

Director's Corner

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From ACBL Rulings ad 2008 Law Book



When Duplicate Rules are Not Enough

Card Laid is a card played

Mechanical bidding errors may be corrected if there was no change of mind. However, any card that hits the table or hits a position just above the table is played and cannot be changed. If a defender puts a card in a position that partner could see it (whether defender saw it or not is irrelevant), it is also played.

Insufficient Bid

If one makes an insufficient bid, one should not automatically correct it. The opponent next to bid gets an opportunity to accept it regardless unless the insufficient bid was a mechanical error.

Lead Out of Turn

The lead must be placed face down while asking "Any Questions partner?" Partner may have this important question, "Why are you leading partner?" If an opponent tells the wrong player it is his lead, there is no lead penalty.

Penalty Cards

Declarer cannot have a penalty card.

Minor penalty cards (player drops a nonhonour card) are completely different from major penalty cards. Call the director.

Established Revoke

This law changed in the 2008 Law Book. It is now more important to establish equity than to issue punishment.

A revoke is established if the offender or his partner have played to the next trick. A revoke is also established if declarer plays to the following trick from his hand or dummy. If declarer calls from dummy in the same trick, the revoke is not yet established.

Claim

Declarer may play a suit top down when a claim is made and a trump is outstanding.

Example:

Declarer has J9 of trump left and claimed without realizing the 10 was still out. All the side suit winners must be cashed and at trick 12 the Jack may be played. Can the declarer be made to play the 9 at trick 12 because if all the trump are out the order should not matter? No.

Bid Out of Turn

I have ruled on a bid or a pass out of turn and the player told me:

"That's not what another director did." Well, the player did not know that the call depends on the seat and previous bids if present.

Unauthorized Information (UI)

Questions during the bidding

The declarer deserves to have all questions asked by the partner of the opening leader when the opening lead is face down. This player does not have a right to ask these questions before his final pass unless he is considering a bid other than pass.

Only ask questions that are absolutely necessary and if you plan to make a call.

Example:

Asking about a 2♦ opening that was not alerted because you have five ♦'s is illegal.

Bidding Speed

The speed at which a person bids is unauthorized information. Try to keep your bidding speed always the same.

Example:

I opened 4♣, my RHO had a break in tempo and my partner bid far too quickly. The LHO bid and later said that she knew my partner had nothing from the speed which she passed. This is illegal.

Bidding Manner

The manner in which a person bids is unauthorized information.

Example:

W	N	E	S
1N	P	2♥	DbI
2♠	P	P	DbI
P	P	P	

West's bid promises three or more Spades and North had a singleton ♠ and South could have a doubleton ♠ if opponents are 6-4. The auction suggests takeout with a preference to ♥'s. However, East guessed correctly and the contract was -1100.

What if the Dbl card was slapped down with authority? East's final pass is illegal.

Creating unauthorized information is often not illegal but using it certainly is. A player need not refrain from bidding because partner had a break in tempo, but the director should be called to make adjustments if he deems that the UI was used.

Lessons at the table

Unsolicited lessons should not be given. This does not apply to the situation where a client has paid a player to point things out.