

2017  
LAWS OF  
DUPLICATE BRIDGE



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

# Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE 2017 LAWS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>LAW 1 - THE PACK</b> .....	<b>20</b>
A. Rank of Cards and Suits.....	20
B. The Face of the Cards.....	20
C. The Backs of the Cards.....	20
<b>LAW 2 - THE DUPLICATE BOARDS</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW 3 - ARRANGEMENT OF TABLES</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>LAW 4 - PARTNERSHIPS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>LAW 5 - ASSIGNMENT OF SEATS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
A. Initial Position.....	21
B. Change of Direction or Table.....	21
<b>LAW 6 - THE SHUFFLE AND DEAL</b> .....	<b>22</b>
A. The Shuffle.....	22
B. The Deal.....	22
C. Representation of Both Pairs.....	22
D. New Shuffle and Re-deal.....	22
E. Director's Option on Shuffling and Dealing.....	22
F. Duplication of Board.....	23
<b>LAW 7 - CONTROL OF BOARD AND CARDS</b> .....	<b>23</b>
A. Placement of Board.....	23
B. Removal of Cards from Board.....	23
C. Returning Cards to Board.....	23
D. Responsibility for Procedures.....	24
<b>LAW 8 - SEQUENCE OF ROUNDS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
A. Movement of Boards and Players.....	24
B. End of Round.....	24
C. End of Last Round and End of Session.....	24
<b>LAW 9 - PROCEDURE FOLLOWING AN IRREGULARITY</b> .....	<b>24</b>
A. Drawing Attention to an Irregularity.....	24
B. After Attention Is Drawn to an Irregularity.....	25
C. Premature Correction of an Irregularity.....	25
<b>LAW 10 - ASSESSMENT OF RECTIFICATION</b> .....	<b>25</b>
A. Right to Determine Rectification.....	25
B. Cancellation of Enforcement or Waiver of Rectification.....	25
C. Choice after Irregularity.....	26

<b>LAW 11 - FORFEITURE OF THE RIGHT TO RECTIFICATION</b> .....	<b>26</b>
A. Action by Non-Offending Side.....	26
B. Penalty after Forfeiture of the Right to Rectification.....	26
<b>LAW 12 - DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY POWERS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
A. Power to Award an Adjusted Score.....	26
B. Objectives of Score Adjustment.....	27
C. Awarding an Adjusted Score.....	27
<b>LAW 13 - INCORRECT NUMBER OF CARDS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
A. No Call Made.....	28
B. Discovered during the Auction or Play.....	29
C. Surplus Card.....	29
D. Play Completed.....	29
<b>LAW 14 - MISSING CARD</b> .....	<b>29</b>
A. Hand Found Deficient before Play Commences.....	29
B. Hand Found Deficient Afterwards.....	30
C. Information from Replacement of a Card.....	30
<b>LAW 15 - WRONG BOARD OR HAND</b> .....	<b>30</b>
A. Cards from Wrong Board.....	30
B. Wrong Board Discovered During Auction or Play Period.....	31
<b>LAW 16 - AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>31</b>
A. Players' Use of Information.....	31
B. Extraneous Information from Partner.....	32
C. Information from Withdrawn Calls and Plays.....	33
D. Extraneous Information from Other Sources.....	33
<b>LAW 17 - THE AUCTION PERIOD</b> .....	<b>34</b>
A. Auction Period Starts.....	34
B. The First Call.....	34
C. Successive Calls.....	34
D. End of Auction Period.....	34
<b>LAW 18 - BIDS</b> .....	<b>34</b>
A. Proper Form.....	34
B. To Supersede a Bid.....	34
C. Sufficient Bid.....	35
D. Insufficient Bid.....	35
E. Rank of the Denominations.....	35
F. Different Methods.....	35
<b>LAW 19 - DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES</b> .....	<b>35</b>
A. Doubles.....	35
B. Redoubles.....	35
C. Double or Redouble Superseded.....	36
D. Scoring a Doubled or Redoubled Contract.....	36
<b>LAW 20 - REVIEW AND EXPLANATION OF CALLS</b> .....	<b>36</b>

