

## Law 17 and Law 18 **Law 17 THE AUCTION PERIOD**

### A. Auction Period Starts

The auction period on a deal begins for a side when either partner withdraws his cards from the board.

### B. The First Call

The player designated by the board as dealer makes the first call.

### C. Successive Calls

The player to dealer's left makes the second call, and thereafter each player calls in turn in a clockwise rotation.

### D. Cards from Wrong Board

1. A call is cancelled if it is made by a player on cards that he has picked up from a wrong board.
2. After looking at the correct hand the offender calls again and the auction continues normally from that point. If offender's LHO has called over the cancelled call the Director shall award artificial adjusted scores when offender's substituted call differs\* from his cancelled call (offender's LHO must repeat the previous call) or if offender's partner has subsequently called over the cancelled call.

**Commentary of Chairman WBF Laws committee:-Law 17D2** The auction continues normally only when the call with the right hand is the same as the call with the wrong hand and the hand reasonably fits that call. In addition, only LHO may have made a call after the irregularity. When for example a player bids 1NT (15-17) with a wrong hand he may bid 1NT with 14 or 18 points without destroying the board; he may repeat 1♥ when the agreement is that it shows at least 5 hearts and he has only 4 (and the strength meets more or less the systemic requirements)

If the offender subsequently repeats his call on the board from which he mistakenly drew his cards the Director may allow that board to be played normally, but the Director shall award artificial adjusted scores when offender's call differs\* from his original cancelled call.

A procedural penalty ([Law 90](#)) may be assessed in addition to rectifications under 2 and 3 above.

### E. End of Auction Period

1. The auction and the auction period end as [Law 22](#) provides.
2. When a call has been followed by three passes the auction does not end if one of those passes was out of rotation, depriving a player of his right to call at that turn. When this occurs the auction reverts to the player who missed his turn, all subsequent passes are cancelled and the auction proceeds normally. [Law 16D](#) applies to the cancelled calls, any player who has passed out of rotation being an offender.

\* For example, a substituted call differs if its meaning is much different or if it is psychic.

**Commentary from Chairman of WBF LAWS committee:- Law 17E**

*West North East South*

--- Pass Pass

Pass Pass

If the TD is called he should give West the option to accept the *Pass Out Of Turn*. When he does and passes again, the bidding goes back to East (the calls made by S and W are removed, South's *Pass Out Of Turn* being an infraction). This should be carefully explained to West. If West does not Pass but bids 1♦ (for example) the auction continues normally.

If the auction goes:

*West North East South*

Pass 1♥ Pass Pass

Pass Pass

this law still applies, with the first *Pass* of East being the call after which three passes have been made (one of them out of rotation). The fact that East (in this example) passes after the *Pass Out Of Rotation* does not make him an offender, he is allowed to accept that *Pass Out Of Turn*.

## Law 18

## BIDS

### A. Proper Form

A bid designates a number of odd tricks (tricks in excess of six), from one to seven, and a denomination. (Pass, double and redouble are calls but not bids.)

### B. To Supersede a Bid

A bid supersedes a previous bid if it designates either the same number of odd tricks in a higher-ranking denomination or a greater number of odd tricks in any denomination.

### C. Sufficient Bid

A bid that supersedes the last preceding bid is a sufficient bid.

### D. Insufficient Bid

A bid that fails to supersede the last preceding bid is an insufficient bid.

### E. Rank of the Denominations

The rank of the denominations in descending order is: no trump, spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs.

**F. Different Methods :-** Regulating Authorities may authorize different methods of making calls.