

WBF LC Commentary

Law 16 – Unauthorised Information

Normally the TD will not act immediately when a player makes available unauthorized information (UI), for example by a hesitation or by an unexpected answer from partner to a question from an opponent. In general, such cases are not (automatically) infractions. The infraction occurs when the partner chooses an action demonstrably suggested by the hesitation or the unexpected answer, when other logical alternatives exist. We have already explained that an action that qualifies as an infraction, (because of the existence of a logical alternative), may not be included as part of a weighted adjustment [see Law 12C1(c)].

The unexpected answer itself becomes an infraction if it is not in accordance with the system the partnership has agreed upon. An unexpected answer creates UI for the partner of the player giving the explanation. The answer given by partner may be wrong or the action taken may be not in accordance with the partnership agreement. Irrespective of whether it is a mistaken bid or a mistaken explanation the answer still creates UI for partner. An incorrect explanation is an infraction. Failure to follow a partnership agreement is not. The TD will sometimes find it difficult to determine if an actual agreement exists, and if so, what that systemic agreement is.

If the partner does not choose an action demonstrably suggested by the irregularity then there is no infraction and no justification to award an adjusted score