

LAW 25 – LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CHANGES OF CALL

UNINTENDED CALL

Where a player discovers that he has not made the call he intended to make **HE MAY, UNTIL HIS PARTNER MAKES A CALL – SUBSTITUTE THE CALL HE INTENDED TO MAKE FOR THE UNINTENDED CALL.**

THE 2nd CALL STANDS (but is subject to the appropriate Law e.g. call out of turn or insufficient bid) BUT IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO LEAD RESTRICTIONS under law 26 (as the original unintended bid did not show a specific holding of a suit etc)

IF HOWEVER THE PLAYER INTENDED TO MAKE THE CALL THAT WAS MADE IT STANDS

(e.g. even though it may become A CALL OUT OF TURN or an INSUFFICIENT BID)

A CHANGE OF CALL MAY BE ALLOWED BECAUSE OF A “MECHANICAL ERROR” - but not because of a “loss of concentration regarding the intent of the action” again e.g. a call out of turn or an insufficient bid would show loss of concentration.

HOWEVER note that there may be an instance where an unintended call can be corrected to an insufficient bid

Example North Bids 1NT (12-14) – East bids 1 Spade – BEFORE SOUTH CALLS East claims a mechanical error in that he intended to bid 1 Heart not spade and unintentionally pulled out the wrong bidding card.

A CHANGE OF CALL IS ALLOWED AND 1 HEART CALL IS SUBSTITUTED FOR THE 1 SPADE BID.

THIS IS AN INSUFFICIENT BID AND TD WILL TREAT IT AS SUCH WHEN CALLED TO THE TABLE. NOTE THAT ONE OF THE OPTIONS A LHO MAY ALWAYS MAKE IS TO ACCEPT THE INSUFFICIENT BID BY INTENTIONALLY CALLING OVER IT – (This may be an opportunity for the LHO to deliberately PASS showing partner a particularly poor holding hand by trying to keep the bidding low)

N.B. THE SPADE BID is void and there will be no lead penalty in relation to that bid as it was an unintentional mechanical error WHICH DID NOT, THROUGH INTENT, show spades being held and therefore gives no misinformation to the offender’s partner regarding any particular holding in spades.

A player making an unintended call may replace it no matter how he becomes aware provided partner has not bid (e.g. becoming aware because an opponent asks for an explanation of the call from offenders partner).

THERE CAN BE NO SUBSTITUTION OF A CALL AFTER OFFENDER'S PARTNER HAS BID.

NOR CAN THERE BE A SUBSTITUTION OF A CALL IF THE AUCTION ENDS BEFORE IT REACHES THE PLAYER'S PARTNER (e.g. the unintentional bid was a Pass)

If a substitution of the change of call is allowed then if the Left Hand Opponent has called HIS CALL MAY BE WITHDRAWN AND REPLACED WITH ANY LEGAL CALL.

HOWEVER NOTE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE LHO'S WITHDRAWN CALL IS AUTHORISED FOR THE NON OFFENDING SIDE BUT UNAUTHORISED FOR THE OFFENDING SIDE.

THERE IS A CHANGE TO THE FOLLOWING LAW AS WELL REGARDING A CHANGE OF CARD PLAYED BY DUMMY

LAW 45 – CARD PLAYED

Each player **EXCEPT DUMMY** plays a card by detaching it from his hand and **FACING IT ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF HIM**

Declarer plays a card from Dummy by either

- Naming the card to be played – dummy then picks up the card and faces it on the table
- Declarer picking up a card himself and facing it on the table.

Card deemed to be played

A DEFENDER 's CARD held so that it is possible for partner to see its face is deemed to have been played – if the defender has already played a card to the trick it will become a fifth card played to the trick and therefore a **Major Penalty Card – (Law 45 E)**

DECLARER is deemed to have played a card from his hand when it is

- Held **FACE UP**, touching or nearly touching the table
- Held in such a position as to indicate it has been played

A CARD FROM DUMMY is played if it is

- Deliberately touched by declarer (**except for arranging dummy's card OR reaching for a card to be played which is above or below the card touched**)
- Naming or otherwise designating it as a card he proposes to play – if DUMMY tries to play a different card then the named card must be substituted.

DECLARER may make this correction until he next plays a card either from his own hand or dummy – THIS CHANGE MAY BE MADE IF IT IS A MECHANICAL ERROR OR A SLIP OF THE TONGUE – BUT NOT IF IT WAS MADE BECAUSE OF A LOSS OF CONCENTRATION OR A RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION – (Law change in line with LAW 25 ABOVE)

If an opponent has legally played a card before the change of designation that opponent may withdraw the card played, return it to his hand, and play any legal card. INFORMATION OF THE WITHDRAWN CARD OF THE DEFENDER IS UNAUTHORISED FOR THE DECLARER BUT AUTHORISED FOR THE DEFENDER'S PARTNER.

HOWEVER N.B - IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ABOVE IN TERMS OF A DEFENDER'S option / choice of card to be played A PENALTY CARD (Major or Minor) MAY NEED TO BE PLAYED

If DUMMY places a card in a played position which declarer has not "named" it must be withdrawn IF ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO IT BEFORE EACH SIDE HAS PLAYED TO THE NEXT TRICK –

AND a defender may withdraw and return to his hand any card played after the error but before attention was drawn to it.

If RHO withdraws a card then so may declarer but on playing later to the legally played card by RHO Declarer must ensure no use of the unauthorised information of the withdrawn card by RHO. (16 c)

If it is too late to change the wrongly designated card played by dummy then play continues without alteration to that or any subsequent trick.

If a Declarer leads from the wrong hand then the defenders have the option to either accept the lead or require lead to be from the correct hand. If the latter is chosen the led card is returned to hand. If the defenders do not agree on a specific choice then the defender next in turn to play after the led card shall decide.