

WBF LC Commentary

Laws 10 and 11 - Assessment and Forfeiture of Rectification

Law 10A states that it is the TD and not the players who make rulings. Law 10B says the TD can either supplant a ruling the players have made for themselves or leave it as it is. Remember, Law 12A1 gives the TD latitude to adjust a score when there has been an irregularity for which there is no specific rectification in the Laws, such as when a side gains by making its own ruling.

Law 11 deals with players who don't call the Director when there is an irregularity. If the non-offenders act before calling the TD, the Law has said for years they may forfeit their right to rectification of that irregularity. Law 11A has been changed in the 2017 code. The Director is now empowered to award a split score (both sides losing) when either side gains (previously he would only remove the advantage from non-offenders). Now the Director takes away whatever advantage was gained by the side who did not call the TD in time (such as by causing a player to get a second penalty card through ignorance of the obligation to play the first one), but the TD still applies the Law to the side who committed the irregularity.

Example 4: Here is an example of a player making his own ruling and then not liking the outcome:

	♠ 64 ♥ 82 ♦ J2 ♣ —	
♠ 873 ♥ 63 ♦ 7 ♣ —		♠ — ♥ KJ5 ♦ 986 ♣ - -
	♠ QJ2 ♥ - - ♦ KQ5 ♣ —	

South is declarer in a diamond contract. The lead at trick 8 from dummy is the ♦J. East plays ♥5 and South and West follow suit. Now declarer plays the ♦2 from dummy and East discovers his revoke. He announces this. Rather than call for the TD, declarer tells him that play continues and there will be a one trick transfer at the end (even though this is incorrect; the revoke has not been established). South plays his last trump, and the last three tricks are won by East. South figures out that even with the extra trick he is one trick short of a normal result and calls the TD.

N/S keep their table result: three out of the last six tricks. E/W do not keep their advantage. Had the TD been called in time E/W would have won one of the last six tricks and that becomes the adjusted score for E/W