A.	Call Not Clearly Recognized.....	36
B.	Review of Auction during Auction Period.....	36
C.	Review after Final Pass.....	36
D.	Who May Review the Auction.....	36
E.	Correction of Error in Review.....	36
F.	Explanation of Calls.....	37
G.	Incorrect Procedure.....	38
<b>LAW 21 - MISINFORMATION</b> .....		<b>38</b>
A.	Call or Play Based on Player's Own Misunderstanding.....	38
B.	Call Based on Misinformation from an Opponent.....	38
<b>LAW 22 – END OF AUCTION</b> .....		<b>39</b>
<b>LAW 23 – COMPARABLE CALL</b> .....		<b>39</b>
A.	Definition.....	39
B.	No Rectification.....	39
C.	Non-Offending Side Damaged.....	39
<b>LAW 24 - CARD EXPOSED OR LED DURING THE AUCTION</b> .....		<b>40</b>
A.	Low Card Not Prematurely Led.....	40
B.	Single Card of Honour Rank or Card Prematurely Led.....	40
C.	Two or More Cards Are Exposed.....	40
D.	Declaring side.....	40
E.	Defenders.....	40
<b>LAW 25 - LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CHANGES OF CALL</b> .....		<b>40</b>
A.	Unintended Call.....	40
B.	Call Intended.....	41
<b>LAW 26 – CALL WITHDRAWN, LEAD RESTRICTIONS</b> .....		<b>41</b>
A.	No Lead Restrictions.....	41
B.	Lead Restrictions.....	41
<b>LAW 27 – INSUFFICIENT BID</b> .....		<b>42</b>
A.	Acceptance of Insufficient Bid.....	42
B.	Insufficient Bid not Accepted.....	42
C.	Premature Replacement.....	43
D.	Non-offending Side Damaged.....	43
<b>LAW 28 - CALLS CONSIDERED TO BE IN ROTATION</b> .....		<b>43</b>
A.	RHO Required to Pass.....	43
B.	Call by Correct Player Cancelling Call Out of Rotation.....	43
<b>LAW 29 - PROCEDURE AFTER A CALL OUT OF ROTATION</b> .....		<b>43</b>
A.	Forfeiture of Right to Rectification.....	43
B.	Out-of-Rotation Call Cancelled.....	44
C.	Call Out of Rotation Is Artificial.....	44
<b>LAW 30 - PASS OUT OF ROTATION</b> .....		<b>44</b>
A.	RHO's Turn to Call.....	44
B.	Partner's or LHO's Turn to Call.....	44

C. When Pass Is Artificial.....	44
<b>LAW 31 - BID OUT OF ROTATION.....</b>	<b>45</b>
A. RHO's Turn to Call.....	45
B. Partner's or LHO's Turn to Call.....	45
C. Later Bids at LHO's Turn to Call.....	45
<b>LAW 32 - DOUBLE OR REDOUBLE OUT OF ROTATION.....</b>	<b>45</b>
A. RHO's Turn to Call.....	46
B. Offender's Partner's Turn to Call.....	46
C. Later Calls at LHO's Turn to Call.....	46
<b>LAW 33 - SIMULTANEOUS CALLS.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>LAW 34 - RETENTION OF RIGHT TO CALL.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>LAW 35 - INADMISSIBLE CALLS.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>LAW 36 - INADMISSIBLE DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES.....</b>	<b>47</b>
A. Offender's LHO Calls before Rectification.....	47
B. Offender's LHO does not Call before Rectification.....	47
C. Irregularity Discovered after the Auction Period.....	48
<b>LAW 37 - ACTION VIOLATING OBLIGATION TO PASS.....</b>	<b>48</b>
A. Offender's LHO Calls before Rectification.....	48
B. Offender's LHO does not Call before Rectification.....	48
<b>LAW 38 - BID OF MORE THAN SEVEN.....</b>	<b>48</b>
A. No Play Permissible.....	48
B. Bid and Subsequent Calls Cancelled.....	48
C. Offending Side Must Pass.....	48
D. Possible Lack of Recourse to Laws 26B and 72C.....	49
<b>LAW 39 - CALL AFTER THE FINAL PASS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
A. Calls Cancelled.....	49
B. Pass by Defender or Any Call by Declaring Side.....	49
C. Other Action by Defender.....	49
<b>LAW 40 - PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDINGS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
A. Players' Systemic Agreements.....	49
B. Special Partnership Understandings.....	50
C. Deviation from System and Psychic Action.....	51
<b>LAW 41 - COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY.....</b>	<b>52</b>
A. Face-down Opening Lead.....	52
B. Review of Auction and Questions.....	52
C. Opening Lead Faced.....	52
D. Dummy's Hand.....	52
<b>LAW 42 - DUMMY'S RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>53</b>
A. Absolute Rights.....	53
B. Qualified Rights.....	53

