

# BIDDING BOX REGULATIONS

## CHOOSING A CALL USING BIDDING BOXES

A player is obligated to choose a call before touching any card in the bidding box. Deliberation while touching the bidding box cards may subject the offending side to the adjustment provisions of Law 16, **“AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION.”** A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made.

We should use unauthorized information where reasonably appropriate (where we can rule that a bid has not been made.) For close cases, simply judge that the card had not left the confines of the box; therefore, a call has not been made.

A call may be changed without penalty, under the provisions of Law 25A, **“LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CHANGES OF CALL,”** only if a player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and the player corrects or attempts to correct his mistake without pause for thought and the player’s partner has not made a call.

The onus is on the player to convince the director that a mechanical irregularity has occurred. Calls from different pockets should rarely, if at all, be judged as inadvertent. One understandable exception is placing the double card out followed shortly with a bid card that skips the bidding. This appears clear that the double card was placed inadvertently on the table.

## THE STOP CARD

Use of the **Stop** card has been discontinued. No verbal or visual skip-bid warning should be used. Following a jump in the bidding, left-hand opponent is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

## ALERT PROCEDURE

Except when screens are in use, a player must say **“Alert”** out loud when tapping the alert strip of the bidding box.