

## **Rules, Regulations, and Scoring Changes – from August 2015**

Tournament Directors and Scorers need to be aware that changes have been made as from August 2015. The most significant of these are:

**Blue Book Changes** (The EBU Blue Book covers the regulations governing the game). <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/blue-book/blue-book-2015.pdf>

Strong 1♣ and Strong 1♦ Opening Bids

One of the options prior to August was that a hand should conform to ER25 (hcp + two longest suits). This has now been changed to ER24. The other options remain unchanged (any hand of 16+ points; a hand with 8 clear-cut tricks with normal opening values).

**White Book Changes** (the interpretation of the Laws)– simplified – see white book for full explanation– <https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/white-book/white-book-2015.pdf>

A significant change has been made to the way in which Mis-bids are handled. Whilst it is (obviously) not an offence to Mis-bid, nor has the distinction between a Mis-bid and Mistaken Explanation changed. However if partner 'fields' a Mis-bid, a Director now handles this differently. Previously it was handled similar to a psyche, being classified as red, amber, green, with similar prescriptive penalties.

When partner fields a Mis-bid he allows for this possibility in his subsequent actions. This may result in Mis-information – for example if you've recently changed your system and whilst partner explains the new system, has reservations as to whether you've remembered and allows for you still using the old system (this dual use may involve illegal agreements – in which case you get av-). This 'Mis-information' may damage your opponents and they now have recompense under current Mis-information laws.

More commonly a Mis-bid is fielded if the mis-bidder realises his error (possibly having heard partner's explanation) and then via some mannerism (e.g. tempo, remark, gesture, body language), indicates to partner his error. If partner takes note of this mannerism he may be inclined to field the Mis-bid. If he does, this is now dealt with under Law 16, in exactly the same way as any other Unauthorised Information. The Director may give a adjusted score (possibly weighted).

**Scoring Changes** (see EBU site for examples and more details)

1. If a board is fouled and there is a small sub-field of 1,2, or 3 plays, and the fouled set constitutes one third or less of the entire field, a 70/60/50 rule is applied (rather than the previous pure Neuberg rule which gave rise to more disparate scores). The new rule narrows the spread of results. <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/licensing/master-points-handbook-2015.pdf> - para 4.1.5
1. You now have to play 75% of the boards that you are scheduled to play to qualify for master-points (scheduled half table sit-outs are included as 'played') - I think this is an attempt to promote more use of web-Mitchells - good idea. <http://www.ebu.co.uk/newsletters/?id=26&page=15>

These scoring changes are being incorporated into the major scoring programs. (Any queries on these refer to the relevant publications, or contact the WBU).

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