



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

4th EBL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS COURSE
31st August – 5th September 2001
Tabiano di Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy

Law 25

1. Inadvertent call: without ever having had the intention to make that call. Some say: a mechanical error, meaning that thinking had nothing to do with it. A pass after a splinter from partner most probably is not an inadvertent call. The player was thinking of making an effort to go to slam and decided not to do so, but he forgot that even game wasn't reached yet. The pass was made by purpose, though erroneous. Only if the player put the pass without ever having had the intention to make that call, subconsciously, it may be deemed to be inadvertent.
2. To change a call without penalty, we need more than it being inadvertent. The second call needs to be made without a pause for thought. This is a serious further restriction. It means that the player needs to have made a decision about the call to make and then does something else without realizing it. This happens quite often when playing with bidding boxes. The player wants to make a call but something different is put on the table. That is an inadvertent call that may be changed. Even when calls are made vocally it seems to be possible to say 'hearts' when you mean 'diamonds'.
3. This last sentence makes clear that decisions in this field of irregularities are not easy to make. How to know what these wonderful brains of somebody else did think of? The TD should be severe, only if he is sure that the call was really inadvertent he should allow the change (and don't forget the pause for thought, which shouldn't be measured with the seconds it takes but with the question whether the player had made up his mind already)
4. An inadvertent call may be changed till partner makes a call thereafter. If it is discovered after LHO made a call that call is taken back. The information from it is free available for RHO, but not for the pair that caused the problem.
5. It doesn't matter how the player discovers that he made a wrong (inadvertent) bid. Within the time limit it always may be changed. If partner alerts, if LHO doubles, even if partner asks: 'what are you doing?' an inadvertent call may be changed.
6. Withdrawing an inadvertent call never can cause UI, since the call doesn't have any meaning, except that it wasn't meant to be made.
7. When it is too late to substitute an inadvertent call receiving the message that it is inadvertent becomes UI. Partner has to assume that it has the meaning as agreed.

8. A call made by purpose, may be changed as well. The wording of L25B is poor and confusing. If a player changes such a call himself the TD should be called and 25B applies. LHO gets the opportunity to accept it. If he does, all develops normally (but the text should mention that the first call is UI for partner).
9. It only may be changed as long as LHO doesn't make a call. But LHO should maintain his normal tempo.
10. The player needs to find out the mistake himself, without any help from others. The information which makes him aware of his mistake needs to be available when he makes his first call. A partnership agreement, a missing card, not seeing a previous call made, etc. But not an alert or other reaction from partner or an opponent, etc.
11. If LHO makes a call after the change, meant to be made on the first call he therewith has to accept the second call but may withdraw his own call, which becomes UI for his own partner.
12. If LHO does not accept the second call it is removed and the player then may maintain his first call (partner passes once) or make any call he wants (including the call not accepted by LHO, looks good isn't it!), after which the result on the board for this pair can't be higher than average-minus.
13. If a player calls the TD and tells him that he wants to change his call and the TD establishes that it was not inadvertently made (99.9% chance) he should not follow the whole of 25B (that creates nonsense), but immediately explain that changing it results in a maximum score of average-minus. And that not changing it gives partner the UI that he wanted to change it (there is UI anyway, if he changes his call the first call causes UI).
14. The opponents do get the real result on the board.
15. The normal applications of L23 and L 26 are valid.
16. If the first call made was insufficient the TD should apply L 27 and not offer the possibilities as given in 25B. This also means that a substituted call may not be accepted by LHO.



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Law 26

1. When the defending side has made one or more calls that are withdrawn law 26 applies. A withdrawn call creates UI, that is why.
2. Even when the laws do not refer to law 26, it should be applied when the conditions under 1) are fulfilled. Unless the laws specifically say that a call may be withdrawn without penalty. (see L 25 B1, which also says that 16C2 does apply. This has to mean that though there is no lead penalty, partner still may not use the UI arising from the withdrawn call).
3. UI becomes available when illegal calls carry information not transferred legally. When a withdrawn call relates to one or more known suits L26A applies, otherwise L26B applies. Normally 'relates to' means 'shows', but this is not necessarily so. A withdrawn cue bid is considered to be related to a suit.
4. Generally spoken: when the withdrawn call has comparable information to the meaning conveyed in the legal auction there is no lead penalty. Otherwise either 26A applies or 26B.
5. There is a different approach for both. In 26A the penalty is limited to the UI left. When the withdrawn call is not just related to specified suits the penalty is a fixed one.
6. An example: when the withdrawn call relates to ♥ and an unknown suit law 26B applies and even when ♥ are specified in the legal auction the lead penalty for ♥ may be chosen.
7. When 26A applies and the withdrawn call is related to more than one (known) suit declarer may prohibit the lead of only one suit.