Laws of Duplicate Bridge Made Easier

Text of The Laws of the Contract Bridge
2008 revised and authorized ACBL edition

With flow charts illustrating chapters IV, V and VI

These bridge flow charts are part of a book presenting the full text of duplicate bridge Laws on even pages and them just in front (sample on next two pages). ACBL granted us permission to use the texts, but it is not an official document for the interpretation of duplicate bridge Laws.

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Law 15: Play of a Wrong Board

A. Players Have Not Previously Played Board
If players play a board not designated for them to play in the current round (but see C below):

1. The Director normally allows the score to stand if none of the four players has previously played the board.
2. The Director may require both pairs to play the correct board against one another later.

B. One or More Players Have Previously Played Board
If any player plays a board he has previously played, with the correct opponents or otherwise, his second score on the board is canceled both for his side and his opponents, and the Director shall award an artificial adjusted score to the contestants deprived of the opportunity to earn a valid score.

C. Discovered during Auction Period
If during the auction period the Director discovers that a contestant is playing a board not designated for him to play in the current round, he shall cancel the auction, ensure that the correct contestants are seated and that all players involved are informed of their lawful obligations and rights both now and at future rounds. A second auction begins. Players who participated in the first auction must repeat the calls they made previously. If any call differs in any way from the corresponding call in the first auction, the Director shall cancel the board. Otherwise the auction and play continue normally. The Director may award a procedural penalty (and an adjusted score) if of the opinion that there has been a purposeful attempt by either side to preclude normal play of the board.

Sample pages of the book: Law 15
Law 31: Bid out of Rotation

When a player has bid out of rotation, has passed artificially or has passed partner’s artificial call (see Law 30C) and the call is canceled, the option in Law 29A not having been exercised, the following provisions apply:

A. RHO’s Turn

When the offender has called at his RHO’s turn to call, then:

1. If that opponent passes, offender must repeat the call out of rotation. When that call is legal there is no rectification.

2. If that opponent makes a legal(1) bid, double or redouble, offender may make any legal call. When this call

(a) repeats the denomination of his bid out of rotation, offender’s partner must pass when next it is his turn to call (see Law 23).

(b) does not repeat the denomination of his bid out of rotation, or if the call out of rotation was an artificial pass or a pass of partner’s artificial call, the lead restrictions in Law 26 may apply, and offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call (see Law 23).

B. Partner’s or LHO’s Turn

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, offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call (see Law 23 when the pass damages the non-offending side). The lead restrictions of Law 26 may apply.

Law 23: Awareness of Potential Damage

Whenever, in the opinion of the Director, an offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that this could well damage the non-offending side, the Director shall require the auction and play to continue (if not completed). When the play has been completed, the Director awards an adjusted score if he considers the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity.
Chapter IV: General Laws Governing Irregularities

Procedure Following an Irregularity : Law 9
Assessment of a Rectification: Laws 10 to 12
Incorrect Number of Cards (in many hands) : Law 13
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Legal and Illegal Changes of Call : Law 25
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Insufficient Bid : Law 27
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Chapter VI: The Play

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Premature Lead or Play (by Defender) : Law 57
Simultaneous Leads or Plays : Law 58
Play after an Illegal Play : Law 60
After a Revoke : Laws 62 to 64
Arrangement and Inspection of Tricks : Laws 65 - 66
Defective Trick : Law 67
Claim or Concession of Tricks : Laws 68 - 69
Contested Claims : Law 70
Flow charts are easy to read: just follow arrows. They contain the following blocs:

- **Question** (Q): query the Director shall ask to players in order to know facts and make his ruling. Answers to questions are normally « Yes » or « No ».

- **Condition** (C): situation required before an action occurs. If condition is false, there is no action.

- **Action**: something a player or the Director shall do according to Laws.

Note: R indicates a rectification (penalty) on this action.
- **Options**: choices the Director shall offer to players, explaining consequences.

- **Case**: modalities of application of a Law, depending on facts.

- **Repetition**: application of an action or an option as long as a condition is true.

- **See**: reference to an other Law.
Law 9: Procedure Following an Irregularity

There is no obligation to draw attention to an infraction by one’s own side (See Law 20F5).

The director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity.

Cases

During the Auction Period

Players

Any player whether or not his turn to call

May

Unless prohibited by law

Draw attention to an irregularity

Summon the director after attention is drawn

Must not

Take any action until the director has explained all matters in regard to rectification

During the Play Period

Each defender

Draw attention to a card pointed wrongly before the next trick is led

Pending

Declarer

Draw attention to an irregularity

Summon the director after attention is drawn

Be the first to draw attention to an irregularity

Try to prevent any irregularity by declarer

Take any action until the director has explained all matters in regard to rectification

Dummy

Laws 42, 43

After the Play is Concluded

Any player including dummy

Law 43B

Draw attention to an irregularity

Summon the director after attention is drawn

Take any action until the director has explained all matters in regard to rectification

Draw attention to cards pointed incorrectly

Any premature correction of an irregularity by the offender may subject him to a further rectification.

Laws 42, 43
The objective of a score adjustment is to redress damage to a non-offending side and to take away advantage gained by an offending side through its infraction. The director alone has the right to determine rectifications. He may allow or cancel any enforcement or waiver of a rectification made by the players without his instructions.

The director may award an adjusted score after an incorrect rectification of an irregularity.

