

WBF LC Commentary

Law 68 – Claims and Concessions

A claim and/or concession is an initiative to curtail play. It is the task of the opponents to agree or not with such claim/concession. Play ceases with two exceptions:

1. If a defender concedes one or more tricks (claiming the others, if there are any) and his partner immediately objects the TD will instruct that play continue. He will warn the conceding player that he may not gain any advantage from the knowledge that partner thinks their side may still have a trick coming. This case shows another exception in the creation of penalty cards. Cards exposed by the defenders to support or contradict the claim/concession can be taken back and do not become penalty cards. The information arising from those is authorized for declarer and unauthorized for partner/defender

The preamble to this Law refers to cases like the following:

Example 48:

Dummy: KJ8 (possibly with cards in other suits)

Declarer plays the 5 towards this holding in dummy and starts thinking for some time. If RHO now puts down or shows the AQ in this suit, he's just letting declarer know that it doesn't matter: he will play the appropriate card to win the trick. These cards do not become penalty cards, but it might be wise for RHO to cash both A and Q on this and the next trick - the possession of these cards is now UI for LHO. If declarer continues a line of play through which he might not lose a second trick in this suit (LHO getting the lead and having a logical alternative), the TD could be called upon to adjust the score.

2. Law 68D. This Law deals with what often happens at many tables after a claim is contested. The Law says that, at the request of the non-claiming side, and with the concurrence of all four players, play may continue. No UI, no penalty cards, just let 'em play. If someone objects, it is handled as a traditional contested claim by calling the TD. The TD should not suggest that the hand be played out, but he may allow the players to play it out if he is satisfied that his presence at the table was simply clarification of this (new) option's existence.