

Key to Abbreviations

MI: misinformation
UI: unauthorised information
TD: tournament director
LA: logical alternative

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International Bridge Laws Forum

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Hosted by David Stevenson
 Senior Consultant Director
 English Bridge Union

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Dan Neill

Reply

inadvertency (22:50:37 SatMay 10 2003)

Country: USA

Hi all,
Using bidding boxes, I know that leniency is very often extended to claims of inadvertency.

First, does the fact that a defender notices an insufficient/improper call before the caller affect the judgement of inadvertency (caller just sits there and opps eventually say something, e.g.)?

Also, when the director talks with the caller away from the table, should he use the actual hand to help determine the actual intent of the caller (the hand supports the unlikelihood of the original bid given, e.g.)?

Thanks,
Dan

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: inadvertency (00:06:21 MonMay 12 2003)

Law 25A has two elements: timing and inadvertence. To make a change the call must be inadvertent, and it must be made without pause for thought, and before partner next calls.

The pause for thought is from the **realisation** of the error, and it does not matter what triggered that realisation, for example a question from opponents. It is also completely normal for the TD to be sympathetic to the player trying to make a change on whether a pause has occurred. But this only affects the timing, not the inadvertence.

When the TD is deciding inadvertence he needs to find out what the player intended at the time he made the call. But he should **never** look at the actual hand, nor ask what is in it.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
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http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

Danny Neill

Reply

statement with claim (22:16:12 SatMay 10 2003)

Country: USA

Hi all,

If a declarer faces his cards in a claim, but nothing is uttered, is it required for the defenders to ask for a statement? Sometimes declarer is silently preparing a statement, but sometimes declarer isn't and is really just claiming the rest without a statement. If the defenders aren't required to ask, how much silence does the declarer get before it becomes a claim without a statement?

Also, the Larry Harris director's companion says something like this:

1. Repeat claim. If trumps were not mentioned state why not.
2. Make statement if none given.
3. Face remaining cards.
4. State objection.

Make statement if none given? I thought that there either was an original statment or there wasn't.

Thanks,
Dan

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: statement with claim (21:59:07 SunMay 11 2003)

The simple answer is No, the defenders are not required to ask for a claim statement. If declarer has claimed and said nothing then it is assumed that the claim is so obvious that it does not need one.

And quite often this is right. If part of the claim is to make three tricks from

Kx opposite AQx

then declarer does not need to explain how he is going to make three tricks. Defenders have been know to make silly objections saying "But he did not say how he was going to play it". When it is completely obvious the he does not have to. These defenders need the ethics of the game explained to them.

Another problem with claims which bears on what you are talking about is that some defenders have a habit of interrupting { often in a most rude fashion} before declarer has had a chance to make his statement. Like the defenders in the last paragraph such players need someone to explain that bridge is won by better play, not by clever ploys through the Laws.

As for how much silence is required to give a chance for declarer to utter his claim statement normal good manners are all that is required: give him a chance and if he says nothing then look at and if necessary challenge his claim.

I am afraid the Larry Harris recommendation is not in line with the Laws nor generally accepted international practice. However, a fair amount of tolerance is always given in claims.

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Frager



1 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Extra card in dummy (11:56:08 SunMay 4 2003)

Country: Ireland

Half way through the play of the hand it was discovered that dummy had fourteen cards and declarer had only 12.

What procedure should be adopted here?

Thanks

Pat

[EMAIL=pryan@cbswex.iol.ie]

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Extra card in dummy (01:13:35 TueMay 6 2003)

Country: Canada

Duplicate rules, the opening of Law 13:

"When the Director determines that one or more pockets of the board contained an incorrect number of cards, *) and a player with an incorrect hand has made a call, then when the Director deems that the deal can be corrected and played normally with no change of call, the deal may be so played with the concurrence of all four players. Otherwise, the Director shall award an artificial adjusted score and may penalize an offender."

*)with the footnote being if three hands are correct, L14 applies instead. Doesn't apply here.

So, first the Director decides if the deal can be corrected. If it was dealt 14-12, even if it's the fourth round before it was noticed, sorry, it can't be corrected.

Assuming it could be corrected, the Director decides if it will play "normally" after correction.

If she does so believe, if any of the players disagree for any reason, or feel uncomfortable, or think they will get a better score assigned than if they play it, or just want to get to the bar earlier, they may say "sorry, I don't want to play this."

If you get through all of those steps, then play it out. I would suggest it isn't very likely if they're halfway through play...

So the director awards an Artificial assigned score, which would depend very strongly on how the 14-12 came about:

- Average Plus if a pair is completely not at fault;
- Average if a pair is partially at fault;
- Average Minus if the pair is directly at fault.

Note: I don't know about Ireland, but in the ACBL, we have a regulation stating that all contestants must count their cards face down before looking at them. I assume the IBU has something similar, in which case declarer and dummy are already "at least partially at fault", for not doing so.

Note 2: if it went 14-12 at a previous table, the people that caused this can be hit with a procedural penalty. If it was a normal accident, fine - "please be more careful in future?" If it was because somebody at a previous table pulled the two hands out after play to harangue partner for his play, then the penalty may be a little steeper...

Michael.

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Extra card in dummy (03:49:19 TueMay 6 2003)

Michael is pretty much correct, I think - except for the bit about counting your cards before you look at your hand. That's not an ACBL regulation, it's Law 7B1, which is applicable everywhere, not just in the ACBL.

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Extra card in dummy (17:01:38 TueMay 6 2003)

Country: Canada

Argh, I was pretty sure that was a Law, but I couldn't find it. Was looking too late in the Laws. Guess I should check my index...

Thanks Ed.
Michael.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

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Re: Extra card in dummy (01:58:57 WedMay 7 2003)

Michael was very slightly wrong in one other matter. The responsibility to have the correct number of cards lies with the recipients - the WBF made this very clear some years back - so it would not be normal to give a Procedural Penalty to the previous table unless they made a habit of getting it wrong.

As to whether you can let play proceed I would never do so once dummy has appeared - it is just too late. So in the given case declarer's side get average minus, and the defenders average plus.

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Dan Neill

[Reply](#)

Re: Extra card in dummy (12:47:15 ThuMay 8 2003)

Country: USA

So assuming it is the fourth round and the proper players are penalized, what happens with that board for the rest of the session?

Thanks

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

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Re: Extra card in dummy (22:18:29 ThuMay 8 2003)

Assuming the board can be restored to its original state, and in that state each hand had 13 cards, it's played normally at the remaining tables. Otherwise, it's a fouled board (see Law 87).

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richard.hills

Face down lead (03:32:02 WedMay 7 2003)

Reply

Country: Australia

A player, who was the correct person to lead, selected the jack of diamonds as their choice of lead, and placed that card face down in front of them.

Before that player faced that lead, they remembered that they were not using underleads in their current partnership. So they put the unfaced jack of diamonds back in their hand, replaced it with a face down lead of the queen of diamonds, then faced the queen of diamonds.

At this point I was summoned to the table by the leader's opponents. I ruled that the interchange of face down leads was contrary to Law 41A. Consequently, I ruled that the unfaced jack of diamonds was restored as the opening lead, and the faced queen of diamonds became a major penalty card.

Was my ruling the only correct ruling under Law? Or was there a less draconian ruling that I could have Lawfully made?

Best wishes

Richard


bluejak


Re: Face down lead (10:48:22 WedMay 7 2003)



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Your ruling was absolutely correct. Some players seem to fail to realise that a lead placed face-down has been made. 

If the opponents had called you before the  Q was faced then you would have insisted the original card was played and warned the partner not to take advantage of the unauthorised information that his partner had changed his mind.

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jones.j.d.

Rule of 19 (16:09:23 MonMay 5 2003)

Reply

Country: wales

What is the background to this rule.

Can players choose to ignore it?

What action can one take if a player habitually ignores the rule

Ed

Re: Rule of 19 (03:36:21 TueMay 6 2003)



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Not sure what you mean by "background". As I understand it, the rule of 19 (or 18, or whatever) was originally formulated as a hand evaluation guideline. It has since been adopted in regulations of some NCBOs, notably the EBU.

The regulation, for Level 2 contests in England and Wales is, from the Orange Book:

12.2.1

Minimum opening bids.

The minimum agreement for opening 1-of-a-suit is Rule of 19, or 11 HCP; except

You may open a natural 1-of-a-suit that may be weaker than this by agreement, but only if you do not play any conventional calls thereafter.

You may not open conventional 1-of-a-suit that may be weaker than this by agreement.

The minimum agreement for suit length for 1 ☐ or 1 ☐ is four cards; except

You may open 1 ☐ or 1 ☐ on 3 cards by agreement but only if you do not play any conventional calls thereafter.

So, while you can't (in the EBU) ignore this regulation, you aren't necessarily required to limit your 1 openings to those that satisfy the Rule of 19.

If a player habitually ignores the **regulation**, let the TD know.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Rule of 19 (01:43:46 WedMay 7 2003)

Ed is correct. Note that what may be played in Wales is the same as in England { except that in Wales you may also play the Newport Club} .

What do we do if someone habitually ignores it? We treat him the same as any other breaker of rules: make sure he knows what he is doing is illegal, and then if he continues throw him out of the club. If it is in WBU events you would report him to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

As to your question whether a player can choose to ignore it the answer is that players may not ignore any of the rules of bridge, whether Laws or Regulations.

Note that while the EBU uses the term Rule of 19 I wish they would not: there are several different uses of this term. In Australia they would say "You have to have 19 Opening Points" which is an unambiguous term.

The last point is that this rule covers agreements: if a pair have a legal agreement then the fact that they deviate by one point on one occasion does not mean they have done anything wrong. But a player who regularly is weaker than this has an agreement with his partner { explicit or implicit} to play an illegal system.

