

Summary of the changes to the Orange Book - 1st August 2007



The Laws and Ethics Committee has made a small number of revisions to the Orange Book to take effect from August 1st 2007.

- **There are NO changes to the Announcing regulations, and only minor ones to the Alerting regulations.**
- **There is one major change in describing what is meant by a 'strong' bid (10B)
The revised wording is as follows:**

10.B.4 Strong opening are often described as 'extended rule of 25' which means the minimum allowed is any of the following:

- a) subject to proper disclosure, a hand that contains as a minimum the normal high-card strength associated with a one-level opening and at least eight-clear cut tricks, or
- b) any hand meeting the Rule of 25 or
- c) any hand of at least 16 HCP's

Examples

♠A K Q J x x x x ♥x x ♦x x ♣x does count as 8 clear-cut tricks

♠A K Q x x x x ♥x x ♦x x ♣x does not

Hands covered by the new regulation that can be described as STRONG include the hand from the Tollemache Cup final

♠4 ♥A Q J 10 9 8 7 2 ♦Void ♣A J 5 3

(8 clear-cut tricks – suitable for a Benjamin 2♣ opening)

Some people have asked why the 14HCP has been raised to 16HCP. This has not happened. The regulation now permits suitable hands with FEWER than 14HCP to be described as STRONG – see the hands above – all of which have fewer than 14 points.

However, regulation (a) and (b) on their own would not allow balanced and 4441 hands of 16 HCP to be described as strong, so clause (c) is to allow for these types of hand to be included.

Note that strong openings include artificial strong 1♣, 1♦, 1NT, 2♣, 2♦ and 2NT openings, and the strong parts of either/or clubs and multi-purpose 2-level openings.

- **There is one small change to the announcing range of two openers (5D2)**

Some people play a 2-opening which straddles more than one range so the phrasing to be used has been modified.

5 D 2 It is possible to play a wide-ranging opening that covers more than one category, in which case the announcement should say so. Examples are:

(a) 'Intermediate to strong, forcing'

(b) 'Weak to intermediate'

- **And two changes to alerting of doubles (5G4)**

Certain doubles which are not take out doubles have been clarified. (*Italics indicates the change to the wording*)

The following doubles must be alerted

5 G 4 (c) Any 'competitive', 'co-operative' or 'optional' double, *since these are not take out doubles.*

5 G 4 (g) A double of 1♦ *in the specific sequence 1♣ (1♦) double, if it shows a specific suit since this is not a takeout double.*

(Normally a double here would just show general values and no specific suit holding, or both majors, or either major, but if you played the double as just showing hearts or just showing spades then it becomes alertable)