

Law 7

CONTROL OF BOARD AND CARDS

A. Placement of Board

When a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of the table until play is completed.

B. Removal of Cards from Board

1. Each player takes a hand from the pocket corresponding to his compass position.
2. Each player counts his cards face down to be sure he has exactly thirteen; after that, and before making a call, he must inspect the faces of his cards.
3. During play each player retains possession of his own cards, not permitting them to be mixed with those of any other player. No player shall touch any cards other than his own (but declarer may play dummy's cards in accordance with [Law 45](#)) during or after play except by permission of - the Director.

C. Returning Cards to Board

After play has finished, each player should shuffle his original thirteen cards, after which he restores them to the pocket corresponding to his compass position. Thereafter no hand shall be removed from the board unless a member of each side, or the Director, is present.

Commentary to Law 7C by chairman of Law committee:-

After play, the cards should be shuffled before putting them back into the board. This is to avoid transmitting unauthorized information about the order in which the cards were played..

D. Responsibility for Procedures

Any contestant remaining at a table throughout a session is primarily responsible for maintaining proper conditions of play at the table

Law 8

SEQUENCE OF ROUNDS

A. Movement of Boards and Players

1. The Director instructs the players as to the proper movement of boards and progression of contestants.
2. Unless the Director instructs otherwise, the North player at each table is responsible for moving the boards just completed at his table to the proper table for the following round.

B. End of Round

1. In general, a round ends when the Director gives the signal for the start of the following round; but if any table has not completed play by that time, the round continues for that table until there has been a progression of players.
2. When the Director exercises his authority to postpone play of a board, for that board the round does not end for the players concerned until the board has been played and the score agreed and recorded or the Director has cancelled the play of the board.

C. End of Last Round and End of Session

The last round of a session, and the session itself, ends for each table when play of all boards scheduled at that table has been completed, and when all scores have been entered without objection.