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Val

guest

Reply

whole hand exposed (07:54:08 SatMay 3 2003)

It is the last board of a session, EW vulnerable, and the hands are:

North: ☐ Q82, ☐ J75, ☐ Q63, ☐ 974

East: ☐ A9543, ☐ 92, ☐ JT, ☐ QJT8

South: ☐ KJT6, ☐ AKQ43, ☐ A, ☐ K53

West: ☐ 7, ☐ T86, ☐ K987542, ☐ A2

The contract is 5D West doubled.

South leads the AH face up out of turn. Before anyone can react North lays all her cards face up as "dummy". The director is called. (the normal lead by N would have been a heart as S had bid them)

How is this situation managed, and does it matter that EW were going to get a bottom score with -500 and third bottom with -200?

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: whole hand exposed (23:07:28 MonMay 5 2003)

Well, after we pick up both the director and the ☐6 off the floor and return the card to North's hand (ok, cheap shot, but somebody would have said it):

North has 13 (or 12, or however many cards he got down before somebody stopped him - I'll assume all here) penalty cards (L49).

South has a Opening Lead out of Rotation (OLOOR) - face up (grumble). Side note: *everywhere I know* requires face-down opening leads - in duplicate anyway - why don't people do it?

West has the standard OLOOR options:

- put her hand down and let partner play it on the ☐A lead.
- accept the ☐A lead, and see partner's hand before playing from her own.
- make it a Major Penalty Card (MPC) (to go along with North's 13 - multiple Penalty Cards are always Major - L50B).

Now, if she refuses the ☐A lead, which is sensible, she can require or forbid a heart lead from North (which frees the ☐A from MPC requirements), or let North lead normally. But, with multiple MPCs, West gets to designate which gets played when any could - L51A.

So "require or forbid" makes no sense here...

No matter what she decides, whenever North has to play, declarer can choose the card played (if legal) from the cards left on the table. Whenever South is on lead, declarer may require any suit lead which North still has on the table, or refuse any suit or suits led (which North still has on the table), at the cost of having all cards in the designated suit or suits freed from MPC status (L51).

So, let's see: West can play the hand double-dummy, as she knows where all the cards are, and can play 39 of them...Well, for the life of me, I can't see how to avoid three losers, assuming South plays correctly - but we don't assign a score, we let it get played out.

Were I West, I'd lead the ☐Q. When South gets in, force a club lead, and use the ☐A and ☐J as entries to score three club tricks and a ruff to go with the other 5 diamond tricks and the spade.

Hmm...There's that evil L50A clause added in the 1997 revision about UI associated with MPCs (and I hope it goes away with the next revision - it **always** boggles the players when I drag it out). The fact that North has four clubs is apparent from the table, but "the requirement that offender must play the card is authorized information for his partner; however, other information arising from facing of the penalty card is unauthorized for partner" - and that includes the distribution of the hand. Somehow I don't think that playing the CK on the first round of clubs, no matter where that first round comes from, can possibly be the right play without knowledge of the distribution, so I don't think we can give West the contract on use of UI grounds. So the table score (whatever it turns out to be) stands.

I originally wrote that I would refuse a heart lead T1 before pulling the ☐Q - as I didn't want to have south be forced to play the ☐A trick 2. Turns out I don't have to do that - L50D states (in part) that "The obligation to ... comply with a lead or play penalty[,] takes precedence over the obligation to play a major penalty card" - so I can force the club lead even with the ☐A on the table.

Michael.

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: whole hand exposed (04:22:15 TueMay 6 2003)

How West plays the hand is up to West - it's not part of the TD's ruling.

And no, it doesn't matter what score EW were going to get unless there's some reason for the TD to adjust the score - which doesn't seem to be the case here.

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al.ohana

pass out of rotation (13:34:43 MonMay 5 2003)

[Reply](#)

Country: FRANCE

Hi all

North opens 1S, East doubles, South bids 3S, and before W bids, N,E and S pass. Now West says" hé, I have not yet declared" Director !

What should the ruling be ?

Law 29A says : when LHO declares after a declaration OOR, the right to penalise is lost. So here N plays 3S

Law 34 says : when a declaration is followed by three passes, the auction is not finished if one of these passes is made OOR : the player who has lost his turn is allowed to bid and the passes are cancelled without penalty. So here W and E can bid

Many thanks in advance

Best regards

Al. Ohana

jnichols

Re: pass out of rotation (17:53:26 MonMay 5 2003)



6 posts
bridgetalk member



[Reply](#)

Country: USA

Both laws apply

The right to penalize is lost (the pass OOR was accepted)

However, West still gets a turn to call.

The three passes are cancelled and it is Wests turn to call. There is no penalty.

John Nichols

Northside Bridge Center

Indianapolis, IN, USA

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pbleighton



103 posts
bridgetalk member



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Transfers Which Are Not Game Forcing (21:00:07

FriMay 2 2003)

Country: USA

When using a 2/1 response as a transfer not forcing to game, i.e. 1S-2C is a transfer to diamonds, my reading is that it is Midchart legal:

"Any call that promises four or more cards in a known suit"

but not GCC legal. If it were game forcing, it would be GCC legal.

The only way a transfer which is not forcing to game is GCC legal is if it is a response to either: 1) a notrump of at least 10 hcp with a range of no more than 5 hcp; or 2) an artificial (1C or 1D) bid which promises at least 15+ hcp.

Am I right (I hope I'm not)?

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

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Re: Transfers Which Are Not Game Forcing (

21:40:56 FriMay 2 2003)

Looks to me like you're right. Sorry about that. 

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pbleighton



103 posts
bridgetalk member



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Weak Balanced Diamond Opening (02:19:31

ThuMay 1 2003)

Country: U.S.

Would the following 1D opening be GCC legal:
8-11 hcp, balanced or 5422, 3+ diamonds.
GCC says 8 hcp OK, but 8 hcp and a 4333
shape is only 15 for purposes of the Rule Of 18.
Which governs?
If the Rule Of 18 governs, and the opening
is illegal, would opening a 10 hcp 4333 also
be illegal in a 10+ artificail 1 club opening?

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

[Reply](#)

Re: Weak Balanced Diamond Opening (11:43:13

ThuMay 1 2003)

Unless I have got confused somewhere, the ACBL have not used
"Opening Points" {the Rule of 18, for example} for many years, so
whether something is Rule of 18 is irrelevant.

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Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



[Reply](#)

Re: Weak Balanced Diamond Opening (19:05:27

ThuMay 1 2003)

Country: Canada

Quote: pbleighton

Would the following 1D opening be
GCC legal:
8-11 hcp, balanced or 5422, 3+
diamonds.

- The ACBL has exercised its right under L40D to ban one
level openings with fewer than 8 HCP (ok, so its conversion

from "a king below average" to "7HCP" is arguable, but you're not going to get much sympathy from anyone).

- Apart from the above, any natural 1 opening is legal, as is any other meaning provided the call guarantees 10 HCP.
- While 3 diamonds is considered "natural" for a 1 call, adding on the restrictions that the hand must be balanced and so very limited in strength makes this arguably "artificial". I am sure that somebody will make this argument, which if they were successful would make it illegal, as it does not guarantee 10 HCP.
- If, however, 1 was "natural with diamonds (I would guess 4+ here, given my guesses as to the rest of the system) or 8-11 balanced or 5422, 3+ ", you are more likely to be ok, especially in the context of a light opening system, where you open most 8 counts, not just the balanced ones.
- If this is not judged GCC legal, it won't be Mid-chart legal, either.

I guess what I'm saying is "maybe, depending on what the rest of the system looks like, what the directors at the table think, and how nice a person you are." I will warn you that when you reach the boundaries of the GCC, many players and some TDs will be looking for ways to rule you over the edge, and the line between "natural" and "artificial" (and "conventional" and "non-conventional" - those two pairs, especially when connected to the GCC, are not quite equivalent)

David is, of course, correct that we in the ACBL, with all our faults, do not use the concept of "opening points" - at least, not in our regulations. We use the more-useful hand evaluation tool of Work-count HCP, because adding three numbers is too complicated for most of the ACBL members. (this is a joke, friends).

I would strongly suggest you send a more detailed system summary to tournaments@acbl.org and see what they say.

Michael.

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Guest

Two questions about dummy (13:17:53 WedApr 23 2003)

Reply

Country: UK

Question 1:

I am trying to encourage correct practice in my club by calling the director every time a defender immediately corrects a revoke. It is common practice for players to revoke, mutter an apology and follow suit, leaving the card erroneously played on the table as a "penalty card" (no options for the non-offenders or restrictions on the offenders ever see the light of day).

If this happens when I am dummy, can I call the director, or does this count as calling attention to an irregularity?

Question 2:

The laws allow dummy to keep track of tricks won or lost, but not to interfere with play. Someone asked me last night: If declarer notices a discrepancy between the tricks he has recorded as won and those recorded by dummy, is he allowed to question dummy?

I made it clear that dummy may certainly not draw attention to any such discrepancy, nor may he try to help declarer recall any aspects of the preceeding play (e.g. "You lost the third trick when you finessed the spade, remember?")

My inclination is to disallow even such neutral questions from declarer to dummy as: "Are you sure you've pointed your cards correctly?"

What do you think?

James

AlanQ

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (17:17:46 WedApr 23 2003)

Q1 Good luck to you in trying to encourage correct practice. Players do what you describe, I suppose, because they think they know the law and don't want to bother the director (usually because he is playing at another table, but possibly also because they think it looks like making a big issue of the infraction). David will point out, quite correctly, that they don't actually have an option of dealing with the infraction themselves since the laws state that the director must be called.

