

Minutes

Meeting of the ACBL Laws Commission
New Orleans Marriott
July 24, 2010 - 10 AM

Members Present

Chip Martel, Chairman
Adam Wildavsky, Vice Chairman
Georgia Heth
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein
Chris Compton
Eric Rodwell
Peter Boyd
John Solodar

Also Present

Mike Flader, TD and scribe
Matt Koltnow, TD
Joan Gerard, District 3 Director
Jim Miller, ACBL National Recorder
Richard De Martino, ACBL President
Al Levy, District 24 Director

Present Via Conference Call (momentarily)

Gary Blaiss
Robb Gordon
Ron Gerard
Jeff Polisner

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM.

Motion made to accept Reno minutes by Adam Wildavsky.
Seconded by Peter Boyd. Carried.

The conflict with the Laws Commission meeting and other bridge events was brought up by Boyd and was discussed. No action was taken.

The Board of Directors agenda item on Slow Play Penalties in our major team events was discussed next. Several questions were discussed.

1. Do the laws give the director the authority to do what is written in (the attached) Item 102-134, specifically to force player(s) to sit out a given segment or to split up partnerships, or is it a matter that can be written into the conditions of contest?

John Solodar felt that this proposal should be referred back to the Board for a rewrite.

Wildavsky wondered whether we thought the proposed penalties were legal.

Joan Gerard suggested that the directors could rewrite this proposal so that it is enforceable.

Chip Martel felt that not allowing a pair to play was covered under the director's law 91 power to suspend a player/pair and that Law 5 gives the director the authority to bar a pair from playing together.

The discussion also considered whether the proposal's statement that "An appeal of an action taken by a TD with regard to time may be made to the Director in Charge of the tournament, and no further." was legal.

Wildavsky suggested that since the DIC of an event gets his authority from the Chief Director that this was appealable to the Chief Director.

After some discussion, Chris Compton moved that the Laws Commission declare that the motion as written is legal. Howard Weinstein seconded. The Motion carried, John Solodar dissenting. (We also note that several absent members who were not able to participate due to technical problems with the conference call were concerned about the legality of this proposal).

John Solodar then brought up law 12C1b and in particular the issue of what happens when there is a clear violation of law, but the non-offending side commits a serious or egregious error that severs the link between the irregularity and the damage. A straw poll was conducted and most members felt that when this happened, the non-offending side got the bad result earned at the table, but, that the offenders' score should be adjusted to the most unfavorable result that was at all probable had the irregularity not occurred, per Law 12C1(e)(ii).

A discussion of what the adjustment should be (and what "had the irregularity not occurred" means) was deferred until the next meeting. The Laws Commission stated that they supported the current policies of the League for the time being, but would like some input from the WBF.

Wildavsky moved that we adopt the EBU White Book policy (attached) that provides a high standard for what constitutes a "serious error" and also provides some examples.

Compton stated that we should differentiate between those errors which are egregious and those, which are merely

careless or inferior. Wildavsky accepted this as an amendment to his motion. Compton felt that some examples of both should be included in our policy. This motion was carried by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Flader