

2018 ABDA Directors Seminar – Revoke Laws 61-64

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Failure to play a card specified as rectification is a revoke for example declarer requires a diamond lead but a defender leads a club claiming to have no diamonds. If the hand does indeed have one or more diamonds - perhaps hidden behind other cards - then a revoke has occurred.

61C3 Players may not inspect quitted tricks just because a revoke is suspected.

Law 66C says,

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

All too often, players try to prove that a revoke has occurred while the play of the hand is still in progress. The director arrives at the table to find some number of quitted tricks face up. This should be discouraged.

A player has no obligation to draw attention to his own non-established revoke should he become aware of it. This places players on the same footing. Those who, under 2007 Laws, would have carried out their obligations to draw attention are treated the same as those who might have become aware, yet kept quiet perhaps through ignorance of the old laws.

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. This could result in the defending side having three major penalty cards.

If a defender revokes and then disputes declarer’s claim or concession there is no agreement. The revoke is not established by the disputed claim.

The Director must allow correction of the revoke and then determine the claim as equitably as possible, adjudicating any doubtful point against the revoker.

There is normally no need for the director to start looking at quitted tricks. Players usually know what has happened so the director may be able to simply ask pertinent questions:

- Are you satisfied that you revoked or do we need to check? Yes, satisfied.
- Did you win the trick on which you failed to follow suit? Yes. (Make sure the player understands that the question is about winning with a card played from his own hand.)
- Did your side win another trick after the revoke? Yes.
- I am transferring 2 tricks.
- To the opponents (Law 64C), “Is there any suggestion that further damage caused by the revoke?”

In applying Law 64C the director needs to establish what has happened up to the instant immediately before the revoke to understand the likely outcome from that point forward. Start from the opening lead. Looking at a hand record is not useful as the analysis is double dummy. Poor choices may have been made prior to the revoke and the double dummy result was not going to be obtained even without a revoke.

An adjusted score is assigned if greater damage is caused than the automatic trick adjustment corrects.

A player who revokes more than once in the same suit must not end up better off than after the first revoke. Damage from the later revoke(s) is redressed.

Nil Vul	♠ 32 ♥ A643 ♦ AKQ7 ♣ A42			Contract 5♣ South
		♠ AQJ65 ♥ 987 ♦ 5432 ♣ 6		♥ K ♥ A ♥ 7 ♥ 5 ♥ 3 ♥ 8 ♣ 3 ♥ 10 ♣ 5 ♣ Q ♣ A ♣ 6 ♥ 4 ♥ 9 ♣ 7 ♥ J
♠ K1098 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ J1098 ♣ Q				
	♠ 74 ♥ 52 ♦ 6 ♣ KJ1098753			

Declarer plays out all his trump and West is squeezed in ♥ and ♦

Result: 13 tricks

Automatic Trick Adjustment: 2 tricks

On the left is the position before the second revoke. The ♣7 and ♥J are yet to be played.

At this point, if South follows suit with the ♥2, West will win the trick and EW will cash two spades.

They also have the 2 tricks transferred.

5♣ -3

Nil Vul	♠ 32 ♥ 6 ♦ AKQ7 ♣ 42		
		♠ AQJ65 ♥ ♦ 5432 ♣	
♠ K1098 ♥ QJ ♦ J1098 ♣			
	♠ 74 ♥ 2 ♦ 6 ♣ KJ10987		