

MINUTES

ACBL National Laws Commission
2014 Fall Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island
Saturday, November 29, 2014

Members Present:

Chip Martel, Chairman
Adam Wildavsky, Vice Chairman
Peter Boyd
Chris Compton
Allan Falk
Ron Gerard
*Robb Gordon
Matt Koltnow
Al Levy
Eric Rodwell
Becky Rogers
Aaron Silverstein
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein

*by telephone

Also Present:

Dan Morse
*Jeff Polisner
Sam Whitten, ACBL National Recorder
Tadashi Yoshida

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. The minutes from the Las Vegas meeting, Summer 2014, were approved with revisions.
2. Adam Wildavsky gave a report about the WBF Laws Committee meetings in Sanya. He reported that there were four meetings aimed at developing revisions for the 2017 revision of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. The WBF Laws Committee reviewed Laws 1-40, except for Laws 16 and 27. The WBF has solicited opinions for the last several years regarding changes to the Laws, and those suggestions were discussed by the WBF. There was substantial discussion regarding whether Law 27B1(b) should be revised.
3. The Laws Commission discussed Law 73D: Variations in Tempo or Manner. The Commission discussed whether declarer should be able to think about playing from equals for the purpose of deceiving his opponents. There was general agreement that taking substantial time to choose which card to play from equals, such as KQJ for

purposes of deceiving the opponents is not considered a demonstrable bridge reason. There was a general consensus that playing from equals or all small cards, taking an extended time to play is not appropriate. In more complicated situations, the Tournament Director should ask the player for an explanation of their reason for taking an extended amount of time.

The Laws Commission discussed Law 73F: Violation of Proprieties: The Laws Commission discussed methods that could be utilized to improve the clarity of the Law. No consensus was reached and the Commission agreed to continue the discussion at a later date.

The Laws Commission discussed Law 74 C5, whether players should be allowed to stare intently at their opponents for the purpose of learning the location of certain cards. The Laws Commission agreed that Law 74A2 prevents staring intently at another player for this purpose. The Commission confirmed that the existing Law needs clarification.

4. The Laws Commission discussed Law 64. There was consensus that the reference to Law 64C contained in Law 64 B2 was misplaced. The Commission agreed that the last sentence of Law 64B2, “Law 64C may apply” should be placed in the header to Law 64B. Adam Wildavsky agreed to make this suggestion to the WBF Laws Committee.

5. The Laws Commission noted that a subcommittee composed of Laws Commission members and Competition & Conventions Committee members were working on revising the ACBL Screen Procedures. A new draft of the Screen Procedures should be available for the New Orleans meeting.

6. Chris Compton suggested that Law 43 A 2(c) should be revised to prohibit the Dummy from looking at a defender’s hand. It was noted that this has been an issue in a number of cheating incidents. The Commission discussed removing “on his own initiative” from the Law or possibly adding a prohibition to the Conditions of Contest.

7. The Laws Commission discussed the distinction between misinformation and a misbid. There was substantial support among the members for requiring a higher standard for players to fully disclose the nature of their hand before the opening lead, even in cases where their partner made the technically correct explanation based on their written notes. A subcommittee composed of Becky Rogers, Peter Boyd, and Eric Rodwell was formed to examine the problem.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05.