

2007 Laws - Some Things Players Should Know

Players should shuffle their original 13 cards before returning them to the board.

Usually, the director's sole aim is to restore equity after an irregularity. To reinforce this intention the term "penalty" has been largely replaced by "rectification" and "restriction". Procedural Penalties and Disciplinary Penalties remain for when punishment is considered necessary.

Directors will now apply weighted scores when an outcome is uncertain after a side has been damaged and not split scores (the old most favourable result that was likely to the non-offenders had the irregularity not occurred and the most unfavourable result that was at all probable to the offenders). Split scores may still occur in about three rare circumstances and may even be weighted split scores.

There has been a change to the standard rectification for an established revoke when the offender has not won the revoke trick himself. If the offending side won the revoke trick or any subsequent trick then, after play ends, one trick is transferred to the non-offending side. As now, the director will further adjust the score if more damage was caused by the established revoke.

Declarer may require that a card pointed the wrong (as a quitted trick) is pointed correctly. Dummy or either defender may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly but only until a lead is made to the following trick. If done later the laws concerning Unauthorized Information may apply.

The Director is still to be called when attention is drawn to an irregularity though the implication that a penalty might ensue if they don't call the director has been removed. Players must not make rulings at the table.

When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent may have used unauthorized information, the preferred procedure is to summon the Director at the end of the hand but it is not an infringement to call the director earlier or later. (16B3)

When a player believes that an opponent has provided unauthorized information to his partner by a gesture, comment, hesitation, or the like, he may immediately try to establish the facts about what has occurred. This should be done as pleasantly as possible, stressing that establishing the facts now (as to the gesture, comment, hesitation, or the like) is to avoid dispute later should it be necessary to call the director at the end of play. The director should only be called at this earlier time if there is no agreement about what has occurred.

Provision remains for an unintended (inadvertent) call to be corrected however delayed or purposeful changes of calls are no longer possible.

There is an additional option to Law 27 for correcting an insufficient bid (when LHO has not accepted the insufficient bid). It may be possible for the offender to correct his insufficient bid with any legal call if it essentially imparts the possible meaning of the insufficient bid or has a more precise meaning.

Any 2C response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction is now self-alerting.

In a pairs competition, both players must now concur in making an appeal. In a teams event, as before, the captain must concur in the making an appeal.

Players are reminded in the draft Section P of the QBA Regulations that the opening lead should not be recorded at the start of the play period and that the appropriate time to record information in a Personal Record Sheet is after play of the hand is complete. To record the opening lead sooner is seen as an aid to memory (not permitted) apart from delaying play and irritating others.