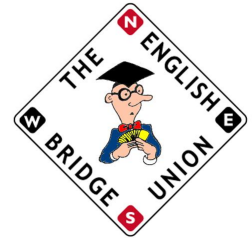


One Day Seminar on the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge

Autumn 2008



One Day Seminar on the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge



Programme

Welcome and Introductions – Outline of the day

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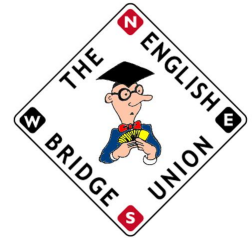
There will be a tea break in the morning and afternoon and a short lunch break. These will be taken at suitable breaks in the programme.

Update November 2008

**The WBF Laws Committee met in Beijing in October 2008 to give a first reaction to the 2007 laws.
Some of the guidance is included.**



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Shuffling cards at the end of the hand Law 7C

Grattan Endicott, a member of the WBF Laws Drafting Committee has written the following:

Just in passing let us spend a moment on Law 7C.

This was not a casual decision. It was one of the most carefully considered decisions in the book.

The Drafting Sub Committee wants there to be no order in the arrangement of the cards when they arrive at the table.

Any ordered arrangement is capable of conveying information.

This is obviously true if left in the order the cards were played.

Less obvious and more devious is the fact that a message can be conveyed through the need or otherwise of an opponent to sort his cards.

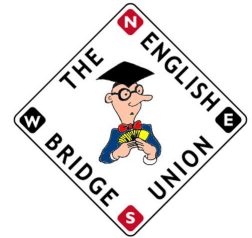
The committee wished to insist on avoiding that potential.

So the cards should be shuffled out of played order and leaving the hand suited is not allowed.

As to punishment – Max Bavin (EBU Chief TD) wants it to be a softly, softly learning approach rather than a heavy handed penalty. The laws say *should be shuffled* and 'should' is described as failure to do it is an infraction which will not often be penalized.



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The Revoke Laws 61-64 + 65-67

Law 61B3

The 1997 code, which prohibited, except authorization, now allows, unless prohibited, a defender to ask his partner if he can follow suit.

The EBU has decided not to forbid.

So a defender may ask his partner 'Having no spades (or clubs, diamonds or hearts), partner?'

Under the 1997 code, the penalty for asking when you should not have done so was very harsh – there was a penalty card, plus an established revoke penalty. That has now been swept away.

Only small disadvantage: the code acknowledges that asking the question may pass on Unauthorized Information. Bridge players' imagination being unlimited, this is probably true. This is likely to be through the way the question is asked and the mannerism of the player. We expect these cases will be rare.

Example: pairs event

	♠ Q98	
	♥ AKQJ64	
	♦ J6	
	♣ KQ	
♠ K6		♠ 7
♥ 2		♥ 10753
♦ AQ973		♦ 10842
♣ J8764		♣ A1092
	♠ AJ105432	
	♥ 98	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 53	
South		North
2♠		4♠

West leads ♥2, A, 3, 9
 ♠Q, 7, A, 6
 ♠3, K, 9, ♣10 West chokes: no spade?????
 ♣4, K, A, 5

East switches to a ♦, defeating the contract, instead of a ♥.

Law 64A2 The penalty is changed.

Successive revisions of the laws have reduced the penalty for an established revoke.

The first code of 1928, then those of 1933, 1935, 1943 and 1963 enforced a transfer of two tricks after a revoke.

In 1975, first change: two tricks transferred only if the offending side won the revoke trick; otherwise only one trick transferred.

In 1987, innovation : two tricks transferred if the offending player won the revoke trick ; otherwise, only one trick transferred unless the offending player later won a trick with a card he could have played on the revoke trick.

In 2007, this last provision is cancelled.

Is this change justified?

A senior French TD undertook a small survey. This is the situation he studied: the offending player does not win the revoke trick, but later wins a trick with a card he could have played on the revoke trick. About fifty occurrences were studied, certainly too small a sample to make these statistics reliable and prove anything.

Here are the results:

Number of tricks won	0	1	2 or more
Approximate percentage	25	50	25

This quick study shows that the provisions of the 1997 code inflicted in 75% of the cases a much higher penalty than the profit caused by the revoke. Thus this modification seems justified but immediately creates another problem. In a significant number of

cases, the number of tricks gained by the revoke will be higher than the penalty applied.

Thus the director will have to be very careful. Law 64C approaches...

The rectification applied after a revoke is thus modified. Only one trick (and no longer two) will be transferred when the offending player doesn't win the revoke trick but later wins a trick with a card he could – should – have played on the revoke trick, his side winning another one.

The only circumstance in which two tricks will be transferred: the offending player wins the revoke trick and his side later wins another trick. This can only be the case if the offending player ruffs and wins the trick.

A concise ruling would consist in asking:

- **Did you revoke?**
- **Yes!!!**
- **What's the contract?**
- **x no-trump!**
- **1 trick transferred!**

Law 64B7 Double revoke

The code tells us that Law 64B/C may apply if both sides revoked. Let us begin with an exercise:

South is the declarer in a ♠ contract

	♠	
	♥ 85	
	♦ 96	
	♣ 5	
♠ 9		♠ 6
♥ 74		♥ A2
♦ QJ		♦ 8
♣		♣ Q
	♠ 7	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A4	
	♣ K	

♥8 from dummy, A, ruffed ♠7 (revoke), over-ruffed ♠9 (revoke). West plays ♦Q and South realises he has revoked. Director!!!

What should we do? Is the case treated by this new provision?

No, Law 64B/C only applies to established revokes. The solution is that when South, having discovered his revoke before it becomes established, changes his card. West in turn is allowed to withdraw any card he may have played subsequent to the revoke and before attention is drawn to it. That includes the card he has led to the next trick. The current trick is still live and West's card can be changed, thereby correcting his revoke.

More generally, there won't be any tricks transferred after established revokes by both sides but law 64C may apply to restore equity. The important point is to determine what equity is. It would be wrong to say that equity consists in assigning a 50% score to both pairs or to rule a flat board in a teams event. Equity can be defined as follows:

'What result would we have obtained considering what happened before the first revoke?'

