

Guidance Notes on Psychic Bidding

General

A psyche or psychic bid is a deliberate and gross mis-statement of honour strength and/or suit length. A psychic bid is a legitimate ploy as long as it contains the same element of surprise for the psycher's partner as it does for the opponents.

A psyche can be classified as Red, Amber or Green.

Red Psyche

The actions of the psycher's partner following a psyche – and, possibly, further actions by the psycher – may provide evidence of an undisclosed, and therefore illegal, understanding. If so, then the partnership is said to have 'fielded' the psyche. If a player psyches and their partner takes action that appears to allow for it then the TD will treat it as fielding. This is classified as a red psyche.

Amber Psyche

On some occasions a TD may find that though there may be a concealed partnership understanding (CPU) on a hand the actions taken do not merit an adjusted score. This is classified as an amber psyche.

Whilst a single instance may not provide sufficient evidence of a CPU to warrant a score adjustment, a repetition reinforces the conclusion that one exists. In other words, if two similar psyches are classified as amber, the classification of both automatically becomes red, and the score on all such boards within that session is adjusted accordingly.

Green Psyche

In the majority of cases the TD will find nothing untoward and classify it as a green psyche.

Reporting of Psychic bids

If you think that an opponent has psyched, then players have the option to submit an incident report.

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/td-forms/psyche-form.pdf>.

From this the director of the event or if a director is not available then a director can at a later date look at the incident report and see which category the psyche comes under, log it and see whether an adjusted score should be awarded. If a director of the event is not available, then it should be possible to contact the organiser of the event who will

then pass the incident report onto a qualified director for them to examine and make an adjustment as they see fit.

If a player is unsure how to submit a form or does not have one to hand, then calling the director in the first instance will lead to them directing you as to how to proceed.

Only a TD can rule as to whether a psyche has occurred, log it if it has occurred and if it is felt that the pair who has been psyched against have been damaged by the psyche due to the psyche being deemed 'fielded' then an adjustment to the score can be made if necessary.

At the table, please do not accuse the opponents of deliberately doing anything they shouldn't do as they may have mis-bid or simply made a poorly judged call, but do feel free to submit an incident report at least for advice.

For those wishing to read more on this subject then a fuller explanation of psyching can be found in section 1.4 of the EBU White Book which is downloadable from the EBU Website.