<b>LAW 43 - DUMMY'S LIMITATIONS</b> .....	<b>53</b>
A. Limitations on Dummy.....	53
B. If Violation Occurs.....	54
<b>LAW 44 - SEQUENCE AND PROCEDURE OF PLAY</b> .....	<b>54</b>
A. Lead to a Trick.....	54
B. Subsequent Plays to a Trick.....	54
C. Requirement to Follow Suit.....	54
D. Inability to Follow Suit.....	55
E. Tricks Containing Trumps.....	55
F. Tricks Not Containing Trumps.....	55
G. Lead to Tricks Subsequent to First Trick.....	55
<b>LAW 45 - CARD PLAYED</b> .....	<b>55</b>
A. Play of Card from a Hand.....	55
B. Play of Card from Dummy.....	55
C. Card Deemed to be Played.....	55
D. Dummy Picks up a Non-designated Card.....	56
E. Fifth Card Played to Trick.....	56
F. Dummy Indicates Card.....	57
G. Turning the Trick.....	57
<b>LAW 46 - INCOMPLETE OR INVALID DESIGNATION OF A CARD FROM DUMMY</b> .....	<b>57</b>
A. Proper Form for Designating Dummy's Card.....	57
B. Incomplete or Invalid Designation.....	57
<b>LAW 47 - RETRACTION OF CARD PLAYED</b> .....	<b>58</b>
A. In Course of Rectification.....	58
B. To Correct an Illegal Play.....	58
C. To Change an Unintended Designation.....	58
D. Following Opponent's Change of Play.....	58
E. Change of Play Based on Misinformation.....	58
F. Other Retraction.....	59
<b>LAW 48 - EXPOSURE OF DECLARER'S CARDS</b> .....	<b>59</b>
A. Declarer Exposes a Card.....	59
B. Declarer Faces Cards.....	59
<b>LAW 49 - EXPOSURE OF A DEFENDER'S CARDS</b> .....	<b>59</b>
<b>LAW 50 - DISPOSITION OF PENALTY CARD</b> .....	<b>60</b>
A. Penalty Card Remains Exposed.....	60
B. Major or Minor Penalty Card.....	60
C. Disposition of Minor Penalty Card.....	60
D. Disposition of Major Penalty Card.....	60
E. Information from a Penalty Card.....	61
<b>LAW 51 - TWO OR MORE PENALTY CARDS</b> .....	<b>62</b>
A. Offender to Play.....	62
B. Offender's Partner to Lead.....	62

