



# Laws of duplicate Bridge 2017

Seminar on Impact of the changes  
in the 2017 Laws vs the 2007 Laws (red book)

Kent Club Directors , September 17th 2017

Training Materials courtesy of EBUTA / Richard Banbury, modified for our use  
Stephen Brown & Paul Gibbons



# Course Contents



- New Laws come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 in England for EBU competitions, but this may vary elsewhere (but is required by the end of September).
- **Reference - EBU Website – Laws & Ethics pages**
  - Downloads available for new Laws & a mark up of old vs New Laws
    - (Errata slip is available for printed versions for two minor typos)
    - NB change to Law 26 (stickers available to go over the relevant text)
  - Blue & White Books updated annually in August (can be downloaded)
  - TD Training Videos (some will need to be updated for the 2017 Laws)
  - List of EBU Panel TDs, all available for contact if assistance needed
- **Handouts**
  - Summary of minor changes which are largely self-explanatory and of minor significance
- **Discussion & Simulations**
  - Comparable Calls
    - Impact on Insufficient Bids & Calls Out of Turn & Key changes to Lead Penalties
  - Claims & Concessions
  - Teams Play (scoring when no result can be obtained)
- **Questions & Answers**
  - Time Available for any discussion on any of the Laws, whether new or unchanged since 2007

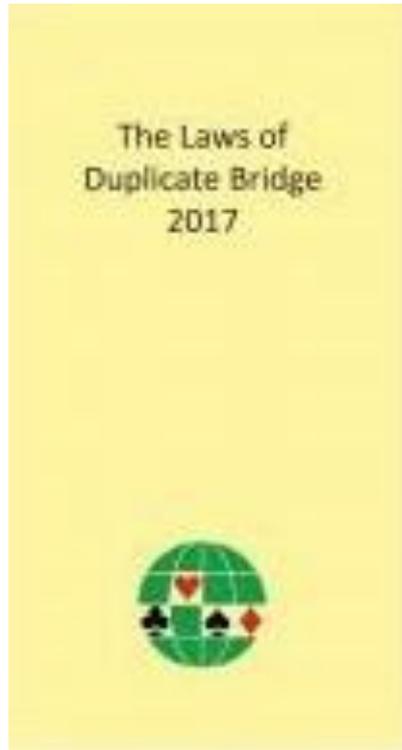
# Course Introduction



-  Laws are updated every 10 years by the WBF, after extensive global consultation
  - Continued trend towards fewer cancelled boards and more bridge results
  - Significantly expanded Table of Contents and Index
  - Artificial Adjusted scores are now rare
- Anyone known to have attended a Club TD training course (now run by EBED) will have been emailed with information about the new laws.
- Although EBU introducing the new Laws from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, as a practical matter clubs and counties should aim to apply the new Laws at all sessions no later than by the end of September – to allow time for their club directors to update their knowledge. Clubs should inform their members of the date from which the new Laws will be applied – otherwise by default this would be 1<sup>st</sup> August.



# Use your Law book

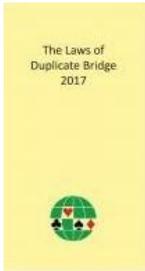


Mistakes are made when you do not refer to the LAW BOOK.

Have it open at the correct law, and you may need to initially read bits

[Only exception is possibly opening lead out of turn when it is best to learn the 5 options – no change from previous laws]

In the simulations the leader may ask you which law you are looking at – and will help if you are stuck.....



# Law23 –Comparable Calls



- The most significant of the changes in the new Laws
- In 2007 Law 27B1b introduced the concept of a rectification bid (not actually a defined term) as a way of proceeding after an insufficient bid
- In the 2017 Laws, the principle has been extended further and now also applies to calls out of rotation.
  - Comparable Calls have been defined in a new Law 23  
(rectification bids no longer exist)
  - The old Law 23 has been moved to 72C
  - Related impact on Law 26 Lead restrictions after a withdrawn call



## • Definition

# Law23 –Comparable Calls



A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, **or**
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, **or**
3. has the same purpose (eg an asking bid or relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call

**(note only one of the both needs to be satisfied, not all three)**

- “*Same or similar meaning*” – be lenient, give a liberal interpretation
- “*subset*” – the crucial question is :- would all hands that make the comparable call have made the withdrawn call?...not the other way round !!
- “*attributable*” – less need to know the intention (ie less need to take the bidder away from the table to discuss), especially if obvious to the table what was meant
- “*same purpose*” : even if the responses may be slightly different, the use of 2C over 1NT and 3C over 2NT both enquire about the major suits.



