

**Regulating Authority's Powers under Law  
Determinations of the ABF as Regulating Authority**

**as at August 1, 2013**

Note: RA = Regulating Authority

N/A = either not applicable or no decision has been made by the ABF as Regulating Authority

**Definitions "Alert"**

Method of alerting specified in ABF Alerting Regulations section 7

**12C1c RA allow weighted assigned adjusted scores**

Permitted

**12C1e method of determining assigned adjusted scores in place when weighting not allowed**

N/A

**16B2 RA may prohibit a player announcing that he wishes to reserve his rights in situations of unauthorised information**

N/A

**18F methods of making calls**

Specified in ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes

**20F1 RA may specify written explanations of call**

Written explanations only required under ABF Regulations for Play with Screens

**20G2 RA may allow player to consult own card/notes during auction and play**

See 40B2b

**21B1a misinformation where alert required by RA**

ABF Alerting Regulations apply

**40A1b manner of revealing agreements**

Specified in ABF Alerting Regulations

**40B1 special partnership understanding**

N/A

**40B2a RA may restrict or allow SPU**

Specified in ABF System Regulations

**40B2a RA may prescribe alerting methods**

Specified in ABF Alerting Regulations

**40B2a RA may require both players to play same methods**

Both members of a partnership must play the same system, including bidding and card play agreements. Where, as a matter of style, members frequently adopt different approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

**40B2b RA may allow player to consult own card/notes during auction and play**

Not permitted. However, reference to written defence to Yellow systems and Brown Sticker conventions are permitted in most events.

- 40B2c**      ***Right to consult opponents' system card during auction and play***  
Players may only consult the opponent's system card at their turn to bid or play. Dummy may not consult the opponent's system card after the conclusion of the auction.
- 40B2d**      ***RA may restrict psychic artificial calls***  
ABF System Regulation 9.6 prohibits the psyching of conventional opening bids that are forcing and made by agreement on strong hands (eg, a Game Forcing 2♣ or a Precision 1♣)
- 40B3**      ***RA may disallow variations in agreement after question, response to question or irregularity***  
Variations in agreement by a partnership are disallowed after a question, response to a question or an irregularity committed by its own side.
- 40C3a**      ***RA may permit aids to memory, calculation or technique***  
N/A
- 41A & 45A**      ***RA may require the opening lead be made face up***  
N/A
- 61B3**      ***RA may prohibit defenders asking each other about a possible revoke***  
N/A
- 70E2**      ***RA may specify an order in which the Director shall deem a suit played if it is not stated in statement of claim***  
(a) Top down - A declarer who states that he is cashing a suit is normally assumed to cash them from the top.  
(b) Different suits - If a declarer appears unaware of an outstanding winner, or losing line of play [but see (a) above], and a trick could be lost by playing or discarding one suit rather than another, then the Director should award that trick to the non-claiming side.
- 73A2**      ***RA may require mandatory pauses after skip bid warnings (ie. use of Stop Cards)***  
ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes authorise the use of Stop Cards, but they are not required.
- 76A2**      ***RA may make regulations for electronic transmission of play (eg. BBO)***  
The Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for deciding which matches should be broadcast on BBO. The Tournament Organiser is also responsible for the prior training of the operators and the efficient delivery of the service on site. BBO must not intrude on the players' amenity or impede the rate of play. It is the responsibility of the BBO operators to keep pace with the play, not the reverse.
- 76C2**      ***RA may specify how to deal with irregularities caused by spectators***  
The right to penalise an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the non-offending side is responsible. The right to correct an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the offending side is responsible.
- 78D**      ***RA may approve other scoring methods***

N/A

**80A3**            ***RA may delegate powers***

The ABF has delegated its powers to State and Territory Associations for Red and Green Masterpoint events held within their geographic boundaries for a period of 5 years commencing 1-7-13.

**86A**            ***Average plus at IMP play may be varied by TO subject to RA's approval***

For events scored against a datum or for head-to-head teams matches of less than 11 boards, the score awarded (as average plus or average minus) shall be plus or minus 2 IMPs.

**93C1**            ***RA may establish procedures for further appeals***

**93C3a**           ***RA may deem the decision of the tournament Appeals Committee final***

**93Cb**            ***RA may authorise modification, omission or alteration of the stages of the appeals process set out in the Laws.***

Any request for a qualified review by the ABF National Authority of an appeal committee ruling made at a tournament conducted under the auspices of the ABF shall be forwarded in writing to the ABF General Counsel.

The ABF National Authority may review any Appeals Committee decision arising from any tournament run under the auspices of the ABF. The National Authority will however limit its functions to the interpretation of the said Laws of Bridge and will not decide facts or change or purport to change any ruling that has been made under those Laws. It follows that the Authority will not overturn the result of an event but may issue an opinion in order to establish or confirm a legal precedent or procedure.