

The New Laws

- 1 The board has to stay in the centre of the table.
2. You can't touch an opponent's cards, unless prior permission has been given.
3. The right to rectification may be lost if either member of the opposing side takes action before the Director is called.
4. An assigned adjusted score may be given to reflect the various probabilities of outcome. This differs from the 2007 Laws, where the non-offending side was entitled to the most favourable result. Now they instead get a result based on the chance of the various possible outcomes. The averaging process, incidentally, should be of theimps or matchpoints, rather than the actual scores.
5. Where an adjusted score is appropriate and a member of the non-offending side contributes to his own damage by an extremely serious error then the offending side gets the score that would have been awarded, the non-offending side getting the table score.
6. Where a player has the wrong number of cards, and has seen an opponent's card, bidding and play shall commence, an adjusted score only being applied if the extraneous information has affected the outcome.
- 7 Where a player has an incorrect number of cards, the auction proceeds
- 8 Where a player has the wrong hand, and has bid, the call is cancelled If there has been a subsequent bid by the offender's partner then the board is cancelled.
- 9 If a player gives an erroneous or incomplete explanation of his partner's call, then the Director should be summoned and the proper explanation given. NB this needn't be immediately, it can be up to the start of play.
- 10 You can't ask a question because you know the answer, and your partner might not.
11. Law 23 Comparable Calls.

This new section applies when the original call was either insufficient or out of turn. The replacing call is acceptable if it either

- (a) Asks the same question or
- (b) Shows the same suit length and high card strength, or
- (c) Is a more precise version of (b) above, and in no way contradicts the original call.

If the replaced call satisfies the above criteria then the auction continues, if not then

- (a) If the call was out of rotation the offender's partner is barred for the next round.

(b) If instead the call was insufficient then partner is barred for the rest of the auction.

Note: The fact that partner has opened out of turn is information that is authorised for the opponents, but not for partner. As a consequence, partner must find his system opening bid, rather than one designed to accommodate the call out of rotation.

Note (2): Care should be taken when a player has passed out of turn that for a subsequent call to be comparable it must show less than opening values. So, after a pass out of rotation, and partner then opens 1 heart, bids of 1NT, 2H, 3H and even Bergen raises are acceptable, while new suit bids such as 1 spade are not.

12. Unintended Call. Can be replaced before partner has bid. Note: It has to be entirely obvious that the offender did not intend to make this call, i.e. forgetting one's system, or simply losing concentration, is no excuse!

13. Where an opponent has made a withdrawn call that has not been replaced by a comparable one, and they become defenders then:

The first time the offender's partner gains the lead declarer can ask that a specific suit of his choosing (other than one specified in the subsequent auction) not be led. This restraint continues whilst that player retains the lead.

14. Both members of a partnership have to play the same system, however can, and indeed often will have, differing styles.

15. Dummy may attempt to prevent an irregularity.

16. A defender may not show his hand to dummy, and dummy may not look at a defender's hand. If this happens, then dummy loses all rights.

17. Declarer may correct an unintended designation of a card from dummy before he plays from his own hand. It has to be a slip of the tongue, not a loss of concentration or reconsideration.

18. Dispute about tricks or a revoke after play has finished. If the facts of the matter cannot be determined, and one side has shuffled its cards, then the ruling shall be in favour of the opponents.

19. If a claim is queried, and all four players agree, then play can continue.

20 A score may be amended after the correction period has expired if it is obviously incorrect. This can only be done by the Tournament Director, with the assent of the Tournament Organiser.

David Anderson

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