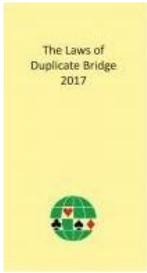
# Law23 –Comparable Calls



N      S  
         P

1♥      2♥/3♥/4♥/1NT would all be **comparable** calls in most systems because they all show **less than opening** values and so are **subsets of an opening Pass**. In contrast,

1♠ or 2♦ responses would **not** be considered comparable calls in this situation **because they are unlimited**, and the knowledge that the player had less than opening values would be additional information beyond that legitimately provided by the replacement bid.



# Law23 –Comparable Calls



N	E	S	W
1NT		<del>2♦</del>	transfer bid out of turn, not accepted.
	2♠	3♥ or 4♥	would both be considered to be comparable calls, as indeed would any other call that shows five or more hearts (e.g. a 3♦ transfer), since that is all that the out-of-turn 2♦ bid showed.

However, a Lebensohl 2NT bid, intending to bid hearts on the next round, would not be comparable since the 2NT bid (on its own) does not contain the information that the hand has five hearts, and so it is **not a subset** of the dis-allowed 2♦ bid.



# Law23 –Comparable Calls

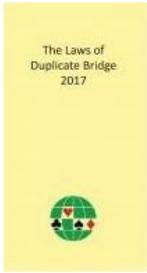


For insufficient bids, here is an example:

**N**      **S**

1♥      4NT Blackwood

5♦      4NT Insufficient, not accepted. This could be replaced with a 5NT call and it would be considered comparable because it ***has the same purpose as that attributable to the withdrawn call.***



# Law23 –Comparable Calls



Another example:

**N       E       S       W**

2♠    1NT            East tries to open a strong NT (15-17) not having noticed that North has opened a weak 2♠. A 2NT overcall would be seen as comparable call because it would be considered to have a *similar meaning*, even if they play it as showing 15-18hcp.



# Law23 –Comparable Calls



Examples, west is dealer on all these. Are the bids in **red** comparable?

W	N	E	S	
.....	<del>2D</del>			Multi, out of turn. Weak jump overcall 2S is comparable, the 2S is a subset of 2D
1D	<b>2S</b>			

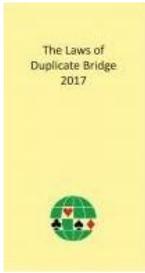
W	N	E	S	
1NT	P	2H	.....	West completes transfer to 2S, out of turn
<del>2S</del>				

W	N	E	S	
1NT	P	2H	3C	South bids 3C, Pass by west comparable since subset of hands that would bid 2S
Pass				

Final example..... This one is hard and we had to ask EBU for a ruling

W	N	E	S	
.....	<del>1D</del>			Opening 1D out of rotation
1H	<b>2D</b>			Yes (similar meaning)
1C	<b>1D</b>			<b>No not similar enough , opening 1D can be 10-19 HCP, the 1D overcall 5-15 HCP – but</b>

best practice is to ask players the strength of the overcall to help decide



# What to do at the table with Comparable Calls



When you arrive

- Read out the relevant bit of the law including “if a comparable call is made, then bidding continues with no restrictions on bidding and no lead penalties”

If the player is unsure about comparable calls, have a chat away from the table to avoid information being passed. **So away from the table**

- It is fine to answer questions like “what sort of calls would be comparable?” or is ?? comparable
- Be careful not to advise to what s/he should bid
- **Ask what the bid about to be withdrawn and the suggested comparable bid mean**

Then return to the table

- Let the player make the bid and then **tell the table whether it is comparable or not**
- Read out the rest of the relevant law so the players know what happens next, and add that the TD can still award an adjusted score later in certain situations (not rub of green ones but where the pair has gained assistance from the comparable call).

