

52 Ways to Make Your Bridge Life Easier

- 1 Law 1 requires 52 different, but specific, cards. Players may never keep a result achieved when one of them has cards from another board.
- 2 While duplicate boards have designated dealers and vulnerabilities, any otherwise marked board is valid for the session in which it is played.
- 3 No, you may not change seats without the director's permission.
- 4 Yes, the recommended method of dealing is in a clockwise rotation; no, other methods are not illegal so long as the cards are dealt one at a time.
- 5 North may think he is in charge of the table, but it is a cooperative effort among players at the table throughout the session.
- 6 The director alone has the right to determine rectification, or to assess the penalty provisions of the Laws.
- 7 When given a set of options after an irregularity or an infraction, a player may not consult his partner.
- 8 The director alone has the power to assign an adjusted score.
- 9 A+ / A- is almost always wrong. A+ / A+ is even more wrong.
- 10 The director alone will determine the extent of the unauthorized information (but consulting others can be very helpful).
- 11 When you hesitate, you do not bar your partner, even when the opponents tell you that you have.
- 12 Don't let the opponents rule at your table, call for the director.
- 13 You may ask questions at your turn, but some turns are better than others.
- 14 You may never ask a question for partner's benefit.
- 15 If you make an assumption, there is no rectification due based on your own misunderstanding.
- 16 Law 25A deals with mechanical errors, NOT methodological errors.
- 17 An insufficient bid may always be accepted.
- 18 A double is not a bid, it is a call.
- 19 When in doubt in applying Law 27B (an insufficient bid) try to get a bridge result; Law 27D allows you to change the result later if you deem that the insufficient bid aided in reaching a superior contract / result.
- 20 A call out of rotation may be accepted unless it is an illegal call.
- 21 Face down opening leads may only be withdrawn with the permission of the director, and then only for cause.
- 22 Questions should be withheld until the face down opening lead is made.
- 23 Law 23 is not meant to change a score simply because the non-offenders achieved a poor score.
- 24 It is always best to follow suit when you can.
- 25 A declarer's played card may not be changed simply because declarer pulled the wrong card from his hand.
- 26 Don't detach a card unless that is the card you intend to play, and then only at your turn.
- 27 Remember this section of Law 46 when determining a played card: "except when declarer's different intention is incontrovertible." This phrase does not apply to premature play.

- 28 Know the difference between a minor penalty card and a major penalty card; there are no lead penalties for the former.
- 29 Two or more penalty cards are always major; they never change to minor penalty cards.
- 30 The phrase "In the same breath" is not found in the Law book.
- 31 A revoke must be established before any rectification may be considered.
- 32 A two trick penalty only applies when the offender won the trick on which the revoke occurred, along with one or more subsequent tricks.
- 33 Law 64C, restoring equity in revoke situations, only applies to the non-offending side.
- 34 The right to correct your partner's incorrectly pointed trick expires when the lead is made to the next trick.
- 35 Claims often help move the game along.
- 36 When a claim is made, play may not be continued.
- 37 All three facets of Law 70C, an outstanding trump, must be present before the director would even consider awarding a trick to the defense.
- 38 Expressive players can get into trouble.
- 39 Intentional physical deception is not part of our game.
- 40 A mistaken explanation may cause damage which may lead to rectification.
- 41 A mistaken call may cause damage, but the Laws do not allow for any rectification.
- 42 Spectators should be seen and not heard.
- 43 Know how many tricks are won before replacing the cards in the board.
- 44 Know your responsibilities as director, Law 80 lists them all.
- 45 If you make an error as the director don't hesitate to fix it, Law 82.
- 46 An appeal committee is not required at the club level.
- 47 Know the General Convention Chart, the most commonly used and taught agreements.
- 48 Know the ACBL Alert Procedures.
- 49 Know your way around the ACBL web site, it is a great source of information.
- 50 Remind your students that it is only a game.
- 51 Remind them, too, that the director is there to help them understand and enjoy the game.
- 52 When in doubt ask: rulings@acbl.org