

I thought it was my turn to bid

You bid and then you are told that it is not your turn. Now it all depends upon whose turn it actually was, the opponent to your left, right or your partner.

The Director is called and the first thing he will do is to ask the next person in turn if they want to accept the bid. For example you are East and it was North's turn to bid but before North does, you put down 1NT on table. Now South (and only South as they are next in turn) can accept the bid and the auction will continue as if nothing has happened. North may have wanted to open and may not be pleased with South's decision but it is not North's choice.

NB North should not venture an opinion in this process as if he does, he has just given his partner some information he should not have (Unauthorised Information UI)

Now say South does not accept the bid, so the bidding reverts back to North and you as East have a problem. Just like when someone puts down a bid too low, you have to be careful not to pass extra information to your partner (UI)

What if it was your partner's bid, well you can see that you have told him about your hand before you should and now your side will be penalised as your opponents have been put at a disadvantage. Say you are West and North opened 1H and before your partner East can say anything you as West bid 2C. Now East knows more about your hand than he should and you bid before South had a chance.

What if it was your opponent on your left? Say you are East and South was the dealer and you put down 1H before South had a chance to bid. Firstly West your partner has UI as he knows you have an opening hand with a Heart suit and what about poor South, who has had his thunder stolen, What if he wanted to open 1H, or 1NT, now with your bid, he is in difficulty.

There are 3 possible situations where you are East and South rejects your bid

1. It was North's turn to bid. If North passes, you must make the same bid if possible. If North bids then you can bid anything but if it does not have the same meaning (a comparable call) your partner will have to pass on his next turn and your side may have lead restrictions if the opposition end up playing the contract, because your partner has UI eg you bid Hearts initially and NT after North's bid, so if South becomes declarer and your partner is on lead, he may ban or insist on a lead of any suit not legally bid by your side, So if all your side bid was NT, he could in fact ban or insist on any of the 4 suits being led!

2, It is South's turn to bid or 3. It is West' turn to bid

In both cases if South rejects your bid, your partner can make any bid and so can you when it is your turn, but there may be penalties because of the UI that your partner may have, just like the case above.

There are other twists and turns if your call is a double or an artificial pass or even a pass but here I am just focusing on the most common type of error.

Remember UI is a problem for your partner but the opposition are allowed to know and act upon the information contained in your indiscretion.