<b>LAW 52 - FAILURE TO LEAD OR PLAY A PENALTY CARD</b> .....	<b>63</b>
A. Defender Fails to Play Penalty Card.....	63
B. Defender Plays Another Card.....	63
<b>LAW 53 - LEAD OUT OF TURN ACCEPTED</b> .....	<b>63</b>
A. Lead Out of Turn Treated as Correct Lead.....	63
B. Proper Lead Made Subsequent to Irregular Lead.....	63
C. Wrong Defender Plays Card to Declarer's Irregular Lead.....	64
<b>LAW 54 - FACED OPENING LEAD OUT OF TURN</b> .....	<b>64</b>
A. Declarer Spreads His Hand.....	64
B. Declarer Accepts Lead.....	64
C. Declarer Must Accept Lead.....	64
D. Declarer Refuses Opening Lead.....	64
E. Opening Lead by Wrong Side.....	65
<b>LAW 55 - DECLARER'S LEAD OUT OF TURN</b> .....	<b>65</b>
A. Declarer's Lead Accepted.....	65
B. Declarer Required to Retract Lead.....	65
C. Declarer Might Obtain Information.....	65
<b>LAW 56 - DEFENDER'S LEAD OUT OF TURN</b> .....	<b>65</b>
<b>LAW 57 - PREMATURE LEAD OR PLAY</b> .....	<b>66</b>
A. Premature Play or Lead to Next Trick.....	66
B. Offender's Partner Cannot Comply with Rectification.....	66
C. Declarer or Dummy Has Played.....	66
D. Premature Play at RHO's Turn.....	66
<b>LAW 58 - SIMULTANEOUS LEADS OR PLAYS</b> .....	<b>67</b>
A. Simultaneous Plays by Two Players.....	67
B. Simultaneous Cards from One Hand.....	67
<b>LAW 59 - INABILITY TO LEAD OR PLAY AS REQUIRED</b> .....	<b>67</b>
<b>LAW 60 - PLAY AFTER AN ILLEGAL PLAY</b> .....	<b>67</b>
A. Play of Card after Irregularity.....	67
B. Defender Plays before Required Lead by Declarer.....	68
C. Play by Offending Side before Assessment of Rectification.....	68
<b>LAW 61 - FAILURE TO FOLLOW SUIT - INQUIRIES CONCERNING A REVOKE</b> .....	<b>68</b>
A. Definition of Revoke.....	68
B. Right to Inquire about a Possible Revoke.....	68
C. Right to Inspect Tricks.....	68
<b>LAW 62 - CORRECTION OF A REVOKE</b> .....	<b>69</b>
A. Revoke Must Be Corrected.....	69
B. Correcting a Revoke.....	69
C. Subsequent Cards Played.....	69
D. Revoke on Trick Twelve.....	69
<b>LAW 63 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVOKE</b> .....	<b>70</b>

A.	Revoke Becomes Established.....	70
B.	Revoke May Not Be Corrected.....	70
<b>LAW 64</b>	<b>- PROCEDURE AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVOKE.....</b>	<b>70</b>
A.	Automatic Trick Adjustment.....	70
B.	No Automatic Trick Adjustment.....	71
C.	Redress of Damage.....	71
<b>LAW 65</b>	<b>- ARRANGEMENT OF TRICKS.....</b>	<b>72</b>
A.	Completed Trick.....	72
B.	Keeping Track of the Ownership of Tricks.....	72
C.	Orderliness.....	72
D.	Agreement on Results of Play.....	72
<b>LAW 66</b>	<b>- INSPECTION OF TRICKS.....</b>	<b>72</b>
A.	Current Trick.....	72
B.	Own Last Card.....	72
C.	Quitted Tricks.....	73
D.	After the Conclusion of Play.....	73
<b>LAW 67</b>	<b>- DEFECTIVE TRICK.....</b>	<b>73</b>
A.	Before Both Sides Play to Next Trick.....	73
B.	After Both Sides Play to Next Trick.....	73
<b>LAW 68</b>	<b>- CLAIM OR CONCESSION OF TRICKS.....</b>	<b>74</b>
A.	Claim Defined.....	74
B.	Concession Defined.....	75
C.	Clarification Required.....	75
D.	Suspension of Play.....	75
<b>LAW 69</b>	<b>- AGREED CLAIM OR CONCESSION.....</b>	<b>76</b>
A.	Establishment of Agreement.....	76
B.	Withdrawal of Established Agreement.....	76
<b>LAW 70</b>	<b>- CONTESTED CLAIM OR CONCESSION.....</b>	<b>76</b>
A.	General Objective.....	76
B.	Clarification Statement Repeated.....	76
C.	There Is an Outstanding Trump.....	76
D.	Director's Considerations.....	77
E.	Unstated Line of Play.....	77
<b>LAW 71</b>	<b>- CONCESSION CANCELLED.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>LAW 72</b>	<b>- GENERAL PRINCIPLES.....</b>	<b>78</b>
A.	Observance of Laws.....	78
B.	Infraction of Law.....	78
C.	Awareness of Potential Damage.....	78
<b>LAW 73</b>	<b>- COMMUNICATION, BEHAVIOUR, TEMPO AND DECEPTION.....</b>	<b>78</b>
A.	Proper Forms of Communication between Partners.....	78
B.	Prohibited Forms of Communication between Partners.....	79
C.	Incidental Unauthorized Information from Partner.....	79