Another example:

	♠ -----	
	♥ KQ92	
	♦ AJ7	
	♣ 86	
♠ Q10		♠ 94
♥ 82		♥ 76
♦ Q54		♦ 32
♣ A3		♣ Q95
	♠ -----	
	♥ AJ1064	
	♦ K109	
	♣ 7	

Contract: 4♥ by South, not vulnerable, who lost a trick and has no indication concerning the ♦Q.

- ♣ from dummy, ruffed by declarer (revoke)
 - ♥, West discards (revoke), King
 - ♥, West follows suit. Director!!!
 - ♥
 - ♣ on which South plays the 7.
- The Director, called back if he had disappeared, records South's revoke. The throw-in is perfect. South will find the ♦Q. 11 tricks.

Only South's revoke should be penalized by a transfer of two tricks. A transfer of one trick for West's revoke. No subtraction needed, 64B7 comes to rescue us.

Nevertheless, a minute of the Laws Committee of November 2001 stated the Director had to restore equity after both sides revoked on the same board even if the WBFLC gave an example where the revoke occurred on the same trick.

Here the score can be adjusted to 4♥ + 1 in 50% of the cases and 4♥ = in 50% of the cases.

In a pairs event, if for N/S, 450 = 80% and 420 = 50%, the score assigned to the two pairs will be respectively 65% for N/S and 35% for E/W.

In a teams event, if at the other table the score is 170 N/S, the result of the board will be 450-170 = 7 imp's 50% of the time
420-170 = 6 imp's 50% of the time

That is to say: $\frac{7 + 6}{2} = 6.5$ imps which is rounded to 7 IMPs.

LAW 65 – 66

The possibility for dummy or defenders to draw partner's attention to a card pointed incorrectly expires when a lead is made to the following trick (L65B3). It is more a precision than a change. This was valid previously. The timing was not defined. Communication between partners has not changed. It is still achieved by the only means of the auction and play.

Thus Law 16 may apply.

	♠	
	♥ 8	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 5	
♠		♠
♥ K		♥ 104
♦ 82		♦ A
♣		♣
	♠	
	♥ AJ	
	♦	
	♣ K	

Imps

South plays 3 NT and has already won 7 tricks, but one card is pointed incorrectly (in horizontal position) in dummy: ♥8 - 4 - ??????

After some long seconds of thinking, North intervenes:

- 'We have 7 tricks !!!'
- 'Oh really !!!'

In real life South will answer he knew but was only thinking about the overtrick. Good luck !!!

Law 67

A player did not play a card to a trick. If he had cards in the led suit, he didn't follow suit, which is indeed the definition of a revoke. As a consequence, he is subject to the provisions of Law 64A2. Pure logic.

It should also be noted that, just like in 67B1b, the application of the penalty is automatic.

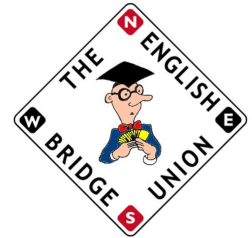
Finally, when a player played too many cards to a trick, the gain of this trick cannot be affected by the replacement in the player's hand of the card he played unduly.

Last point: What happens if, on the same board, we have a defective trick by one side and a revoke by the other? 64B7 applies.

Paper based on an original by French TD Bertrand GIGNOUX



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Insufficient Bid – Law 27

A. Introduction

From the Tournament Director's point of view, this is perhaps the most significant new Law of all. There is no doubt that insufficient bids will be much more difficult to deal with than they were under the 1997 code.

Law 27B1(a) is the same as the old Law, save for the use of the word 'artificial' rather than 'conventional' (as there is no longer a definition of the word 'conventional'). Definitions will be discussed as a separate topic, but please note in the meantime that we are still interpreting a 2-card (or shorter) 1 of a minor suit opening as being an 'artificial' bid.

Just in case there is (was) any doubt or confusion on the meaning of the 1997 code Law 27, we will discuss the principles behind the award of adjusted scores which might arise under 27B1(a).

Law 27B1(b) is completely new. We will most certainly be discussing some examples of this Law in action. In the meantime, a simple test to keep in mind is this:-

“Would all hands which might make the new call (the replacement bid) have also made the old call (the insufficient bid)?”

If 'yes' then it's OK under 27B1(b); if 'no', then it's not. We will also discuss the principles behind the award of adjusted scores which might arise under this Law as well – although, in fact, these are much the same as under 27B1(a).

Note also the 2007 code makes it quite clear what should happen if the IB is corrected before the TD arrives – the new call stands with whatever further rectifications may then be required (this assuming that the left hand opponent does not wish to accept the insufficient bid).

B. Recommended Tournament Director procedure

1. Advise the offender to say nothing at the table which might indicate what it was he thought he was doing, as to do so may create Unauthorised Information [UI] for his partner (Law 16B refers).
2. Advise the left hand opponent [LHO] that he may accept or reject the insufficient bid [IB], explaining that if he rejects it the offender will have the following options:-
 - if the offender makes the lowest legal bid in the same denomination, and if neither call is artificial, then the auction will continue without any further rectification
 - if the offender makes a call (any legal call) which has either an identical meaning as the IB or has a more precise meaning (such meaning being already fully contained within the scope of the IB), then the auction will continue without any further rectification
 - otherwise, the offender can make any legal call he wishes other than a double or redouble, but his partner will be silenced throughout.
3. The LHO is not entitled to know what the offender was trying to do when he made the IB (though he is entitled to guess!). However, he is entitled to know full details of his opponents system (e.g. he can ask supplementary questions) and he is entitled to know the Law (e.g. he can seek clarification of the Law from the Tournament Director [TD]).
4. If the IB is rejected, the TD will need to establish what the offender was trying to do when he made it. He will almost inevitably need to do this away from the table in order that the other three players remain unaware of the reason. The TD then advises the player of his options (still away from the table) i.e. which calls, if any, will allow the auction to proceed without further rectification. If the correction is to be allowed under 27B1(b), this may well involve quite a detailed (and possibly skilled) discussion and analysis of the player's system. The offender then selects his call at the table, and the TD advises the table as a whole whether or not partner is silenced throughout.
5. There may be Law 26 type lead restrictions if the offending side become defenders. Please see this Law even in

27B1(a) and 27B1(b) cases [this aspect of Law may be subject to further review by the WBF LC].

