

LAW 73 – COMMUNICATION, BEHAVIOUR, TEMPO AND DECEPTION

A. Proper Forms of Communication between Partners

1. Communication between partners during the auction and play shall be effected only by means of calls and plays, except as specifically authorized by these laws.
2. Calls and plays shall be made without emphasis, mannerism or inflection, and without intentional haste or hesitation (but see Law 73D3).

B. Prohibited Forms of Communication between Partners

Players must not communicate, nor attempt to communicate, via means other than those described in Law 73A.

C. Incidental Unauthorized Information from Partner

1. When a player has available to him incidental unauthorized information from his partner, such as from a remark, question, explanation, gesture, mannerism, inflection, haste or hesitation, or an unexpected alert or failure to alert, he must carefully avoid taking advantage of it [see Law 16B1(a)].
2. A penalty may be assessed against a player who violates C1, but if the opponents have been damaged, see also Law 16B3.

D. Variations in Tempo or Manner

1. It is desirable for players to maintain steady tempo and unvarying manner. Players should be particularly careful when variations may work to the benefit of their side. Otherwise, unintentionally to vary the tempo or manner in which a call or play is made is not an infraction. Inferences from such variations are authorized only to the opponents, who may act upon the information at their own risk.
2. A player may not attempt to mislead an opponent by means of a question, remark or gesture; by the haste or hesitancy of a call or play (for example hesitating before playing a singleton); by the manner in which a call or play is made; or by any purposeful deviation from correct procedure (see also Law 73E2).
3. Regulating Authorities may require mandatory pauses, such as on the first round of the auction, or after a skip-bid warning, or on the first trick.

E. Deception

1. A player may appropriately attempt to deceive an opponent through a call or play (so long as the deception is not emphasized by mannerism, unwonted haste or hesitancy, nor protected by concealed partnership understanding or experience).
2. If the Director determines that an innocent player has drawn a false inference from a question, remark, manner, tempo or the like, of an opponent who has no demonstrable bridge reason for the action, and who could have been aware, at the time of the action, that it could work to his benefit, the Director shall award an adjusted score.

LAW 89 – PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR AND REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT

- A.** It is an offence to:
1. Seek to obtain via illicit means information about the board currently in play; or about boards designated for later play.
 2. Use illicit information about the board currently in play; or about boards designated for later play.
 3. Convey, or attempt to convey, via prohibited means information to partner about a board currently in play.
 4. Convey, or attempt to convey, to other players information about boards designated for later play.
- B.** A player who violates A above shall be subject to the sanctions relating to reprehensible conduct, as specified by the relevant disciplinary code.²⁸
- C.** Statistical or probabilistic analysis may be used to establish or support a charge that a contestant has utilized prohibited methods of communication.
- D.** Any of the following may be considered grounds for a determination of wrongdoing; irrespective of the actual outcome on the boards in question or the subsequent actions (or lack thereof) by partner:
1. The existence of a statistically significant correlation between a player's manner or behaviour and the cards held by that player.
 2. The existence of a statistically significant correlation between a player's anomalous choice of action and the cards held by either their partner or an opponent.
 3. The possession of information illicitly obtained that relates to unplayed boards or unpublished results.

²⁸A Regulating Authority may also consider evidence arising from events played outside of its jurisdiction, including disciplinary actions taken by another Regulating Authority.