My own pet hate in this area is when declarer accidentally leads from the wrong hand. What normally happens here is that dummy points this out (which, of course, he is not entitled to) and then declarer leads instead from the right hand without any suggestion that a defender may wish to accept the lead out of turn. In a recent national competition (in England) I followed suit after dummy had pointed out that declarer should not have led from dummy, since I wanted to accept the lead. No doubt I was also at fault for not calling the director before doing this, but I was shocked when a director was called and said that because dummy had already pointed out the lead was from the wrong hand declarer had to lead from his own hand instead and my card became a penalty card!

Q2 My suggestion to declarer if he notices a discrepancy would be to ask the defenders how many tricks each side had taken rather than to ask dummy.

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (18:21:16 WedApr 23 2003)

1. I would say that changing the card played calls attention to the irregularity. That having happened, it is **required** of all players, including dummy, that they call the director [L9B1(a) and (b)].

2. Nothing in the laws, as far as I can see, prohibits declarer from asking these questions. However, dummy is not permitted to answer [L43A1(c)].

Alan: IMO, your director in that instance was in error.

WileyKat

Re: Two questions about dummy (13:44:32 ThuApr 24 2003)

Reply

Country: UK

AlanQ - It's my understanding that Dummy is allowed to prevent dealer from committing an irregularity (42B1). That would include indicating which hand the lead was in, refusing to place a card in the played position when that would result in the committing of an irregularity (a revoke or a lead out of turn)...

Of course, if declarer has already faced the card from his own hand, then the irregularity has already occurred.

Is my understanding correct?

AlanQ

Re: Two questions about dummy (14:19:33 ThuApr 24 2003)

Reply

Quote: WileyKat

It's my understanding that Dummy is allowed to prevent dealer from committing an irregularity (42B1). That would include indicating which hand the lead was in, refusing to place a card in the played position when that would result in the committing of an irregularity (a revoke or a lead out of turn)... Of course, if declarer has already faced the card from his own hand, then the irregularity has already occurred.
Is my understanding correct?

A recent discussion on this board implied that the permission for dummy to prevent dealer from committing an irregularity allows him to stop declarer naming a card from dummy if, for example, declarer points to dummy and opens his mouth to speak. But a card is legally played from dummy once named, so it's too late to prevent an irregularity once declarer names a card, and dummy should then do nothing to draw attention to the irregularity.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (00:49:20 FriApr 25 2003)

No-one, dummy or not, is allowed to point out that another player has a card pointing the wrong way.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

JimO



175 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (03:16:28 TueApr 29 2003)

Country: USA

Regarding a trick turned the wrong way:

I have answered this in several forums. The ACBL Laws Commission decided in Toronto in 1992 (See the Tech Files) that:

Dummy should never point out that another player has a trick turned the wrong way.

Defenders should not do so. Declarer can pretty much say what he likes.

If a player who has won the last trick has the trick turned wrong, and likely does not realize he has won the trick, it is acceptable to inform him that it is his lead.

-Jim O'Neil
Oak Park, IL

JimO



175 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (03:20:09 TueApr 29 2003)

Country: USA

Please call the Director when there is an irregularity - especially a corrected revoke. (And an insufficient bid, too).

Yes, the card becomes a major penalty card - but that's not all, folks. There can be lead penalties. Don't demand a lead penalty after the offender's partner has gained won a trick and led to the next.

Players too often make their own rulings, and don't make the complete ruling.

-Jim O'Neil
Oak Park, IL

guest

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (04:18:28 WedApr 30 2003)

Could someone please explain why the laws are framed to forbid players pointing out that cards are pointing the wrong way? I know it's the law but I'm wondering what the law-makers saw as a problem - assuming it is not accompanied by any comment as to why the trick is the wrong way.

Frances Hinden

Reply

Re: Two questions about dummy (12:12:45 WedApr 30 2003)

Country: UK

Situation 1:

Declarer is in 4S and has lost three tricks. Defender 1 is on lead, but has a card pointed the wrong way and thinks the defence have only taken two tricks. Defender 1 is just about to underlead an ace to try and give declarer a chance to mis-guess and go off, when defender 2 says 'you have a card wrong partner'. Defender 1 cashes the ace.

Situation 2:

Declarer is in 4S and has lost two tricks. At trick 12 he leads

towards an AQ in the dummy. Declarer has a card the wrong way and thinks he has lost three tricks. He is about to take a finesse into the now singleton king and go two off when dummy says 'you have a card wrong partner'. Declarer now puts the ace up to ensure the contract.

James Vickers

Re: Two questions about dummy (12:16:29 WedApr 30 2003)

Reply

Country: UK

Hi "Guest". The reason for the rule is to prevent illegal communication between partners. For instance, one defender may see that they are in a position to cash out and defeat the contract, but may notice that partner thinks they have taken one trick fewer and is looking for a clever way of winning the setting trick. They may not remind partner of the state of play by drawing attention to the mistake.

Likewise declarer must be given a chance to go wrong if they have miscounted the tricks taken, and may not be corrected by dummy.

James

bluejak

Re: Two questions about dummy (12:53:06 WedApr 30 2003)



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

James and Frances have explained excellently what abuse the WBF Laws Commission was trying to control when they changed the Laws to stop players pointing out tricks wrong.

But I do believe the WBFLC got it wrong. While there are the dangers James and Frances mention later in the hand it is difficult to see any possible abuse from a player immediately pointing out when someone has got it wrong.

I have written ot the WBFLC suggesting that any player may point out a card is turned the wrong way until both sides have played to the next trick. In my view that will control the abuse but will also deal with the very common situation where someone gets a card wrong and others { not necessarily partner} wish to correct him. I believe this will reduce arguments.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

James Vickers

Re: Two questions about dummy (17:33:39 ThuMay
1 2003)

Reply

Country: UK

The law refers to "quitted tricks", and a trick becomes "quitted" when all four cards have been played and turned face down. I certainly don't take issue with anyone drawing an attention to a wrongly pointed trick the moment the cards have been turned over (although strictly speaking I should), but once play to the next trick has started I enforce the rules. I could also live with David's solution.

James

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Val

Total Members: **395**, Newest Member: **FrancesHinden**.

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olddude909



65 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

legal 1nt opener? (19:12:54 MonApr 28 2003)

In my billiionth attempt to construct a big club/4 card major system with which I am happy, I'm currently fantasizing about a system like this:

1c: strong

2x: 11-15 hcps, 6+ long.

1M=4-5 long, no 6 card suit anywhere in hand UNLESS opener is strong enough to jump rebid his own suit (max hand/max suit)

1nt: 11-15 hcps, must be balanced and must have 4-5 spades. Now

2c asks for size/shape, and the answers are 2d=not 5 spades/not 4 hearts; 2h=4-4 majors; 2s=5S332

1d: everything else

My question is, would this 1nt opening bid be legal?

FWIW, I'm a us/na player.

Thanks,

HenryS

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: legal 1nt opener? (19:58:25 MonApr 28 2003)

Quote: HenryS

1nt: 11-15 hcps, must be balanced and must have 4-5 spades. Now 2c asks for size/shape, and the answers are 2d=not 5 spades/not 4 hearts; 2h=4-4 majors; 2s=5S332

From the Definitions of the GCC:

Quote: ACBL GCC

A notrump opening or overcall is natural if not unbalanced (generally, no singleton or void and only one or two doubletons).

It doesn't seem to say that you aren't allowed to make restrictive

treatments - which is what your guaranteed 4 ☐ is. Nor do the "can't use conventions" restrictions apply - provided you do not cheat the HCP!

For exactly the same reason you can't play 10-12 and open 1NT with KQT9 KJT9 T97 T8, you can't play this and open KQT9 KQT9 T97 T8 1NT - or, at least, "if you both consider this appropriate, or if you have significant experience thinking that one of you considers it appropriate for a 11-15 1NT, you have more than a 5 HCP range, and can't use any conventions after". Better not open 1NT with T9754 Q32 AK2 AK, either.

You might be interested in Colin Ward's **Valentines' 1NT opener** - it guarantees 4=3, 4=4, or 5=3(32) in the majors, but should have some ideas. That part of Valentines is GCC legal - the relay aspects of it, of course are a different story altogether :-)

I am not an ACBL employee, but I don't see any difference between "could be 5M332" or "can not be 5332 any" and "guarantees 4 spades".

Michael.

[edited to clarify "relay aspects" statement]

[1 edits; Last edit by mycroft at 18:23:11 Wed Apr 30 2003]

ne_trepide

Re: legal 1nt opener? (09:49:05 TueApr 29 2003)

Reply

australia

the question as to the shape required for any opening hand introduces "opening points" into the system.

a 1nt opener **MUST** be balanced and contain 18 opening points, where the definition of opening points is the sum of your high card points and the cards in your 2 longest suits.

legally you cannot open 1nt with a 4443 shape with fewer than 10 hcps.

with a 5332 the same hcps are required.

an exception to this rule is permitted whereby you may open 1nt with an unbalanced hand provided you hold 25 opening points.

this means that a shape of 6331 and 16 hcps is ok and so

on.....

you may deviate from this but to do so you may create an implied agreement that may require alerting of the 1nt bid.

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: legal 1nt opener? (16:54:26 TueApr 29 2003)

ne_trepide: He did say he was a US player, though the rules for Australia do make an interesting contrast.

HenryS: as you can see, FWIW is **a lot**. BTW, I'd probably Alert this 1NT opener - it's almost certainly a "highly unusual or unexpected" treatment. A side bonus is that if you Alert it, you **will** get an official ruling within a session or two - somebody's going to call the TD with an "is this legal?" query!

