

# **LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE**

## ***NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION***

### **STANDING ORDERS**

#### **1 Meetings**

- 1.1 The members of the Laws & Ethics Committee [hereinafter called ‘the Committee’] shall meet within 6 weeks of the Council meeting of Northern Ireland Bridge Union [hereinafter called ‘the Union’] at which the members were elected at such time and place as the convenor appointed by the Council shall decide
- 1.2 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at such times as, in the opinion of more than one half of the members of the Committee or of four members of the Council of the Union, the business for discussion is sufficient to warrant the holding of a meeting
- 1.3.1 Each member of the Committee and the Secretary of the Union shall be given at least 14 days’ notice by e-mail of each meeting of the Committee together with an agenda for the meeting
- 1.3.2 The notice convening each meeting and the agenda shall be published on the website of the Union at least 7 days prior to each meeting of the Committee
- 1.4 At the first meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among the members of the Committee
- 1.5.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Committee unless one half of the members of the Committee are present at the time when the Committee proceeds to business
- 1.5.2 In the absence of a quorum within 45 minutes of the time for which a meeting was called, the meeting shall be postponed
- 1.6 The meetings of the Laws & Ethics Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence the chairman shall be elected by the meeting
- 1.7 At every meeting of the Committee [except one called for special purposes] the minutes of the immediately preceding meeting shall be considered, and the business arising out of same shall be first considered unless the chairman directs otherwise
- 1.8.1 Any resolution put to a vote shall be decided by a show of hands
- 1.8.2 The chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote, if necessary
- 1.9 The Secretary of the Union shall attend and take minutes of each meeting of the Committee. If, for any reason, the Secretary of the Union is not in attendance the chairman of the Committee shall arrange for minutes to be taken

- 1.10.1 The minutes of each meeting shall be published on the website of the Union within 14 days of each meeting after each member of the Committee attending such meeting shall have had an opportunity to comment on the draft minutes
- 1.10.2 The Secretary shall arrange for minutes of each meeting to be taken.
- 1.10.3 The minutes shall record inter alia each resolution put to a vote, the decisions taken at a meeting and the actions to be taken to implement such decisions.
- 1.10.4 The draft minutes of each meeting shall be circulated to all Members for comment and after agreement by the chairperson and the secretary of the meeting published on the Union website within 4 days of a meeting
- 1.10.5 The minutes of each meeting shall be agreed at the commencement of the next meeting.
- 1.10.6 Unless it shall be resolved otherwise at a meeting all correspondence of the Committee shall be sent by the Secretary.
- 1.11.1 All discussions and communications between members of the Committee in relation to a complaint against or disciplinary proceedings against a member of the Union shall be in confidence.
- 1.11.2 A member of the Committee who acts in breach of the confidence requirements in 1.11.1 shall be deemed to have failed to carry out the duties of a member of the Committee in a satisfactory manner and shall be referred to Council with a request that Council remove that member from the Committee.

## **2 Powers**

2.1 The Committee shall have authority, subject to the direction of and in accordance with the principles laid down from time to time by the Council, to exercise the powers of the Council in relation to disciplinary procedures, appeals, references, suspension and expulsion of a member of the Union and systems and conventions and such other matters as may be referred to the Committee by the Council

## **3 Appeals and references to the Committee**

The Committee shall deal with the following matters

- 3.1 an appeal to the Committee by a member dissatisfied with the ruling of an appeals committee to which such member appealed or by a member being a party present at the hearing of such appeals committee in accordance with the Laws of Contract Bridge against the decision of a tournament director arising in a competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union
- 3.2 an appeal against the ruling of a league organiser by any member dissatisfied with the ruling of a league organiser
- 3.3 a reference by a tournament director of any ruling made by an appeals committee relating to a decision of that tournament director where such tournament director considers it appropriate in the interests of bridge for such reference to be made
- 3.4 An appeal must be made in writing accompanied by a deposit of £50 to the Chairman of the Committee within 14 days of the verdict of the Appeals Committee, the ruling of the league organiser and a copy of the appeal or complaint must be lodged with the chairman of the Tournament Committee

3.5 The Tournament Committee shall furnish a record of each appeal made against the ruling of a tournament director to an appeals committee at any competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union within 14 days of such appeal in the form set out in the Appendix hereto.

3.6 No appeal under clause 3.1 shall lie to the Committee in respect of any ruling made by a tournament director at any competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union

3.6.1 If there was no appeal against such ruling under Law 92 A or

3.6.2 If the appeal is made by a player who did not appear before the appeals committee

3.7 On receipt of an appeal under clause 3.1 the Committee shall advise the appellant[s] whether the appeal is on a point of law or on a value judgment

3.7.1 Where an appeal is on a point of law the Committee may refund the deposit if the Committee decides that the appeal was not frivolous

3.7.2 Where an appeal is on a value judgment and the appeal is not successful, the appellant[s] shall not be entitled to a refund of the deposit paid

3.7.3 Where an appeal is withdrawn by written notice to the Chairman of the Committee before the date of the hearing of the appeal the deposit may be refunded to the appellant[s]

3.7.4 A value judgment includes *inter alia* a decision on the facts, a decision as to whether a player was entitled to take the action taken, and a decision as to the penalty awarded

3.8 On an appeal to the Committee under clause 3.1 the Committee shall hear representations from such of the appellant[s], the tournament director and the other players at the table when the incident giving rise to the appeal occurred as the Committee considers necessary

3.9 The decision of the Committee shall be published on the Union website within 21 days of the decision having been made together with the report of the tournament director [if any]

#### **4 Interpretation**

In these standing orders

4.1 The masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural

4.2 members shall mean a member of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union

4.3 The Council shall mean the Council of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union