# Law 27 – Insufficient Bid (Impact of a Comparable Call)



## 2007 Laws

- 27A Can be accepted by LHO
- 27B1 Otherwise can be replaced without penalty if
  - i. “by lowest sufficient bid **in** the same denomination” provided both are incontrovertibly not artificial”; or
  - ii. “legal call with same or more precise meaning” (rectification bid)
- 27B2&3 Otherwise can be replaced by any call except double or redouble, but partner silenced for rest of auction

## 2017 Laws

- 27A Can be accepted by LHO
- 27B1 Otherwise can be replaced without penalty
  - i. “by lowest sufficient bid which **specifies** the same denomination(s) as the withdrawn call” ~~provided both are incontrovertibly not artificial~~; or
  - ii. By a Comparable Call
- 27B2&3 Otherwise can be replaced by any call except double or redouble, but partner silenced for rest of auction

Minimal change, other than (eg) to allow an insufficient transfer to be replaced by a sufficient one (provided it is still the lowest available sufficient bid)



# Law27 – Insufficient Bids



As an example :-

1NT – (3H) – 2H

Responder makes an (insufficient) transfer in spades,  
eg after not seeing the overcall

Could be replaced by 3S as lowest sufficient bid specifying same denomination

If for some reason 3S not available to show spades naturally, then could be replaced by say 4D if the partnership play that as a South African Texas Transfer showing Spades instead or otherwise by 4H if that was still also a Transfer to spades

## Key points

- Has to be lowest sufficient bid available to specify that denomination (27B1a)
- Issues about insufficient artificial bids largely removed
- Be liberal in determining what may be a comparable call



# Laws 29-32 – Calls out of Turn



- Impact of the Law Changes more significant than for insufficient bids
- The effect of the 2007 Laws was that often the Offender or partner would be required to pass, creating an incentive for the other player to guess at a final contract – good or bad – but generally distorting the result on the hand.
- In 2017 Laws, if the call is replaced by a Comparable Call, then auction proceeds without any rectification.

# Law 30 - Pass out of Turn



## 2007 Laws

Before any player has bid and the pass is not accepted

- the offender must pass when next his turn to call

After any player has bid and the pass not accepted

- If it was at RHO's turn to call, offender must pass when next his turn to call
- If it was his partner's turn to call, offender must pass whenever it is his turn to call

## 2017 Laws

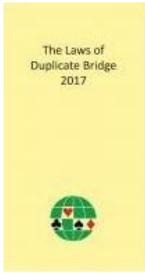
- When a pass out of rotation is made at offender's RHO's turn to call and is not accepted, **the offender must pass when next his turn to call**
- When the offender has passed
  - at his partner's turn to call
  - At LHO's turn to call if offender not previously passed

(a) **offender's partner may make any legal call at his turn – but there may be UI**

(b) **offender may make any legal call at his turn, and**

  - If such call is a comparable call, then no further rectification**
  - Otherwise partner must pass at his next turn to call and there may be lead penalty (L26)**

Specific concept of an opening pass out of turn has disappeared  
A comparable call for pass does not mean only "pass" (see example next page)



# Law 30 – Pass out of Turn



## As an example

Partner is dealer, but you pass out of turn, which is not accepted by LHO

Partner open 1H and RHO passes

As offender, what bids can you make which are comparable calls ?

Remember the Defn of Comparable Call includes

“calls which define a subset of meanings attributable to the withdrawn call”

Possible options (as well as pass) might be 1NT, 2H, 3H, 4H

1S is not a comparable call (not all hands responding 1S would have passed originally)

Be lenient in your interpretation whenever it seems unlikely that the offending side have gained anything from the infraction.

Law 23C applies if it seems the non-offending side may have been damaged

eg if without the assistance gained through the infraction' result may be adjusted

NB – no longer any need for offender's partner to guess at a final contract

# Law 31 - Bid out of Turn



## 2007 Laws

### At RHO's Turn

If RHO passes, offender repeats his bid

If RHO bids, offender may make any legal call & no further rectification

- a) If call repeats denomination of the suit bid out of rotation, **offender's partner silenced for one round**
- b) Otherwise offender's partner **must pass throughout** & lead restrictions may apply.

### At Partner's or LHO's turn

- i. offender's partner **must pass throughout & lead restrictions may apply**
- ii. **[no restriction on offender]**

## 2017 Laws

### At RHO's Turn

If RHO passes, offender repeats his bid

If RHO bids, offender may make any legal call

- a) If call is a comparable call, **no further rectification**
- b) Otherwise offender's partner **must pass at his next turn** & lead restrictions/UI may apply.

### At Partner's or LHO's turn

- i. offender's partner **may make any legal call at his next turn (but there may be UI)**
- ii. offender may make any legal call
  - a) If call is a comparable call, **no further rectification**
  - b) Otherwise offender's partner **must pass at his next turn & lead restrictions/UI may apply.**

Offender's partner is no longer ever silenced throughout  
If the withdrawn call is replaced by a comparable call then no further rectification

# Law 32 - Double/Redouble out of Turn



## 2007 Laws

### At RHO's Turn

If RHO passes, offender repeats his X/XX

If RHO bids, offender may make any legal call

- a) offender's partner **must pass throughout** & lead restrictions may apply.