Q: Does offender’s infraction injure non-offending side?
   No: No rectification → The director may award a procedural penalty
   Yes: Did a member of the non-offending side take any action before summoning director?
       No: The right to rectification may be forfeited
       Yes: Was subsequent action by an opponent profitable to the non offenders?
           Yes: No rectification to the first offender
           No: The Director may not adjust score on the ground that rectification is either unduly severe or advantageous to either side

Q: Can a rectification be made that permits normal play of the board?
   No: The Director may award adjusted scores
       Yes: Do Laws provide indemnity to non-offenders for this irregularity?
           Yes: The Director may award adjusted scores
           No: The Regulating authority may apply or forbid all or a part of the following procedures

C: Adjusted to session score of non-offenders if more than 60%
    Adjusted to session score of offenders if less than 40%

R: 40% if totally at fault, 50% if partially at fault, 60% if no way at fault
    + or – 3 IMPS

The scores awarded to both sides need not balance

For non-offenders, it is appropriate to select the most advantageous option.
After rectification, it is appropriate for the offenders to make any call and play advantageous for them (but Law 16D2).
Law 13: Incorrect Number of Cards (2 hands)

Case 1
Error Discovered Before Anybody Called

The Director corrects the board from hand records or with previous players

Did a player see another's card?

Yes

No

Does director deem the information will interfere with normal bid or play?

No

The board is played and scored normally

Yes

The board is cancelled

If the director then deems the information has affected the result

The director awards artificial scores and may penalize offenders

Law 12C Law 90

Case 2
Error Discovered After Incorrect Hand Called

The board is corrected and play normally

Does the director deem the board can be played with no change of call?

Yes

No

The board is cancelled

If the director then deems the information has affected the result

The director awards artificial scores and may penalize offenders

Law 12C Law 90

Case 3
Error Discovered After Play Completed

The board is cancelled

According to Law 90, the Director may assess a penalty to a player who failed to count cards in his hand or placed them incorrectly in board.

Knowledge of the placement or movement of a card is unauthorized information for the partner of a player whose hand was incorrect.

Any card not part of the deal is removed, but if such a card is found to have been played to a quitted trick, an adjusted score may be awarded.
Law 14: Missing Card (in one hand)

When more than on hand are deficient, Law 13 applies.

Case 1: Error Discovered Before Opening Lead Is Faced

Q: Can the missing card be found?
   - no: The director reconstructs the deal by substituting another pack
   - yes: The card is restored to the deficient hand

Case 2: Error Discovered After Opening Lead Is Faced

Q: Can the missing card be found?
   - yes: The card is restored to the deficient hand
   - no:
     C: If the card was exposed by a defender
       R: The card becomes a major penalty card
       Law 50
     C: If the card was found among the played cards
       R: Law of defective trick applies
       Law 67
     C: If the card should have been played to a previous trick
       R: Failure to have played this card may constitute a revoke
       Law 64

Knowledge of movement of a card is unauthorized information for the partner of a player whose hand was incorrect.

A card restored to a hand is deemed to have belonged continuously to it, both during the auction and during the play.
Law 15: Play of the Wrong Board

Case 1 Error Discovered During Auction

Auction is cancelled

The director restores movement and informs offenders of their rights

A second auction period begins

Players who stay at table must repeat their calls

Q: Does any call differ in any way from first auction?

Yes -> The board is cancelled

No -> The board is played and scored normally

R

A call repeated with much different meaning shall be deemed a different call (Law 26).

The director may award a procedural penalty if of the opinion that a player attempted to preclude normal play.

Case 2 Error Discovered After Play Period Commenced

Q: Did one player previously play the board?

Yes -> The board is cancelled

No -> The board is played and scored normally

Director may require both pairs to play the correct board later

R

The director awards artificial scores and may penalize offenders

Law 7D

Law 90

The director may assess a procedural penalty for any offence that requires the award of an adjusted score at another table (Laws 90 and 7D).
Law 16: Authorized and Unauthorized Information

Case 1: Unauthorized Information (UI) From Partner

If a player considers that damage could result from UI by opponents:

- He may announce that he reserves the right to summon the Director later.
- If opponents dispute the fact that UI might have been conveyed:
  - They should summon the Director immediately.

If a player later believes that UI may have been used by opponents:

- He should summon the director forthwith.
- Play of the board shall be completed.

Extraneous information from partner may come from remarks, questions, hesitations, speed, special emphasis, tone, gestures, movements, mannerism and the like.

Case 2: From Withdrawn Call or Play

Whether the action be its own or its opponents:

Case 2.1: Offenders
- Information is unauthorized

Case 2.2: Non-offenders
- Information is authorized

- If the director deems that such an infraction has damaged non-offenders:
  - The director may award adjusted scores.

Law 84
Law 85
Law 9B1

Law 12C

Case 3: From Other Sources

If the director deems that such information could infer with normal play:

Option 1
- If type of contest permits:
  - Adjust player’s position

Option 2
- If type of contest permits:
  - Order the board redealt

Option 3
- Allow the play

Option 4
- If this information affects result:
  - Director may award adjusted scores

One call has been made?
- Yes
- No

Law 12C

A logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question, would be given consideration by a significant proportion.

A player may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested by the extraneous information.
Law 17D: Cards from the Wrong Board

If attention is drawn to such an irregularity during the play period, the board shall be cancelled.

Case 1

Current Board

Q Did a player with cards from a wrong board call?  

No  

The player picks up cards from the right board

Case 1.1

Only One Call

The call is cancelled

Q Did offender’s partner subsequently call over the cancelled call?  

Yes  

The offender calls with cards from the right board

No  

The board is played and scored normally

More than One Call

Case 1.2

R Does offender’s new call differ from cancelled call?  

