

LAWS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE 2017

Key points

- Not a lot changes; a number of clarifications to wording (eg unintended bids), some extra comments (some already known, some about AI/UI from withdrawn actions and penalty cards) and some completions to existing rules (eg handling both side revoking on same trick).
- Rectifications have developed to improve the chance of a meaningful bridge result

Changes affecting players

- You don't need to call TD about your own mis-explanation until just before the opening lead (was previously call TD immediately you realise)
- You can look at other hands with the permission of an opponent (was previously just permission of the Director)
- A defender may not show dummy their hand.
- If the opponents claim, you can ask to play on and if all four agree then the director is not called and the "claim" is ignored.

Changes the Director announces to the players when required

- "Comparable Call" introduced : a replacement which does not generate UI. Its use brings no lead penalties.
- When a suitable replacement is not supplied, lead penalty changes : only option is the prohibition of any one suit not specified in the legal auction.
- Insufficient Bid : can be replaced with a comparable call or by the lowest sufficient bid specifying the same denomination.
- Pass/Bid/Double out of rotation : can be replaced by a comparable call, and if not, restriction is partner must pass once (was previously pass throughout)
 - if OOR at partner's turn, partner gets to make any legal call first.
- Extra cases of taking away an offender's advantage, but not necessarily rewarding the non-offenders.
- Extra option for declarer if defender makes premature play (to pick the suit offender's partner must lead)
- Explicit mention of a penalty against a player who uses Unauthorised Information.