

Lawson Bridge Studio News April 2021

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In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages as well as the current surges in COVID-19 cases in Chicago, there will be no games scheduled until it is safe to hold them. Consider the following for reopening.

As we approach reopening bridge games again under different circumstances than before the pandemic, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge that apply are:

LAW 74 - CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

LAW 90 - PROCEDURAL PENALTIES

A. Director's Authority

The Director, in addition to implementing the rectifications in these Laws, may also assess procedural penalties for any offence that unduly delays or obstructs the game, inconveniences other contestants, violates correct procedure, or requires the award of an adjusted score.

B. Offences Subject to Procedural Penalty

The following are examples of offences subject to procedural penalty (but the offences are not limited to these):

1. arrival of a contestant after the specified starting time.
2. unduly slow play by a contestant.
3. discussion of the bidding, play or result of a board, which may be overheard at another table.
4. unauthorized comparison of scores with another contestant.
5. touching or handling of cards belonging to another player (see Law 7).
6. placing one or more cards in an incorrect pocket of the board.
7. errors in procedure (such as failure to count cards in one's hand, playing the wrong board, etc.) that require an adjusted score for any contestant.
8. failure to comply promptly with tournament regulations or with instructions of the Director.

LAW 91 - PENALIZE OR SUSPEND

A. Director's Powers

In performing his duty to maintain order and discipline, the Director is empowered to assess disciplinary penalties in points or to suspend a player or contestant for the current session or any part thereof. The Director's decision under this clause is final. (see Law 93 Procedures of Appeal: B.3. Appeals Committee the authorized alternative may not overrule the Director on exercise of his Law 91 disciplinary powers.).

B. Right to Disqualify

The Director is empowered to disqualify a player or contestant for cause, subject to approval by the Tournament Organizer.

INTERPRETATION FOR THE CLUB:

From the definitions in the 2017 edition of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge:

Tournament: a contest of one or more sessions (synonym for 'Event'). Although we tend think of Sectionals and higher as Tournaments, the definition of a contest of one session equally applies to club events. All that is needed is to think of the club game as a tournament game for interpretation of rules for club play. As a club we apply all the rules to our play.

The Tournament Organizer for the club is the club management who sets the conditions of play in accordance with the rules of conduct. Thus, Law 74.A.1 applies to conditions for club games during this pandemic reopening. Failures to follow these conditions, the Club Management has the right to follow Law 91 to Penalize or Suspend players whose decisions are final.