Yes  

The board is cancelled

No  

The board is played and scored normally

The director awards artificial scores and may penalize offenders

Law 12C  Law 90

Case 2

Other Board

Bidding proceeds

Q Does offender’s new call differ from cancelled call?  

Yes  

The board is cancelled

No  

The board is played and scored normally

The director awards artificial scores and may penalize offenders

Law 12C  Law 90

A call repeated with much different meaning shall be deemed a different call (Law 26).
Law 20: Review and Explanations of Calls

Cases

During the Auction Period
- Any player immediately
- Any player at his turn to call (except when required to pass)

May Ask
- Clarification if in doubt what call has been made
- A complete restatement of previous calls
- Explanation of the opponents’ prior auction
  Concerning a single call
  Law 16 may apply to defenders

May not Ask
- A partial restatement of previous calls
- Supplementary information until his turn to call

After the Final Pass
- Either defender

Law 41
- Who’s opening leader?

Law 47E
- A partial restatement of previous calls
- Supplementary information until his turn to play

At his First Turn to Play
- Declarer and either defender

What is the contract?
- Who doubled or redoubled?
- A complete restatement of previous calls
- Explanation of the opponents’ prior auction
  Concerning a single call
  Law 16 may apply to defenders

At any of his Other Turns to Play
- Declarer

What is the contract?
- Explanation of the opponents’ prior auction
  Concerning a single call
  Law 16 may apply to defenders

Review of the auction must restate all previous calls, including alerts.

Review of the auction must be made by an opponent but all other players must correct errors if any.

When asking for explanation, a payer is entitled to know about calls made, alternatives and inferences.

It is improper to ask a question solely for partner’s benefit.

Player whose partner has given false explanation must inform opponents; declarer or dummy after the final pass, defender at the end of the play.
**Law 21: Call Based on Misinformation**

**Case 1**

Call Based on Misinformation from an Opponent

Q: Is it probable that the call result of misinformation?
- No
- Yes: Law 17E

Q: Has auction period ended?
- Yes: Call may not be changed
- No

Q: Did partner of player who has been misinformed subsequently call?
- Yes: Call may not be changed
- No

Call resulting of misinformation may be changed

His LHO may change any subsequent call he made

C: If a withdrawn call may damage non-offending side

**Case 2**

Call Made on Caller’s Misunderstanding

Q: No rectification or redress

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the director is to presume mistaken explanation rather than mistaken call.

For the non-offending side, all information arising from a withdrawn action is authorized, whether the action be its own or its opponents (Law 16D).

For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action and from withdrawn actions of the non-offending side is unauthorized (Law 16D).
Law 24: Card Exposed or Led
Prior the Play period

Every exposed card must be left face up on the table until the auction period ends

A card is exposed when in position for the face to be seen by the partner. If players do not agree on that fact, the director shall rule (Law 85).

Information arising from an exposed card is authorized to non-offenders but not to offenders.

Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
The director must first judge if the call changed was unintended or not.

Law 22

Case 1

Unintended Call Corrected Without Pause for Thought

Q

The auction period is over ?

Yes

No

Q

Did offender’s partner make a subsequent call ?

Yes

No

Q

Is 2nd call legal ?

Yes

No

The 2nd call stands

The 1st call stands

The applicable law prevails

LHO may withdraw his call

Offender’s partner may not use information from the withdrawn call

If offender’s LHO call over the 1st call ?

Case 2

Intended Call

Q

Did offender’s LHO call before attention was drawn to the irregularity ?

Yes

No

Q

Does offender’s LHO accept the 2nd call ?

Yes

No

The 2nd call is cancelled

The 1st call stands

Auction proceeds from 2nd call

Offender’s partner may not use information from the withdrawn call

Law 16D

Q

Is 1st call legal ?

Yes

No

The applicable law prevails

The 1st call stands

Auction proceeds from 1st call

Offender’s partner may not use information from the withdrawn call

Law 16D

R

If the change of call has not yet been made, the director shall not offer such an option (25B).
Law 26: Call Withdrawn, Lead Restrictions

This Law applies each time an offending player withdraws a call, chooses a different final call for that turn and becomes defender.

A call repeated with much different meaning shall be deemed a different call.

For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).
Law 27: Insufficient Bid

The Director judges the meaning of a call taking into account the knowledge of what is shown and what it excludes.

Q: Does offender’s LHO call over the insufficient bid?
   Yes: Auction proceeds from the insufficient bid
   No:
     Q: Did offender replace his insufficient bid before director has ruled?
       Yes: Does offender’s LHO accept the insufficient bid?
          No: The 2nd call stands and becomes the above option
          Yes: Auction proceeds from the insufficient bid
       No: Did the offender make a 2nd insufficient bid?
          Yes: Does offender’s LHO accept this 2nd bid?
             No: Auction proceeds from the 2nd insufficient bid
             Yes: Auction proceeds from the 2nd insufficient bid
          No: Does offender’s LHO accept the 1st insufficient bid?
             No: Are the insufficient bid and the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination incontrovertibly not artificial?
                 Yes (natural): Offender can select options 1, 2 or 3
                 No (artificial): Offender can select options 2 or 3
             Yes: Auction proceeds from the 1st insufficient bid
          Yes: Auction proceeds from the 1st insufficient bid
     No:

Q: Does offender’s LHO accept the insufficient bid?
   Yes:
     Q: Does offender’s LHO accept this 2nd bid?
       Yes: Auction proceeds from the 2nd insufficient bid
       No: The 2nd call stands and becomes the above option
     No:

Q: Did offender replace his insufficient bid before director has ruled?
   No:

Q: Did the offender make a 2nd insufficient bid?
   No:

Q: Does offender’s LHO accept the 1st insufficient bid?
   No:

Are the insufficient bid and the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination incontrovertibly not artificial?

