

PSYCHIC BIDS UNDER THE NEW LAW

Question From **Mr.D.S.Roy Choudhuiry, Kolkata**

Dear Sridhar,

As has been given to understand, through recent Rules, there have been some changes vis-a-vis Psyche. Many of the players, have some misgivings. Some tell that Psyche is PROHIBITED now, some others say it has been restricted. It would be very helpful if u would kindly let me know about PSYCHE under the new LAW. I believe that would be helpful for many more also.

Sridhar's views :

Under the new regulations of WBF, Psyches which are frequent and a regular feature of the partnership need to be informed to opponents; this can be done even in advance. The law attempts to distinguish "rare psyches" which even the partnership is not used to Vis-à-vis Psyches that the partnership is familiar from experience in past. For example a player tends to psyche by bidding 'non-suits' in an auction that he can control –say 1♠-2♣-2♦-3n –the 2♣ bidder turns up with 2 or 3 cards in clubs, and this happens regularly, then the partnership is obliged to alert that style, the opponents have a right to know this style / tendency even though it is not part of the Bidding system understanding of the partnership. In contrast a Psyche that takes his own partner by surprise is permitted.

The Law 40C, dealing with this subject is reproduced below :-

C. Deviation from System and Psychic Action

1. A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system. If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge that has damaged the opponents he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.