6. At the end of play, the TD may need to examine whether there is any reason to adjust the score. In general terms (e.g. in the absence of Law 16B type UI), if the IB has been accepted then all should be well. Also, in general terms (e.g. in the absence of Law 23), if partner has been silenced throughout then all should be well. Note that 'rub of the green' or 'just being lucky' is perfectly acceptable when partner has been silenced throughout – Law 27D does not apply, do not even think about going there!

Going back to 27B1b - Another possible question to ask is: 'Is it possible to construct a hand which makes the new bid which would not make the old bid'? If it is then it is not a rectification bid.

C. Permitted changes of call under 27B1(b)

"Would all hands which might make the new call (the replacement bid) have also made the old call (the insufficient bid)?"

Examples

1.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1♣(*)	1♠	1♦

1♣ is Precision; 1♦ is a negative reply – he missed the 1♠. They play that over intervention that pass is 0-4, double 5-7. Can he replace the insufficient 1♦ with double?

Would all hands that double also bid 1♦? Yes, so the change can be made (likewise, a change to 'PASS' would also be permissible).

2.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1NT	1♥

East thought North opened 1♣ so is overcalling showing 5+ hearts and 8 to 15 HCP. Can he now bid 2♥ which shows 5 hearts and a 4-card minor and 9-14 HCP?

Would all hands that bid 2♥ also bid 1♥ over 1♣? Yes, so the change can be made.

27D could apply if East misbids, for example by bidding 2♥ with a 1-suited hand and thus achieving a result he could not otherwise have achieved [for example, West now bids 4♠ and East is able to

- b) what if South was just confused or has pulled out the wrong card by mistake – he was trying to respond 3♣ in the first place?

In this case, yes (in fact in some scenarios the change might be permitted under 25A – but let us assume for the sake of this example that this is not one of them; the attempt to change has not been made without pause for thought).

Of course, the TD needs to be quite sure that this is really what happened.

D] Law 27D – adjusted scores arising from 27B1(a) or 27B1(b)

1. Introduction

- First, the 1997 Law:-
 - (a) *If both the insufficient bid and the bid substituted are incontrovertibly not conventional and if the bid is corrected by the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination, the auction proceeds as though the irregularity has not occurred (Law 16C2 does not apply to this situation, but see (b) following).*
 - (b) *Award of adjusted score*
If the Director judges that the insufficient bid conveyed such information as to damage the non-offending side, he shall assign an adjusted score.

All clear – OK?

- Maybe not, so herein the WBFLC clarification of the old code:-

In Law 27B1(b) the word "assign" is interpreted as "award"; the effect is that the adjusted score may be artificial or assigned as circumstances require.

[WBFLC minutes 2002-08-27#1]

An adjusted score is awarded under Law 27B1(b) when it is probable the result on the board would not have been obtained if the insufficient bid had not occurred and the non-offending side is thereby damaged.

[WBFLC minutes 2002-08-27#1, revised 2002-08-30#2]

- The new (2007) is attempting to say the same thing:-

Non-offending Side Damaged

If following the application of B1 the Director judges at the end of the play that without assistance gained through the infraction the outcome of the board could well have been different and in consequence the non-offending side is damaged (see Law 12B1), he shall award an adjusted score. In his adjustment he should seek to recover as nearly as possible the probable outcome of the board had the insufficient bid not occurred.

2. Misbids and fielded misbids.

Laws 27B1(a) and 27B1(b) work on the assumption that when the IB-er selects a call which does not silence partner, his hand actually conforms to the newly selected bid.

However, this will not necessarily be the case. For example, it may make perfect bridge sense to make a slight misbid in order to keep the auction open rather than gamble on a final contract by making a call which silences partner.

It may also make perfect bridge sense for partner to assume that the IB-er may be 'misbidding', and to cater for ('field') this possibility.

All this is entirely legal – it is general bridge knowledge covered by Law 16A1(d).

This is why Law 27D exists. If the player does misbid, or if his partner attempts to cater for it (regardless of whether there has been an actual misbid or not), then Law 27D may apply.

Note, however, that adjustments under Law 27D are entirely different to Law 16-type adjustments. A Law 27D adjustment is back to the probable outcome of the board had the IB never occurred in the first place.

For those of us who allow 'weighted' adjusted scores under Law 12C, the adjusted score may be a weighted one and may even include part of the actual table result (something which is not permitted when adjusting under Law 16).

Example

There is a famous example which begins:-

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1♥	Pass	1♥

South did not see the opening bid, and was trying to open 1♥ himself (though, of course, North cannot know this – though he may be able to deduce it).

South replaces his call with 2♥, which is OK under Law 27B1(a).

North now bids 4♥ even though his hand is completely minimum – 4♥ makes of course!

All this is entirely legal. South is entitled to misbid if he wants, and North is entitled to cater for this possibility. However, either of these actions cause us to examine Law 27D.

A normal auction would doubtless have been 1♥ – 4♥, or at least 4♥ via a delayed game raise or a conventional fit showing response of some sort.

So there is no need to adjust the score here – the result is perfectly normal.

Where we might adjust would be if N/S now had some fantastic cue-bidding auction starting at the 2-level to reach an otherwise difficult to bid slam. However, even then the adjusted score could be a weighted one (if permitted by the Regulating Authority) which includes some percentage of the slam still being reached via a 'normal' auction.

One final example:-

W	N
2♠ (weak)	1NT

North was trying to open 1NT, 12-14. A 2NT overcall would normally be 15-18; North elects to bid 2NT anyway.

Can he do this? – YES

Must South assume that it shows 15-18? – NO (he can assume what he likes provided there's no Law 16B-type UI).

Might the score be adjusted under 27D – YES; and this is regardless of what action South now takes.

From an original paper written by Max Bavin

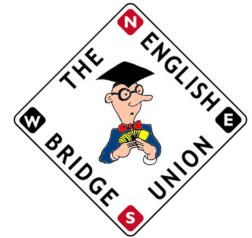
Update – November 2008.