Offender can select options 1, 2 or 3

Option 1

The non artificial and sufficient lowest bid in the same denomination

The auction proceeds

Law 16D does not apply

C: If the insufficient bid may have damaged non-offending side

R: Director may award the more probable score had the insufficient bid not occurred

Law 12B1

Option 2

A call that has the same or a more precise meaning, including X and XX

The auction proceeds

C: If the insufficient bid may have damaged non-offending side

R: Director may award the more probable score had the insufficient bid not occurred

Law 12B1

Option 3

P or a bid having a different meaning, excluding X and XX

The auction proceeds

C: If offender becomes a defender

R: Offender’s partner must Pass whenever it is his turn to call

Law 26

C: If offender becomes a defender

R: His partner may have a lead restriction

Law 16D

Law 23 permits the Director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
Laws 28-29: Procedure after a Call Out of Rotation

A call is considered in rotation if made at RHO ’s turn to call when this opponent is required by law to Pass.

Did an **opponent**, whose turn it was, call after the out of rotation call ?

Did offender ’s LHO call over the out of rotation call ?

Is the out of rotation call legal ?

Does offender ’s LHO accept the out of rotation call ?

Auction reverts to player whose turn it was to call

Is the out of rotation call artificial ?

Case 1

Pass

 Case 2

A bid or a Conventional Pass

 Case 3

Double or Redouble

Denomination (s) specified shall be considered

Denomination named shall be considered

The out of rotation call is cancelled

The out of rotation call is cancelled

Bidding proceeds from LHO’s call

Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation call

For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorised (Law 16D).

Law 35

For Law

Law 16D2

Law 30

Law 31

Law 32

Denomination (s) specified shall be considered

Denomination named shall be considered

The out of rotation call is cancelled

Bidding proceeds from that last opponent’s call

Offender ’s partner may not use information from the out of turn call

Bidding proceeds from LHO's call

Yes

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

No

No

Yes

No

Law 31

Law 30

Law 32
Law 30: Pass Out of Rotation

When a Pass out of rotation is artificial or made after an artificial call of partner, Law 31 applies.

Pass is artificial if, by agreement, it promises more than a specific strength or it promises or denies values other than in the last suit named.

Q. Did an opponent, whose turn it was, call over the out of rotation Pass?
   Yes → The out of rotation call is cancelled → Bidding proceeds from that last opponent’s call
   No → Offender’s partner may not use information from the out of turn Pass (Law 16D)

Q. Did offender’s LHO call after the out of turn Pass?
   Yes → Bidding proceeds from LHO’s call
   No → Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation Pass

Q. Does offender’s LHO accept the out of rotation Pass?
   Yes → Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation Pass
   No → The out of rotation Pass is cancelled
       Auction reverts to player whose turn it was to call

Case 1
No Bid Before the Out of Rotation Pass
Offender must Pass when next it is his turn
Offender’s partner has no restriction

Case 2
Pass Out of Rotation after any Player has Bid
Whose turn now?

Case 2.1
Offender’s RHO
Offender must Pass when next it is his turn
Offender’s partner has no restriction

Case 2.2
Offender’s Partner
Offender must Pass when next it is his turn

Case 2.3
Offender’s LHO
The out of rotation Pass is a change of call

Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
Law 31: Bid Out of Rotation

This Law also applies when a Pass out of rotation is artificial or is made after an artificial call of partner.

Pass is artificial if, by agreement, it promises more then a specific strength or it promises or denies values other than in the last suit named.

Did an opponent, whose turn it was, call over the out of rotation bid? Yes → The out of rotation bid is cancelled → Bidding proceeds from that last opponent’s call

No → Did offender’s LHO call after the out of turn bid? Yes → Bidding proceeds from LHO’s call

No → Does offender’s LHO accept the out of rotation bid? Yes → Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation bid

No → The out of rotation bid is cancelled → Auction reverts to player whose turn it was to call → Whose turn now?

Case 1:

Offender’s RHO

Case 1.1

RHO now Pass

Is the out of rotation call an artificial Pass or a Pass on partner’s artificial call? Yes → Option 1

Offender, when his turn to call, must repeat his bid

Offender’s partner has no restriction

No → Offender, when his turn to call, may make a bid in an other denomination, Pass, X or XX

Option 2

Offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call

Law 25

Case 2:

Offender’s LHO

Has offender previously called? Yes → RHO now bids, X or XX

The out of turn bid is a change of call

No → Option 1

Law 25

Case 3:

Offender’s Partner

If offender becomes a defender

If offender becomes a defender

Offender, when his turn to call, may make any legal call

Offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call

If offender becomes a defender

His partner may have a lead penalty

Law 26

Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
**Law 32: Double or Redouble Out of Rotation**

1. **Is the out of turn X or XX admissible?**
   - **No**: The out of turn X or XX is cancelled (Law 36)
   - **Yes**: The out of turn X or XX is cancelled

2. **Did an **opponent**, whose turn it was, call after the out of rotation XX or XX?**
   - **Yes**: The out of turn X or XX is cancelled
   - **No**: The out of turn X or XX is cancelled

3. **Did offender’s LHO call over the out of turn X or XX?**
   - **Yes**: Bidding proceeds from LHO’s call
   - **No**: Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation X or XX