I wonder if this should have been moved into the "Laws and Rulings" forum.
Michael.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: legal 1nt opener? (12:43:47 WedApr 30 2003)

Someone has now moved this query into the IBLF. Here we always ask people to accompany their queries with the country they play in {or put 'Online' if that is where they are asking about}. This question is an excellent example of why - the answers are vastly different from country to country.

Fortunately the questioner did say he was in the USA. So the rules in Australia, England, and everywhere else do not apply. What you may play is a matter for the sponsoring organisation. In many cases the national organisation say what may be played not just in their own events but any events run under license from them, which basically means that ACBL rules apply in 90%+ of all events in North America.


I personally did not answer the original question because Michael's answer seemed to me to cover all bases.



David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

Cory7 posts
bridgetalk member**Reply****Taking Advantage** (02:58:13 MonMar 24 2003)

This happened many years ago, after I'd just joined a popular club in my area.

My partner and I were playing against probably one of the top players in the country (at that time) and one of his favorite partners.

This top player was on my right and had dealt. I had a huge hand and in my excitement, opened 2  out of turn. Of course the director was called and the ruling was explained to me. If my RHO passed, there'd be no penalty as long as I repeated my original call. If RHO bid however, there would be a penalty according to whether I repeated my call, or changed it to something else.

Imagine my consternation when RHO opened 1 ! Since my original call of 2  would not be appropriate for my hand (and my partner would have to pass it anyway), I had to change my call, knowing my pard would be barred from bidding altogether. So, hoping for the best, I bid 3NT.

This turned out badly, as my partner had a long, weak suit and our correct contract was 4 . 3NT went down on a club lead and we got a bottom board.

When we opened up the traveller, I discovered that RHO had bid on nothing but KQJxx of clubs! Obviously without my bid out of turn, he would have passed.

Now I KNOW he could have psyched (except that this player normally never psyched), but LHO thought sufficiently badly of his pard's behavior to seek me out after the session was over and apologise.

I was too intimidated by both the player and the situation to do anything about this at the time, but am wondering now, years later, whether I could have, and what the panel's opinion of this incident is.

JimO



175 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (05:13:22 MonMar 24 2003)

There is nothing wrong with RHO's action.

Law 72A4:

When these Laws provide the innocent side with an option after an irregularity committed by an opponent, it is appropriate to select that action most advantageous.

You got a bottom board because you bid out of rotation.

-Jim O'Neil
Oak Park, IL

player



80 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (06:21:56 MonMar 24 2003)

I would have done the same thing. If the expert had revoked, would you not have taken the penalty?

NZGuy



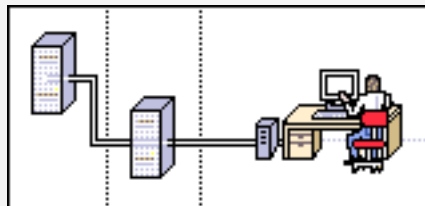
54 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (10:26:54 MonMar 24 2003)

Revoking is one thing, and it has to be penalised, because it can affect the result of the hand. But in this case, if I was the opponent in a situation like this (and I often have been), I wouldn't psych a bid if I had a clear-cut pass. It may be bridge, but it's certainly not cricket! What ever happened to good sportmanship - did we lose it at the turn of the century?



bluejak




434 posts
Forum Host

Reply


Re: Taking Advantage (12:15:59 MonMar 24 2003)

There is a distinction between a player's ethical responsibility as laid down by the Laws and other official commentary, and what I call "personal ethics" which are based on a players' own views, and those of his friends.

A player is required to follow the official line on ethics. However, "personal ethics" are for the player himself, and he has no right to insist that other people, who may disagree with his views, should follow them.

It is not unsportsmanlike to open 1  in the circumstances described. The authorities do not say so, the Law book does not say so, and many many players would consider it a normal action.

To be unsportsmanlike it has to be at the very least against the normal accepted mores - and other replies in this thread show that is not the case.

So I respect that you would not open 1 , but it is not unsportsmanlike to do so.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

HenryS

Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (20:20:59 MonMar 24 2003)

Country: US

Quote: NZGuy at 10:26:54 Mon Mar 24 2003

Revoking is one thing, and it has to be penalised, because it can affect the result of the hand. But in this case, if I was the opponent in a situation like this (and I often have been), I wouldn't psych a bid if I had a clear-cut pass. It may be bridge, but it's certainly not cricket! What ever happened to good sportmanship - did we lose it at the turn of the century?

One of the things I miss most after Edgar Kaplan's passing is the style and elegance of the Bridge World's editorials. During the 1970s, Kaplan raised the question of sportmanlike dumping and, indirectly, the very question you raise. In his view - and in mine, although mine is of far less weight than his - it is entirely legal to pursue one's own advantage under the laws as long as the participant does not cheat.

Your bid out of turn created a situation in which he could generate a good board for himself by opening 1c. (I note, incidentally, that in England KQJxx and out of clubs would be an entirely acceptable 3c opening bid by some, at least to judge by Mould's book on preempts.) He took advantage of your error to increase his chance of scoring well. There is nothing wrong with that.

Mechanical errors happen all the time in sports. In baseball, baserunners get picked off because they break for a base too soon. In american football, safeties and cornerbacks get faked out. A boxer might drop his guard for a brief moment because he is distracted.

There is nothing wrong, in any of these sports, with taking advantage of an opponents mechanical error. To accuse or suspect someone of malfeasance on this basis would be wrong.

Kaplan finished this particular editorial with a story about a revoke that had been forgiven against a pair (by his description, I suspect it was Becker-Hayden, but I'm not sure). Turns out that by forgiving the revoke, the pair in question won the championship. Had the revoke penalty been enforced, the 2nd place pair would have won. In Kaplan's words, they were justly furious. "They didn't want to lose [the tournament] that way [a competitor's error being

forgiven]."

Cory



7 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (22:22:41 MonMar 24 2003)

I have to admit I'm surprised by everyone's comments - at the time this happened, about 20+ years ago, my friends all thought the action was well out of order. And like I say, LHO took the trouble to even apologise to me - what does that tell you?

Maybe the Laws uphold this action, but I'm very uneasy about it.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (00:04:16 TueMar 25 2003)

It tells me that LHO's "personal ethics" and RHO's "personal ethics" were not the same, which is normal enough.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (00:07:26 TueMar 25 2003)

It tells me that LHO's "personal ethics" and RHO's "personal ethics" were not the same, which is normal enough.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

tigerboy47 posts
bridgetalk member**Reply****Re: Taking Advantage** (23:29:09 TueMar 25 2003)**Country:** New Zealand

This situation seems to permit more than one opinion as to the most acceptable procedure. If I, as an experienced player, were confronted by a couple of comparative beginners in an event of little consequence, I would probably pass and let them get on with it unhindered. However in a tournament of any consequence against players of the experience one would expect in the circumstances, I would consider my parameters to be somewhat different, and would do as the original player did. You commit an irregularity and you pay the penalty.

Guest**Reply****Re: Taking Advantage** (15:01:29 FriApr 25 2003)

Reminds me of a situation that occurred last year. Playing against a pair who reliably fail to alert or alert late. Partner opened 1NT and RHO bid 2C. I held a ropey heap with a diamond suit. No alert from LHO, but I knew one was coming so I bid 2D. The alert duly arrived I asked the meaning and changed my call to pass as allowed in the rules. Bidding now gets back to partner who squirms (he didn't know the rules as well as I) is the information authorised or not? After consulting the director he eventually bid 3D and was allowed to play there for a good score. I took advantage of the situation by playing the rules that I knew would let me get the best out of the situation. The opponents could have easily stymied me by having their alert card ready.

More than 50% of the time if partner is going to bid over opponents 1NT it is going to be conventional so if you see partner reaching for the bidding box get the alert card ready. I play a system full of conventions (strong club, 5 card majors, three weak two's) and so am always ready to alert partners bid, double or even pass. Not sure I would bid 1C in front

Guest**Re: Taking Advantage** (17:00:02 FriApr 25 2003)**Reply**

I think that deliberately taking advantage of a late alert in this way is probably against the spirit of L21B1 (not that that counts for much). It is intended to provide redress for players who have been genuinely misled by the opponents, not to provide a free bid for those who know darned nicely what the call means.

That said, I'm not much in favour of directors deciding what rules were intended to mean, and I can't see that this contravenes the letter of the law (one could argue that the failure to alert misinformed them, even though they were properly informed from convention card, previous auctions, whatever), so I'd probably uphold it. And I also think that consistent, careless late alerts are intensely irritating, so "Guest" has my sympathy.

As an addendum, I am also irritated by players who try to take advantage of an occasional, forgivable late alert by LHO by removing their last bidding card from the table before requesting an explanation, and then either replacing the card or trying to change their call, as if the laws permit them to do this without recourse to the tournament director.

James

olddude909**Re: Taking Advantage** (17:45:08 FriApr 25 2003)

65 posts
bridgetalk member

**Reply**

Country: US

Quote: Guest (Unregistered) at 15:01:29 Fri Apr 25 2003

Reminds me of a situation that occurred last year. Playing against a pair who reliably fail to alert or alert late. Partner opened 1NT and RHO bid 2C. I held a ropey heap with a diamond suit. No alert from LHO, but I knew one was coming so I bid 2D. [snip] I took advantage of the situation by playing the rules that I knew would let me get the best out of the situation. The opponents could have easily stymied me by having their alert card ready.

Personally, I have no problem with this strategy as long as you give your LHO time to "play" the alert card. I would consider this severely unethical if your 2d call was made in the same motion as your RHO's 2c call, because I would consider that an attempt to create a favorable situation instead of merely taking advantage of a favorable situation.