Law 27B –The WBF Laws Committee has noted an increasing inclination among a number of Regulating Authorities to allow artificial correction of some insufficient bids even in cases where the set of possible hands is not a strict subset of the set of hands consistent with the insufficient bid. The Committee favours this approach and recommends to Regulating Authorities that, insofar as they wish, mildly liberal interpretations of Law 27B be permitted with play then being allowed to continue. At the end of the hand Law 27D may then be applied if the Director judges that the outcome could well have been different without assistance gained through the insufficient bid (and in consequence the non-offending side has been damaged).

It was also agreed that where it says in Laws 27B1(a) and 27B1(b) that 'the auction proceeds without further rectification' this is interpreted as meaning that the auction and play continue without further rectification.



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Director's Discretionary Powers – Law 12 Weighted rulings

Under the 1997 code when the TD gave an adjusted score he was required to give a score that was for a non-offending side, *the most favourable result that was likely had the irregularity not occurred* or, for an offending side, *the most unfavourable result that was at all probable*.

In 2000 the WBF Laws Committee introduced the law that became known as '12C3' which allowed weighted rulings to be given based on probability of outcomes rather than the above.

With the 2007 code of laws, weighted scores now become the norm and the 'most favourable/most unfavourable' route becomes a Regulating Authority option. The EBU has decided to use weighted rulings as its default position.

This paper seeks to explain how to award weighted rulings using Law 12C1c.

Example A – 2 scores only.

Match pointed pairs.

Non-vulnerable against vulnerable East bids 4♠ after his partner's hesitation which makes 10 tricks. The TD decides that the 4♠ bid was not clear cut and awards an adjusted score to North/South based on 4♥. Playing in 4♥ South might make 10 tricks or 11 tricks.

The TD decides to award the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 50\% \text{ of } 4♥ + 1 &= +650 \\ 50\% \text{ of } 4♥✓ &= +620 \end{aligned}$$

NOTE: This does not mean that the TD calculates 50% of 650 + 50% of 620 to get a score of 635.

It means 50% of the match points that 4♥+1 is worth + 50% of the match points that 4♥✓ is worth. So if 4♥+1 scores 24 and 4♥ scores 18, then the weighted score gets 21.

Some scoring software will do the calculation for you, but some will not. In this case you have to replace the actual score obtained on the board with an 'Average', work out the weighted result and then do adjustments away from average from each pair.

Example B – 4 scores

Match pointed pairs

A Ghestem bid was mis-described as spades and hearts when the correct explanation was hearts and clubs. The non-offenders (East/West) doubled 4♥ which went one off. However, they would probably have played in their spade fit if they had not been told their opponents had spades. The problem is they would make 12 tricks about 60% of the time, 11 tricks the rest and they might bid slam, but staying in game is more likely.

The TD discusses the situation with colleagues and decides the following:

10% of 6♠-1,	NS +100
+20% of 4♠+1,	NS -650
+40% of 4♠+2,	NS -680
+30% of 6♠✓,	NS -1430

Let's suppose that on checking the match points, +100 is a 'top' 30, -650 is worth 20, -680 is worth 7 and -1430 is worth 1.

So the weighting calculation is $0.1 \times 30 + 0.2 \times 20 + 0.4 \times 7 + 0.3 \times 1 = 3 + 4 + 2.8 + 0.3 = 10.1$. This is the score to NS; EW score 19.9. If you are scoring this away from average (15), then NS get -4.9 and EW get +4.9.

(Note that even though the TD thought 12 tricks were likely 60% of the time, the weightings are edged in favour of the non-offenders to 70%)

Example C – 4 scores

Teams of 4 – IMPs

Using the same example as in B.

10% of 6♠-1,	NS +100
+20% of 4♠+1,	NS -650
+40% of 4♠+2,	NS -680
+30% of 6♠✓,	NS -1430

In the other room East/West (our teammates) scored 680, i.e. NS - 680, so the TD proceeds as follows:

The boards are 'imped' first:

NS +100 +680 = +780.	+13 Imps
NS -650 +680 = + 30	+ 1 Imp
NS -680 +680 = 0	+ 0 Imps
NS -1430 +680 = -750	- 13 Imps

Now the appropriate weightings are taken:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (10\% \times +13) + (20\% \times +1) + (40\% \times 0) + (30\% \times -13) = \\
 +1.3 \quad +0.2 \quad +0 \quad -3.9 \quad = -2.4
 \end{array}$$

So the score is -2.4. In England we round to the nearest whole number, so that becomes -2 Imps to NS and +2 Imps to EW.

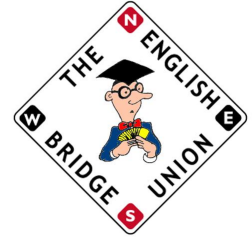
It is unlikely that you will have to go to more than four weightings, although the EBU recommends up to five and Jeff Smith's scoring program allows five, but 12C1d comes to your rescue if the possibilities are too many or not obvious. In this case you can award an artificial adjusted score. (60% to the non offenders, 40% to the offenders at pairs; +/-3 Imps at teams).

Update – November 2008

When the Director is empowered elsewhere in the laws simply to "award an adjusted score" he refers to Law12 to determine whether this will be an assigned or an artificial adjusted score. Law 12 intends that whenever he is able to award an assigned adjusted score he does so; if Law 12C1(d) or Law 12 C2(a) applies the adjusted score is artificial. Note that 12C2(a) does not say "no result has been obtained" but "no result can be obtained", so that if a board is incomplete but has reached a stage when completion of the board can be foreseen an assigned score is appropriate.



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Regulating Authority and Tournament Organizer – Law 80

1. Designation of Regulating Authorities.

- (a) This law provides an indisputable identification of the Regulating Authority (RA) for each tournament.
- (b) It also authorizes the RA it designates to pass on the function to another authority. Note the distinction between 'delegate' (the designated RA retains the ultimate responsibility for what is done) and 'assign' (the designated RA washes its hands of all responsibility for what is done).
- (c) In January 2008 the Board of the EBU decided to assign the Regulating Authority options to clubs.

2. Tournament Organizer

- (a) Law 80 now splits the former duties and responsibilities of the 'sponsoring organization' into two parts. The Regulating Authority provides the general framework of regulation within which the tournament exists. The Tournament Organizer assumes responsibility for setting up the tournament and for creating supplementary regulations (Conditions of Contest) for the purpose.
- (b) The Tournament Organizer is subject to any requirements that the Regulating Authority wishes to impose. The RA thus has overall control of the regulation of the tournament.
- (c) In many situations the RA and the TO may be the same body exercising both functions.

