

Law Of Contract Bridge Playing

BY RICHARD L. FREY

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New laws governing contract bridge go into effect October 1. They are not revolutionary; there is, for example, no difference in scoring. Yet the changes are important, because they reduce the number of tricks and thus make the average game more pleasant.

One of the remarkable things about contract bridge is that it is played everywhere according to the same laws. Credit for this goes to the men who serve on the Laws Committees and to the hours they unselfishly put into every suggested improvement. Most prominent of these men is Harold S. Vanderbilt, who introduced contract bridge in this country 23 years ago. Working with him are other business executives, famous players, tournament directors, and writers. Solely for the love of the game, they spend their time and thought to make laws that will be clear, workable, and in the best interest of harmonious and skillful play. They receive a penny for the job, and they pay for printing one preliminary draft after another, so that every improvement agreed upon at one meeting will be ready for the next even though that meeting is only twelve hours later. So if anyone tells you, "I see you are changing the bridge laws again. What a racket!" believe it.

Many people disregard the laws. They don't want a penalty for the friends who are their opponents. Yet, in a sense, "penalty" is a misnomer. Breaking a bridge law, however, innocently, often gives one side an unfair advantage; the penalty is designed merely to level things. When no damage is done, it is always quite proper to waive the penalty.

It is usually better, however, to follow all the laws than to waive only a few. The lawmakers are in complete sympathy with the popular feeling that the fewer penalties the better. In this country, the new laws have been made, with the result that most penalties have been lightened and many dropped. Now the most players may agree to follow all the laws; they will find the consequences severe, and in the long run the laws probably will cause them to avoid arguments.

The bridge laws most often needed are those covering revoke, out of turn, bid (or pass) out of turn, and insufficient bid. You will see how the rules for these and other cases have been changed. To apply the new laws properly, however, you must remember what a "penalty card" and how it works.

THE PENALTY CARD

A player has a right to see his partner's card only when they are legally led and played. If a card is exposed in any other manner, it is liable to become a penalty card. Then it must be left on the table, and the first time a legal opportunity arises, it must be led or played. Of course, this is subject to the player's right to follow suit. He does not play a penalty card when it would be a revoke.

The NEW LAWS provide no penalty for exposing one small card during the auction. It simply is restored to the player's hand. A jack or higher card, must be left on the table, and the player's partner is barred from further bidding. If the player is a defender, the cards remain on the table as penalty cards. During the play, any defender's card dropped on the table, shown to his partner, or led out of turn, is a penalty card. Declarer can put an exposed card back in his hand and play it as he pleases. Now, let's get to the major laws:

THE REVOKE: A player revokes when he fails to follow suit although able to. If he discovers his error in time, he may correct it; but after either player of the offending side leads or the next trick, the revoke is "established" and the trick is as played.

The New Law permits a player to correct his revoke without penalty if he discovers it in time. His opponents no longer have the right to make him play his highest or lowest correct card. Their privilege is to change any plays they made after the revoke. However, when a defender corrects a revoke, the card played in error, which has been illegally exposed to his partner, must be left on the table as a penalty card. Of course, this is true of any card exposed by a defender.

The new laws make it clear that declarer is never subject to penalty for exposing a card. The common-sense purpose of all the laws is to compensate for any injury. The declarer cannot injure himself by exposing a card; it gives information only to his opponents. Therefore, why penalize him?

The New Law for an established revoke retains the penalty for two tricks, but never more. If a player revokes more than once in the same suit, which sometimes happens when two cards are struck together, he pays the penalty for only the first revoke. Penalty tricks may be collected only from tricks won after the revoke (including the revoke trick). Obviously, if the revoking player doesn't win any tricks after revoking, no damage has been done and there should be no penalty.

BID OUT OF TURN. The laws term this a "call out of rotation" (it includes passes, doubles, and redoubles as well as bids). Most people term it "bid out of turn." Formerly this law was very complicated. Now it is quite simple, and the penalties are moderate.

