

FVBC Talk – Bridge Procedures, Rules & Etiquette

3b. The Revoke: Penalties

When a player suspects that the opponents revoked on an earlier trick, the Director should be called. If the revoke is confirmed then penalties are as follows:

- If the revoker won the trick on which the revoke occurred, then that trick is transferred to the non-offending side (1 trick penalty). Additionally, if the offending side won any tricks after the revoke, then one of these is transferred to the non-offending side as well (2 trick penalty).
- If the revoker did not win the trick on which the revoke occurred, but the offending side won that trick or any subsequent trick, then one trick is transferred to the non-offending side (1 trick penalty).
- If the offending side did not win the trick on which the revoke occurred, or any subsequent trick, then there is no adjustment (no penalty).

What happens if the penalty doesn't adequately compensate the non-offenders?

Suppose you would have taken 10 tricks if the revoke had not occurred, but the revoke limited you to 5 tricks. Explain this to the Director, and the Director will award you additional tricks to make sure that you are not “damaged”.

Consider this example:

NORTH (Vul)

SOUTH (Vul)

S – A 6 4 3

S – J 2

H – A 8 5

H – 9 6

D – A 3

D – K J T 9 8 7 4

C – A 9 7 6

C – 4 3

The contract is 3NT by North, and a heart is led.

North plans to take the four aces, and lead the 3 of diamonds to the king. If the queen falls then she takes 10 tricks for +630. If the queen does not fall (West has 3 or 4 diamonds with the queen) the North wins only 5 tricks for -400.

East is holding the Q 2 doubleton. After playing the 2 on the first diamond trick, East plays a club on the second diamond. North takes the king and concedes the final 8 tricks.

Is this a brilliant play by East, or is it cheating?

If it was *intentionally* done by East, it is cheating. The Laws state:

“A player must not infringe a law intentionally, even if there is a prescribed rectification he is willing to accept.”

If the queen was hiding behind another card, then East should inform the opponents and call the Director. Most likely, the Director will correct the score to 3NT making 4 for +630. This is a 5-trick adjustment for the revoke, in order to avoid the “damage” done to North, and achieve an “equitable” result.

Correcting revokes and making appropriate score adjustments can be complicated. Call the Director to make sure that everything is done fairly.