

CLAIMS and CONCESSIONS (Laws 68-71, 79)

A **CLAIM** is a suggestion that the CLAIMER will win a specific number of the remaining tricks – after the current trick is completed – and that play should be curtailed.

A **CONCESSION** is a suggestion that a player will lose a specific number of the remaining tricks – and that play should be curtailed.

Making proper claims or concessions is encouraged as they speed up play and spare everyone watching a string of tricks being cashed when there is no hope of beating them.

PROCEDURE

-The **player claiming** (or conceding) makes a statement equivalent to “I claim”.

-They then lay their remaining cards face up on the table for all to see **AND**

- they **immediately state how, and in which order, they intend to play the remaining cards.** “the proposed line of play”

A **If ALL players (including dummy) AGREE with the claim**, the board is scored as if the hand has been played out and the number of tricks claimed are awarded.

B If at least 1 player, including Dummy, doubts the validity of the claim:

a) **If a non claiming opponent requests to play the hand out, AND ALL 4 Players AGREE**, the CLAIMER picks up their hand and plays it out in any way they choose.

{note: this choice would not normally be a good one as Claimer is made aware of the opponent who questions the claim and they may well be able to play the cards in a way which would allow them to neutralize that identified threat}

b) **if 1 PLAYER does not wish the hand to be played out, DIRECTOR IS CALLED.**

DIRECTOR will immediately ask the Claimer to repeat exactly what they said when they made the claim, and judge the validity of the claim on that basis. Normally, all players cards would be faced on the table to allow this – the hand record may also be used. The judgement will be based on a normal, but not necessarily best, line of play.

If, for example, there was a trump outstanding, and Claimer did not state that their first step was to draw the last trump at the first opportunity, and there was a way in which the cards could be played such that the outstanding trump could win a trick, then this trick would be awarded to the non-claiming side.- the judgement having been that Claimer may have forgotten that there was an outstanding trump.

Equally, Claimer would not be allowed to take a finesse to make their contract unless they had stated that at the time of making the claim – unless one opponent had already shown out in that suit.

IF OPPONENTS DISAGREE WITH EACH OTHER regarding a CONCESSION, the DIRECTOR IS CALLED, the concession cancelled, and play continues under the observation of the Director.

Note; Players cannot knowingly accept a trick that their side did not win, nor concede a trick that their side actually won.

M Hart