The New Law: If you pass when it is your right-hand opponent's turn, you must pass when your turn comes (just as you would to, anyway). After that the auction proceeds as if nothing irregular had happened.

The New Law for any other call out of rotation is: The offender's partner is barred; he must pass at every turn. The offender's call is cancelled. But the offender, whenever his turn prop-

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AIR PARCEL POST SERVICE WENT IN EFFECT, SEPT 1st

Same Speed Offered For Parcels As Given To First Class Mail

Domestic air parcel post service began Sept. 1, it was announced this week. The new service, authorized by congress during its last session, will give the nation its first low-cost, air-delivery of package mail. Packages will receive the same speedy service now given regular air mail.

Air parcel post will cover sealed and unsealed mail weighing more than 8 ounces, but not more than 70 pounds and not exceeding 100 inches in length and girth combined.

To comply with post office regulations, sealed packages must bear a printed sticker reading: "Postmaster—This package may be opened for postal inspection." Similar stickers are now required for parcels sent by ordinary mail.

Packages mailed via air parcel post may be sent C. O. D. and insured against loss or damage. Registered mail, however, must still be sent at the regular air mail rate.

Postal rates for the new service will be determined on the basis of the eight postal zones now in effect for regular parcel post. The new rates will be considerably less than the 5-cent ounce rate now charge for all mail sent by air.

The new service, which will be in full swing before the peak mail loads are reached during the Christmas rush, will provide overnight delivery of packages to or from many cities in the country.

Air parcel post will be accepted for mailing at any post office and will also apply to territories and possessions of the United States.

International air parcel post was begun to 21 countries in Europe and Africa last month.

'Chin Up Club' To Have Booth At '48 Oregon State Fair

SALEM—The Chin Up club of Oregon is having a booth at the Oregon State Fair, here, on Sept. 6 to 12. The booth is located in the grandstand building.

There will be many beautiful articles of needle and craft work on display for sale, which are made by physically handicapped people. The Chin Uppers invite everyone to visit their booth.

The club was organized and founded Oct. 26, 1941, seven miles north of here. Aug. 17, 1944, it was incorporated under the laws of Oregon as non-profit. They published their first monthly printed paper March 15, 1944, called "Oregon Beacon," voice of the Chin Uppers.

Subscriptions will be appreciated by this happy group. The rate is \$1.50 per year. There are no membership dues for regular or junior members, who are 25 per cent or more handicapped. Chin Up club of Oregon, Headquarters Rt. 2, Box 336, Salem, is the address for all communications.

Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. George Huls of Chino, Calif. were house guests of Mrs. Barns and daughter, Miriam Norton, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto C. Turley

gave a party, honoring Rev. and Mrs. Owen Turley, of Berkeley, Calif., at their home Wednesday evening. The group was entertained by colored slides shown by Rev. Turley. Watermelon was served as refreshments.

Mrs. H. S. Beaulieu left early Saturday for Redmond where she visited her daughter, Mrs. Jack Miller, for a few days.

Sheriff R. G. Sabin was an official visitor here Monday from Gold Beach.

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BROOKINGS -:- OREGON

PLEASE ANSWER YES or NO

If you live in the platted townsite of Brookings, are you in favor of incorporation of the townsite area? Your chamber of commerce wants your opinion whether or not you want:

1. To do now what probably must be done later;
2. Act locally on local problems instead of depending on the remote county court;
3. Police protection;
4. Improved streets;
5. Better fire protection with reasonable insurance rates;
6. Participation in state-distributed municipal funds.

The board of directors chose platted Brookings only to sample opinion. Future city boundaries may be determined as later decided. Maps of the plat are displayed in the Postoffice, Lesmeisters and elsewhere.

Please Postcard P. O. BOX 577, BROOKINGS

your signed vote before September 1. Signatures are merely to verify residence in the area.

Brookings Chamber of Commerce