3. (a) In Law 80B2 some of the principal duties and responsibilities are listed. The list is not exclusive and is rather in the nature of a reminder of the most important matters to be covered. There is a general authority in 80B2(f) to cover matters not listed.

(b) In 80B2(l) the TO is reminded that elsewhere in the laws there are requirements to be met in the regulations. Where the requirement is the exercise of an option or alternatively adoption of the default arrangement in the laws, one would normally expect the RA to impose its will.

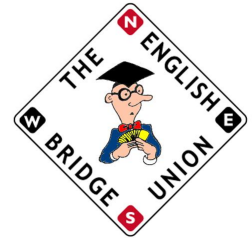
4. EBU Regulating Authority options

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.



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The Director – Law 81

1. The responsibilities, duties and powers, of the Director are substantially as they were under the 1997 laws. An effort has been made to ensure that they are explicit. He is the official representative of the Tournament Organizer on site, managing the technical operation of the tournament.
2. The Director is empowered to rectify any omission of the Tournament Organizer in the arrangements for the tournament. When the RA and the TO are silent in regard to the exercise of an option the laws provide, this is not such an omission; the default arrangements in the laws apply.
3. (a) Subject to the foregoing considerations the duties and powers of the Director are addressed in Law 81C. For clarity the Director should be aware that the WBF Laws Committee has decided that although an incorrect ruling by the Director is an error of procedure (see Law 82C) it is not an irregularity within the meaning of that word in the laws.

(b) Law 82 specifies the courses of action open to the Director when there is an error of procedure.
4. In exercising the powers listed in Law 81C the Director should note that:
 - (a) to maintain discipline the Director has powers under Law 91. It is a WBF Laws Committee decision that the Tournament Organizer may grant in advance general approval for the Director to exercise in his discretion powers under Law 91B. The EBU has given its TDs such powers and recommends other Tournament Organizers do the same.
 - (b) it is a duty of the Director to advise players of their responsibilities and rights under the laws. However, Law 83 limits the requirement to draw a player's attention to his right of appeal to those instances where the Director believes it could well be appropriate for an appeal to be made.

(c) as hitherto it continues to be the Director's duty to deal with an error or an irregularity if he becomes aware of it in any way before expiry of the correction period. After expiry of the correction period a score may be corrected only if the Tournament Organizer is jointly of the opinion with the Director that, beyond all reasonable doubt, the record is wrong (this is an addition to the laws, see Law 79C2).

(d) When a question of waiving rectification arises (Law 81C5) the Director should also take account of Law 10B.

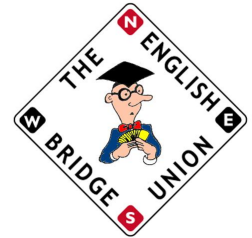
(e) in his discretion the Director may refer any matter to a committee with relevant responsibilities.

Update November 2008

81C2 requires the Director to advise players of their rights and responsibilities under the laws. He confines such information to rights and responsibilities that are relevant to the situation he is dealing with.



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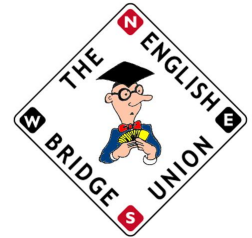


References to Lead Restrictions – Law 26

1. There are no changes to the way in which lead restrictions are implemented. The only difference is that they are now called lead 'restrictions' rather than lead 'penalties'.
2. It is clear, however, that certain laws do not refer to lead restrictions when they should.
 - a. Some laws refer directly to lead restrictions (e.g. 27B2)
 - b. Some laws say that lead restrictions do not apply (e.g. 36A)
 - c. Some laws are silent on the matter when in fact lead restrictions do apply. (e.g. 25B1 and 25B2)
3. I understand that the WBF Laws Commission may address this problem.



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References to Law 23

Law 23 deals with an area where we would probably rather not go. This is the idea that an offender could have known that by infringing a law it could well damage the non-offending side.

The old law was actually found in two places – part of it was in Law 23 (that of a damaging enforced pass) and part of it was in Law 72B1 (a player could have known etc etc).

That is now changed. The former Law 72B1 is now Law 23 and the old Law 23 is relegated to a footnote.

Law 23 : Awareness of potential damage

Whenever, in the opinion of the Director, an offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that this could well damage the non-offending side, he shall require the auction and play to continue (if not completed). When the play has been completed the Director awards an adjusted score if he considers the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity.*

*Footnote * - as, for example, by partner's enforced pass.*

So we see that Law 23 touches upon the founding principles of correct conduct and ethics that any sporting activity requires us to give precedence over all other considerations.

If a problem arises during a board the TD should require it be completed if at all possible. A table result should usually be the starting point for a score adjustment so completion of the board should be the Director's aim. He should make every effort not to cancel a board if it can possibly be played to a result.

Indeed, the Director will never award an adjusted score as a routine 'after the irregularity occurred' mode. Rather, he will do so 'after the play is completed' and then only when he judges that the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity. This best practice has held good for many years, the principle being

well understood, but in the past the laws did not specify it at all clearly. In the 2007 laws we find it explicitly stated in several places.

Example applications of this law.

A classic case: a player with a very weak hand wishes to compel his partner to pass throughout the auction after the partner has indicated with his call that he has exceptionally strong values. He makes an insufficient bid with this in mind. Under Law 27 he then corrects the IB with a pass, thus achieving his objective. How may the Director recognize this? Obviously his examination of the offender's hand can lead him to judge that such is the case.

A player with the same malign intent can obtain a like outcome via other routes. He can expose an honour card during the auction (Law 24), double or redouble out of turn (Law 31-32), make an inadmissible double or redouble (Law 36), or there are some less frequent violations such as Laws 37 and 38 cover. When bidding boxes are in use a bid of more than seven is particularly rare!

But let us say once more that if he is to adjust the score the Director must be convinced that the offender could have been aware at the time that his infraction might well cause damage to his innocent opponents and prove advantageous for him. We are not talking about situations in which an advantage is gained fortuitously, something of which the offender could not have been aware at the time of the offence.

