

The Official Rules of Card Games

Hoyle Up-To-Date

26th Edition - 1922

Printed and Published Yearly by
The U.S. Playing Card Co.
Cincinnati, Ohio. U.S.A.

Nullo Auction Bridge

In addition to the regular bids at Royal Auction, many persons are playing “nullos”, which are worth 10 a trick, ranking above a spade, but below a no-trumper, in the bidding. This declaration may be doubled and redoubled like any other, but there are no honors scored by either side, and the play is always at no-trumps, the player to the left of the declarer leading for the first trick, dummy going down next.

The person who bids a nullo names the number of tricks over the book that he will force his opponents to win. Suppose A bids two no-trumps and Y bids three nullos. B says three no-trumps and Y bids three nullos and Z four nullos, which all pass. Y plays the hand and B leads, Z being dummy. Y and Z mean that A and B did not bid enough on their no-trumper, and that their cards were actually good for more, as Y will show them by forcing them to win four by cards.

After the hand is played, the nullo bidder counts the tricks over the book won by his adversaries. If he has bid four nullos and they have won by four cards, he counts 40 toward game, or 80 if he was doubled, 160 if redoubled. If they have won five or six by cards, the nullo bidder scores 50 or 60, as the case may be (with 50 for a little slam). If the bid is four nullos and the opponents win only three by cards, the nullo is set for 1 trick, 50 points penalty in the honor column, just like a failure in any other declaration. For a revoke, 2 tricks are given, instead of being taken, by the adversaries. If they revoke, the declarer may give 2 tricks or take 50 points.