2017 Duplicate Laws

Changes from 2008 revision

reference: "Ruling The Game" 2017 July-November Bridge Bulletin

2017 Duplicate Laws

Small Stuff - Mostly Things We Already Know

* Law6-adjacent cards in the pack may not be dealt to the same hand

* Law7-board in play MUST remain correctly oriented in the center of the table

* Law25-unintended call, replaces "without pause for thought" with "unintended"

* Law65-alignment errors may be pointed out by anyone (including declarer), but only until that SIDE has played to next trick

2017 Duplicate Laws

Small Stuff - Mostly Things We Already Know

* Law66-inspection of your own last played card is allowable until your SIDE has played to next trick

* Law68-claim may be played out if all agree, Be careful, table result will stand!

* Law73-some forms of deception are legal:

  * deception via a play or call NOT complying with partnership agreements is legal

  * but deception via tempo is illegal

2017 Duplicate Laws

Important Stuff

* Law20-Failure to Alert is Mis-Information: meaning a possible Score Adjustment!

* Example 1:

* West-1 ♥, North-3♣!, East-Pass, South-3♠

* ! = Shows ♦ + ♠

* North = ♠Q6 ♥6 ♦953 ♣AQJ8652

* North forgot the agreement and mis-bid, but there is NO infraction as long as South properly alerts the agreement and doesn't know about the mis-bid

2017 Duplicate Laws

More Important Stuff

* Law20-Failure to Alert is Mis-Information: Possible Score Adjustment!

* Example 2:

* West-1 ♥, North-3♣, East-3 ♥, South-4♣!

* ! = Shows good ♦ + ♠ support and GF hand.

* This time, it is South who forgot the agreement and didn't alert.

* NOT alerting IS an infraction. North MUST assume South just forgot to alert, he must alert partner's bid, and bid accordingly.

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Even More Important Stuff

* Law26-Lead Penalty:
    * Happens after a Change of Call due to an irregularity,
    * and the change is NOT a Comparable Call
* Require or forbid offender's partner ANY one suit NOT mentioned by offender legally
* Example 3:
* W-1♣, N-2♠, E-1 ♥/3♣, S-3♠
* East will be on lead without restriction. But when West first gains the lead, restrictions apply: in this case, declarer may require or forbid the lead of ♦, ♥, or ♠!

2017 Duplicate Laws

The Big Change of 2017 - Comparable Call

* NEW Law23 Affects:
    * Insufficient Bid - Law27,
    * Pass Out-Of-Rotation - Law30,
    * Bid Out-Of-Rotation - Law31,
    * Double or Redouble Out-Of-Rotation - Law32.
* Law23 intends to increase the chances for a normal result after an irregularity.
* Law23 Defines Comparable Call:
    * Has same or similar meaning as withdrawn call,
    * Or describes a subset of the meanings of withdrawn call,
    * Or has same purpose (e.g. an asking bid) as withdrawn call.

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Comparable Call - Insufficient Bid Examples

* W-2NT, N-pass, E-2♣ (stayman)
  * 3♣ is comparable even though puppet asks for 5 cards
  * Both 2♣ and 3♣ are asking bids
* W-1♣, N-pass, E-1♥, S-pass, W-1♠, N-2♦, E-2♦ (4th suit forcing)
  * Here, 3♦ is comparable because
  * Both are forcing bids, both are asking bids
* W-1NT, N-2♠, E-2♦ (transfer)
  * 3♥, if natural, is comparable
    3♦, if transfer, is comparable
  * 2NT (lebensohl intending 3♥ rebid), NOT comparable

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Comparable Call - More Insufficient Bid Examples

* W-1NT, N-pass, E-2♦, S-3♣
  W-~~2♥~~ (accepts transfer)
  * Acceptance of the transfer carries no information
  * Any bid by West (including pass) will be comparable
* W-1♠, N-3♦, E-4NT, S-5♦, W-~~5♦~~ (1430)
  * Dbl/Rdbl are now allowable if it's a comparable call
  * If playing DOP1, Dbl by West is comparable (showing 0)
* W-1♦, N-1♠, E-~~1♥~~ (4+♥ & 6+ HCPs)
  * 2♥ is a subset of 1♥: 5+♥ & 10+ HCPs, comparable
  * Double also is more specific, and therefore comparable, every hand that would double would have bid 1♥

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Comparable Call - Call Out-Of-Rotation Examples

* E-1♥ (not accepted)

W-1♠, N-2♦

* 2♥ is comparable, 5♥+ and 10+ HCPs

* E-1♥ (not accepted)

W-1♣, N-pass

* Now, 1♥ is NOT comparable, 4♥+ and 6+ HCPs

* Unless playing strong jump shifts, East does NOT have a comparable call, West will be required to pass once

* E-pass (not accepted)

W-1♣, N-pass

* 1NT is comparable, 1♠ is NOT, why??