

Law 61B3 – Inquiries Concerning a Revoke

The controversy created by an earlier version of the code where the Regulating Authority could prohibit defenders from asking each other whether they had revoked has been removed. The laws now say that players are allowed to ask. The laws still mention the possibility of creating UI by asking partner, but normally this will not be the case. An example where it would be UI is when the purpose of the question is not to avoid a revoke, but to draw attention to an unexpected situation with an opponent still holding cards in that suit. If players ask routinely, it is hard to imagine UI being transmitted. If they ask rarely, or if the tone of the question indicates surprise, then there will be UI.

Example 45:

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|------|------|-----|
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

West leads the ♦Q; the dummy has ♠K9873 ♥K94 ♦632 ♣A95. When East discards a club West asks: “no diamonds partner?” and declarer turns out to have ♠AJ4 ♥A7 ♦AK10854 ♣J6. The TD should be suspicious of a defender who only asks when he is surprised: this tells their partner that declarer has more cards of the suit than might otherwise be expected.