D. Variations in Tempo or Manner	79
E. Deception	79
<b>LAW 74 - CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE</b>	<b>80</b>
A. Proper Attitude	80
B. Etiquette	80
C. Violations of Procedure	80
<b>LAW 75 - MISTAKEN EXPLANATION OR MISTAKEN CALL</b>	<b>81</b>
A. Mistake Causing Unauthorized Information	81
B. Mistaken Explanation	81
C. Mistaken Call	82
D. Director's Determination	82
<b>LAW 76 - SPECTATORS</b>	<b>82</b>
A. Control	82
B. At the Table	83
C. Participation	83
D. Status	83
<b>LAW 77 - DUPLICATE BRIDGE SCORING TABLE</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>LAW 78 - METHODS OF SCORING AND CONDITIONS OF CONTEST</b>	<b>86</b>
A. Matchpoint Scoring	86
B. International Matchpoint Scoring	86
C. Total Point Scoring	86
D. Conditions of Contest	86
<b>LAW 79 - TRICKS WON</b>	<b>87</b>
A. Agreement on Tricks Won	87
B. Disagreement on Tricks Won	87
C. Error in Score	87
<b>LAW 80 - REGULATION AND ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>88</b>
A. The Regulating Authority	88
B. Tournament Organizer	88
<b>LAW 81 - THE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>89</b>
A. Official Status	89
B. Restrictions and Responsibilities	89
C. Director's Duties and Powers	89
D. Delegation of Duties	90
<b>LAW 82 - RECTIFICATION OF ERRORS OF PROCEDURE</b>	<b>90</b>
A. Director's Duty	90
B. Rectification of Error	90
C. Director's Error	91
<b>LAW 83 - NOTIFICATION OF THE RIGHT TO APPEAL</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>LAW 84 - RULINGS ON AGREED FACTS</b>	<b>91</b>
A. No Rectification	91

B. Law Provides Rectification.....	91
C. Player's Option.....	91
D. Director's Option.....	91
<b>LAW 85 - RULINGS ON DISPUTED FACTS.....</b>	<b>92</b>
A. Director's Assessment.....	92
B. Facts Not Determined.....	92
<b>LAW 86 - TEAM PLAY.....</b>	<b>92</b>
A. Substitute Board.....	92
B. Result Obtained at Other Table.....	92
<b>LAW 87 - FOULED BOARD.....</b>	<b>93</b>
A. Definition.....	93
B. Pairs and Individual Scoring.....	93
C. Teams Scoring.....	93
<b>LAW 88 - AWARD OF INDEMNITY POINTS.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>LAW 89 - PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR AND REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>LAW 90 - PROCEDURAL PENALTIES.....</b>	<b>95</b>
A. Director's Authority.....	95
B. Offences Subject to Procedural Penalty.....	95
<b>LAW 91 - PENALIZE OR SUSPEND.....</b>	<b>95</b>
A. Director's Powers.....	95
B. Right to Disqualify.....	95
<b>LAW 92 - RIGHT TO APPEAL.....</b>	<b>96</b>
A. Contestant's Right.....	96
B. Time of Appeal.....	96
C. How to Appeal.....	96
D. Concurrence of Appellants.....	96
<b>LAW 93 - PROCEDURES OF APPEAL.....</b>	<b>96</b>
A. No Appeals Committee.....	96
B. Appeals Committee Available.....	96
C. Further Possibilities of Appeal.....	97
<b>INDEX TO THE 2017 LAWS.....</b>	<b>98</b>

# 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge

As promulgated by the World Bridge Federation,  
March 2017



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized  
by the International Olympic Committee



Headquarters: Maison du Sport International  
54 av. de Rhodanie – 1007 Lausanne – Switzerland

ISBN 978-0-6480678-0-1



9 780648 067801