

Committees at the Club Level

From Duplicate Decisions, Law 83

Notification of the Right to Appeal

Director's Role

When the Director makes a judgment ruling on a point of fact (damage after a hesitation; unauthorized information passed during the auction) or exercises his discretionary power (as when he assigns an adjusted score under Law 12), it is open to question and/or appeal. He should advise the players involved of their right to appeal.

(See Appeals, Law 92.)

If the Director reads his ruling directly from the Laws book, any request for a committee is useless, because the committee can give no redress. The Director should read Law 93B3 out of the Law book to inform the players that an appeal would be a waste of everyone's time. Be sure you, the Director, have read and are aware of Laws 92 and 93 in the Laws, too!

Appeals at the Club Level

The National Laws Commission has stated that a club may establish an appeals committee, but is not obligated to do so. ACBL suggests that a club either have a standing appeals committee or appoint one when necessary. In this way, the Director is not the court of last resort.

The Role of an Appeals Committee

1. The appeals committee allows players an opportunity to obtain a hearing in cases where they do not agree with the Director's ruling.
2. The appeals committee may not overrule the Director on a point of Law or regulation or on the application of a disciplinary penalty.
3. The appeals committee may remove a procedural penalty. Committees, therefore, deal in matters of bridge judgment and should consist of the most experienced players available.

Remember that a club is not required to honor requests for committees.

Clubs that have provisions for Appeals Committees should consult Duplicate Decisions for suggested procedures.