

General Laws Governing Irregularities

LAW 9: PROCEDURE FOLLOWING AN IRREGULARITY

A. Calling Attention to an Irregularity

1. During the Auction Period

Unless prohibited by Law, any player may call attention to an irregularity during the auction, whether or not it is his turn to call.

2. During the Play Period

(a) Declarer or Either Defender

Unless prohibited by Law, declarer or either defender may call attention to an irregularity that occurs during the play period.

(b) Dummy (dummy's restricted rights are defined in Law 42 and Law 43)

(1) Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during the play but may do so after play of the hand is concluded.

(2) Dummy may attempt to prevent declarer from committing an irregularity (Law 42B2).

B. After Attention Is Called to an Irregularity

1. Summoning the Director

(a) When to Summon

The Director must be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity.

(b) Who May Summon

Any player, including dummy, may summon the Director after attention has been drawn to an irregularity.

(c) Retention of Rights

Summoning the Director does not cause a player to forfeit any rights to which he might otherwise be entitled.

(d) Opponents' Rights

The fact that a player draws attention to an irregularity committed by his side does not affect the rights of the opponents.

2. Further Bids or Plays

No player shall take any action until the Director has explained all matters in regard to rectification and to the assessment of a penalty.

C. Premature Correction of an Irregularity

Any premature correction of an irregularity by the offender may subject him to a further penalty (see the lead penalties of Law 26).

LAW 10: ASSESSMENT OF A PENALTY

A. Right to Assess Penalty

The Director alone has the right to assess penalties when applicable. Players do not have the right to assess (or waive) penalties on their own initiative.

B. Cancellation of Payment or Waiver of Penalty

The Director may allow or cancel any payment or waiver of penalties made by the players without his instructions.

C. Choice after Irregularity

1. Explanation of Options

When these Laws provide an option after an irregularity, the Director shall explain all the options available.

2. Choice among Options

If a player has an option after an irregularity, he must make his selection without consulting partner.

LAW 11: FORFEITURE OF THE RIGHT TO PENALIZE

A. Action by Non-Offending Side

The right to penalize an irregularity may be forfeited if either member of the non-offending side takes any action before summoning the Director. The Director so rules when the non-offending side may have gained through subsequent action taken by an opponent in ignorance of the penalty.

B. Irregularity Called by Spectator

1. Spectator Responsibility of Non-Offending Side

The right to penalize an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the non-offending side is responsible.

2. Spectator Responsibility of Offending Side

The right to correct an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the offending side is responsible.

C. Penalty after Forfeiture of the Right to Penalize

Even after the right to penalize has been forfeited under this law, the Director may assess a procedural penalty (see [Law 90](#)).