### At Partner's turn

- i. offender's partner **must pass throughout** & **lead restrictions may apply**
- ii. **[no restriction on offender]**

## 2017 Laws

### At RHO's Turn

If RHO passes, offender repeats his X/XX

If RHO bids, offender may make any legal call

- a) If call is a comparable call, **no further rectification**
- b) Otherwise offender's partner **must pass at his next turn** & lead restrictions/UI may apply.

### At Partner's turn

- i. offender's partner **may make any legal call at his next turn (but there may be UI)**
- ii. offender may make any legal call
  - a) If call is a comparable call, **no further rectification**
  - b) Otherwise offender's partner **must pass at his next turn** & lead restrictions/UI may apply.

Offender's partner is no longer ever silenced throughout  
If the withdrawn call is replaced by a comparable call then no further rectification



# Call out of rotation procedure



- Call out of Rotation
- If **accepted** by LHO then **auction proceeds with no rectification and no lead restrictions**
- Otherwise (i.e. not accepted)
- Call is withdrawn and bidding reverts to correct person.
- If that is RHO and he/she passes then Call out of rotation is repeated in rotation and auction proceeds with no rectification and no lead restrictions.
- Otherwise (i.e. not RHO's turn or RHO does not pass) withdrawn call is unauthorised information to partner and when bidding gets to the player who called out of rotation he/she must make a legal call. If it is a comparable call then withdrawn call is authorised information and auction proceeds with no rectification and no lead restrictions.
- Otherwise (i.e. not comparable) partner must pass for one round and there may be lead restrictions

# Law 26 – Lead Restrictions



## 2007 Laws

If the withdrawn call related solely to a specified suit or suits (and no other suit)

1. If each suit was specified in the legal auction by the same player there is no lead restriction;
2. if any suit specified in the withdrawn call was not specified by the same player then at the offender's partner's first turn to lead (which may be the opening lead) declarer may either:
  - A. Require the offender's partner to lead **such a suit** (if there are more than one, declarer chooses the suit); or
  - B. Prohibit offender's partner from leading **(one) such suit**. Such prohibition continues for as long as the offender's partner retains the lead.

For other withdrawn calls, declarer may prohibit offender's partner from leading any one suit at his first turn to lead, incl the opening lead, such prohibition to continue for so long as he retains the lead.

## 2017 Laws (as amended)

- when an offending player's call is withdrawn and
- It is replaced by a comparable call, then .....there are no lead restrictions
- it is not replaced by a comparable call, then
- if he becomes a defender, declarer may at the offender's partner's first turn to lead (which may be the opening lead) prohibit offender's partner from leading **any (one)** suit which has not been specified in the legal auction by the offender. Such prohibition continues for as long as the offender's partner retains the lead.

Lead restrictions will be rarer & simpler to determine  
Limited to prohibiting a suit not specified in legal auction  
but need not be a suit shown by the withdrawn call



# Law23 –Comparable Calls QUIZ



The call struck out is out-of-rotation or insufficient. Will the call in red be comparable?

	Situation				Yes Votes	No Votes	Agreed Decision
	W	N	E	S			
1.	1NT <del>2D</del> P	P	2C	2D			YES
2.	..... P	P	1H	4S <del>2S</del> 2S is intermediate			YES
3.	1C	2C	<del>4D</del> DBL	1C is Precision 16+ 1D is 0-8 HCP DBL is 5-8 HCP			YES
4.	1D	..... 1H	4S X	Note: After 1H overcall, X shows 4 spades, 1 spade 5 or more			YES
5.	INT	..... 2S	<del>2D</del> 3H	2D is a transfer 3H is not forcing			YES
6.	INT	..... 2S	<del>2D</del> 3H	2D is a transfer 3H is forcing			YES
7.	INT	..... 2S	<del>2D</del> 4H	2D is a transfer			YES
8.	INT <del>2H</del> P	P	2D	2S 2D is a transfer			YES



# Law23 –Comparable Calls QUIZ



The call struck out is out-of-rotation or insufficient. Will the call in red be comparable?

