box. All remaining players at the table will use bidding boxes in the usual manner.
2. When a player has a visual impairment that requires verbal bidding, the procedure outlined in point 1 will apply. In addition to using bidding boxes in the usual manner, the remaining players at the table will announce their bids verbally.
3. When a person with any impairment that restricts their use of bidding boxes attends a Unit 390 event, they should inform the head director of this, prior to the start of the game.

Best Practice

All players are reminded that it is in the best interest of bridge to be generous and show good will in adhering to these policies and procedures. No one should question the sincerity of anyone's impairment or seek to undermine the spirit of this initiative.

Approved by Unit 390 Board of Directors, September 2019