So, for what it's worth - not much, I'm sure - as long as you waited a moment or two and otherwise made your 2d bid in tempo, you're fine in my book.

HenryS

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Taking Advantage (00:55:22 MonApr 28 2003)

This ploy of changing your call when LHO alerts late does depend on following the Laws, and the description here suggests the Laws were not followed.

You are not allowed to change your call without the TD's permission. The way I read it you did not call the TD at that time so your change of call was illegal.

The TD will determine whether the alert was really late or whether your call was rushed: if the latter he will not allow a change.

Next is the fact that you may only change your call if it is was because you were misinformed. But you say that you were merely trying to take advantage of your perception of the rules: that's not the same thing at all.

So your ploy is just illegal. The TD should have adjusted the board back, and warned you for giving rulings at your own table.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

James Vickers

Re: Taking Advantage (13:28:32 MonApr 28 2003)

Reply

Country: UK

L21B1 talks about allowing a player to change their call "where it is probable that he made the call as a result of misinformation". Now "Guest" could argue that with an alert he would not have bid 2D, so his 2D bid was strictly speaking a result of the misinformation (failure to alert), i.e. it wouldn't have been made had there been an alert. This is a horrible example of sophistry (something I normally leave to others), but ruling against a player who has contravened no law leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

(Of course David is right that only the Director may allow the correction of a call.)

James

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Val

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Andrea

Reply

IMPs correction (09:54:59 MonApr 28 2003)

Country: Italy

Hi all,

I have some trouble to undertand the way to correct the split scores and the penalties playing IMPs.

for example:

Team A has 23 IPMs and team B has 6 IMPs without two boards.

In the first of them the TD has asigned a split:

open room Team A: -140

open room Team B: 200

Close room: team A: -140

On the second board the TD has asigned a Adj. score to team A of the 60 % and Team B of 50 %. On the close room the result was: -140 for Team A.

Please, help me


bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: IMPs correction (16:22:28 MonApr 28 2003)

Assuming I have understood what has happened { if I am wrong correct me and I shall try again  }

On the first board:

Team A: -140 -140 = -280 = -7 imps

Team B: +200 +140 = +340 = +8 imps

On the second board:

Team A: Average plus = +3 imps

Team B: Average = 0 imps

Note that the score in the other room is ignored once the Director gives Average and Average Plus. That is why it is far better to assign real scores, and a Director should always do so if the board was played at all. I assume here the board was unable to be played.

Now, there are two possibilities. Either this knockout teams, or it is some other teams like a congress round robin or a league.

First, assume it is **not** knockout teams

Team A scored $+23 -6 -7 +3 = +13$

Team B scored $-23 +6 +8 +0 = -9$

It does not matter that these two scores do not agree. That is never necessary except in knockout teams, so now let us assume **it is** knockout teams.

In knockout teams you average the scores on each board if they are different. So the first board is scored as

$(-7 -8)/2$ for Team A, ie -7.5 imps.

The second board is scored as

$(+3 +0)/2$ for Team A, ie $+1.5$ imps.

In each case Team B gets the reverse.

So if this was knockout,

Team A scored $+23 -6 -7.5 +1.5 = +11$

So Team A beat Team B by 11 imps.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>

Liverpool, England, UK

http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

Krissy

Can declarer change his card? (13:37:54 SatApr 26 2003)

Reply



Can anybody help me with a problem that we came up with our club.

East played a spade, south played a spade from Dummy, north played a Jack of Spades before West placed queen of spades. North was Declarer he had second thoughts and wanted to play a winning ace instead of the Jack, Can you tell me in your opinion was that legal?

Any Thoughts?

Krissy

Ed

Re: Advice Please If you Can (22:02:15 SatApr 26 2003)



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

There's no law against **wanting** to correct your error. 

Interestingly enough, the laws don't seem to directly address a POOT by the declaring side. However, Law 45C2 says "Declarer must play a card from his hand held face up, touching or nearly touching the table, or maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played." So Declarer's Jack is certainly a played card. Can he change it? I don't think so. 47B speaks of changing an illegal play, but the play of the SJ is a legal play, albeit out of turn. I can't see anything else that would allow a change.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Advice Please If you Can (01:02:29 MonApr 28 2003)

The card was played, which means it may not be changed.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

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**Frances
Hinden**

Reply

Licensed in the EBU? (09:09:48 WedApr 23 2003)

Country: England

Our county magazine recently had an article on 'diabolical two-bids' where, NV, you open every hand of 0-7 HCP with 2 of its longest suit (or higher with a normal pre-empt). So xxxx xxx xxx xxx is a 2S opening, though xxxxx xx xx KQJ10 is a 2C opening for the lead. A pass shows 8-11 HCP (and is of course alertable).

The author claimed that this approach is licensed at level 2. I couldn't find anything in the Orange book to contradict him, but this type of destructive approach seems rather against the spirit of level 2 (and level 3). The author also mentions that you would play a different set of two-bids vulnerable, but I assume this wouldn't then count as a different system.

For level 3+ he suggests playing 1NT as the strong opening bid. If 1NT is not the strong opening bid vulnerable, I assume you would then argue that this is in fact two different systems and hence not licensed.

Any comments?

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (18:06:34 WedApr 23 2003)

I'm not sure, but...

It seems to me OB12.6.3(a) specifically allows the 2-bids. However, I can find nothing that allows the conventional pass. Unfortunately, I can't find anything corresponding to the ACBL's "if it's not specifically allowed, it is disallowed" statement. So I'm not sure if the pass is allowed or not.

At level 2+, you are allowed to vary according to vulnerability the range of a **natural** 1NT opening. At level 3+, you are allowed to assign an artificial meaning to the bid, but as it is not natural, you can't vary the range. So is this 1NT natural?

**Frances
Hinden**

Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (18:18:25 WedApr 23 2003)

I think the idea is that 1NT is artificial and strong (as you have removed all the strong 2-bids from the system) NV, but natural V. You clearly can't do that at L2.

I was also interested to find nothing about conventional passes. It seems that if I want to, I could play a system like this at level 2:

1NT = 0-10 balanced (with no conventional continuations)

2C/D/H/S = nat, 5+ cards, 0-10

Pass = 11-14 balanced

1C = nat or 15+ balanced

1D = 4+ cards, 11+

1H/1S = 5+ cards, 11+

I'm not suggesting it has any bridge merit, but I thinking I'm missing something in the regs if this is licensed!

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (18:25:46 WedApr 23 2003)

Quote: Frances Hinden at 18:18:25 Wed Apr 23 2003

I think the idea is that 1NT is artificial and strong (as you have removed all the strong 2-bids from the system) NV, but natural V. You clearly can't do that at L2.

The suggestion was to do it at L3, but I don't think it's legal there, either.

RMB



19 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (10:29:33 ThuApr 24 2003)

Country: England

Frances suggests playing 1NT = 0-10 balanced with no conventions.

If you had asked last week, I wouldn't have known. But one of the U19 pairs tried playing this last weekend. Mike Amos thought it wasn't permitted and eventually found this (in the Orange Book):

7.4 Law book options

7.4.1 Certain Laws have Zonal options. European Zone options are: Law 12C3 applies, so an Appeals Committee may vary an assigned adjusted score in order to achieve equity.

Law 18F authorises such methods as Bidding Boxes and Silent Bidders.

Law 40D has been delegated by the Zone. The EBU does not allow opening 1-bids on such hands (typically 7HCP or weaker) except in some cases at Level 5.

Law 61B applies in full, so defenders may not ask each other whether they have any cards left of the suit led.

Law 93 allows the possibilities of differing methods of appeals and thus permits special methods to deal with special cases.

So, as well as the permissions in sections 11, 12, & 13, no opening 1-bid (including 1NT) can be made on hand a king or more below opening strength.

Robin

bluejak




434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (00:10:09 FriApr 25 2003)

As mentioned in another thread, we have not "licensed" anything since 1998. Conventions are now "permitted" {or not}.

Most of your questions have been answered. I would not dream of mentioning how Mike Amos found what he did but I doubt he would have if mobile phones {cellphones} had not been invented! 

We do not feel we need a regulation that if not allowed it is disallowed. We have a list of permitted conventions and anything not on the list needs no further comment to be disallowed. So pass showing values is not permitted.

To play an artificial 1NT opening at one vulnerability but not another is to play two separate systems, only permitted at Level 4 in seven-board or longer stanzas.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

ulfacs



1 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Licensed in the EBU? (13:25:27 FriApr 25 2003)

Country: UK

Mike probably remembered the first time this came up which was about 4 years ago when myself and partner played at the Bournemouth Spring Pairs. We were playing 0-14 3rd in hand 1NT. None of the directors corrected our system although there were plenty of calls by our opponents and Mike was involved in several of these. It wasn't until several weeks later that we recieved a letter advising that zonal requirements made this treatment illegal.

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**Frances
Hinden**

Reply

Multi licensing in the EBU (09:13:11 WedApr 23 2003)

Country: England

As I was reading the Orange book last night (sad woman that I am), I observed that at level 3 the multi may not be treated in any way. Looking at the definition of a treatment, this includes restricting a particular hand-type so that it is less common than the original definition.

Although I thought this restriction was aimed at the weak option in the multi, it seems to mean that you cannot play any of the following strong options:

20-21 balanced without a 5-card suit/without a 4-card major

Acol 2 in a minor with a solid suit

Acol 2 in a minor without a second suit

19+ 4441 without a singleton honour

etc etc

As I've seen most of these at various times, have I misunderstood?