4. **Does offender’s LHO accept the out of turn call?**
   - **Yes**: Bidding proceeds from the out of rotation X or XX
   - **No**: The out of rotation X or XX is cancelled

   **Auction reverts to player whose turn it was to call**

   **Whose turn now?**

   **Case 1**
   - **Offender’s RHO**
     - **Case 1.1**: RHO now Pass
       - Offender, when his turn to call, must repeat his X or XX
       - Offender’s partner has no restriction
     - **Case 1.2**: RHO now Bids
       - Offender, when his turn to call, may make any legal call

   **Case 2**
   - **Offender’s Partner**
     - Offender, when his turn to call, may make any legal call
     - Offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call

   **Case 3**
   - **Offender’s LHO**
     - The out of rotation X or XX is a change of call (Law 25)

   **Law 25** permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
Laws 35 to 39: Inadmissible calls

Case 1

Did offender’s LHO call before rectification?

Yes

The Double or Redouble is cancelled

Subsequent calls are cancelled

Auction reverts to player who made an inadmissible call

No

The Double or Redouble is cancelled

Offender must substitute a legal call

Law 26

Offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call

Offender’s partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call

Lead restriction may apply

Law 26

Case 2

Did offender’s LHO call before rectification?

Yes

The offender’s call stands

Subsequent calls stand

Offender must continue to Pass at subsequent turns

No

The offender’s call is cancelled

Offender must pass whenever it is his turn to call

Lead restriction may apply

Law 26

Case 3

Did offender’s LHO call before rectification?

Yes

The offender’s call is cancelled

Subsequent calls are cancelled

Offender and partner must pass whenever it is their turn to call

No

The offender’s call is cancelled

Offender must pass whenever it is his turn to call

Lead restriction may apply

Law 26

Case 4

Call After Final Pass

All calls made after the final Pass must be cancell

Case 4.1

Call by declarer or dummy

No rectification

Case 4.2

Pass by a defender

No rectification

Case 4.3

Call other than Pass by a defender

Lead restriction may apply

Law 26

Law 23 permits the Director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner’s mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side.
Law 41: Commencement of play

Opening Lead

Q: Was lead out of turn?
   Yes → Has dummy face any card?
      Yes → Opening lead stands
      No → Case 1: face-up lead
          Q: Was offender mistakenly informed by an opponent?
              Yes → Lead may be retracted without rectification (LHO may not accept)
              No → Lead out of turn may not be retracted
                  Law 54
          No → Case 2: face-down lead
              Q: Did one or more players already play to the out of turn lead?
                  Yes → Opening lead stands
                  No → Lead may be retracted without rectification
                      Law 47E
          Law 20F

Q: Did declarer or dummy subsequently correct mistaken information?
   Yes → Opening lead stands
   No → As for lead face-up and lead face-down

Review of Auction and Questions

Cases

Before the Opening is Faced-up
At his First Turn to Play
At any of his Other Turns to Play

Players

Declarer and leader’s partner
Declarer and either defender
Declarer

May Ask

Who’s opening leader?
What is the contract?
Who X or XX?
A complete restatement of previous calls
Explanation of the opponents’ prior auction
Concerning a single call
Law 16 may apply to defenders

May not Ask

A partial restatement of previous calls
Supplementary information until his turn to play
A review of the auction
Supplementary information until his turn to play

After the opening lead is faced, dummy spreads his hand sorted into suits, the cards in order of rank with lowest ranking cards towards declarer, and in columns pointing lengthwise towards declarer.
Laws 42 - 43: Dummy’s Rights and Limitations

- **Dummy may always**
  - Give information, in the director’s presence, as to facts or law
  - Keep count of tricks won or lost
  - Call the director after attention has been drawn to an irregularity
  - Play cards as directed by declarer

- **Dummy may never**
  - Participate in or comment on play
  - Draw attention to any irregularity during play
  - Call the director during play before attention has been drawn to an irregularity
  - Play a card without instruction of declarer

**Penalties if he does**
- Draw attention to any irregularity after play of the board is concluded
- Warn declarer not to lead from the wrong hand
- Ask declarer (not defender) about a possible revoke

**Law 45D**
- If declarer’s RHO changes his play, declarer may withdraw his card

**Law 16D**
- If dummy has not seen cards in others hand
- He may
- Draw attention to any irregularity after play of the board is concluded
- Warn declarer not to lead from the wrong hand
- Ask declarer (not defender) about a possible revoke

**Law 42**
- Dummy may always exchange hands with declarer, leave seat to watch declarer or look at defender’s hand.

**Law 43**
- According to Law 90, the director may assess a penalty to a player who violates correct procedure
When both sides do not agree on the fact that a card is played, the director must decide (Law 85).
Laws 45-46: Card Played by Dummy

Did dummy play a card not named by declarer?

