



Answers

- 1a L25B. The player makes it clear that he intended to bid 1♦. East is offered the possibility to accept the 1NT bid. If he does not do so the 1♦ bid stands and the withdrawn 1NT creates UI (as does the withdrawn 1♦ if 1NT is accepted).
- 1b L25B. This is not an intentional bid over 1NT but over 1♦. 1NT is withdrawn and creates UI for South.
- 1c L25B. We cannot blame East for this irregularity, thinking to call over the 1♦ opening. The 1NT is withdrawn and the double stands. UI for South.

In all three cases, declarer may prohibit the lead of any (one) suit but diamonds.

- 2a L66A. Permitted.
- 2b L66A. Not permitted.
- 2c L66B. Permitted.
- 3 L10C4. North made the bid of 1NT to avoid an enforced pass by partner (1♥ is not comparable with pass). There was no assistance gained through the infraction, no information used available through the infraction. Score stands.
- 4 L16B. Collect all facts to prepare a poll with East hand. First, you need to establish if EW has a specific agreement on 4NT/5♣. They don't. So, poll players to establish if it promises a better hand than 4NT. You will learn that is it not. 5♣ is negative. Given that you don't need to poll with East's hand. He invited the slam so there is no reason to bid it. OK. Sometimes we need to do such polls to satisfy a reviewer. As expected, you will learn that slow 5♣ suggests that West has a spade stopper, and pass is at least LA.
- 5a L16B. The actual meaning of 2NT doesn't matter. West receives UI. He should have taken the 3♥ bid as a transfer and bid 3♠, being a cue for East. And what thereafter? A poll will tell the outcome. Even if NS didn't see the actual problem, the TD should notice the UI case.
- 5b Same as A).
- 6a L55A and L60B. Declarer has to lead from dummy and the ♥5 becomes a major PC.
- 6b L55A. West's choice gets priority, ♣9 becomes a major PC.
- 6c L53A. The LOOT is accepted by the play of the ♥5.
- 6d East should have called the TD, but there is no good reason not to accept his statement, the more so because there are tricky declarers who try to win an extra trick playing from the wrong side now.
- 7 L31B. The TD has to deal with 1♣ OOT and offering East the possibility to accept it he explains the consequences. Not accepting means that the 1♦ bid stands and the 1♣ bid is UI for South, accepting that the 1♦ bid is cancelled and becomes UI for North. Only thereafter East is offered a choice.
- 7a L23. The TD tells North that showing clubs makes his call comparable, otherwise partner has to pass once.
- 7b L23. The TD tells South that showing opening strength and diamonds makes his call comparable otherwise partner has to pass once.



- 8a Not L24 but L16D. The auction has not started yet. Try L16D2c for example. ♦10 is taken back in the hand.
- 8b A straightforward L24B and possible L24E, with consequences for the first lead.
- 8c A straightforward L24A and possibly L24E, the same.

- 9 L46B4 overrides all other considerations: there is no trump in dummy, the call is invalid, and declarer has to designate a legal card.

- 10a L27B1. West may bid 2♠ and then East does not have UI and may do what he wants. L23 allows bids showing at least almost opening values and four or more spades (5-card major system) without restricting a partner.
- 10b L27C. Unless North wants to accept 1♠ the 4♠ bid stands and the TD has to decide whether it can be considered comparable.
- 10c Multiple infractions might be difficult to handle, especially regarding the order in which to deal with them. Here it does not look right to deprive North of his right to accept the insufficient 1♠ bid, so the 6♠ is cancelled and creates UI for West. This brings us back to b). East cannot be forced to repeat his 6♠ bid if he is free to make it. But he certainly deserves a penalty.

- 11 L70 contested claim. The TD asks declarer how he thought to play it. He should be satisfied with: I draw the trumps and ruff one spade. The statement declarer made makes clear that he never intended to play the ♦A prematurely. On the fourth clubtrick he has to discard either a diamond or a spade but with ♦K onside he cannot go wrong.

- 12 L40B3. A few polls to conduct: 1) If North doubles; 2) If South bids 3♥ over the double; 3) if EW reach 3♠. Say 3 out of 5 doubles 2♥, 3 out of 5 bids 3♥, and bidding 3♠ is not an option. A reasonable decision would be: 50% 3♥ N -1, 50% 2♠ W +2.

- 13 No L40B3. In a slam, the defenders are not going to help declarer in playing it. Declarer should not have played the ♠4 in trick 1. This will the TD learn if he asks players how they play the hand. Score stands.

- 14a It is a played card in trick 2, a lead out of turn. Law 55A applies.
- 14b This is a rare case of L45E2, a fifth card in a trick, played by declarer. The card goes back.

- 15a L49: both cards become major PC. With West on lead in trick 3, L51B2 applies. Declarer may demand a lead in either diamonds or clubs or forbid a lead in diamonds and/or clubs. Depending on declarer's decision PC may be picked up.
- 15b Now L58B2 applies. East decides which card to play and the TD has to explain that the ♦3 will become a minor, and the ♦10 a major PC if not played.

- 16 L27B1A allows the auction to continue normally. But North's pass after 4NT indeed results in an 'impossible' contract. So, the question arises what would have happened without the infraction. A poll is needed to decide South' expected call after 4♥. Take into account that South apparently was not interested in a slam, given his 3NT bid, so a fair weight should go to 4♠.



