



ORANGE BOOK CHANGES

Since publication of the Orange Book 2006, a number of corrections and additions have been made. Changes come into force on 1st August on an annual basis. Details of all changes have been published in *English Bridge*.

Changes relate to permitted methods or to the alerting regulations.

The list is correct as at 1st August 2009.

Changes are shown here in page number order, which should make it easy for the reader to make corrections. A fully changed version is available for download from the EBU website – <http://www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/articles/orangebook/default.htm>

Each entry is presented as follows:-

Item No.	<i>OB Page</i>	OB Ref.	Level	implementation date
Details of change				

John Pain
 Secretary to the Laws & Ethics Committee
 August 2009

In 2009 there are changes to the following sections

3B10, 7F, 9D9, 10B4, 11N3, 11N9 and 11N12

1	<i>P.9</i>	3B10		August 1st 2009
Paragraph 3B10 is deleted.				

2	<i>P.11</i>	3E		August 1st 2008
<p>Section 3E has been completely revised as follows:</p> <p>3 E 1 A player has the right to ask questions at his turn, but should be aware that exercising this right has consequences. If a player shows unusual interest in one or more calls of the auction, then this is unauthorised information to partner. Partner must carefully avoid taking advantage, which may constrain the actions partner is permitted to take during the remainder of the auction or when on lead during the play. (Law 16C, 73C). Asking about a call of 3NT or below which has not been alerted may cause more problems than asking about an alerted call, as may asking repeated or leading questions. Asking about alerted calls in a (potentially) competitive auction is less likely to have adverse consequences, although it is not risk free.</p> <p>If, therefore, at a player's turn to call, he does not need to have a call explained, it may be in his interests to defer all questions until either he is about to make the opening lead or his partner's lead is face-down on the table.</p> <p>3 E 2 Questions asked during the auction about the meaning of an opponent's double shall usually not be considered to pass Unauthorised Information, nor to have the potential to mislead declarer about the questioner's shape or values. However, the TD may still use his discretion to give an adjusted score if the nature of the questioning clearly provides partner with unauthorised information.</p> <p>3 E 3 A player may use only information he has received from legitimate sources, such as calls, plays, opponents' convention cards, their answers to questions and their mannerisms. A player may not use information gained from his partner's explanation, uncertainty, tempo or mannerisms. (Law 73B1)</p> <p>3 E 4 Perhaps an example would help. A player opens 1♣ which is not alerted, and the next player, before passing, asks the meaning of the 1♣, or even worse says "Is that natural?". If 3NT is reached, and the questioner's partner leads a Club from two or three small cards the questioner must expect that the TD will not allow the result to stand, but will adjust it.</p> <p>What reason has this player to ask? The questioner knows it is a natural bid because it was not alerted. Experience shows the questioner often happens to have several Clubs.</p> <p>Players sometimes say "I always ask whether I intend to bid or not". This is not recommended.</p> <p>3 E 5 When a player does wish to ask a question, it is recommended to phrase this neutrally and ask simply for an explanation of the auction, or of a particular call. For example when asking about a 3♣ response to 2NT it is recommended to say "What does 3♣ mean?", rather than "Is that Stayman?" This helps to avoid confusion or misleading opponents. Only if further clarification is needed should specific questions be asked.</p> <p>3 E 6 As well as giving unauthorised information to partner, questions about bidding may mislead opponents, in which case they may be entitled to redress. Similarly, declarer's questions about leads, signals and discards could illegally mislead the defenders. (Law 73F)</p>				

3	<i>P.13</i>	4 E 1 (d)		August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “16 HCP or ‘extended Rule of 25” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>4 E 1 <i>Definition of one of a minor openings</i> (d) – forcing, artificial, showing ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4). See 11C3</p>				

4	<i>P.24</i>	5 D 2		August 1st 2007
<p>Insert the following new paragraph 5 D 2. Existing 5D2, 5D3 and 5D4 are renumbered 5D3, 5D4 and 5D5.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>(a) “Intermediate to strong, forcing” (b) “Weak to intermediate”</p>				

5	<i>P.28</i>	5 G 4		August 1st 2007
<p>5 G 4 (c) is expanded and new clause 5 G 4 (g) is inserted to read as follows:</p> <p>5 G 4 The following doubles must be alerted:</p> <p>(c) Any ‘competitive, ‘co-operative’ or ‘optional’ double, since these are not takeout doubles (see 4 H)</p> <p>(g) A double of 1♦ in the sequence 1♣ (1♦) dbl if it shows a specific suit since this is not a takeout double (see 4 H)</p>				

Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 7D is deleted completely and replaced with

7 D 1 Certain Laws have Regulating Authority options. Those applicable to EBU events are:

- (a) Law 12C1 (c) applies, so a TD or Appeals Committee may weight an assigned adjusted score in order to do equity: this is the norm.
- (b) Law 18F authorises such methods as Bidding Boxes and Silent Bidders.
- (c) Law 40B1 refers to special partnership agreements. Any agreement that is subject to a regulation in this Orange book is deemed to be a special partnership agreement.
- (d) Under Law 40B2 (a) the EBU can regulate certain natural bids directly that were previously regulated indirectly – see 10 E.
- (e) Under Law 40B2 (c) (iii) a player may look at his opponents' system card at any time, though this may create unauthorised information.
- (f) Under 40B3 (a) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a question asked by either side.
- (g) Under Law 40B3 (b) a pair is allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by the opponents to a question by this pair.
- (h) Under Law 40B3 (c) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by this pair to a question by the opponents.
- (j) Under Law 40B3 (d) a pair is allowed to vary, by prior agreement, its understandings during the auction and play consequent on an irregularity by either side, except that following its own insufficient bid a partnership may not change by prior agreement the meaning of a replacement call so that it is brought within the criteria of Law 27B1 (b).
- (k) Under Law 40C3 (a) a player is not allowed aids to memory, calculation or technique: for example, looking at the scores on the back of bidding cards during the hand is considered an aide-memoire and therefore illegal.
- (l) Under Law 61B3 defenders may ask each other whether they have any cards left of the suit led, though this may create unauthorised information.
- (m) Law 78D allows 'other scoring methods', for example in the Hubert Phillips honours count.
- (n) Law 93C allows the possibilities of differing methods of appeals and thus permits special methods to deal with special cases. EBU Appeals procedures are unchanged.

7	<i>P.33</i>	7F		August 1 st 2009
7 F	<i>Pauses at trick one</i>			
7 F 1	It is normal for declarer to pause before playing to trick one. No inference can be or should be taken from such a pause.			
7 F 2	It is normal for third hand to think before playing to trick one. Such thought is normally while declarer is thinking about his play. However, sometimes declarer plays quickly from dummy. At such a time third hand may legitimately think whatever his holding in the suit, and no inference can be or should be taken from such a pause. For example, if third hand has a singleton and declarer plays quickly from dummy, it is entirely legitimate for third hand to consider the hand generally.			

8	<i>P.38</i>	9D9		August 1 st 2009
The permitted methods in Simple System events have been revised				
9 D 9	The following list approximates to the EBU Simple System convention card:			
	<i>(a) Basic system</i>			
	Natural:			
	1♣ either natural or prepared			
	1NT limited to a 3-point range between 12 and 18 HCP: its strength may vary according to the vulnerability			
	2♣ either Acol or Benjamin: 2♦ negative response			
	Any one of:			
	(a) 2♦ Strong (Acol): 2NT negative response			
	(b) 2♦ Weak with a defined range: 2NT enquiry response			
	(c) 2♦ Benjamin: 2♥ negative response			
	Either:			
	(a) 2♥, 2♠ Strong (Acol): 2NT negative response			
	(b) 2♥, 2♠ Weak with a defined range: 2NT enquiry response			
	<i>(b) Bidding Agreements</i>			
	Responses to 1NT: Stayman 2♣; Either 2♦, 2♥, 2♠ Weak or 2♦, 2♥ Transfers			
	Responses to 2NT: Either Stayman 3♣ or Baron 3♣;			
	Either 3♦, 3♥, 3♠ Natural or 3♦, 3♥ Transfers			
	Take-out doubles of an opponent's suit, before partner has bid or doubled			
	Any defence to pre-empts			
	Slam bidding: Blackwood, Gerber, and 5NT Grand Slam Force			
	<i>(c) Leads, signals and discards</i>			
	<i>Honour card leads:</i>			
	A or K from AKx			
	The highest from touching honours			
	<i>Small card leads from an honour:</i>			
	Lowest from three			
	4th highest from four or more			
	<i>Small card leads from suits not headed by an honour:</i>			
	Any <u>one</u> of:			
	(a) The highest card			
	(b) The 2nd highest card from 3 or more			
	(c) The 4th highest card from 4 or more, MUD or top from three small			
	<i>Signals on partner's lead, signals on declarer's lead and discards:</i>			
	High-low shows either an even number of cards or encouragement			
	Low-high shows either an odd number of cards or discouragement			
	When a card would be generally understood to have a suit preference meaning, such as when it is led for partner to ruff, then this is allowed			

