

Advisory note on the use of system cards in the Yorkshire League

The Yorkshire League Committee is publishing this note in response to a question asked at the YCBA annual general meeting in 2018.

In all competitions run or licensed by the EBU, including county competitions such as the Yorkshire League, it is a requirement that both players should have a fully completed system card with them. This is also part of the code of conduct of Best Behaviour in Bridge:

“Make your convention card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely”

Occasionally it becomes apparent that a player’s call or play does not correspond with the partnership methods as set out in the system card or as described in their partner’s response to an enquiry. Departure from partnership methods, whether intentional or mistaken, is not against the laws of duplicate contract bridge, but the opponents may be entitled to an adjusted score when an incorrect explanation of the methods has been given. In deciding whether or not a mistaken explanation has been given, the tournament director will rely on the system card. If no system card is available, the TD has to assume an incorrect explanation rather than an intentional or mistaken departure from agreed methods.

The EBU website at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/system-cards> has links to a range of blank system cards available in different formats which can be completed on screen, or printed and filled in manually. The same site also has links to a range of pre-completed system cards for popular methods including Acol, Benjaminised Acol and five card majors which can be adapted to fit partnerships’ individual requirements.