

Important changes to the Laws

When a player has given wrong information about a partnership agreement and becomes aware of it during the auction, he is no longer obliged to rectify it immediately, but may wait till the auction is completed.

We have introduced the concept of a 'comparable call'. If a player replaces his illegal call with a comparable call, then the consequences will be less severe than in the present laws. We embarked upon this approach with insufficient bids in 2007 and have now extended it to calls out of rotation. An important benefit of this is that in most cases partner is no longer silenced for the entire auction, which in turn removes the need to select a unilateral (gambling) final action.

This also will reduce the frequency of when a lead penalty applies and we have taken this opportunity to also make Law 26 less complicated.

The number of instances within the laws where a Regulating Authority is presented with an option to vary the default position has been reduced in an effort to ensure greater global uniformity in the way the Laws are applied.

One example of this is that defenders will now be permitted to ask one another about a possible revoke, irrespective of which Regulating Authority's auspices the event is being held under. Another is that the option to award split (rather than weighted) assigned adjusted scores has been removed.

All the Regulating Authority options are now presented such that the default position is that used in WBF events.

Dummy will now be permitted to prevent any player (previously it was just declarer) from committing an irregularity.

When a player has a penalty card, information related to that card is authorized for his partner as long as that card stays on the table. It becomes unauthorized when that card is played or taken back into the hand.

When both sides have revoked on the same trick and only one side has played to the next trick; both revokes must now be corrected.

When a player claims/concedes, both sides (all four players) may now agree to continue play, rather than summon the Director. If they do however agree to play on, then the table result will stand.

When a player makes a claim or concession, that player is now required to face his hand.

When there is a scoring error discovered after the correction period, that error may still be corrected, but only when the Director is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that a mistake has been made. To make this type of (late) correction, the Director will need the permission of the Tournament Organizer (but the involvement of the Regulating Authority is no longer required).

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