9	<i>P.42</i>	10 B 4		August 1st 2007/9
<p>Delete the existing 10 B 4 and replace it with the following:</p> <p>10 B 4</p> <p>Strong openings are often described as 'Extended Rule of 25' which means the minimum allowed is any of:</p> <p>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</p> <p>b) any hand meeting the Rule of 25 or</p> <p>c) any hand of at least 16 HCPs</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <p>♠ A K Q J x x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x ♣ x does count as 8 clear-cut tricks.</p> <p>♠ A K Q x x x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x ♣ x does not.</p> <p>Clear-cut tricks are clarified as tricks expected to make opposite a void in partner's hand and the second best suit break.</p> <p>Further examples: AKQxxxxx (7 CCT), KQJxxxx (5), AQJ98xx (5), KQJTx (3), KQJTxxx (6), AKT9xxxxx (8), KJTxxx (2) [examples 2, 5 and 7 have been corrected]</p>				

10	<i>P.42</i>	10 E	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2008
<p>Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 10E is deleted completely and replaced with</p> <p>10 E Legal control of non-conventional bids</p> <p>10 E 1 From 1st August 2008 all agreements may be regulated under Law 40 as 'special partnership understandings'. The EBU defines all agreements that it regulates as 'special partnership understandings'. The previous indirect method of regulating certain opening bids and overcalls no longer applies.</p> <p>10 E 2 <i>Levels 2, 3 and 4</i></p> <p>(a) A partnership may NOT agree to open 1♥ or 1♠ on 3 cards by agreement.</p> <p>(b) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall on 3 cards by agreement.</p> <p>(c) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall solely to show strength in the suit bid rather than length.</p> <p>(d) A partnership may NOT agree to open on hands weaker than as allowed by 11 C 1, 11 C 9 and 11 C 10.</p> <p>These rules do not necessarily apply to any artificial bids allowed by other sections.</p>				

11	P. 44	11 C 3	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “at least 16 HCP or ‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 C 3 <i>Strong Club</i></p> <p>A 1♣ opening may have any combination of meanings if it is forcing and promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

12	P. 45	11 C 12	Level 3, 4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “at least 16 HCP or ‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 C 12 <i>Strong Diamond</i></p> <p>A 1♦ opening may have any combination of meanings if it is forcing and promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

13	P. 46	11 C 13	Level 4	August 1st 2007/8
<p>Options (a), (b) and (c) are replaced with new section (a). Part (d) is now (b), so it reads:</p> <p>11 C 13 <i>Either/or [Two-way] Club</i></p> <p>A 1♣ opening may be played as both of:</p> <p>(a) Any meaning as long as this does not include unbalanced hands with 5+ Hearts or 5+ Spades (unless there is a minor suit of equal length or longer). together with</p> <p>(b) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

14	P. 46	11 C 15-18	Level 4	August 1st 2008
<p>11C15 and 11C16 are renumbered 11C17 and 11C18. New sections 11C15 and 11C16 are added as follows:</p> <p>11 C 15 <i>Strong Major</i></p> <p>A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have any combination of meanings if it is forcing and promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p> <p>11 C 16 <i>Balanced Major</i></p> <p>A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have a defined range, a minimum of 9 HCP and must not be forcing. The HCP range may be varied according to position and/or vulnerability. One of the following may be played:</p> <p>(a) a balanced hand</p> <p>(b) a balanced or semi-balanced hand</p> <p>Players are free to agree more restrictive distributional constraints (eg no four card major). [The hand might not conform to Rule of 18].</p>				

15	<i>P. 49</i>	11 F 4	Level 3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 F 4 <i>Strong and Artificial</i> A 1NT opening may have any combination of meanings as long as it is forcing and promises a minimum strength of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

16	<i>P. 50</i>	11 G 3 (a)	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 G 3 <i>General</i> (a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

17	<i>P. 50</i>	11 G 4	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete 11 G 4 (a) completely, renumber 11 G 4 (b) as 11 G 4 (a) which now reads</p> <p>11 G 4 <i>Withdrawal of some previously permitted agreements</i> (a) An artificial opening which shows an Acol Two is no longer a ‘strong hand’ unless it shows at least ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4). Thus any agreement under which an artificial opening bid shows an Acol Two is NO LONGER PERMITTED unless it shows at least such strength.</p>				