A case in point would be this: a player opens 1NT out of turn, the bid is not accepted, and the player decides to substitute a bid of 3NT when it is his proper turn, knowing that partner is silenced. With only 22 HCP in the combined hands the contract nevertheless has nine easy tricks; no-one else in the room has bid it. The player could not know when he bid 3NT that it would be successful, indeed on many occasions it would not. Be that as it may, the Director has no grounds for adjusting the score. (10C4)

The application of Law 23 is not restricted solely to cases that were covered by the 1997 Law 23. In particular it applies to those cases, sometimes obscure and difficult to identify, in which, sadly, players who rely on their extensive knowledge of the laws are able to take advantage of that knowledge to receive from the Director a more favourable score than they could have hoped for if there had been no irregularity. The Director should remain alert for such occasions and his first concern should be to take away the advantage gained through the tendentious use of the law; after that he will take a

view in respect of the disciplinary considerations described above.

Other examples are:

- deliberate lead out of turn of the Ace in a suit bid by the defender. He has a void in another suit and hopes the lead of his bid suit will be prohibited by declarer.
- declarer lets a card fall onto the table or revokes deliberately in order to mislead defender; inexperienced players frequently spend a lot of time thinking through the situation again when something like this happens.
- leading from the wrong hand in order to see how defenders react.

One last thought: the Director should always begin by asking himself "Is there an irregularity?" If the answer is 'yes', the next question in the Director's mind, apart from simple application of the relevant law, is to assess whether the author of the unacceptable action could be aiming to gain from his infraction and to that end is willing to accept the prescribed rectification.

One important final point – we never judge intent when using this law. The law talks about 'could have known' – not 'did know'.

Examples from real life

1. Pairs Championship, regional heats.

Dealer S/NS Game

		♠A76 ♥QJT98 ♦KJ7 ♣A6	
♠542 ♥ ♦AT653 ♣J9874		♠KQT7 ♥A7543 ♦Q84 ♣5	♠983 ♥K62 ♦92 ♣KQT32

W	N	E	S
			1♥
Pass	2NT	pass	3♥
pass	4♣	pass	4♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♥	ends	

1♥: 5+
2NT: support
5♦: 1 ace.

West leads ♣8 to the Ace and declarer shifts to the ♥Q from dummy. East plays ♥6 and drops the ♥2 on the table. Director! The provisions of Laws 49 and 50 are explained and play continues.

Declarer now plays ♥A and goes one light.

The question for the Director is this: East knows that normal play for declarer would be to finesse with ten cards in the suit. Is it reasonable to think that his exposure of two cards might be to his advantage?

The answer is clearly yes and the Director will award twelve tricks to North-South.

2. National Open Pairs

North is dealer. Before North calls West opens a 15-17 No Trump.
His hand is:

♠ 874
♥ J75
♦ J10
♣ Q10874

The bid out of turn is not accepted and both North and South pass, each of them having a strong hand. The auction reaches West who now passes.

North-South have an easy slam. Does Law 23 apply?
Certainly it applies. What is more, the case is one where the Director could refer the incident for disciplinary action. West's action is done with intention to gain an illegal advantage. The Director will award the slam score to North-South and West will be fined.

3. National Open Pairs Tournament.

Declarer East, all vulnerable.
North's cards are:

♠ 98754
♥ J2
♦ 8754
♣ J6

The auction commences:

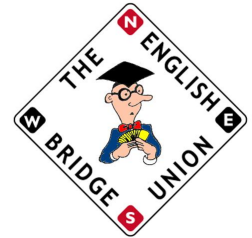
W	N	E	S
		1♣	double
1♥	1♠	2♥	double
pass	2♦ corrected to 2♠	3♥	ends

North's infraction has silenced his partner. This has avoided any possibility that NS might arrive at too high a level in the auction. Could North have known at the time of the irregularity that his infraction might work to his advantage? Yes, and the Director should adjust the score.

Based on a paper by Italian TD Maurizio DI SACCO



One Day Seminar on the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge



Laws 13 to 16

Changes in laws 13 and 14 are mechanical.

Law 15 is substantially unchanged

Law 16 has been rewritten and presents some new ideas which could produce different interpretations by TDs.

LAW 13 – Incorrect number of cards

Main change

In situations where, with the old code, the TD was not empowered to do anything or was only authorized to award an artificial adjusted score he is now empowered to award any kind of adjusted score (artificial or assigned).

Going into details:

13.A = when a player with an incorrect hand has made a call

In the old law if the TD deemed that the deal could be corrected and played normally with no change of call (the deal) might be so played; otherwise the TD should award an artificial adjusted score.

With the new law in the first case (at the end of the play) the TD may award an adjusted score (artificial or assigned), in the second case shall award an adjusted score (artificial or assigned).

ADVANTAGE: it is now more likely that the TD will allow the hand to be played.

13.C = play completed

In the old law the result would have been cancelled; in the new law the TD can award an adjusted score (artificial or assigned)

13.D. = no call made and a player have seen one or more card(s) of another player

If TD deems that the unauthorized information is unlikely to interfere (old law: "will not interfere") with normal bidding or play allows the board to be played and scored.

But if then he considers the information has affected the outcome of the board he shall adjust the score and may penalize the offender. (This possibility was not given in the old code and, as for 13:A this new release increase the possibility to let play the board).

If the TD decides not to let the hand be played he will award an artificial adjusted score (the same in the old version)

2nd level change

In the old law when the TD decided that the deal may be played he also needed the concurrence of all four players; now is only the TD who decides if the board has to be played or not.

Minor changes

13.E = placement or movement of card

Knowledge of the placement or movement of the card is unauthorized information for the partner of the player in fault.

13.F = surplus card

"Any surplus card not part of the deal is removed if found. The auction and the play continue unaffected. If such a card is found to have been played to a quitted trick an adjusted score may be awarded."

E.g. At the fourth trick the declarer (South) plays ♣A and West summons the TD telling him that he also has a ♣A. The TD determines that West has started with 14 cards and his ♣A is a surplus card. The TD will remove West's ♣A and play continues. (the TD may apply 13E (UI) against East).

LAW 14 – Missing card

Nothing important has been changed.

The general rule is that a card restored is deemed to have belonged continuously to the deficient hand (no change of call, no change of play, possible revokes and so on).

