

QBA NEW DIRECTOR "PROFICIENCY" COURSE

Successful candidates for QBA New Director Proficiency Assessment need to have:

1. A demonstrated ability to start a (single) bridge session
2. knowledge of the more common Mitchell movements: odd, even, rover
3. knowledge of Howells and Reduced Howell movements
4. knowledge of American Whist and New England movements for teams
5. an understanding of double matchpointing including adjusted scores
6. a good understanding of the commonly used laws and "law book" rulings

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- a good understanding of the commonly used laws and "law book" rulings
 - Incorrect number of cards or missing cards
 - Pass out of rotation
 - Bid out of rotation
 - Insufficient bids
 - Opening lead out of turn
 - Leads out of turn
 - Revokes
 - Penalty cards
 - Disagreement on number of tricks and incorrect scores

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- Law 81C2 gives directors the responsibility of interpreting the Laws. The aim should be to be consistent with other directors as far as possible.
- Detailed Notes on the 2017 Laws may be found at <https://qldbridge.com.au/2017-laws>
- Explanation and exercises in double matchpointing may be found at <https://qldbridge.com.au/manual-scoring>

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Bridge Regulation and Organization

- The World Bridge Federation
- Zone 7 : South Pacific Bridge Federation
- Australian Bridge Federation
- Queensland Bridge Association
- "The Club"

Law 80A – The Regulating Authority

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Clubs / Tournament Organiser

- Appointment of the Director
- Advance arrangements of the tournament
- Date and time of each session
- Establish conditions of entry
- Supplementary regulations
- Appointment of assistants and other staff
- Arrange scores to be collected, tabulated and an official record of them be made
- Make suitable arrangement for appeals (Law 93)
- Any other powers and duties conferred by the Laws.

Law 80B – Tournament Organizer

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Law 81 – The Director

- A. The Director is the official representative of the Tournament Organizer.
- B.
 1. The Director is responsible for the on-site technical management of the tournament. He has powers to remedy any omissions of the Tournament Organizer.
 2. The Director applies, and is bound by, these Laws and supplementary regulations announced under authority in these Laws.

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The Director (not the players) has responsibility for rectifying irregularities and redressing damage.

- To maintain discipline and ensure orderly progress of the game.
- To administer and interpret these Laws and to advise players of their rights and responsibilities.
- To rectify an error or irregularity of which he becomes aware in any manner, within the periods established in accordance with Laws 79C and 92B.
- To assess rectification when applicable and to exercise the powers given him in Laws 90 and 91.
- To waive rectification for cause, in his discretion, upon request of the non-offending side.


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- To adjust disputes.
- To refer any matter to an appropriate committee.
- To report results for the official record if the Tournament Organizer requires it and to deal with any other matters delegated to him by the Tournament Organiser.


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 Be clean and neatly attired.


 Avoid being overtired and cranky.

 Be Prepared. Have everything ready that you may need eg movement cards.


 Start and finish on time.


 Be consistent about calling the moves.


 Establish a pattern that regular players accept and can adapt to. In time this cuts down on the amount of verbal instruction.


 Don't be a microphone hog.


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 Carry your Law Book with you. Read relevant passages to reassure players.

 Stress that rectifications are to restore equity and not to punish.

 Take time to make decisions. Don't be rushed. Consult with others when possible.

 Try to get rulings right.
Keep an eye on problem areas.


 Hovering within earshot makes "difficult" players more cautious.

 Discourage slow play.


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 Don't point.

 Don't use fancy movements just to show how clever you are.

 Keep mistakes in perspective. What's *the* worst thing that could happen?

 Attend workshops and subscribe to the ABDA Directors' Bulletin.

 Direct because you enjoy it.

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Tips for a Good Director

- Have a reputation for running a friendly, fair and well organised session
- When called to the table
 - Attend quickly but don't rush
 - Arrive at a table as a helper, not as an old west Sheriff with all guns blazing
 - Ask "How can I help?" or similar
 - If players all try to talk at once, ask the person who called you to first explain the issue. Tell everyone else they will all get their turn if needed to establish facts
- Be firm and sympathetic, not loud and strict
- Always listen and offer to go away and check if it will calm the table down
- Don't hover around the table unless needed. Give your ruling and move away.

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Resources

- 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge
World Bridge Federation
- Director is Called
John McIlwrath
- Director, Speak English Please!
Josephina Burrie
- Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified
David Stevenson
- Bridge Director's Handbook of Movements
and Scoring
Judy McKee

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Resources

- Bridge Directing Complete
Larry Harris
- Duplicate Bridge Direction
Alex Groner

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Laws Introduction – Meaning of Words

- “May” – Failure to do is not wrong
- “Does” – Establishes procedure without suggesting that violation be penalised
- “Should” – Failure to do it is an infraction jeopardising the infractor’s rights but not often penalised
- “Shall” – A violation will incur a penalty more often than not
- “Must” – The strongest word, a serious matter indeed.

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Some Definitions

- Adjusted Score : A score awarded by the Director
 - Assigned – an actual bridge score (eg 3NT making 9), this replaces the score obtained in play.
 - Artificial – When owing to an irregularity no result can be obtained ...
 - Average = 50%
 - Average Plus = 60% or session score if in no way at fault
 - Average Minus = 40% or session score if directly at fault
- Infraction : A players breach of Law.
- Irregularity : A deviation from correct procedure inclusive of those which involve an infraction by a player.

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Some Definitions

- Misinformation : the failure of a side to accurately disclose partnership method or understanding
- Rectification : The remedial provisions to be applied when an irregularity has come to the Director's attention.
- Unintended : Involuntary; not under control of the will; not the intention of the player at the moment of his action.
- Withdrawn : Actions said to be "withdrawn" include actions that are "cancelled" and cards that are "retracted".

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Some Definitions (See Law 16)

- Authorized Information : A player may use information in the auction and play if it derives from legal calls and plays of the current board.
- Unauthorized Information : Any extraneous information that might suggest a call or play. This includes:
 - Remarks
 - Questions, Replies to Questions
 - Unexpected alerts or failures to alert
 - Unmistakable hesitation or unwonted speed
 - Emphasis, tone, gesture or mannerism

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