

Calls out of Rotation – Read this first

The laws vary according to who calls out of rotation; who should have called; what they call; and what the call meant! The TD may be required to tell the non-offenders what the relevant penalties are. Understanding 'comparable calls' and 'unauthorised information' is also useful!

What should happen:

Attention is drawn to the call immediately and the TD is summoned.

Then the Director will:

1. cancel any calls made after attention was drawn to the irregularity.
These may be subject to penalty [see Withdrawn calls]
 2. ascertain who called out of rotation and whose turn it really was.
The offender's LHO may pre-empt matters at this point by saying that they 'accept' or 'do not accept' the call. If so move straight to 5.
 3. decide what the penalty would be if the call is not accepted by the offender's LHO by referring to the Law book (or these sheets!)
 4. tell the LHO:
 - a. they can accept the call and the auction will continue as if nothing incorrect has happened; AND
 - b. the penalty that will be applied if the call is not accepted; that it will be cancelled; and that the auction will revert to the correct player.
 5. request the LHO to choose (hoping it will be a!)
- Note: unlike a play out of rotation it is only LHO – not either opponent.
6. If LHO chooses:
 - a. to accept the call: the call out of rotation stands and it is LHO's turn to bid. No further action is needed.
 - b. not to accept the call: it is cancelled. Remind the offender and his partner of the penalties involved, and allow the correct player to call. If possible stay at the table to ensure that the penalty is paid correctly. This may involve restrictions on the offender or his partner depending on the type of call out of rotation.

What often happens.

1. The offender's LHO doesn't realise the call was out of rotation and makes a call (or calls intentionally). Easy: LHO has condoned the illegal call and the auction continues as if it had been legal.
If it had actually been their turn then a decision has to be made as to whether this section or 2a applies.
2. A player whose turn it is doesn't notice the call out of rotation and calls.
 - a. If the offender is an opponent then the call out of rotation is cancelled (UI) and the auction progresses
 - b. If the offender is their PARTNER (this won't happen) then this is itself a call out of rotation and dealt with subsequently.

Note: If the correct and illegal calls are made simultaneously then the correct call is deemed to have been made first.

Congleton Bridge Club – Directing notes

Notes

- If the call out of rotation is not accepted then refer to laws/sheets on:
Pass out of rotation;
Bid out of rotation; or
Double/Redouble out of rotation
- A call out of rotation by a player when it is their LHOs turn can only occur at their first turn to call. Otherwise it is treated as a change of call and covered by the relevant law
- It is fairly common for several calls to have been made before someone realises there has been an infraction. So long as there has been only one call out of rotation no further action is necessary. Someone has been deprived of a call at some point but they ought to pay more attention!

Some examples when the players continue after the call out of rotation. **East is Dealer**

1. North bids 1H East bids 1S – “Director”

If East can convince the TD that they hadn't noticed North's bid then 1S stands as the opening bid. 1H is cancelled; but South has 'Unauthorised Information'.

If East has noticed North's call and chooses to call 1S then he has condoned the call out of rotation. It makes no difference whether East realised the call was out of rotation. The auction continues as if there had been no infraction.

2. E pass S pass W pass N 1H
E 1D..... 2D S 1S! “Director”

2D is not a call out of rotation it is a change of call and subject to that Law. If South then calls then the Director will have a similar question as in 1. to answer. Did South not notice the 2D and is bidding over 1D; or has he made an insufficient bid. Probably the former but if South's bid had not been insufficient?

3. E pass S says nothing W 1S (OOR) N 1H “Director”

North has condoned West's bid out of rotation. If it had been sufficient then the auction would have just continued. If the Director is called at this point then the only infraction to be ruled on is North's insufficient bid.

4. E says nothing S 1S (OOR) W says nothing N 2H (OOR) “Director”

Arrghhhhh..... N cannot condone his partner's infraction (obviously!). If you decide that no correction will allow normal play of the board; award an artificial adjusted score (Av+/Av-).

Unauthorised Information when a call of rotation is cancelled.

Law 16C2: “A player ... may not make a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorised information if the other call or play is a logical alternative”....

East's 2H (weak) is out of rotation and not accepted. The knowledge that East has 6 hearts and 6-10 points is UI for West (North and South can use the information at their own risk).

At West's turn, if there are a choice of possible actions (logical alternatives) then they MUST NOT choose one that is likely to be more successful given partner's holding. This applies even if they had decided on that action before the call out of rotation or; they are adamant they would have chosen that action anyway. The penalty for infraction would be to adjust the score.

The EBU have ruled that a logical alternative is one that more than about 20% of similar players in the same position and playing the same methods would seriously consider and some would choose.