AlanW

Reply

Re: Multi licensing in the EBU (11:23:29 WedApr 23 2003)

An interesting point, which I think the re-drafters of the Orange Book might look at - I cannot believe it is the intention to rule out limitations of this sort, provided the stipulation that at least one of the strong options must be of reasonably frequency is adhered to.

And what about defining the suits for the option of an Acol 2 within the multi? The Orange Book says 'the suit need not be specified', which presumably means one option in the multi could be an Acol 2 in any suit, rather than restricting the option to an Acol 2 in, say, diamonds. But what about specifying one of two suits, eg an Acol 2 in either minor? This is surely the commonest form of Acol 2's in the multi. Again, I'm sure this is not supposed to be excluded, but the wording perhaps isn't all that clear.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Multi licensing in the EBU (23:21:27 ThuApr 24 2003)

It is often very difficult to get wording exactly right, and you are the first people to challenge it. Note how I resisted the temptation to suggest someone gets a life.

Technically I am sure you are both right, but it means what you expect it to mean: you may not change the range of the weak twos, or only play one major, or play no strong options, or play three or four strong options. But you may certainly play the strong options in all the ways suggested.

However, I can be picky too! The word licensing has not been in use as far as allowing conventions since 1998.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

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pbleighton



103 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

What Is Legal In GCC (20:20:19 FriApr 18 2003)

Country: U.S.

I have been playing online bridge, and am about to start face to face bridge at one of the local clubs. I have read the GCC and the midchart, and find them vague, to my inexperienced eyes. Please tell me if the following are legal in the GCC (and if not, in the Mid-Chart):

- 1) Ekren 2D and 2H - both majors - (44 and/or 54 versions). Can you use 2D as showing diamonds and hearts, and 2H as hearts and spades?
- 2) Transfer positives in strong club systems.
- 3) Relays after a strong club opening, where the responder's response is natural and/or a transfer, and the opener can start a relay with his first rebid.
- 4) 1NT forcing after 1 of a major, where the response can show either a weak response, or game forcing values, which will be clarified by the responder's rebid.

Would any of the above questions be given different answers by different tournament directors?

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: What Is Legal In GCC (06:01:17 SatApr 19 2003)

1. Ekrens bids, as I understand them, are weak, so not allowed on the GCC. Nor on the Mid-Chart, since there's no defence for them in the database.

2. and 3. are legal on the GCC.

4. is GCC legal - item 2 under responses and rebids.

The answer to your last question, unfortunately, is "probably". Also keep in mind that clubs may make their own regulations - they do not have to use the GCC or any other chart, except for ACBL-wide games (like a STAC, for example). At least two clubs around here seem to have the rule "if it's legal on the GCC, it's legal here, unless the TD decides otherwise," but the rule is not published - at one of those clubs I was once told "you can play anything you like", and then some years later told I could not play a GCC legal convention unless I treated it as a mid-chart convention - **after** my partner and I started playing it.

JimO



175 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: What Is Legal In GCC (15:21:53 SatApr 19 2003)

Country: USA

Allowed on the Mid-Chart:

4. Any call which promises 4 or more cards in a known suit.

-Jim O'Neil
Oak Park, IL

Dan Neill

Reply

Re: What Is Legal In GCC (17:06:57 SatApr 19 2003)

Country: UDA

Currently there is a defense to Ekrens in the database.

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: What Is Legal In GCC (23:54:02 SunApr 20 2003)

Country: Canada

Oh goody - the ACBL is going through another website change; so I can't guarantee that they haven't scrounged up an old copy of the defence database (they're back(?) to two multi-2D defences), but:

Ekrens, like all strange weak openers (ok, 5-xs are GCC legal, provided you open the 5-card suit), is Mid-Chart. However, it is legal under one of the sections that requires a defence in the Defence database (Midchart, Allowed, 4). (I know, others have said this, I'm just putting it all in one spot)

The defence database has an entry for 2H showing hearts and spades, so you can play that. You can not, however, play 2D as hearts and spades, nor as diamonds and hearts unless you promise 5 diamonds. (you can, provided you promise 5 diamonds, play diamonds and a major, though!)

It should, however, be fairly straightforward to adapt the 2H

defence to 2D for the reds and submit it for approval.

In other news (again, others have given this, I'm just collecting and giving the evidence):

Transfer Positives to a Strong 1C are GCC legal, provided 1C promises 15+ (definition of "strong" for the GCC) and are not part of a relay system (1C!-1H!; 1S! starting relays is not "relay system" - see below - but 1C!-1H! starting relays would be). (GCC, Responses, 6, and definition of relay system).

Transfer Positives to a non-Strong 1C (i.e. 14+, or two-way, say 17+ or 11-13 balanced) are also GCC legal provided they are: GF, and not the start of the relays (GCC, Responses, 3).

Relays after a Strong, forcing opening *and a response* are GCC legal - any constructive call starting with opener's rebid is legal (GCC, Responses, 7, and definition of relay system).

1NT, forcing 1 round, weak or GF, is GCC legal; provided "weak" is weaker than invitational ("cannot guarantee invitational values", GCC Responses #2. I don't understand why this restriction is in there, by the way).

As for getting different responses from different directors, unfortunately, 99+ % of the ACBL plays the same system, and most of them play the same (sub-)set of conventions. Therefore, if you do anything different, you will get directors called on them, and they occasionally may, at first, read the chart incorrectly. I've carried around a copy of the GCC sometimes, just in case - I have had directors go away and read the GCC, quite carefully sometimes, and come back with the right answer.

This applies to tournaments, but not necessarily to clubs, as Ed pointed out. Clubs in the ACBL are semi-autonomous, and provided they aren't playing a multi-club game (a STaC, or a Instant Matchpoint Pairs game, or a local qualifier for the GNTs, say) may restrict conventions any way they like. *Most* allow the GCC (perhaps with a couple of restrictions or additions - which they rarely post for visitors :-), and you can't award ACBL masterpoints if your game allows things illegal on the Superchart; but some are very restrictive, or their definition of "too complicated for my pairs" is "I know it when I see it". I would never expect any random ACBL club to allow any Mid-Chart convention (they may have one "local favourite"); they might, especially on a certain night, but don't expect it.

Have fun!

Michael.

player



80 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: What Is Legal In GCC (07:58:59 MonApr 21 2003)

Someone here can probably answer this for me, but what is the big deal with relays? Why are they banned in the States. After all they are used in **constructive** auctions, and are not destructive methods.

To me it seems just a case of banning something with which you are unfamiliar. That is a pathetic philosophy.

mycroft



67 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply



Re: What Is Legal In GCC (20:38:54 MonApr 21 2003)

Country: Canada

This is **very strongly only my own opinion**, even though some of the comments are what I've heard from others. And I'm not subject to many relay systems, not playing internationally, and living in GCC-land :-)

First, remember that it's only a "relay system" to the ACBL if "after an opening of one of a suit, [relays commence] prior to opener's rebid" - i.e. if responder's initial response is a relay. Yes, I know it cuts down on a lot - and whether any of us like it or not, that's the point - but there's no problem playing full relay after a strong Club (I've done it!)

From what I've read, there are three reasons why the ACBL would want to restrict relay systems - some are bridge technical reasons, others are "people reasons" (some are both - making 2+2 equal 3 :-).

- Contracts arrived at by relay systems are inherently difficult to defend against. This is the real "bridge reason". When the opponents get to 6 , and the explanation of the auction is "Dummy has 5314, at least 9 high, with the SA and the CK, I have 16+ any and want to play 6 ", it's just harder to defend than after a standard auction, where you are almost certainly going to know something about the closed hand.

Of course there's a down-side - if it turns out that the relay responder becomes **declarer**, the defence is playing double-dummy from trick 1. A well-designed system will right-side the contract (from the relay point of view, anyway) 90+ % of the time, though...

The ACBL moves to the Mid-Chart those things that they believe to be inherently <-this-> difficult to defend against, for whatever definition of this they feel appropriate. Multi-2D, Transfer 1-level openings, (1NT)-2D without an anchor suit, relay systems...

- Relay systems are slow. Yeah, MOSCITO players will explain that the time they take up in their 7-round relay auctions they buy back with several 1red-2M; P auctions, and it's true; that doesn't mollify the pair that manages to get them for a two-board round with two relay auctions. The MOSCITO pair will catch up - eventually - but the defenders will be playing pairs with "normal" timings for the next rounds.

And many pairs playing relay, especially if they haven't spent the time practicing - RLel, a frequent poster here, has played relays for 20 years, and talks about hundreds of hours **studying and practicing** a new relay system before being ready to take it to the table - take lots of time to remember the responses/work out what partner said he had. They're **slow**. And **those relay pairs** don't catch up, because they take twice as long as they should on **every** relay auction.

Also, defenders of a relay auction are put in an unenviable position, at least in FTF bridge; either they ask about every call, most of which won't make any sense for the first three rounds, anyway, and allowing the relayers to be perfect in their UI - and usually upsetting the relayers, because it makes their auction **even slower**, or they don't bother asking, and don't know what bids they can safely lead-directing double, or sac on, or...with screens, or online - provided the bloody players automatically self-explain, this isn't as much of a problem.

- Relay systems are complicated, and prone to error. Again, this doesn't mean much for those that really **have** practiced their system and know it cold - but every relay player I've talked to has at least one "partner changed the

system, emailed me the changes, but I forgot/we decided not to play it and he forgot/he mailed the wrong draft/..."

I know that opps are upset every time I make a mistake and talk them out of their fit - in a system they understand. They are still upset if I didn't make a mistake and talked them out of their fit (this happens a lot over here playing 4-card Majors!). Imagine 1D!-1H!; 1S!-1NT!; 2H!-...to 4H. The explanation, when asked, is that opener is 4414 with... Opener leads, and dummy comes down with 1444 "oops, he's right, I misbid", and either a diamond is necessary to set, or the spade lead gives away the contract, or 4S is a good sacrifice. The TD is called, system notes are pulled out, it's proven to be a misbid, "it happens, rub of the green, next hand", but the opps are livid.

