

2017 Laws of Bridge

Miscellaneous Law Changes

Law 1B/1C – The faces and backs of all 52 cards in a deck should be identical. They may incorporate words, a logo or a pictorial design but the image used should possess a “centre of symmetry”.

Law 7A – Placement of Board - when a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of the table where it shall remain, correctly oriented, until play is completed.

Law 9A3 – Any player, including dummy, may attempt to prevent an irregularity. Previously dummy could only prevent an irregularity by declarer.

Law 12C2 – Two changes to Average Plus/Minus – (a) always +/- 3 imps in teams (previously it was +/- 2 imps in matches of fewer than 11 boards), and (b) a formula will be developed for when there’s multiple average +/- adjustments in one session.

Law 20F4(a) – Explanation of Calls – if a player realizes during the auction that his own explanation was erroneous or incomplete, he must summon the Director before the end of the Clarification Period and correct the mis-explanation. He may call the Director sooner, but is under no obligation to do so.

Miscellaneous Law Changes (cont'd)

Law 20G2 – Incorrect Procedure – a player may not ask a question if his sole purpose is to elicit an incorrect response from an opponent.

Law 24 – Card exposed during the auction through a player's error (may be accidental) remains visible, and penalty card provisions apply later – this also applied in the old laws but now it only applies to cards exposed during the auction itself. Cards exposed before the first call and during the clarification period are subject to Law 16.

Law 26 –Lead Restrictions and 30-32 – Call out of turn – Considerable changes, see below

Law 53A – A lead out of turn at Trick 13 must be corrected i.e. cannot be accepted by offender's LHO.

Miscellaneous Law Changes (cont'd)

Law 57 – Premature lead or play – now there's a further option available to declarer when a defender plays ahead of their partner. They can name a suit to be played by offender's partner (previously they could demand highest or lowest of the led suit or deny a suit of their choice).

Law 62C3 – Subsequent Cards Played – if both sides revoke on the same trick and only one side has played to the subsequent trick, then both revokes must be corrected (see Law 16C2). Every card withdrawn by the defending side becomes a penalty card.

Law 66D – Until his side has played to the next trick, a player can inspect his own last card played (previously this right was lost once any player had played to the next trick).

Law 68B – when making a claim or concession, a player must face his hand.

Law 68D – after a claim or concession, play can continue at the request of the non-claimants and if all four players agree. In this case, the prior claim is void, and the subsequently obtained result must stand.

Law 23 – Comparable Call

This principle is similar to Law 27B(1)(b) in the 2007 laws where a bid with the same or precise meaning could replace an insufficient bid without further restriction.

Law 23 defines a “comparative call” as one that:

- Has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, **or**
- Defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, **or**
- Has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

Law 23 – No Rectification – when a call is cancelled (as per Law 29B) and the offender chooses at his proper turn to replace the irregularity with a comparable call, then both the auction and play continue without further rectification. Law 16C2 does not apply, but see C following. **Law 23C – Non-Offending Side Damaged** – adjusted score can be awarded.

Law 26 – Lead Restrictions

No Lead Restrictions

When an offending player's call is withdrawn and it is replaced by a comparable call (see Law 23A), then if he becomes a defender there are no lead restrictions for his side. Law 16C does not apply, but see Law 23C.

Lead Restrictions

When an offending player's call is withdrawn and it is not replaced by a comparable call, then if he becomes a defender declarer may, at the offender's partner's first turn to lead (which may be the opening lead) prohibit offender's partner from leading any (one) suit which has not been specified in the legal auction by the offender. Such prohibition continues for as long as the offender's partner retains the lead.

(This was a last minute change to the law and the law book contains an erratum.)

Pass Out Of Turn – Law 30

At RHO's Turn to Call

When a pass out of rotation is made at offender's RHO's turn to call, the offender must pass when next it is his turn to call and Law 72C may apply.

At Partner's or LHO's Turn to Call

When the offender has passed at his partner's turn to call, or at his LHO's turn to call if the offender has not previously called, then:

- Offender's partner may make any legal call at his proper turn, but Law 16C2 applies
- Offender may make any legal call at his correct turn and:
 - When the call is a comparable call (see Law 23A), there is no further rectification. Law 26B does not apply, but see Law 23C.
 - When the call is not a comparable call (see Law 23A), offender's partner must pass when next it is his turn to call. Laws 16C, 26B and 72C may apply.

Bid Out Of Turn – Law 31

At RHO's Turn to Call

When the offender has called at his RHO's turn to call:

- **If that opponent passes, offender must repeat the call out of rotation, and when that call is legal there is no rectification.**
- **If that opponent makes a legal bid, double or redouble, offender may make any legal call:**
 - **When the call is a comparable call (see Law 23A), there is no further rectification. Law 26B does not apply, but see Law 23C.**
 - **When the call is not a comparable call (see Law 23A), offender's partner must pass when next it is his turn to call. Laws 16C, 26B and 72C may apply.**

At Partner's or LHO's Turn to Call

When the offender has bid at his partner's turn to call, or at his LHO's turn to call if the offender has not previously called, then:

- **Offender's partner may make any legal call at his proper turn, but Law 16C2 applies.**
- **Offender may make any legal call at his correct turn and the Director rules as in A2(a) or A2(b) above.**

Double Out Of Turn – Law 32

At Offender's RHO's turn to call

- If offender's RHO passes, offender must repeat his out-of-rotation double or redouble and there is no rectification unless the double or redouble is inadmissible, in which case Law 36 applies.
- If offender's RHO bids, doubles or redoubles, the offender may in turn make any legal call:
 - When the call is a comparable call (see Law 23A), there is no further rectification. Law 26B does not apply, but see Law 23C.
 - When the call is not a comparable call (see Law 23A), offender's partner must pass when next it is his turn to call. Laws 16C, 26B and 72C may apply.

At Offender's Partner's Turn to Call

- If a double or redouble out of rotation has been made when it was the offender's partner's turn to call, then:
 - Offender's partner may make any legal call, but Law 16C2 applies.
 - Offender may make any legal call at his proper turn and the Director rules as in A2(a) or A2(b) above.