- Yes
  - Did dummy suggest a card to declarer?
    - Yes
      - Did declarer clearly state suit and rank of the card or pick up the card?
        - Yes
          - Was this card unintention and changed without pause for thought?
            - Yes
              - The 2nd card called shall be played
            - No
              - If a defender has played before the change
                - He may withdraw his card without rectification
            - If withdrawn card may damage non-offenders
              - The director may award adjusted scores
        - No
          - If suggested play may have damage non-offenders
            - Yes
              - The dummy’s card must be withdrawn
            - No
              - If a defender played to trick after dummy
                - He may withdraw his card without rectification
            - If declarer’s RHO changes his play
              - Declarer may withdraw a card played to the trick after this RHO
        - If a defender played to trick after dummy
          - He may withdraw his card without rectification
      - Did declarer clearly state suit and rank of the card or pick up the card?
        - Yes
          - A card of this rank must be played
        - No
          - Is there a card of this rank in dummy?
            - Yes
              - Declarer designates another card
            - No
              - In Leading from Dummy
                - If there is a card of this rank in the suit of the previous trick?
                  - Yes
                    - This card shall be played
                  - No
                    - Other Cases
                      - If there are two or more such cards that can be played
                        - If there are two or more such cards that can be played
                          - Director may deem that declarer’s intention is incontrovertible and ignore above restrictions.
            - If declarer calls a card not in dummy, the call is void and he may designate any legal card.
Law 47: Retraction of Card Played

Case 1: To Comply with a Penalty
- An opponent may withdraw a card played afterward

Case 2: To Correct an Illegal or Simultaneous Play
- An opponent may withdraw a card played afterward
  - Law 58

Case 3: To Correct an Un-established Revoke
- A non-offender may withdraw a card played after the revoke
  - Law 63

Case 4: To Change an Inadvertent Designation
- If an opponent has, in turn, played before the change
  - He may withdraw his card without rectification
  - Law 45C
  - Law 53
  - Law 62C

Case 5: After a Lead Out of Turn
- An opening lead may not be retracted after dummy has faced any card.
  - His LHO should not accept the lead
  - The card so played may be withdrawn
  - Law 47E
  - Law 16D

Case 6: Because and After a Mistaken Explanation by an Opponent
- Was an other card subsequently played to that trick?
  - Yes
    - Cards played to the trick may no longer be changed
    - Law 40
  - No
    - If mistaken explanation may damage non-offending side
      - The director may award adjusted score
      - Law 16D
      - Law 12C

When a player it was properly the turn lead after an out of turn lead of an opponent, the proper lead stands and all cards played in error to this trick may be withdrawn (Law 53C).
Law 48-49: Exposure of Cards During Play

Declarer is not subject to restriction for exposing a card, except when it is played according to Law 45C2.

Case 1
Exposure of Declarer’s Cards

Was card(s) drop accidentally?

No
Law 45C2

Yes
Card returns in hand without rectification

Case 1.1
After a Faced-up Opening Lead Out of Turn

The out of turn lead stands

Dummy becomes declarer

Law 54

Case 1.2
Premature Lead to the Next Trick

Either defender may accept the out of turn lead (next in turn prevails)

Law 55

Case 1.3
Cards Faced at any Other Time

The director may deem declarer made a claim or a concession

Law 68

Case 2
Exposure of Defender’s Cards

A card is exposed by a defender when named as being in hand or held so that his partner may have seen its face (Law 45C).

Case 2.1
By Accident

Exposed cards become penalty cards

Law 50

Law 51

Case 2.2
Lead Out of Turn not Accepted

Exposed cards become penalty cards

Law 53

Case 2.3
Premature Play

Exposed cards become penalty cards

Law 57

Case 2.4
After a Statement Concerning the Trick in Progress

Exposed cards do not become penalty cards

Law 68B2

If an exposed card may damage non-offenders

The director may award adjusted scores

Law 16D

Law 12C

When both sides do not agree on the fact that a card is exposed, the director must rule according to Law 85.
When more than one card is exposed by a defender, Law 51 applies.

**Card Lower than 10**
- Was card unintentionally exposed?
  - Yes → Minor penalty card
  - No → Card Higher than 9

**Card Higher than 9**
- Must be left face up on table
- Must be played at the first legal opportunity
- For as long a penalty card is exposed

**Minor penalty card**
- Must be played before any card in the suit lower than 10
- The offender may play another card in the suit higher than 9
- Offender’s partner has no lead restriction but he may not use information arising from that card
- If the exposed card may damage non-offenders
  - The director may award adjusted scores

**Major penalty card**
- Must be played at the first legal opportunity
- When offender’s partner has the lead
  - Option 1: Let this defender lead any card
    - The penalty card remains on table
  - Option 2: Require to lead the suit of the penalty card
    - The penalty card returns in hand
  - Option 3: Prohibit from leading the suit of the penalty card
    - For as long a penalty card is exposed
- If the player is unable to comply with rectification
  - He may play any legal card

Knowledge of the requirements for playing a penalty card is authorized information for all players. Other information from a penalty card is unauthorized for the partner of the offender, but authorized for declarer.

The obligation to follow suit, or comply with a lead penalty, takes precedence over the obligation to play a penalty card.
Law 51: Two or More Penalty Cards

When a defender expose more than one card, each one becomes a major penalty card.
All must be left face up on table

For as long a penalty card is exposed

When offender has to play
If two or more penalty cards can legally be played
Declarer designates which is to be played at that turn

If offender play a card not yet exposed
Law 52

When offender’s partner has the lead
Declarer may

Claim 1
Let this defender lead any card
The penalty cards remain on table

Option 1
Declarer designates which is to be played at that turn

Claim 2
Require lead in one of the penalty cards suits
Cards in that suit return in hand

Option 2
Offender may play any legal card to trick

If the player is unable to comply with rectification

He may play any legal card
Law 59

Option 3
Forbid lead in one or many penalty cards suits
Cards in these suits return in hand

Offender may play any legal card to trick

Knowledge of the requirements for playing a penalty card is authorized information for all players. Other information from a penalty card is unauthorized for the partner of the offender, but authorized for declarer.