Yeah, I know, that for every time that happens in the relayers' favour, there are three or four total disasters. But some of those go for an ok score when they get out for 50-a-trick, some of them make on lucky lies of the cards (or mis- or poor defence) or...It is the nature of bridge players (all humans?) that they will remember the one "fix" and forget the three gifts, anyway.

And full relay is *complicated*, no matter what. Those same players that have to think hard before/after every response are going to be the ones who work it out wrong, explain it wrong (or poorly, or incompletely, or frustratedly) and cause most of these problems, and are those that the world sees.

So, basically relay systems are Mid- (or, if not GF, Super-)chart because it's hard to defend against and makes many of the 25 pairs they face every day upset (because *they* have to catch up for their opponents being slow, because they don't understand, because the relayers weren't 100% in their bidding/explanations/demeanour, and at least now that they have been rare in ACBLland for thirty years, because it's "new" and "different" and "they're trying to win by being strange, rather than playing good bridge" (yeah, I know, but I've heard it often enough, playing stuff a lot more familiar than full symmetric relay!)). And like any good carnival operator, if they have the choice of upsetting one pair or 5-a-day, they upset the one pair, especially if the 5-a-day are the backbone of their money-making (and, frankly, it's the cardpushers that fund the ACBL - both with their dollars and those of many of the sharks who only come to the tournaments because

of the easy food available!)

Now, I think they have gone overboard a little - I do see certain places trying to provide *some* non-GCC events for those that should be able to/want to handle them (even as the ACBL simultaneously make the hoops players wishing to use non-GCC conventions more and more difficult to completely satisfy), but I find the fact that 95+ % of the players I see in any ACBL game will be playing some form of SA or 2/1, with a subset of "the usual gadgets" very frustrating, from a "in the game for the future" point of view. Especially when I look at all the Magic and other CCG players, who have no problem dealing with the complexities of over 5000 cards interacting with each other in strange and often broken ways - hey, for most of them, that's the point!

Yep, another overly-long post for a short answer. Sorry.
Michael.

[3 edits; Last edit by mycroft at 20:45:01 Mon Apr 21 2003]

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David Calcutt

Question on director's rulings (16:37:31 MonMar 17 2003)

Reply

Country: England

Two questions on rulings.

1. If as a director you are called to the table because attention is drawn to the use of an unlicensed convention, how do you rule ?

2. Similarly if you are called to the table because a partnership has landed in a contract because one side has forgotten the system, tried to get out of it and in doing so lands in a cold contract that would not ordinarily have been reached. As an example, the sequence 2NT-Pass-3D (Alerted)- Pass- 3H - Pass - 3S - Pass - 4D - Pass - 4H - Pass - 6D - All pass. The partner of the 2NT bidder, was trying (and eventually succeeded) to describe a hand with diamonds and spades, but in the process used a bid documented on their convention card and described by partner as a transfer to hearts. Is this a case of hard luck to the opponents ? (A more realistic bidding sequence would be 2NT - 3C (enquiry either Stayman or Baron) - 3D - 5D).

David

bluejak

Re: Question on director's rulings (01:53:59 TueMar 18 2003)



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

If a pair use a convention which is not permitted then the Director will give their opponents Ave+ and them Ave- and cancel the board. But he will let them finish the board first to see if the non-offenders get better than Ave+ in which case he will let the result stand.

Note that the term "licensed" was dropped five years ago because it was ambiguous. The EBU licenses tournaments and other things.

As to your other question it is difficult to be sure whether there is an infraction because of unauthorised information. If there is not then the players can do what they like.

However, it is unlikely to be permissible. If a player makes the wrong bid how does he remember? If because of his partner's alert or explanation then he must do everything possible not to take advantage of that alert or explanation, so he cannot try to get out of it.

If he does not have a problem with unauthorised information then he can do whatever he likes to recover from a mistake, and sometimes he will succeed.

To take a silly [but clear] case, consider your second sequece: 2NT - 3 \square . Now, if he has made an agreement to play 3 \square as a transfer to hearts [and I do know a pair who play that way] but he has forgotten then an alert from partner will not remind him, because a Stayman 3 \square is alertable. If he suddenly remembers he can try jumping to 5 \square and hope to get away with it, and perhaps he will.

But if an opponent asked what the 3 \square was and his partner's answer reminds him he may not use that information and he will get a score adjusted against him if he tries to recover illegally.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

RMB

\square
19 posts
bridgetalk member

\square
Reply

Re: Question on director's rulings (13:21:04
TueMar 18 2003)

Quote: "David Calcutt"

For example, in the sequence 2NT-Pass-3D (Alerted)- Pass- 3H - Pass - 3S - Pass - 4D - Pass - 4H - Pass - 6D - All pass. The partner of the 2NT bidder, was trying (and eventually succeeded) to describe a hand with diamonds and spades, but in the process used a bid documented on their convention card and described by partner as a transfer to hearts.

David (C), the sequence you give is:

2NT- Pass - 3D*- Pass -
3H - Pass - 3S - Pass -

4D - Pass - 4H - Pass -
6D - All pass

I expected that the hand with diamonds and spades would bid 4D and 6D. Is there a missing bid (3NT?) by the 2NT bidder between 3S and 4D?

Normally, you will gain when opponents make mistakes; sometimes they will use unauthorised information to recover from their mistakes and you will get a favourable ruling; but sometimes they will land on their feet without using unauthorised information and you will get a normal/bad score.

Robin

[1 edits; Last edit by RMB at 13:43:07 Tue Mar 18 2003]

David Calcutt

Reply

Re: Question on director's rulings (10:05:31
ThuMar 20 2003)

Country: UK

Ah yes Robin, you're quite correct. The 2NT opener bid 4H to give preference to the suits. So the bidding must have proceeded 5D - 5H - 6D (5D and 5H alerted as cue bids)

David

Helen

Reply

Re: Question on director's rulings (15:12:27
WedApr 16 2003)

Country: England

If you are called to the table because an illegal convention is on the convention card but it has not yet been used, what do you do?

Ed



173 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Question on director's rulings (17:16:52

WedApr 16 2003)

Tell them the convention is not permitted, and require them to amend their CCs.

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Helen Barr

Reply

Declarer names card in dummy (08:08:02 WedApr 16 2003)

Country: England

Declarer calls for a card from dummy. Dummy says the lead is in your hand. Defender wishes to accept the lead.
Law 42B2 - Dummy may try to prevent any irregularity by declarer. If dummy has NOT picked up the card and faced it on the table, has the card been played (Law 45B)?
If it has been played Law55A allows defender to accept it.
At what point is it too late for dummy to prevent declarer leading from dummy when it should be declarer's lead?

RMB



19 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Declarer names card in dummy (09:33:56 WedApr 16 2003)

Country: England

> Declarer calls for a card from dummy.
Law45B: Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table. So the card is played.

> Dummy says the lead is in your hand.
This is improper, dummy may attempt to prevent an irregularity (Law42B2); but the irregularity has already occurred and dummy may not draw attention to an irregularity (Law42B3).

> Defender wishes to accept the lead.
They are allowed to do so.

> If dummy has NOT picked up the card and faced it on the table, has the card been played (Law 45B)?
Yes. The card is played by naming it, once the card has been named (and therefore played) dummy places the card in the played position.

> If it has been played Law55A allows defender to accept it.
Yes.

> At what point is it too late for dummy to prevent declarer leading from dummy when it should be declarer's lead?
Before declarer starts to name the card.

Robin

<p>Ed</p> <hr/> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>173 posts Forum Host</p> <p>Reply</p>	<p>Re: Declarer names card in dummy (17:10:08 WedApr 16 2003)</p> <hr/> <p>>> At what point is it too late for dummy to prevent declarer >> leading from dummy when it should be declarer's lead? > Before declarer starts to name the card.</p> <p>I would say rather before declarer completes naming the card.</p>

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markj007



72 posts
bridgetalk member



[Reply](#)

Equal Level Conversion (10:38:21 SatMar 29 2003)

Playing this treatment, should the original double be alerted (in case the follow up is ELC) or is it sufficient to just alert the "conversion" bid? Say the sequence is like this:

1S Db1 Pass 2C

Pass 2D

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

[Reply](#)

Re: Equal Level Conversion (11:38:19 SatMar 29 2003)

I am afraid we cannot answer questions on alerting correctly if we do not know where the poster is. Alerting is different form country to country.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

markj007



72 posts
bridgetalk member



[Reply](#)

Re: Equal Level Conversion (19:04:15 SatMar 29 2003)

Country: USA

Hmm, I thought I had - oh well...

RichM



285 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (19:09:38 SatMar 29 2003)

Country: USA

On a standard ACBL convention card, in the "Special Doubles" section, there is a red box for Min Offshape T/O.

I think this means that you must alert a takeout double in the USA if you play equal level conversion.

RichM

markj007



72 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (22:41:20 SatMar 29 2003)

Yes, I know, but I don't think ELC quite fits into that category does it? Those offshape doubles are made by players who (as far as I can make out) just like to double on any hand with "opening values", no matter what the distribution.

ELC normally implies that specifically the CLUB suit may be short, that's all - not that ANY suit may be short.

I've heard two opposing views from two different directors on this elsewhere, so it's obviously not as straightforward as it might seem.

