

Changes in the new Bridge Laws 2017 – a guide for club players

The new laws come into effect on 1 August 2017.

There are a number of changes to the new laws but the following is an explanation of some of the key changes where the emphasis is on **obtaining a bridge result** rather than applying penalties or adjustments.

New Law 23 – Comparable call

A. Comparable call - Definition

A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributed to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (eg an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call

W	N	E	S
	1H (opening bid out of turn)		

W	N	E	S
1S	2H (✓)		

W	N	E	S
		1H (opening bid out of turn)	

W	N	E	S
1H	P	2NT (4 card support, game force ✓)	

W	N	E	S
			P (pass out of turn)

W	N	E	S
	1H	P	1NT (limited – ie 6-9 ✓)

W	N	E	S
	2D (opening multi out of turn)		

W	N	E	S
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	1D	2S (weak in spades ✓)	
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N	W 2NT	E P	S 2C
N	W 2NT	E P	S 3C (stayman ✓)
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B. No Rectification

When a call is cancelled and the offender chooses at his proper turn to replace the irregularity with a comparable call, then both the auction and play continue without further rectification. Replacing an illegal call with one which is NOT comparable is still permitted but partner would be required to pass.

C. Non-Offending Side Damaged

If following the substitution of a comparable call, the Director judges at the end of play that without the assistance gained through the infraction the outcome of the board could well have been different, and in consequence the non-offending side is damaged, they shall award an adjusted score.

There will be calls that are clearly comparable and calls that are clearly not comparable.

When there is doubt, the Director will allow the call to be comparable but be prepared to adjust the result if non-offenders are damaged.

Law 27 – Insufficient bid

The intent hasn't changed but has been re-written in reference to new Law 23

W 1NT	N 2S	E 2D (transfer to Hearts)	S
W 1NT	N 2S	E 3H (✓) Ok as this is a comparable call	S

If the insufficient bid is replaced by a comparable call then the auction proceeds without further rectification.

If it is corrected by a sufficient bid, that is not comparable, or pass then offender's partner must pass for the rest of the auction.

If it is corrected with a X or XX then it is cancelled and offender's partner must pass for the rest of the auction.

The law specifically says that the Director should attempt to get a **Bridge result**.