

Changes in Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge Effective September 8, 2008

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ACBL has revised the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, effective September 8, 2008. Many of the changes are to make the laws more consistent, clarify language or keep up with the times. This paper covers the more common changes, which might come up in a normal session.

Law #

When an Irregularity Happens, Call the Director

9, 10 & 11

- Please do not try to fix irregularities without the director.
- If you try to fix something before the director arrives, you may be committed to that change, or you may be giving unauthorized information to your partner.

9B1

11A

The Laws Are Intended to Restore Equity

Throughout

- This has always been the case and ACBL has changed the language to make this clearer.

Unauthorized Information

16

- When a player's actions make extraneous or unauthorized information available (e.g., unmistakable break in tempo, hesitations), a player may announce that he reserves the right to call the director later.
- If any opponent disagrees that there may be unauthorized information, the Director should be called immediately.

16B2

16B2

Questions during the Auction

20

- A player may not ask a question solely for partner's benefit. (no change)
- If your partner asks a question at his turn to call or play, you must wait for your turn to call or play to ask supplementary questions.
- Declarer's first turn to play is from the dummy, except when accepting an opening lead out of turn. (no change)

20G1

20F1

20C2 &
41B

Change of Call

25

- ACBL has removed the purposeful-correction options.
- Unintended calls can be changed if done without pause for thought up until partner calls (no change here). Once partner has called, you can no longer change your call. If your left-hand opponent has called, they will be able to change their call without penalty.
- After a pause for thought, the original call stands unless the caller's left-hand opponent accepts an attempt to change that call. Knowledge of any withdrawn or rejected call is unauthorized information for the offender's partner.

25A1

25B1

Insufficient Bids

27

- The director can allow an insufficient conventional bid to be corrected under some circumstances. If someone bids 2C over 2NT, the director can allow a change to 3C without penalty.

27B1(b)

- Call the director – do not try to change the call yourself. If you attempt to change, you may be stuck with it without knowing your options. You could also end up barring your partner from bidding, subjecting your side to lead penalties, or providing unauthorized information. Any of these could affect your score.

27C

Revokes

64

- ACBL has changed the revoke laws back to the older, simpler pre-1999 laws.
- If the revoking player[†] wins the revoke trick, that trick and one of any tricks the revoking side wins after the revoke is transferred to the non-offending side.
- If the revoking player[†] doesn't win the revoke trick, but the revoking side wins that trick or any subsequent trick, it is a one trick penalty.
- If both sides revoke, there is no rectification for either side.
- The director is still required to adjust the score for equity. (no change)

64A1

64A2

64B7

64C

Pointing Tricks

65

- If a completed trick is pointed the wrong way, declarer may ask dummy or an opponent to correct it at any time.
- Defenders and dummy may only ask to correct a trick when it happens. Once someone leads to the next trick, they may no longer call attention to a wrongly-pointed trick.

65B3

65B3

Contested Claims

68 & 70

- Contested claims are often very difficult to sort out. Please call the director immediately instead of trying to sort it out.
- All play should stop immediately - "play it out" is not an option once a claim has been made. The director has the option of using any play after a claim as evidence of players' probable plays.
- ACBL has the authority to determine an order of play of the remaining cards in a suit when it was not clarified in the statement of a claim. Example, directors generally rule that declarers, when leading trumps or running trumps, lead the suit from the top down.

68D

68D

70D3

70E2

Appeals

92 & 93

- Appeals now require both partners to actively agree to the appeal, or it will not be heard.
- The decision of an appeals committee on matters of judgment is final. Further appeals to higher authorities can only be made on matters of law.

92D1

93C

[†] A trick won in dummy is not won by declarer for the purposes of Law 64.