

# SUMMARY OF THE MAIN 2017 LAW CHANGES



- 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 weighted adjustment with illegal calls
- 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 23: Comparable calls law – most important change
- 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- Law 26: lead penalties after a withdrawn card. By referencing the new Comparable Call Law, this Law has been simplified – declarer can simply prohibit the lead of a suit not mentioned in the legal auction.
- Law 27: Insufficient bids, law changed due to ‘comparable calls’
- Laws 30-32: bid, pass and double/redouble out of rotation are changed due to ‘comparable calls’
- Law 42: Dummy's rights: (A3) to follow suit; (B2) prevent any irregularity
- Law 43A3: It is now expressly prohibited for a defender to show dummy their cards
- 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 50E 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 is unauthorized it has been returned to hand for the partner of the player who had the penalty card, but authorized for declarer.
- 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 68 a major change, which allows the non-claimers to request that play continues, and if all agree, play does continue, but the original claim is now voided and the score stands.
- 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