The obligation to follow suit, or comply with a lead penalty, takes precedence over the obligation to play a penalty card.

If offender’s partner leads before declarer selected an option, his card is also penalized.
When a defender fails to lead or play a penalty card as required by Laws 50 or 51, he may not, on his own initiative, withdraw any other card he has played.

Did declarer thereafter play from hand or dummy?

- Yes
  - Declarer may
    - Option 1: Accept the illegal play
      - The illegal card must stand
      - Any unplayed penalty card remains penalised
      - Law 50
    - Option 2: Reject the illegal play
      - The illegal card must be played
      - Card rejected becomes a major penalty card
      - Law 50
  - No

Law 54: Faced Opening Lead Out of Turn

When an opening lead is faced out of turn, and offender’s partner leads face down, the director requires the faced down lead to be retracted.

If declarer played the second card from dummy

For as long as the penalty card is exposed

This card may not be withdrawn (except if a revoke)

Law 24

If dummy exposed cards during the auction (Law 24), declarer may refuse the out of turn lead.
Law 55: Declarer’s Lead Out of Turn
(except opening lead)

Q
Did either defender played after the out of turn lead?

Yes

Case 1
Lead by defender whose it was properly the turn

Case 2
Play to out of turn lead by player next in rotation

Case 3
Play to out of turn lead by the wrong defender

Law 53C
The proper lead stands

Law 53B
The out of turn lead stands

Law 57
Card played by the other defender becomes a major penalty card

No

Q
Was declarer mistakenly informed by a defender?

Yes

Law 47E1
Lead is retracted without rectification

No

Q
Did either defender accept the out of turn lead?

Yes

Next in turn to the out of turn lead prevails

Law 53

No

C
If the defenders choose differently

C
If the exposed card may damage declarer

The Director may award adjusted scores

Law 16D

C
If declarer uses information obtained through the infraction

The director may award adjusted scores

Law 12C

Law 16D

C
Declarer must lead from the correct hand

R
For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).
Law 56: Defender’s Lead Out of Turn
(except opening lead)

Q Was the offender mistakenly informed by the declarer?
   Yes → Lead is retracted without rectification
   C If the exposed card may damage defenders
       The Director may award adjusted scores
   No → Law 47E1

Q Did declarer played from hand or from dummy after the out of turn lead?
   Yes → Case 1
       Play to the out of turn lead
   No → Case 2
       Proper lead by player after lead out of turn
       This 2nd proper lead stands
       Law 53C

Q Does declarer accept the lead out of turn?
   Yes → The out of turn lead stands
   No → Law 50
       Law 52

R Card led becomes a major penalty card
       Must be played at the first legal opportunity
       For as long a penalty card is exposed

C When offender’s partner has the lead

Option 1
Let this defender lead any card
The penalty card remains on table
If offender’s partner leads before declarer selected an option, his card is also penalized.

Option 2
Require to lead the suit of the penalty card
The penalty card remains on table
For as long this defender retains lead

Option 3
Prohibit from leading the suit of the penalty card
The penalty card returns in hand
If the player is unable to comply with rectification
He may play any legal card

Law 59

R R
Must be played at the first legal opportunity

For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).
Law 57: Premature Lead or Play (by a defender)

This Law applies when a defender plays out of turn before his partner to the current trick or leads to the next trick before his partner has played to the current trick.

Case 1
Lead to the Next Trick

Case 2
Premature Lead to the Current Trick

Q Did declarer already play from both hands?

Yes

No

Q Did dummy play or illegally suggest a card?

Yes

Card played remains without rectification

No

R Premature card becomes a major penalty card

Must be played at the first legal opportunity

Law 50

On the current trick, declarer may require that offender’s partner

C When offender’s partner has the lead

Declarer may

Option 1.1
Play his highest card of the suit led

Law 52

Option 1.2
Play his lowest card of the suit led

Option 1.3
Do not play a card of an other single suit

If the player is unable to comply with rectification

He may play any legal card

Law 59

Option 2.1
Let this defender choose the lead

The penalty card remains on table

Law 52

Option 2.2
Require lead in the penalty card suit

The penalty card returns in hand

Law 50

Option 2.3
Forbid lead in the penalty card suit

For as long this defender retains lead

The penalty card returns in hand

Law 59

A singleton in dummy, or one of cards adjacent in rank of the same suit, is not considered to be played
Law 58: Simultaneous Leads or Plays

Case 1

By Two Players

Card played by player whose turn it was is 1st

Card played by the other player is deemed to be subsequent (2nd)

The 2nd card was

Case 1.1

Played to the Trick

By Declarer

The 2nd card cannot be changed

Law 45C

By a Defender

If this play is premature

Law 57

Law 67B2

Case 1.2

A Lead

By Declarer

The 2nd card returns in hand

Law 48

By a Defender

The 2nd card becomes a major penalty card

Law 50D

Case 2

From One Hand

Have both sides played to next trick?

Yes

Offender has now too few cards

No

Case 2.1

One Card Visible

This card is played to the trick

Other cards are picked up without rectification

Law 47F

Case 2.2

More Cards Visible

The player designates the card he proposes to play

Is offender a defender?

