

Unintended Call and 'Alert'?

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
1D	2S		

'Whoops I did not mean that - DIRECTOR !'

All at the table they were happy that the attempt to change the call was immediate. Under Law 25A the Director ruled that 2S was an Unintended Call and that it should be replaced by the Intended Call (note there is no opportunity for the next player to accept the Unintended Call.)

North now bid 2NT, which South alerted (the Director saw the alert). The Director left the table, but was called back at the end of the hand. The full auction was

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
1D	2NT ^A	P	3C
End			

West maintained that he did not see the alert and would have bid again had he done so. The Director saw the alert as did East. Do you consider adjusting the score? The event was the Satellite Pairs Final of an EBU congress. Would you judge differently in the club? The relevant Law is 4A8 in the Blue Book.

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The Director ruled that there would be no adjustment citing 3 reasons.

- He was satisfied that the alert was made in a manner that the player should have seen it.
- The player's partner saw it
- Players at that level should be expecting the alert. 2NT has no natural meaning.

In a normal club environment you may well consider whether or not West was sufficiently experienced to expect the alert.

LAW 25: LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CHANGES OF CALL

A. Unintended Call

1. Until his partner makes a call, a player may substitute his intended call for an unintended call but only if he does so, or attempts to do so, without pause for thought. The second (intended) call stands and is subject to the appropriate Law.

Blue Book

4 A 8 It is the responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that both of his opponents are aware of the alert.