- 17a L25A or L27A1. If the TD is convinced that South wanted to bid an inverted minor 2 ♦ he allows it and West may take his 2 ♣ bid back. Otherwise, the insufficient 1 ♦ is accepted by the 2 ♣ bid and the auction continues from there.
- 17b This is a change of call that the TD accepts when he is convinced that South never wanted to bid 1 ♦ (see A). Otherwise, it is withdrawn and the auction continues with North (UI for West).
- 18a It should be considered to be normal (or even mandatory) to wait for some time, one minute being OK, before starting play after the first lead. And if declarer plays fast, RHO should be allowed to take his time before playing his first card. No irregularity here, unless it appears that declarer is playing the first card from dummy much faster all the time.
- 18b South has nothing to think. His pause before contributing the ♥6 is misleading, L73E2. The TD consults players to assess West's play –with normal declarer's play and taking into account the discouraging ♥7. ? Then the TD awards an adjusted score, using of 3NT – 2 and 3NT made. He penalizes South for his unethical behavior.
- 18c The same adjusted score and If the TD believes South, he could give a warning instead.
- 19 L50 and L26. Two infractions that cause lead restrictions. The withdrawn 1 ♦ gives declarer the option to forbid any (one) suit and the LOOT adds the possibility to require a club-lead. The combination creates an interesting question: Is it possible to forbid a club lead applying L26 and then leave the ♣K on the table with the right to apply L50D2a later?
- 20a L36B, inadmissible double. Partner has to pass throughout.
- 20b L36A, the double is taken away without further restrictions.
- 20c Though it might be easier to apply L36C, the auction period is not over yet, L36A applies also here. Rather inconvenient. No UI restrictions.
- 21a South is the culprit, he should have prevented the wrong lead by West becoming visible. It is treated as legal now, East takes his lead back and North stays declarer.
- 21b The defenders are at fault. L54 applies.
- 21c When two opening leads are faced by the defending side, the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
- 21d Same as C).
- 22a 3 ♥ hasn't been released on the tray, hence not bid. Doesn't matter why West want to bid 2 ♥, he is allowed to do it.
- 22b Same as A).
- 22c Let South demonstrate what happened. It is impossible to release a bidding card and immediately pick it up. So A) again.

In all cases, there was enough noise to transfer information about West's extras to the other side of the screen. We need to poll with East's hand. It looks like pass is LA so the TD will adjust the score.

- 23a East removed his bidding cards with clear intention of passing, so he is deemed to have passed. Double is an attempt to change his call. Not allowed.
- 23b North removed his bidding cards with clear intention of passing. East also removed his bidding cards, but his intention was different – he did not pass. The TD should bring bidding cards back to the tray with an extra pass from North. The bidding continues. After the bidding the TD should award an adjusted score because both sides are responsible for making the bidding visible on the other side of the screen, and EW benefitted from the irregularity.



- 24a L25B. Change not allowed.
- 24b L25A. Change allowed.
- 24c L25A. As long as West didn't call, the change is possible.

- 25 As NS don't have a specific agreement and they base their bidding on bridge knowledge, the TD should ask players: 1) what kind of hand pass shows; 2) what North bids with his hand, 3) what other bids he considers, 4) what slow pass suggests. He should get answers that pass shows minimum hand but still one that a game is possible. Some players with North's hand consider passing but all of them bid 4♠. And slow pass suggests a better hand – with a very weak hand South would bid 3♠ quickly.

- 26a The TD cancels both calls and East opens the bidding. No UI.
- 26b The screen regulations are not clear for this case. It looks reasonable to treat the NE action as legal and to continue the auction.
- 26c East has accepted the BOOT, the auction continues normally.
- 26d Not clear. The attention to the irregularity was drawn before pushing the tray, that's why we should deal with it as in case A). However, the further action of both sides transferred information about withdrawn calls to the other side of the screen. UI. Law 11 may apply.

- 27 The auction is not closed and though meant as the openings lead the ♠4 is a card shown during the auction as all shown cards in East are. Apply L24 for both sides. The auction continues with South on the turn. L24 says that West has to pass once, so the contract is 7♥, The ♠4 becomes a major PC and has to be led.

The described approach is common; however, it leads to inconsistency. We assume that L24 applies because 1) the bidding is not finished, 2) some cards were exposed. Let's consider the TD was called in the middle of the play. To keep consistency, he needs to go back to the bidding with forced passes and penalize half of the hand of each defender. If the TD was called after the board he should adjust the score, but under the same circumstances – forced passes and 26 penalty cards. L12B2 doesn't allow us to do anything else.

Such an approach may lead to weird scores. That's why, if the play is advanced, the TDs prefer to adjust the score going back to the bidding and considering what would have happened in case of no irregularity. To keep consistency the same approach should apply if the TD is called in the first trick. The screen regulations deserve a change.

Did the TD adjust the score instead of applying L24? He needs a poll to determine if 7NT is possible.

- 28a A lot of work for the TD to collect facts. When it's done, the TD is ready to rule 'Score stands'. East was misinformed as a consequence of a lack of alert on 2♣ by his partner.
- 28b West did not ensure his alert was visible, so rule the same as A).
- 28c This time South was alerted. West deserved the systemic explanation of 2♥ which is spade raise. Knowing that he wouldn't have doubled. The poll should determine the outcome of the boards. West bids 3♦, North 3♠ (this can be said at the table). Is West's hand good enough to compete of the 4-level? This requires players' opinions.

