

Laws of Online Bridge

(changes only, marked vs. relevant subsections of Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge – 1997 Edition)

LAW 17 - DURATION OF THE AUCTION

E. End of Auction Period

The auction period ends when all four players pass or when after three passes in rotation have followed any call the opening lead is faced (when a pass out of rotation has been accepted, see Law 34).*

* Service providers are encouraged to develop software permitting re-opening of the auction until the opening lead has been faced. When the software elected by the sponsoring organisation does not permit re-opening of the auction, the auction period ends after three passes in rotation have followed any call.

LAW 20 - REVIEW AND EXPLANATION OF CALLS

C. Review after Final Pass

~~1. Opening Lead Inquiry~~

~~After the final pass either defender has the right to ask if it is his opening lead (see Laws 47E and 41).~~

~~2. Review of Auction~~

~~Declarer or either defender may, at his first turn to play, require all previous calls to be restated (see Law 41B and 41C).~~

2. Review of Auction

If permitted by the sponsoring organisation, declarer or either defender may review the auction at any time during the play period.

LAW 21 - CALL BASED ON MISINFORMATION

B. *Call Based on Misinformation from an Opponent*

1. Change of Call

Until the end of the auction period (see Law 17E and footnote), a player may, without penalty, change a call when it is probable that he made the call as a result of misinformation given to him by an opponent (failure to alert promptly to a conventional call or special understanding, where such alert is required by the sponsoring organisation, is deemed misinformation), provided that his partner has not subsequently called.

LAW 40 - PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDINGS

E. *Convention Card*

1. Right to Prescribe

The sponsoring organisation may prescribe a convention card on which partners are to list their conventions and other agreements and may establish regulations for its use, including a requirement that both members of a partnership employ the same system (such a regulation must not restrict style and judgement, only method).

2. Referring to Opponents' Convention Card

During the auction and play, any player except dummy may refer to his opponents' convention card ~~at his own turn to call or play, but not to his own.~~ **If permitted by the sponsoring organisation, in special events such as individual tournaments or tournaments using specified systems, a player may refer to his own convention card. ***

*** Except as permitted in L40E2-Online, a player is not entitled, during the auction and play periods, to any aids to his memory, calculation or technique. However, sponsoring organisations may designate unusual methods and allow written defenses against opponents' unusual methods to be referred to at the table.**

LAW 43 - DUMMY'S LIMITATIONS

Except as specified in Law 42:

A. *Limitations on Dummy*

2. Limitations Carrying Specific Penalty

- (a) Exchanging Hands
Dummy may not exchange hands with declarer.
- (b) Leave Seat to Watch Declarer
Dummy may not leave his seat to watch declarer's play of the hand.*

* If permitted by the sponsoring organisation, dummy may view declarer's hand during the play period.

- (c) Look at Defender's Hand
Dummy may not, on his own initiative, look at the face of a card in either defender's hand.

LAW 66 - INSPECTION OF TRICKS

A. *Previous Trick*

Until the completion of a trick, declarer or either defender may, if permitted by the sponsoring organisation, inspect the previous trick.

~~A. *Current Trick*~~

~~So long as his side has not led or played to the next trick, declarer or either defender may, until he has turned his own card face down on the table, require that all cards just played to the trick be faced.~~

~~B. *Own Last Card*~~

~~Until a card is led to the next trick, declarer or either defender may inspect, but not expose, his own last card played.~~

C. *Quitted Tricks*

Thereafter, until play ceases, quitted tricks may not be inspected (except at the Director's specific instruction; for example, to verify a claim of a revoke).

LAW 73 - COMMUNICATION

A. *Proper Communication between Partners*

1. How Effected

Communication between partners during the auction and play shall be effected only by means of the calls and plays themselves.*

*While seated for play during a session, partners must not employ any means to effect private communication with one another.

2. Correct Manner for Calls and Plays

Calls and plays should be made without special emphasis, mannerism or inflection, and without undue hesitation or haste (however, sponsoring organisations may require mandatory pauses, as on the first round of auction, or after a skip-bid warning, or on the first trick).

LAW 76 - SPECTATORS

A. *Conduct During Bidding or Play*

1. One Hand Only

A spectator should not look at the hand of more than one player, except by permission.

2. Personal Reaction

A spectator must not display any reaction to the bidding or play while a deal is in progress.

3. Mannerisms or Remarks

During the round, a spectator must refrain from mannerisms or remarks of any kind (including conversation with a player).*

*While seated for play during a session, no player may employ any means to receive private communication from a spectator.

4. Consideration for Players

A spectator must not in any way disturb a player.

LAW 80 - SPONSORING ORGANISATION

A sponsoring organisation conducting an event under these Laws has the following duties and powers:

E. *Special Conditions*

to establish special conditions for bidding and play (such as written bidding, bidding boxes, screens — penalty provisions for actions not transmitted across a screen may be suspended). Powers of the sponsoring organisation to establish special conditions include, but are not limited to, the provision of software enforcing correct procedure, the establishment of regulations governing the use of software facilities for alerts and disclosure, and other changes, not in conflict with these Laws, as may be necessary for the conduct of online bridge.

H. Security

To establish appropriate security procedures, which may include direct supervision of play, establishment of a means to record play and communication, and other measures as may be deemed necessary by the sponsoring organisation. The sponsoring organisation shall establish a means for recording and investigating allegations of potential impropriety.