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♠♦ **SOME CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE** ♣♥
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The ACBL has approved a new edition of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and there are **SOME** significant changes which will be implemented at this Regional. All players are expected to familiarize themselves with these changes.



For a fuller version of them, please go to
<http://cdn.acbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Laws-of-Duplicate-Bridge.pdf>

USE OF THE STOP CARD OR ANNOUNCING "SKIP BID!"

Although the use of the Stop Card and announcing "Skip Bid" is not in the Laws, it is an ACBL regulation and the following significant changes have been made:

The new rule is that the use of the Stop Card or announcing "Skip bid!" is no longer required. A player may do nothing that will alert anyone to the fact that he or she has jumped – the jump bid should be played evenly and in tempo! The LHO, the next player, should not bid too quickly or too slowly after this, for if the LHO bids too quickly or too slowly after a skip bid, the speed of the bid may give unauthorized information to Partner.

COMPARABLE CALLS (Law 23 and other Laws)

Please note that this is a very superficial description of this law change:

An illegal call — e.g. an insufficient bid, a bid or pass or double out of turn, for example, may now (subject to the Director's ruling) be corrected when it is the offender's proper turn by a call with a comparable meaning, providing the combination of the illegal call and the comparable call does not give the offending side an advantage. The Director **MUST** be called to assess this situation. If it appears to the Director that a comparable call exists for the situation at hand, the Director will allow the offender to make a comparable call without penalty, after which bidding and play continue normally and no lead restrictions apply. If, however, it later appears that an advantage may have, in fact, been gained after the first ruling, the Director should be called back again to review the bidding and play and may then award an adjusted score.

LEGAL CHANGES OF CALL (Law 25)

This law has been tightened up, but its basis remains the same. If a player, through mechanical error, places an incorrect bidding card on the table, it can be corrected when the mistake is noticed, provided the offender's partner has not yet bid. The mistake must, however, be "technical" and not due to a loss of concentration, or to momentary confusion. The Director should be called to rule on the situation if there is any doubt.

DUMMY MAY NOT LOOK AT OPPONENTS' CARDS (Law 43)



It is now prohibited for Dummy to look at Opponent's cards before the hand is over — although the look was often by invitation or out of idle curiosity, the rule has been tightened up. Likewise, defenders should not show Dummy their cards during the play.