Bridge - the king of card games!

bergid



35 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (02:48:48 SunMar 30 2003)

Actually, this "treatment" has been around for a long time - if my memory serves me correctly, I first read about it in Robert Ewen's "Doubles for Takeout, Penalties & Profit" published sometime in the 1970's. It's only comparatively recently that it's actually been given a name.

I don't believe that alerting all doubles a la "Min Offshape T/O" is appropriate here, because of the specialised nature of ELC.

I don't think I've discussed this in my regular partnerships and it

doesn't come up that often, but I (and they) would recognise it when it did, and not expect the strength that a double followed by a suit bid usually promises (though of course that is not necessarily denied). I've never alerted the double, though I do alert the suit bid these days. Admittedly, alerting has changed a great deal since the 1970's, so possibly I'm out of date on this issue.

[1 edits; Last edit by bergid at 02:55:59 Sun Mar 30 2003]

bergid



35 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (03:11:55 SunMar 30 2003)

I just went and dug out the book and Ewen gives this example (on page 25)

Quote:

- ☐ KJ97
- ☐ 64
- ☐ AQJ982
- ☐ 8

After a 1 ☐ opening bid by your RHO, you would like to try for a spade contract by making a takeout double, but you would also like to advertise your powerful diamond suit by overcalling. Since you are fortunate enough to hold your length in the two **higher-ranking** unbid suits, you can do both. First, make a takeout double; if partner responds in spades or (improbably) in diamonds, all will be well. If he misguidedly mentions clubs, however, simply direct his attention to the other two unbid suits by converting to diamonds.

He goes on to make the point that it's only because you aren't increasing the **level of bidding**, that you can afford this manoeuvre. He gives the same example, but with the clubs and diamonds reversed, where you can't, as you would then have to bid the clubs at a higher level after the expected diamond response.

It seems to me that in the way it's described here, this is a matter of bridge judgement rather than an actual agreement.

BTW, the book was published in 1974 (I have a reviewer's copy).

Texian13



1 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (06:34:37 SunMar 30 2003)

Country: USA

There are several situations like this where it is not completely clear whether to alert or not... I advise players in our club to alert anytime they have an agreement the opponents may not be aware of.

As long as alerts are not abused in a way that signals partner, it seems better to err on the side of over alert when uncertain.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (23:03:30 SunMar 30 2003)

Quote: bergid

It seems to me that in the way it's described here, this is a matter of bridge judgement rather than an actual agreement.

No, it is an agreement.

Consider the sequence you cite:

1 ☐ Dbl Pass 2 ☐

Pass 2 ☐

If my partner bids it what does he have? The answer is 17 or more points, perhaps slightly less with good distribution. That is the standard way to play this sequence.

Now while Ewen's method may be reasonable enough, it is not a matter of bridge judgement: it is a matter of agreement to play ELC rather than standard methods.

Minimum offshape takeout doubles require an alert. Playing ELC your minimum takeout doubles may be offshape so you should alert them. True, they are not the normal offshape takeout double when a player agrees with partner to double on all 12+ points hands, beloved of some of our weaker brethren. But just because you are not playing that particular type of offshape double does not mean that ELC doubles are not alertable: they are.

So if you play ELC alert the double, and say it might be an ELC one, and give an example to clarify: for example with a double of 1 ☐ say {if asked} that partner may have spades and diamonds without the clubs.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

HenryS

Re: Equal Level Conversion (05:23:55 MonMar 31 2003)

Reply

Country: USA

Quote: bluejak at 23:03:30 Sun Mar 30 2003

No, it is an agreement.

Consider the sequence you cite:

1 ☐ Dbl Pass 2 ☐
Pass 2 ☐

If my partner bids it what does he have? The answer is 17 or more points, perhaps slightly less with good distribution. That is the standard way to play this sequence.

Now while Ewen's method may be reasonable enough, it is not a matter of bridge judgement: it is a matter of agreement to play ELC rather than standard methods.

I don't play equal level conversion (for a variety of reasons), but I have a question for David et al anyway.

The classic ELC auction is (1h) dbl (p) 2c (p) 2d. However, there are other common examples of the beast:

(1c) dbl (p) 1d (p) 1h to show 4S, 5H, minimum hand regardless of diamond holding.

(1s) dbl (p) 2c (p) 2d to show diamonds and hearts.

Would BOTH of these sequences also require an alert? In particular, I'd be a bit surprised if the 1c double sequence required an alert because in these parts at least it is a very common treatment.

Thanks for dispelling the mist.

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply


Re: Equal Level Conversion (10:58:45 MonMar 31 2003)

I believe that all ELC doubles are alertable.

There are many sequences where what might be considered standard in one area is different from other areas. However, alerting in jurisdictions which tend to have well-defined rules, such as North American or English/Welsh, is based on a general expectation across the jurisdiction. So even if

1  X P 1 
P 1 

is normal as ELC where you play that does not mean it is not alertable. Only if the ACBL decides it is so common across North america, **and they say so**, would double not be alertable.

Remember how little it costs to alert: we do not want to gain at this game through opponent's ignorance of our methods, so just alert ELC doubles - please. 

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
 Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

James Vickers



10 posts
 bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (13:42:27 TueApr 1 2003)

Country: UK

Quote: David

Remember how little it costs to alert:
 we do not want to gain at this game
 through opponent's ignorance of our
 methods, so just alert ELC doubles -
 please.

I certainly have no wish to gain from opponents' ignorance of my methods, but until reading this I would not have dreamed of alerting an ELC double. It is a takeout double showing values to compete but no clear bid and asking partner to describe his hand. If this is alertable just because it doesn't guarantee a holding in every other suit, then surely we will have to alert the opponents to every little nuance of our agreements and drown in a welter of blue cards.

When I started playing in tournaments around 15-20 years ago I asked a director (I think it was one DWS) whether I should alert partner's wide-ranging 1NT rebid (a fairly unusual treatment at the time among my peers). He said no, it did not warrant an alert. Now you could argue that my opponents, expecting a 15-16 point range, could be disadvantaged by the failure to disclose this.

Two years ago at the Brighton Congress I was taken to task by opponents and partner alike for failing to alert 2NT in the sequence (opponents silent):

1D - 1S; 1NT - 2C*; 2NT

1NT = 12-16, 2C = Crowhurst enquiry, 2NT = 15-16

I checked with a TD (Mike Amos, I think) and was shocked to be told that this required an alert because of the defined point range!

Can someone please tell me what opponents are likely to expect without an alert?

If every shade of meaning requires an alert, should the following be alerted (opponents silent):

1D - 1H; 1NT

if 1NT (i) denies four spades (ii) could harbour a 4-card spade suit?

Or:

1NT - 2C*; 2S

if 2S (i) denies four hearts (ii) could harbour a 4-card heart suit?

What about 5-card major openers (non-standard in the UK), 1NT openers which could include a 5-card major, 1/1 change of suit responses which could include a longer unbid suit? If ELC doubles are alertable for the extra information they conceal from the opponents, why not all the above?

I think we have to be sensible in our use of alerts. Make certain categories of bid alertable for clearly defined reasons, and let's not go down the path of alerting everything under the sun just to protect ourselves from accusations of failing to disclose our methods. I await with dread the new Orange Book.

(This is becoming a regular soapbox theme for me!)

James

olddude909



65 posts
bridgetalk member



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (21:23:10 TueApr 1 2003)

Country: USA

Speaking of weird (American) alerting rules...

In a late 1980s Spingold, a semi-final match was overturned because of the failure to alert 1nt - p - 2c (doesn't have to have a 4 card major, since 2nt was artificial).

Edgar's view was that alerting this very common treatment, although required by ACBL regulation, was stupid and that it would/should/could be sufficient to alert the 2nt rebid (doesn't promise a 4M).

I agree entirely with James, but it would be easier simply to have a box in the convention card marked equal level conversion. I doubt that this will happen, but I agree that it is silly to alert this takeout double because it MIGHT not include support for all unbid suits even if it is required (shrug).

HenryS

bluejak



434 posts
Forum Host

Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (01:07:07 WedApr 2 2003)

No doubt everyone has their own view of what should be alerted. Since their view will be different from the next person that will be **extremely** unhelpful. When alerting was first brought in people were asked to alert what seemed alertable. Only when it was found this did not work were further rules brought in.

It is not a question of what you, James, or anyone else feels should be alerted: it is a question of what the regulating authority says should be alerted.

You, James, say it has never occurred to you to alert an ELC double. This is hardly rrelevant since the question is whether it is alertable in North America, not whether it is alertable in England/Wales.

Is it sensible to alert a double if it can be minimum and offshape? The answer is that I really do not care: if you want to discuss what ought to be alerted then this is not the correct forum. rec.games.bridge will listen to you: the bridge laws mailing-list is very suitable. Here we are merely explaining to people what the rules are.

The answer to the question posed in this thread is that ELC doubles are alertable in North America.

As to the other questions posed by James while I am happy to answer them, not in this thread please. This thread is about ELC doubles in North America.

David Stevenson <laws2@blakjak.com>
Liverpool, England, UK
http://blakjak.com/lws_menu.htm

bridgeaddict

Unavailable

510 posts



Reply

Re: Equal Level Conversion (05:22:41 WedApr 2 2003)

This is probably a good time to mention that we are going to bring back the forum we originally had for "Bridge Issues". You may remember that it covered a wide range of subjects, including online bridge, terminology, humor, computer software and other bridge issues. It also included links to ACBL and WBF Regulations.

This will be a suitable forum for a discussion of the adequacy or otherwise of the present bridge laws and a voice to bridge administrators around the world. With the development of online bridge and its special problems, it may be that further modifications to the laws or regulations are necessary.

Please use the **new forum** to comment on any changes that you would like to see in this area. The subject of this thread is an example of an issue which people feel strongly about and may well like to discuss further.

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