

LAWS 13, 14 and 15

## Law 13

## INCORRECT NUMBER OF CARDS

### A. Director Deems Normal Play

When the Director determines that one or more hands of the board contained an incorrect number of cards (but see [Law 14](#)) and a player with an incorrect hand has made a call, then when the Director deems that the deal can be corrected and played the deal may be so played with no change of call. At the end of play the Director may award an adjusted score.

### B. Adjusted Score and Possible Penalty

Otherwise when a call has been made the Director shall award an adjusted score and may penalize an offender.

### C. Play Completed

When it is determined after play ends that a player's hand originally contained more than 13 cards with another player holding fewer (but see [Law 13F](#)), the result must be cancelled and an adjusted score awarded ([Law 86D](#) may apply). An offending contestant is liable to a procedural penalty.

### D. No Call Made

If a player is found to have an incorrect number of cards and no call has been made on his hand:

1. The Director shall correct the discrepancy and, if no player will then have seen another's card, shall require that the board be played normally.
2. When the Director determines that one or more pockets of the board contained an incorrect number of cards and a player has seen one or more cards of another player's hand, if the Director deems:
  - a. that the unauthorized information is unlikely to interfere with normal bidding or play, the Director allows the board to be played and scored. If he then considers the information has affected the outcome of the board the Director shall adjust the score and may penalize an offender.
  - b. that the unauthorized information gained thereby is of sufficient importance to interfere with normal bidding or play the Director shall award an artificial adjusted score and may penalize an offender.

### E. Placement or Movement of Card

When under this Law the Director requires play to continue, knowledge of the placement or movement of a card by the Director is unauthorized information for the partner of a player whose hand contained an incorrect number of cards.

### F. Surplus Card

Any surplus card not part of the deal is removed if found. The auction and play continue unaffected. If such a card is found to have been played to a quitted trick an adjusted score may be awarded.

**Commentary from Chairman WBF law committee**> The general solution when the surplus card has already been played is to award an adjusted score. If at the moment of discovery one of the players still has an extra card it is not easy to solve the problem.

The WBF-LC has decided that Law 67 is not applicable for such irregularity. But when the player with 14 cards still has a card identical to the one he has already illegally played (which is very unlikely), it may be removed (strictly speaking, exchanged with the illegal card). Generally speaking, however, if the TD decides that the play of the illegal card does not make a difference with the similar card still in hand he may decide to uphold the table result.

## Law 14

## MISSING CARD

### A. Hand Found Deficient before Play Commences

When one or more hand(s) is/are found to contain fewer than 13 cards, with no hand having more than 13, before the opening lead is faced, the Director makes a search for any missing card, and:

1. if the card is found, it is restored to the deficient hand.
2. if the card cannot be found, the Director reconstructs the deal by substituting another pack.
3. the auction and play continue normally without alteration of any of the calls made, the restored hand being deemed to have contained all of its cards continuously throughout.

### B. Hand Found Deficient Afterwards

When one or more hand(s) is/are found to contain fewer than 13 cards, with no hand having more than 13, at any time after the opening lead is faced (until the end of the Correction Period), the Director makes a search for any missing card, and:

1. if the card is found among the played cards, [Law 67](#) applies.
2. if the card is found elsewhere, it is restored to the deficient hand. Rectification and/or penalties may apply (see 4 following).
3. if the card cannot be found, the deal is reconstructed using another pack. Rectification and/or penalties may apply (see 4 following).
4. a card restored to a hand under the provisions of Section B of this Law is deemed to have belonged continuously to the deficient hand. It may become a penalty card ([Law 50](#)), and failure to have played it may constitute a revoke.

### C. Information from Replacement of a Card

Knowledge of the replacement of a card is unauthorized for the partner of a player whose hand contained an incorrect number of cards.

## Law 15

## PLAY OF A WRONG BOARD

### A. Players Have Not Previously Played Board

If players play a board not designated for them to play in the current round (but see [C](#)):

1. The Director normally allows the score to stand if none of the four players have previously played the board.
2. The Director may require both pairs to play the correct board against one another later.

### B. One or More Players Have Previously Played Board

If any player plays a board he has previously played, with the correct opponents or otherwise, his second score on the board is cancelled both for his side and his opponents, and the Director shall award an artificial adjusted score to the contestants deprived of the opportunity to earn a valid score.

### C. Discovered during Auction Period

If, during the auction period, the Director discovers that a contestant is playing a board not designated for him to play in the current round, he shall cancel the auction, ensure that the correct contestants are seated and that they are informed of their rights both now and at future rounds. A second auction begins. Players must repeat the calls they made previously. If any call differs in any way from the corresponding call in the first auction the Director

**shall cancel the board. Otherwise the auction and play continue normally. The Director may award a procedural penalty (and an adjusted score) if of the opinion that there has been a purposeful attempt by either side to preclude normal play of the board.**

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