There are some minor word changes (“the card” instead of “a card” or “rectification and/or penalties” instead of “penalties”).

14.B affirms that a player has the right to complain for a missing card till the end of the Correction Period (79.C?). The old law said “after the play period begins” not giving an end. It is a change? I don’t know but probably the new definition helps the TD to apply law 64.C.

In this law too, as in law 13, the knowledge of the replacement of a card is unauthorized for the partner of the player in fault. (14C)

LAW 15 – Play of a wrong board

There is no change but there is a powerful new weapon given to the TD

15.C. discovered during the auction period

As you well know a new auction starts with the right pairs and players must repeat the call made previously. If any call differs the TD shall cancel the board.

And now the weapon!

“The director may award a procedural penalty (and an adjusted score) if of the opinion that there has been a purposeful attempt by either side to preclude normal play of the board”.

It is likely to be rare but a player arriving at the table might deliberately make a bid he knows cannot have happened before in an attempt to get 60%.

I am not sure if we have to say something to the new pair; in my opinion the most we can do is to invite the pair to make a “normal bid” without any reference to the possibility of our later action.

LAW 16 – Authorized and unauthorized information

The item about the authorized information is totally new.

16.A = players' use of information

16A1(a)(b)(c) It is a list of all the sources of authorized information (legal calls and play, illegal calls and play accepted, authorized information from withdrawn action, any information authorized by the law or regulation) .

16A1d: "it is information that a player possessed before he took his hand from the board (Law 7B) and the Laws do not preclude his use of this information.

16A2 Players may also take account of their estimate of their own score, of the traits of their opponents, and any requirement of the tournament regulation.

Tournament regulations may need to be written carefully to prevent players using this law in what might be seen as unsporting behaviour. At the end Law 16A authorizes the TD to adjust the score if a violation of this law has caused damage.

16.B. extraneous information from partner

It is the usual list of the possible unauthorized information from partner. (*We all know that at the top there is the "unmistakable hesitation*) and "the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information".

16B1b. "a logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership, would be given serious consideration by a significant proportion of such player, of whom it is judged some might select it.

This is a radical change in the kind of analysis made by the TD

Imagine an action taken after a hesitation of the partner:

- 1) Now is official that the panel has to be of the same class of the player involved
- 2) It used to be enough to find a large majority of players who would have made the same bid to confirm the result. Now you need to verify if an alternative action would be given serious

consideration by a significant proportion of such players. To do so we must verify if the player has been doubtful in his decision. Question like "are you thinking to anything else?" or "what do you think about pass?" can help us. Of course you can get very different answer like "Ridiculous" or "It is possible but I would have bid" and with all this pieces of information ... you decide.

There is a change to the time in which a player has to inform his opponents or the TD about unauthorized information given or used.

16B2. "when a player considers that an opponent has made such information available" in the old code he "may immediately announce that he reserves the right to summon the TD later". In the new Law "he may announce ..."

In any case it is better to reserve his own rights immediately, as that transfers the onus to the opponents.

16B3. "when a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action that could have been suggested by such information" ... in old code "he should summon the Director forthwith" ... in the new Law "he should summon the Director when the play ends".

...and more "it is not an infraction to call the Director earlier or later"

The last step of exchanges in Law 16 have added some more options for the TD covering situations which created some problems under the old Law.

16C. Extraneous information from other sources

In 16C1 there is the definition about what other sources are. (No change in the new Law)

16C2 lists the different possibilities given to the TD if summoned before any call has been made.

- a) Adjust the players' position (as in the old Law)
- b) Redeal the board if possible (new)
- c) Allow completion of the board standing ready to award an adjusted score if the TD judges that unauthorized information may have affected the result (NEW)

d) Award an artificial adjusted score (as in the old Law)

16C3 indicates the only solution when the TD is summoned after the first call has been made and before completion of the play of the board

a) Allow completion of the board standing ready to award an adjusted score if the TD judges that unauthorized information may have affected the result (NEW)

If the TD is summoned after the end of the play the Law does not offer a solution; in my opinion the TD has to let the result at the table stand thinking about a penalty for one or both pairs which could have tried to get an advantage from the information received.

The (new) possibility to award an assigned score could create many problems to the TD

Undoubtedly in some easy cases this solution will help the TD to do justice; this happens when, with or without the extraneous information, a pair is going to win the board for more than 3 imps.

A player is playing in 6♠ - slam not bid at the other(s) table(s) - and the problem is to find ♦Q but the solution arrives via extraneous information.

If vulnerable both pairs were in the situation where it was possible to get 100% (or gain 13 imps) or to get 0% (or to lose 13 imps).

Do you believe is it justice (for them and the other competitors) to give both pairs the best result or do you believe that 60/60 (+/- 3 Imps) is more reasonable?

My conclusions:

a) When it is easy and possible award an assigned score preserving the minimum result already obtained at the table without use of the extraneous information. The surplus generated by the extraneous information can be weighted.

b) Award an artificial adjusted score has to be the more used adjustment. *Remember* 12C1e = "if the possibilities are numerous and not obvious the Director may award an artificial adjusted score.

- c) In some cases it has to be giving a non-balancing assigned score. It is possible to be a little bit more generous versus both pair (creating a kind of split weighted score) if the guilty, who is going to pay the related fine, is known.
- d) Never award the best result for both.

Update November 2008

16A1(d) allows the player use of his memory of information in the laws and regulations. It does not authorize him to look during the auction and play at the printed regulations, the law book, or anyone's scorecard or the backs of bidding cards etc. as (Law 40C3(a)) an aid to memory. For system card and notes see Law 20G2.

Laws & Ethics Committee Guidance (November 2008)

Advice to Appeal Committee Chairman (and Tournament Directors) on the impact of the new laws regarding logical alternatives.

Is an action a logical alternative (an LA)?

When deciding whether an action constitutes an LA under the 2007 Laws, the TD should consider two things.

1. He should decide whether a significant proportion of the player's peers [playing the same system] would consider the action.

What is a significant proportion? The laws don't specify %. While it is best if a TD gets a feeling for the term "significant proportion" he will not go far wrong if he assumes it means a minimum of 20% of players.

If a significant proportion would **not** consider the action chosen then it does not constitute an LA.

