



Orange Book Changes for 2008

1

P.11

3E

August 1st 2008

Section 3E has been completely revised as follows:

3 E 1 A player has the right to ask questions at his turn, but should be aware that exercising this right has consequences. If a player shows unusual interest in one or more calls of the auction, then this is unauthorised information to partner. Partner must carefully avoid taking advantage, which may constrain the actions partner is permitted to take during the remainder of the auction or when on lead during the play. (Law 16C, 73C). Asking about a call of 3NT or below which has not been alerted may cause more problems than asking about an alerted call, as may asking repeated or leading questions. Asking about alerted calls in a (potentially) competitive auction is less likely to have adverse consequences, although it is not risk free.

If, therefore, at a player's turn to call, he does not need to have a call explained, it may be in his interests to defer all questions until either he is about to make the opening lead or his partner's lead is face-down on the table.

3 E 2 Questions asked during the auction about the meaning of an opponent's double shall usually **not** be considered to pass Unauthorised Information, nor to have the potential to mislead declarer about the questioner's shape or values. However, the TD may still use his discretion to give an adjusted score if the nature of the questioning clearly provides partner with unauthorised information.

3 E 3 A player may use only information he has received from legitimate sources, such as calls, plays, opponents' convention cards, their answers to questions and their mannerisms. A player may not use information gained from his partner's explanation, uncertainty, tempo or mannerisms. (Law 73B1)

3 E 4 Perhaps an example would help. A player opens 1♣ which is not alerted, and the next player, before passing, asks the meaning of the 1♣, or even worse says "Is that natural?". If 3NT is reached, and the questioner's partner leads a Club from two or three small cards the questioner must expect that the TD will not allow the result to stand, but will adjust it.

What reason has this player to ask? The questioner knows it is a natural bid because it was not alerted. Experience shows the questioner often happens to have several Clubs.

Players sometimes say "I always ask whether I intend to bid or not". This is not recommended.

3 E 5 When a player does wish to ask a question, it is recommended to phrase this neutrally and ask simply for an explanation of the auction, or of a particular call. For example when asking about a 3♣ response to 2NT it is recommended to say "What does 3♣ mean?", rather than "Is that Stayman?" This helps to avoid confusion or misleading opponents. Only if further clarification is needed should specific questions be asked.

3 E 6 As well as giving unauthorised information to partner, questions about bidding may mislead opponents, in which case they may be entitled to redress. Similarly, declarer's questions about leads, signals and discards could illegally mislead the defenders. (Law 73F)

Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 7D is deleted completely and replaced with

7 D 1 Certain Laws have Regulating Authority options. Those applicable to EBU events are:

- (a) Law 12C1 (c) applies, so a TD or Appeals Committee may weight an assigned adjusted score in order to do equity: this is the norm.
- (b) Law 18F authorises such methods as Bidding Boxes and Silent Bidders.
- (c) Law 40B1 refers to special partnership agreements. Any agreement that is subject to a regulation in this Orange book is deemed to be a special partnership agreement.
- (d) Under Law 40B2 (a) the EBU can regulate certain natural bids directly that were previously regulated indirectly – see 10 E.
- (e) Under Law 40B2 (c) (iii) a player may look at his opponents' system card at any time, though this may create unauthorised information.
- (f) Under 40B3 (a) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a question asked by either side.
- (g) Under Law 40B3 (b) a pair is allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by the opponents to a question by this pair.
- (h) Under Law 40B3 (c) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by this pair to a question by the opponents.
- (j) Under Law 40B3 (d) a pair is allowed to vary, by prior agreement, its understandings during the auction and play consequent on an irregularity by either side, except that following its own insufficient bid a partnership may not change by prior agreement the meaning of a replacement call so that it is brought within the criteria of Law 27B1 (b).
- (k) Under Law 40C3 (a) a player is not allowed aids to memory, calculation or technique: for example, looking at the scores on the back of bidding cards during the hand is considered an aide-memoire and therefore illegal.
- (l) Under Law 61B3 defenders may ask each other whether they have any cards left of the suit led, though this may create unauthorised information.
- (m) Law 78D allows 'other scoring methods', for example in the Hubert Phillips honours count.
- (n) Law 93C allows the possibilities of differing methods of appeals and thus permits special methods to deal with special cases. EBU Appeals procedures are unchanged.

7	P. 42	10 E	Level 2,3,4	August 1st 2008
<p>Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 10E is deleted completely and replaced with</p> <p>10 E Legal control of non-conventional bids</p> <p>10 E 1 From 1st August 2008 all agreements may be regulated under Law 40 as 'special partnership understandings'. The EBU defines all agreements that it regulates as 'special partnership understandings'. The previous indirect method of regulating certain opening bids and overcalls no longer applies.</p> <p>10 E 2 <i>Levels 2, 3 and 4</i></p> <p>(a) A partnership may NOT agree to open 1♥ or 1♠ on 3 cards by agreement.</p> <p>(b) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall on 3 cards by agreement.</p> <p>(c) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall solely to show strength in the suit bid rather than length.</p> <p>(d) A partnership may NOT agree to open on hands weaker than as allowed by 11 C 1, 11 C 9 and 11 C 10.</p> <p>These rules do not necessarily apply to any artificial bids allowed by other sections.</p>				

10	P. 46	11 C 13	Level 4	August 1st 2007/8
<p>Options (a), (b) and (c) are replaced with new section (a). Part (d) is now (b), so it reads:</p> <p>11 C 13 <i>Either/or [Two-way] Club</i></p> <p>A 1♣ opening may be played as both of:</p> <p>(a) Any meaning as long as this does not include unbalanced hands with 5+ Hearts or 5+ Spades (unless there is a minor suit of equal length or longer). together with</p> <p>(b) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).</p>				

11	P. 46	11 C 15-18	Level 4	August 1st 2008
<p>11C15 and 11C16 are renumbered 11C17 and 11C18. New sections 11C15 and 11C16 are added as follows:</p> <p>11 C 15 <i>Strong Major</i></p> <p>A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have any combination of meanings if it is forcing and promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).</p> <p>11 C 16 <i>Balanced Major</i></p> <p>A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have a defined range, a minimum of 9 HCP and must not be forcing. The HCP range may be varied according to position and/or vulnerability. One of the following may be played:</p> <p>(a) a balanced hand</p> <p>(b) a balanced or semi-balanced hand</p> <p>Players are free to agree more restrictive distributional constraints (eg no four card major).</p>				

17	P.52	11 G 10	Level 4	August 1st 2007/8
<p>(a) Delete “extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)”</p> <p>(b) In part (b) add ‘and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.’</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 G 10 <i>General</i></p> <p>(a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p> <p>(b) Any combination of meanings which either:</p> <p>(1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or</p> <p>(2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in the suit bid, and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.</p>				

21	P.54	11 H 8 (a) and (b)	Level 4	August 1st 2007/2008
<p>2007: Delete “extended Rule of 25’ (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).” and add “Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)”</p> <p>2008: In section (b)(2) add ‘and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.’</p> <p>Section now reads</p> <p>11 H 8 (a) <i>General</i></p> <p>Two no trump openings may be played as any one or two of the following:</p> <p>(a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of ‘Extended Rule of 25’ (see 10 B 4).</p> <p>(b) Any combination of meanings which either:</p> <p>(1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or</p> <p>(2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in one specified suit and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.</p>				



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