

WBF LC Commentary

Law 64 – Trick Transfer and Redress of Damage

The only practical way for an automatic two-trick transfer is for the offender to ruff the revoke trick and win it. The exception is the case where a defender does not comply with a lead restriction (when able to do so), which is also considered to be a revoke (see Law 61A - Definition). In either case, the penalty cannot exceed the number of tricks won by the offending side beginning with the revoke trick.

If it appears that the automatic trick transfer does not compensate for the loss of tricks due to the revoke, the TD applies Law 64C, deciding what the likely outcome would have been had the revoke not occurred. This makes it possible to award a weighted adjusted score. In such a case the automatic trick penalty does not apply. Some players have the idea that an established revoke by an opponent results in at least one extra trick for their side. That is not the case. The laws only guarantee that the non-offending side will never be disadvantaged due to a revoke.

Law 64C may also apply if there is no automatic trick adjustment as described in Law 64B. Law 64B8 is new. It describes the case where both sides revoke on the same trick, but only one revoke has become established, after which both of them are corrected. It is clear that in such a case, (as with Law 64B1), Law 64C does not apply.

A good example of the combination of the application of Law 64A and Law 64C occurs when a player revokes for the second time in the same suit. Law 64A applies for the first revoke and Law 64C applies if the second revoke gives the offender an extra trick [Law 64C2(a)].

Example 46:

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South is declarer in a NT contract. He plays to the Ace, East does not follow suit: one trick will be transferred later. He continues with the K and East revokes again. Later East wins a trick with the J.

If East had not revoked a second time declarer would have made 4 spade tricks and an extra trick for the revoke. Due to the second revoke he only makes three spade tricks. Applying Law 64C2(a) the TD adjusts the score by giving him the tricks he would have received had only one revoke occurred (4 plus 1)