Yes

Other cards become major penalty cards

No

Other cards return in declarer’s hand without rectification

Law 16D

Law 12C

The director may award adjusted scores

If an opponent has played to a withdrawn card

He may withdraw his card without rectification

If a withdrawn card may damage non-offending side

For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).
Law 60: Play after an Illegal Play

Case 1
A player leads or plays out of turn or prematurely and Offender’s LHO plays before a rectification has been assessed

Case 1.1
Offender’s LHO played to the out of turn or premature lead or play

The illegal play is treated as though it was in turn

No rectification for any player

Previous obligations or restrictions remain

Case 1.2
Offender’s LHO, whose it was properly the turn, made his own lead

LHO’s proper lead stands

Cards played in error may be withdrawn without rectification

Previous obligations or restrictions remain

Case 2
Declarer leads out of turn from either hand and A defender requires lead to be retracted and The other defender plays before lead has been corrected

Declarer still must lead from correct hand

Card played by the defender is a major penalty card

Law 50

A play by a member of the offending side before a rectification has been assessed does not affect the rights of opponents, and may itself be subject to penalty.
Laws 62 to 64: After a Revoke

Director shall assign an adjusted score (see Law 12C) when he deems that after any established revoke, including those not subject to penalty, the non offending side is insufficiently compensated.
When a player mix his cards before agreement has been made on the number of tricks won or before a claim or a revoke has been settle, the director shall rule in favor of the other side if he cannot ascertain the facts.
Law 67: Defective Trick

Case 1
- Not Enough Cards to Trick
  - Did both sides play to next trick?
    - Yes
      - Does offender have one or more cards of the suit led?
        - Yes
          - Offender must expose such a card and place it among played cards
        - No
          - Offender must expose any card and place it among played cards
      - No
        - The offender must play a legal card
  - No
    - Offender is deemed to have revoked on defective trick
      - Offender is subject to the loss of one trick

Law 64A2

Case 2
- Too Many Cards to Trick
  - Did both sides play to next trick?
    - Yes
      - Can the director determine which card was faced and played?
        - Yes
          - This card is played to the trick
        - No
          - The highest legal card is played
    - No
      - Other card(s) was faced?
        - Yes
          - Other card becomes major penalty card
        - No
          - Card returns in hand without rectification

Law 58B

Case 2.1
- Simultaneous Cards from One Hand
  - By declarer
    - Law 55
  - By a defender
    - Law 53
    - Law 56

Case 2.2
- Premature Lead to the Next Trick
  - If offender is a defender
    - 5th card is penalized
      - Law 45E

Law 55

Case 2.3
- Other 5th Card to Trick
  - If a card returned in hand should have been played to an earlier trick
    - Law 50
      - Failure to play it may constitute a revoke
        - Law 64A2

If an extra card to be restore to a defender’s hand has been exposed (even by the director), it becomes a penalty card.
Laws 68-69: Claim or Concession of Tricks

A claim should include a statement stating the order in which cards will be played or line of play or defence to win the tricks.

Claim and concession refer to tricks other than one in progress

A player makes a statement that he will win or lose a specific number of tricks

A player claims or concedes otherwise without specifying the number of tricks

Claim or concession applies to those subsequent tricks

Claim or concession applies to all subsequent tricks

Case 1

Claim or Concession by the Declarer

Play must cease

Had round ended?

Yes

No

Law 8B1

Did an opponent to claimer or conceder make a call on next board?

Yes

No

Director may award adjusted scores

Law 16D

Law 12C

C

Case 3

Concession by a Defender

Does his partner immediately objects to the concession?

Yes

No

Director is summoned and play continues

C

If a card has been faced up by a defender

R

Director may award adjusted scores

Claim or concession is contested

The Director must be summoned

Law 70

Case 2

Claim by a Defender

If a player wants to withdraw acquiescence in an opponent ‘s claim

Q

Yes

No

Law 79C

Has the correction period ended?

Yes

No

Did his side concede a trick previously won?

Yes

No

Law 71

The board is rescored accordingly

No

Did a player concede a trick his side would likely have won?

Yes

No

The original score stands

The board is score accordingly

If both opponents accept claim or concession?

Yes

No

A player claims when he suggest that the play be curtailed or when he shows his cards.

When a claim or a concession is made on the current trick, play proceeds regularly.

Cards exposed by a defender are not penalized, but Law 16 and Law 57 may apply.
Law 70: Contested Claim or Concession

In ruling a contested claim, the director shall:

1. Require claimer to repeat the statement he made.
2. Require all hands to be faced.
3. Hear opponent’s objections.

If claimer proposes a successful line of play, not embraced in his original statement:

The director shall not accept the new line if there is an alternative normal play less successful.

The director shall not accept a defender’s claim that depends on his partner’s particular play.

If the line of play was not clearly stated by claimer:

Did the success of a normal play depend upon finding a card in a particular hand?

Yes → The director shall not award any trick to opponents.

No → Did one opponent fail to followed to the suit of that card before the claim?

Yes → Can tricks be lost by any normal play?

Yes → The director shall not award any trick to opponents.

No → The director shall award one or many tricks to opponents.

No → The director shall award one or many tricks to opponents.

If there is an outstanding trump in opponent’s hand:

Is it likely that claimer is unaware that a trump remained?

Yes → Could a trick be lost to that trump by any normal play?

Yes → The director shall not award any trick to opponents.

No → The director shall award one or many tricks to opponents.

No → The director shall award one or many tricks to opponents.

If claimer made a statement about that trump?

Yes → Had claimer made a statement about that trump?

No → The director shall not award any trick to opponents.

Yes → Is it likely that claimer is unaware that a trump remained?

No → Could a trick be lost to that trump by any normal play?

No → The director shall award one or many tricks to opponents.

Yes → The director shall not award any trick to opponents.

Any doubtful point shall be resolved against the claimer.

A normal play includes play that would be careless or inferior for that class of player...