Bridge Rules You Should Know

Review and Amplification of Previously Discussed Rules

- After the final pass, either defender may ask it is his lead.
- Declarer or either defender may request a review at his FIRST turn to play.
- Only an opponent can respond when a review of the bidding is requested.
- During the bidding, you may request explanations of the bidding when it is your turn.
- When the bidding is over, during play you can ask for explanations at your turn to play.
- If partner has given a mistaken explanation, you may not correct it during the bidding.
- If you end up defending, you must wait until play ends to correct partner’s explanation.
- If you end up declaring, correct the explanation before the opening lead is made.
- A card is ruled played by a defender if it is held in a manner that partner could have seen it.
- A card is ruled played by declarer if it is held face up touching or nearly touching the table.
- Declarer may change an inadvertent designation if he does so without pause for thought.
- Dummy doesn’t reach for a card until declarer calls for it.
- No player should turn his card face down until all four players have played to the trick.
- When playing from dummy, declarer should state the rank and the suit of the card he wants.
- Play stops when a claim is made. The claimer states his line of play.
- If you think a claim is invalid, call the Director but say nothing until he arrives at the table.
- Each player counts his cards face down to be sure he has exactly 13 cards.
- When play is over, each player shuffles his cards and returns them to the correct pocket.

More Rules to Consider

- ACBL forbids an agreement to open 1 of a suit with less than 8 HCP. (7,QJT85,QJT764,4)
- The proper way to alert is to say “Alert” while placing the Alert card on the table.
- During the bidding and play, you are not entitled to any memory aids.
- You can change an unintended call before partner bids you made a mechanical error.
  Ex: 2N-P-3C-P-3S (Oops! meant to bid 3H) but 2N-P-3C-P-P(Oops!) Can’t change.
- ACBL allows 7 1/2 minutes per board. There are new rules pertaining to slow play. All four players are to be given a slow play warning and given two rounds to catch up.

Law 74 C (Violations of Procedure)

- Indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.
- Indicating the expectation of winning/losing a trick that has not been completed.
- Looking intently at any other player during the auction and play or at another player’s hand for the purpose of seeing his cards or observing the place from which he draws a card.
- Showing an obvious lack of further interest in a deal (as by folding one’s cards)
- Varying the normal tempo of bidding or play for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
- Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.