

Australia starts to use the 2017 Laws on 1st August. Players need to be aware that from that date, when they make a claim or concession, they will be required to face their hand. Some other laws that affect player obligations are:

Law 40B4(a). If a player realises during the auction that his own explanation was erroneous or incomplete, he must summon the Director before the end of the Clarification Period and correct the misexplanation. He may elect to call the Director sooner, but he is under no obligation to do so. (For a correction during the play period, see Law 75B2.)

Suppose a player realises during the auction that he has given a wrong explanation. He will no longer have to call the director immediately but may wait until the auction is over. His obligation is to call the director before the opening lead is faced. Bear in mind that the obligation to call the director when partner has made a mistaken explanation has not changed. It must be done and the director must be called. For defenders, when partner has given a wrong explanation, call after play of the hand is complete. For the declaring side, call after the auction has ended and before the opening lead is faced.

Law 62A. A player must correct his revoke if attention is drawn to the irregularity before it becomes established.

A player who realises he has revoked has no obligation to draw attention to his revoke before it becomes established. Should attention be drawn to a non-established revoke then it must be corrected.

Law 68D. After any claim or concession, play is suspended.

1. If the claim or concession is agreed, Law 69 applies.
2. If it is doubted by any player (dummy included); either
 - (a) the Director may immediately be summoned and no action should be taken pending his arrival, Law 70 applies; or
 - (b) upon the request of the non-claiming or non-conceding side, play may continue subject to the following:
 - (i) all four players must concur; otherwise the Director is summoned, who then proceeds as in (a) above.
 - (ii) the prior claim or concession is void and not subject to adjudication. Laws 16 and 50 do not apply, and the score subsequently obtained shall stand.

If all players, dummy included, agree to play on then the result is final. No information is unauthorised and no cards become penalty cards. There is no going back for a score adjustment.

Law 75D2. It is a condition of any partnership agreement that both players possess the same mutual understanding, and it is an infraction to describe an agreement where the same mutual understanding does not exist. If the Director determines that the misleading explanation was not based upon a partnership agreement, he applies Law 21B.

If a player is not sure that there is an agreement or mutual understanding then he should say, "Undiscussed" or "No agreement". If the player is sure there is an agreement, but he has forgotten it, he calls the director. He is not required to guess.

There are many changes to the laws that will affect the way directors make rulings. Lead restrictions, calls out of rotation and insufficient bids have major changes and involve the new concept of a comparable call, Law 23.

Law 23 – Comparable Call

A. Definition

A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

B. No Rectification

When a call is cancelled (as per Law 29B) and the offender chooses at his proper turn to replace the irregularity with a comparable call, then both the auction and play continue without further rectification. Law 16C2 does not apply, but see C following.

C. Non-Offending Side Damaged

If following the substitution of a comparable call [see Laws 27B1(b), 30B1(b)(ii), 31A2(a) and 32A2(a)] the Director judges at the end of the play that without the assistance gained through the infraction the outcome of the board could well have been different, and in consequence the non-offending side is damaged, he shall award an adjusted score [see Law 12C1(b)].

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