



Calgary Bridge Unit 390

Unit 390 Electronic Device Policy

Effective April 10, 2021

1. Introduction

As a part of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) located in Canada, Unit 390 wishes to clearly define its policy regarding the use of any electronic devices during events sponsored by the Unit. The ACBL has a well-defined "Electronic Devices" policy which is in effect at all NABC events. For the purposes of uniformity and lack of confusion, sponsoring organizations of other ACBL-sanctioned events have been encouraged to adopt a similar policy.

These regulations are aimed at the use of **any electronic device capable of communicating in any way** during a session of play. Health-related equipment is exempt from the regulations.

Other exemptions to this policy will be handled on a case by case basis by the Director-in-Charge of the event. For example, a player with a potential emergency situation who needs to leave a phone turned on must discuss the matter with the Director-in-Charge. One possible solution will be to leave the phone with the Director.

Not only is a ringing phone disruptive, but using any communication device introduces the possibility of the inappropriate exchange of information about hands, thus destroying the integrity of the competition.

2. Application of the Regulations

- These regulations apply to all pairs, team members, and spectators.
- These regulations apply to any event sponsored by Unit 390, including single and multi-session events, as well as tournaments spanning several days. Specifically, a sectional tournament is considered one event for the purposes of counting the number of times an offense occurs.
- These regulations are in effect from the time any one section in a room begins play until all sections in the room have concluded play.

3. Regulations

Any electronic equipment or device capable of receiving or sending an electronic signal, or capable of communicating in any way, may not be operated or functioning in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session and must remain off at all times. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches.

- All devices must be turned off and notifications blocked.
- Devices cannot be used inside any room when a bridge event is in session.
- Mandatory penalties apply and will be assessed by the Director-in-Charge.

4. Penalties

- If a person's cell phone or smartphone rings:
 - First offense: A warning will be issued.
 - Second offense: Penalty is one-quarter board, 3 IMPs or 1 VP
 - Third offense: Penalty is two full boards, 20 IMPs or 50% of the maximum available VPs per match
 - Fourth offense: Penalty is disqualification of the pair or team from the event
- If a person makes a call, answers a call, receives or sends a text, or browses using any of the disallowed devices:
 - First offense: Penalty is one half board, 6 IMPs or 2VPs
 - Second offense: Penalty is two full boards, 20 IMPs or 50% of the maximum available VPs per match
 - Third offense: Penalty is disqualification of the pair or team from the event
- Kibitzers will be removed from the room for the remainder of the session upon the first instance of any of the above actions.