	Situation				Yes Votes	No Votes	Agreed Decision
	W	N	E	S			
9.	INT 2H 3H	P	2D	2S			YES
10.	..... 1S	P	4H 3H				YES
11.	..... 1C	P	4NT 1S				NO
12.	..... 1C	4S 1S					NO
13.	..... 1S	P	4H 2H				YES
14.	..... 1H	4S DBL					NO

# Handout on the simpler or less significant changes

- Things to note:



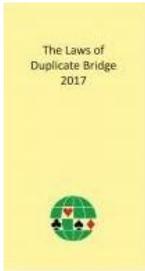
- Law 6B : *No two adjacent cards from the deck shall be dealt into the same hand*
- Law 7A : *When a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of table where it shall remain, correctly oriented, until play is completed*
- Law 7B ...*No player shall touch any cards other than his own (but declarer may play dummy's cards in accordance with Law 45) during or after play except by permission of an opponent or the Director. It is now legal for defenders to play dummy's cards if dummy is not able to do so.*
- Law 11A: One of a number of examples where the new Laws award a split score
- Law 12: Numerous changes – especially prohibiting “Reveley” rulings (see appendix)
- Law 15: Play of the wrong Board – TD can no longer seat the correct opponents to see if they repeat the same calls; instead the wrong opponents get to complete the board
- Law 24 : card exposed during the Auction (previously the Auction Period)
- Law 25A simplified : “without Pause for thought” deleted: 25A2 introduces the term “Mechanical Error” & the difference between that and a “loss of concentration”
- Law 42 Dummy's rights: (A3) to follow suit; (B2) prevent any irregularity

# Handout on the simpler or less significant changes

- Things to note:



- Law 45C4b (wrong card called from dummy) – in line with L25 above, language clarified and “without pause for thought” deleted
- Law 45D2 (dummy plays wrong card and too late to change it)
- Law 53 Lead out of turn at Trick 13 must be retracted
- Law 57 (Premature play of a card) Various changes
- Law 62 changes (C3) Both sides revoke on same trick; (D2) defender revokes at partner’s turn to play. Similarly Law 64 (repeated revokes)
- **Law 65 B3. A player may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly, but this right expires when his side leads or plays to the following trick.**
- Law 75 Mistaken Explanation vs Mistaken Bid (Example removed & New Clause D, which deals with no agreement). Note 75B2 *If a player becomes aware of his own mistake, he must summon the Director before the opening lead is faced (or during the play, if discovered later), and then provide a correction. The player is also permitted to call the Director before the auction ends, but he is under no obligation to do so.* If before the opening lead is faced the director may still give back the non-offending side their final pass
- Law 86 Teams Law has been rewritten to cover if one or more boards can’t be scored



# Law 50 – Penalty Cards

## 50E Information from a Penalty Card

Information derived from a penalty card and the requirements for playing that penalty card are **authorized for all players for as long as the penalty card remains on the table.**

Information derived from a penalty card that has **been returned to hand** [as per [Law 50D2\(a\)](#)] is **unauthorized for the partner** of the player who had the penalty card (see [Law 16C](#)), but authorized for declarer.

# Law 68D – Claims/Concessions



## 2007 Laws

- If claim/concession is disputed, the TD **must** be called. Play **ceases**
- As a practical matter, some players just say “play on” and the claim is ignored. No specific consequences from this approach albeit not permitted by the Laws.

## 2017 Laws

- If claim/concession is disputed, the TD **may** be called. Play **suspended**
- If any player wishes, the TD can be called and play ceases – no change
- At the request of the non-claiming side & if all 4 players concur, play can continue **BUT** the claim/concession is void. Laws about penalty cards (L50) and Unauthorised Information (L16) don't apply. **So TD can't be called back afterwards to offer any redress.**



# Law 68D – Claims/Concessions



- In summary this is an additional option for the players reflecting the practice at some clubs – but there is nothing to be gained by exercising this option.
- The non-claiming side has to initiate an offer to “play on” (and all should then agree). The claimer can’t respond to a query by saying “OK, lets play them out”. TD should protect less experienced players from being pushed into playing on by the claimer.
- IF TD called and asked “can we play on?”, then ensure that the players know only the non-claiming side can offer this, that all must agree, and most importantly the TD can offer no redress afterwards
- Otherwise once the TD is called to the table, the option to play on is lost – i.e. the situation reverts to the position under the 2007 Laws.
- Note the change to Law 70E1 :
  - 2007 Laws stated “unless failure to adopt that line of play would be irrational”
  - 2017 Laws omit this language....arguably makes things easier for TDs