2. If a significant proportion would then the TD should next consider whether some of them would actually choose it.

It is best not to consider specific figures. If even a small number would choose it then that is enough.

As to methodology, asking players for opinions is helpful, without telling them the problem. For example, if this is a hesitation case, ask them as a bidding problem without mentioning the hesitation.

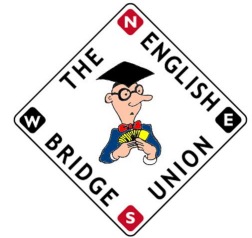
The TD should ask them what they would call after the given sequence, telling them the methods employed. If their answer is not the action under consideration then a further question should be asked, namely what alternatives they considered. This poll should give the TD a fair idea of whether an action is an LA.

What should an appeal committee do if the ruling is appealed?

- They should look at Law 16B. 1B in that section defines an LA.
- They may ask the TD for details of any poll he took.
- They could consider their own poll but time and practicality usually rules this out.
- They should be aware that the old, so called, 30% or 70% rules are not the ones in force now.
- They should be aware that this is a judgment area and might like to ascertain the experience of the players
- In practice under the 2007 laws a disputed action is less likely to be allowed than previously.



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References to other Laws (Law 17, 24 and 69-71)

Law 17

The beginning of the auction period has been changed. Up till now it starts when a player of a side looks into his cards. From 2008 on it starts when a player of a side takes his cards from the board. This has consequences for Law 24 (see later).

We have introduced a time limit in 17D. If a player discovers that he has the wrong hand (from another board) and has made a call with it he can't continue the bidding if his partner has already made a call thereafter.

We still struggle with the meaning of a (different) call. The footnote talks about a 'much different' meaning but nobody (?) knows what that means. And we have added 'psychic'. This to avoid that a player repeats his previous call with a hand that does not fit that call, in order to have the auction continued. The TD can only check this by inspecting the hand of this player, which is one of the things we try to avoid by all means. Or is this another case in which the TD might decide to give an adjusted score after play has finished?

Reading 17E2 the question arises what to do if the following happens:

W	N	E	S
pass		pass	pass
	pass		

Do we agree that it would have been better to say: if one *or more* of thoseNo complaint regarding the new laws, it is the same in the old ones.

Be aware of a change: in the old laws nobody was treated guilty (no UI involved). In the new ones the player who called out of turn is an offender, thus creates UI for his partner and (possibly) vice versa, and has received UI from the opponents with his partner.

Note that 17E2 is the old Law34, which is still available as 34 also.

Law 24

Since the start of the auction period has changed (see L17), it means that L24 can now apply from that moment. If a player causes a card to be exposed by his own action then L24 applies. This law makes it a card that has to stay on the table during the auction and it will become a penalty card if the offender becomes a defender.

What happens where a card becomes visible and it isn't the player's fault (being face up in the hand for example)?

Such a card has to be treated as Unauthorised Information L16C - extraneous information from other sources - specifically 16C1.

Law 69 – Claims and concessions

'Acquiescence' has gone, 'agreement' being the replacement. (Apparently 'acquiescence' was one English word that did not translate into other languages).

An important change arises in L 69B2. Up till now the agreeing side is stuck with the loss of a trick if there is a normal play (had play continued) in which that trick can be lost. There are many examples in which appeal committees declared 'normal play' as a much more restrictive sample of possible plays than the TD. This is because they deemed it unfair for the agreeing side to lose such trick (and unfair for the field to award such trick to the claiming side).

In a famous case a World level, Bobby Wolff as chairman of an AC told the careless claimers that the laws were on their side but that he could not imagine that they were accepting such trick. They didn't.

The change in this law gives the trick back if the agreeing side would likely have won it. This makes it necessary for the TD to analyse and to judge in a more difficult situation than before. And it is clear that the quality of play gets involved.

Law 70 - No agreement to the claim.

It now says that the TD may have his own reasons to deny the claim, he is not bound to the objections coming from the opponents (up till now he wasn't either but there is no explicit statement available).

A claim by a defender the success of which depends on choices to be made by his partner should not be accepted if there is an alternative normal play available. (An example from America where a player claimed by saying that he would play a winning card on which his partner discards a bare blocking ace after which he can collect KQT in that suit. The TD allowed the claim!!!!)

It now says that in case play continues after a claim the TD may take into account the facts arising from the continuation. Not a very brave statement. It can go both ways now, depending on the TD. And what if the claimer continuing play gets an extra trick? Will he get it? He might from now on.

The regulating authority may describe an order of play in a suit if this was not clarified in the statement. For example with KQJT5 and claiming the player is supposed to play the suit from the top. The EBU has not embraced this. If a regulating authority does so it better describe in detail what it wants. Example 1: Assume declarer concedes a trick with 85 in trumps (2 cards remaining) and it appears that the only trump left is the 7. Playing from top he now will catch that 7! Do we give him both tricks if he claims both without a statement. Example 2: Declarer has only 3 trumps left A64 and says 'the rest are mine' not remembering that the 8 is still out. Is it 2 tricks or 3 tricks?

Law 71 – Cancelling a concession

In the 1997 Code it was very badly written. It is now quite clear, without changing content.

We have a new definition of 'normal', leaving out that irrational play is not included in normal play. This means that from now on 'normal' includes careless or inferior play, which is related to the level of play.

Adjusted Scores and claims

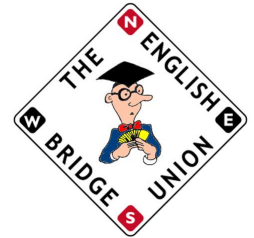
When ruling on a claim the TD might think he is awarding an adjusted score. This is not the case. He is awarding an actual score on the board – not an adjusted score.

The TD might be inclined to give a weighted score, reasoning that some of the time the declarer will make 9 tricks and sometimes 10. Unfortunately, this is not allowed. You can only give a weighted result when you are awarding an adjusted score.

So in this case the TD has to give a result using the guidelines of Law 70 to come to his decision.



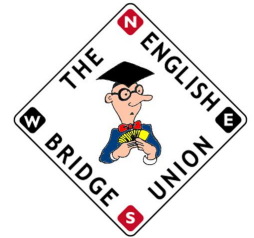
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Notes



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Notes



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