18	<i>P. 51</i>	11 G 6 (b)	Level 3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 G 6 (b) Strong options Permitted strength: Minimum ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

19	P.52	11 G 8	Level 3,4	August 1st 2007
Delete 11 G 8 (a) completely, renumber 11 G 8 (b) as 11 G 8 (a) which now reads 11 G 8 <i>Withdrawal of some previously permitted agreements</i> (a) An artificial opening which shows an Acol Two is no longer a 'strong hand' unless it shows at least 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4). Thus any agreement under which an artificial opening bid shows an Acol Two is NO LONGER PERMITTED unless it shows at least such strength.				

20	P.52	11 G 10	Level 4	August 1st 2007/8
(a) Delete "'extended Rule of 25' (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).'" and add "'Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)'" (b) In part (b) add 'and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.' Section now reads 11 G 10 <i>General</i> (a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4). (b) Any combination of meanings which either: (1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or (2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in the suit bid, and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.				

21	P.53	11 G 12 (a)	Level 4	August 1st 2007
Delete 11 G 12 (a) completely, renumber 11 G 12 (b) as 11 G 12 (a) which now reads 11 G 12 <i>Withdrawal of some previously permitted agreements</i> (a) An artificial opening which shows an Acol Two is no longer a 'strong hand' unless it shows at least 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4). Thus any agreement under which an artificial opening bid shows an Acol Two is NO LONGER PERMITTED unless it shows at least such strength.				

22	P.53	11 H 3	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2007
Delete "'extended Rule of 25' (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).'" and add "'Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)'" Section now reads 11 H 3 <i>General</i> Two no trump openings may be played as: Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).				

23	P.53	11 H 6 (a)	Level 3,4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete “extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)”</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 H 6 (a) <i>General</i> Two no trump openings may be played as: Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p>				

24	P.54	11 H 8 (a) and (b)	Level 4	August 1st 2007/2008
<p>2007: Delete “extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)”</p> <p>2008: In section (b)(2) add ‘and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.’</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 H 8 (a) <i>General</i> Two no trump openings may be played as any one or two of the following: (a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4). (b) Any combination of meanings which either: (1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or (2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in one specified suit and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.</p>				

25	P.54	11 H 9	Level 4	August 1st 2007
<p>Delete 11 H 9 (a) completely, renumber 11 H 9 (b) as 11 H 9 (a) and turn the final sentence into 11 H 9 (b).</p> <p>11 H 9 <i>Withdrawal of some previously permitted agreements</i> (a) An artificial opening which shows an Acol Two is no longer a ‘strong hand’ unless it shows at least ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4). Thus any agreement under which an artificial opening bid shows an Acol Two is NO LONGER PERMITTED unless it shows at least such strength. (b) An opening bid with weak options that could include any of the four suits (for example a major two-suiter or a minor one-suiter is NO LONGER PERMITTED.</p>				

26	P.56	11 J 9 (a)	Level 4	August 1st 2007
Delete “‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’” Section now reads 11 J 9 <i>Mixed strong and weak</i> (a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).				

27	P.58	11 N 3	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2009
Delete 11N3 (b)				

28	P.59	11 N 9	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2009
1NT overcall for takeout: 1NT may be played as a takeout bid (similar to a takeout double) of any agreed strength. Natural jump overcalls: These are permitted. Roman Jump Overcalls: 2NT shows a strong two-suiter with any unbid suits, minimum ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4). Note that other jump overcalls show a limited two-suiter with specified suits which are permitted by 11 N 7.				

29	P.60	11 N 12	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2009
The following agreements previously permitted under separate permissions are now covered by the above arrangements: Jump cue bid showing an unspecified solid suit. Baron 1NT overcall Hudson 1NT overcall				

30	P.61	11 P 3 (c)	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2007
Delete “‘extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “‘Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)’” Section now reads 11 P 3 <i>Overcalls of Two of a suit or 2NT</i> (c) Alternatively, 2NT may be used to show a strong unspecified two-suiter, minimum ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).				

31	<i>P.66</i>	12	Glossary	August 1st 2007
<p>Amend the entry on Strong opening bid of 2♣ or higher. Delete the entry and definition and replace with:</p> <p>Strong opening bid: Minimum strength is 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4)".</p>				



© English Bridge Union 2009.
 Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP19 8AZ.
 ☎ 01296 317200 email:postmaster@ebu.co.uk