

Draft Minutes LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE 26/07/2012



NORTHERN IRELAND



BRIDGE UNION

Present:- A.Hill (Convenor), R.Anderson, I Lindsay, I Hamilton, S Sloan & J Spiers.

In the absence of the Hon Sec it was agreed that A Hill would take the minutes.

1 **Election of Chairman** A.Hill was elected Chairman on a proposal by I Hamilton seconded by I Lindsay.

2 **Standing orders to be drafted for approval of the Committee [Constitution 8.15]**
The circulated standing orders were approved on a proposal by R Anderson seconded by S Sloan after these modifications.

2.1 ‘references’ substituted for ‘complaints’
addition of ‘and such other matters as may be referred to the Committee by the Council’

3 In the heading ‘references’ substituted for ‘complaints’
Draft 3.3 deleted and new 3.3 substituted
3.4 £50 replaced £40

4.3 ‘the’ added before ‘Council’

Appeal form (This was circulated and agreed after the meeting.)

3 **Standing Orders to be submitted to Council for ratification before 11.09.2012**
A.Hill to forward these to the Hon Sec for Council approval. See minute attachment below.

4 **Disciplinary procedures to be drafted [App 2 1]]**
The circulated procedures were approved on a proposal by I Lindsay seconded by J Spiers after these modifications.

1.1.3 deletion of reference to fines

1.2 renumbered 1.2.1

1.2.1 added

1.8 delete ‘fine’ reposition ‘or’

2 Heading altered

5 **Disciplinary procedures to be submitted to Council for ratification**

A.Hill to forward these to the Hon Sec for Council approval. See minute attachment below.

6 **Appeals rules and procedures to be drafted [App 2 2]**

Item subsumed in 3 & 5

7 **Appeals rules and procedures to be submitted to Council for ratification**

Item subsumed in 4 & 6

8 **Systems and conventions for each category of player to be drafted for publication on the Union website [App 2 5]**

Further information was required before this could be addressed fully. At present NIBU follows in principle WBF regulations. It was agreed that Brown Sticker and HUM systems should only be allowed in Premier 1 League and the Kelvin Cup provided one week's notice is given to the opposing Captain together with a full description and a suitable defence. The opposing team will have sole seating rights whenever such systems are played and may consult a written defence during bidding. Also it was agreed that allowable systems and conventions would be those approved by the English Bridge Union as published in the Orange book. (It is understood that this is the *status quo*.) It was agreed to seek information from Inter A and Inter B players before any decisions were made as to any restrictions at this level.

9 **Systems and conventions for each category of player to be submitted to Council for ratification**

Further work needs to be done before a definitive document can be prepared.

10 A.O.B

The Committee agreed that it was unnecessary to include in the Standing Orders matters of agreed protocol for procedures of the Committee

The following protocols were agreed

- 1 Draft documents which required the approval of the Committee were to be circulated to each committee member prior any meeting at which such draft document were to be discussed.
- 2 In the event that a draft document or amended draft document were approved by each committee member by e-mail then such document did not need to be accepted by the Committee at a formal meeting of the Committee

- 3 Minutes in draft form to be circulated to each committee member by e-mail and approved by a majority of the Committee before being published as draft minutes on the website

- 11 **Date of next meeting**
To be arranged

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 two 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 4 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 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

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 member shall mean a member of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union

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

Appendix

Northern Ireland Bridge Union

Appeal Form.

Event							
Board		Dealer		Vuln		Appelant	N/S E/W
North:-				East:-			
South:-				West:-			

	♠	_____.			
	♥	_____.			
	♦	_____.			
	♣	_____.			
			N		
♠	_____.			♠	_____.
♥	_____.			♥	_____.
♦	_____.	W		E	_____.
♣	_____.			♣	_____.
			S		
	♠	_____.			
	♥	_____.			
	♦	_____.			
	♣	_____.			

Bidding

West	North	East	South	Comments

TD's Comments

Appellant's Comments

Comments from Non – appealing side

Appeals Committee's statement

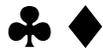
Appeal Committee Decision

Date

Deposit Returned / Forfeited

Chairman's Signature.

LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE



NORTHERN IRELAND



BRIDGE UNION

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1 **Disciplinary procedures**

1.1 Any member of the Union who, whether in Northern Ireland or in any place within the jurisdiction of the World Bridge Federation

1.1.1 when playing duplicate contract bridge plays unfairly or violates the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge or fails to comply with the conduct and etiquette contained in said Laws; or

1.1.2 who attending for any purpose whatsoever at the site of a match, tournament or congress where duplicate bridge is played or at any meeting in connection with the administration of bridge behaves in such a manner as to cause offence or annoyance to another person [whether or not such person is a member of the Union] or as might bring the Union or any of its members or Office Bearers into disrepute; or

1.1.3 withdraws from a competition organised by or under the auspices of the Union after commencement thereof without adequate reason;

may, at the absolute discretion of the Committee, be expelled from the Union, or be suspended from membership of the Union or from participation in one or more competitions of the Union for such period as the Committee shall consider fit, or be admonished

1.2.1 Any allegation to be entertained by the Committee shall be made in writing and lodged with the Secretary of the Union or a member of the Council of the Union

1.2.2 The member against whom such allegation has been made shall be notified in writing by the Committee of the allegation made and requested to respond to the Committee in writing within 14 days or such longer period as the Committee deems reasonable

1.3 Where a member admits in writing an offence under clause 3.1 and the Committee decides the matter may be disposed of without the presence of the member, the Committee shall be empowered so to proceed by written notice to the member without further enquiry

1.4 Where a member does not admit in writing an offence under clause 3 the Committee shall :-

1.4.1 enquire in any manner which seems to the Committee to be appropriate into any matter which has been alleged against any member under clause 3.1;

1.4.2 make findings of fact consequent upon such enquiry;

- 1.4.3 make decisions consequent upon such findings
- 1.4.4 publish such findings and decisions or parts thereof as it thinks fit;
- 1.4.5 provide the Council with such reports of its proceedings as the Council may from time to time require

1.5 In every case in which an enquiry is made the Committee shall:

1.5.1 give notice in writing of the enquiry and of the substance of each and every allegation to each member against whom such allegation is made;

1.5.2 at the enquiry allow such member to defend himself against each allegation made against him and allow him to make a statement of his own case and to call witnesses, but not allow him to be represented save at the discretion of the Committee

1.5.3 suspend from the Committee, for the purpose of the enquiry, any member of the Committee who is in any manner personally involved in any allegation which is the subject of the enquiry.

1.6 The Committee shall notify the member who is the subject of the enquiry of its findings, of the action taken by it thereon and of his right of appeal as defined in clause 1.8 and such notification shall be sent by e-mail and registered post to the address of the member last notified to the Secretary of the Union

1.7 A member expelled or suspended from membership of the Union shall not during the period of such expulsion or suspension play in any competition promoted organised or managed by the Union

1.8 Notice of expulsion, suspension or admonishment shall be published on the Union website after the expiry of the time allowed for appeal against such expulsion, suspension or admonishment.

2 Appeals against recommendation of expulsion, suspension or admonishment

2.1 No appeal shall lie against a finding of fact by the Committee but in respect of all other matters a member shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee

2.2 Notice of appeal must be given to the Secretary of the Union within 14 days of the posting of notification referred to in clause 3.6 and must contain the grounds on which the appellant bases his appeal and the arguments he puts forward to support those grounds

2.3 The Appeals Committee shall consist of a chairman and three other persons selected by the Council for the purpose of the appeal in question from a panel comprising the members of the Council but excluding all members of the Committee who shall have adjudicated on the case in question. Three members of the Appeals Committee shall constitute a quorum

2.4 The proceedings of the Appeals Committee shall consist of up to four stages as follows:

2.4.1 a preliminary consideration of the Notice of Appeal submitted by the appellant by the chairman of the Appeals Committee and, if in his absolute discretion he considers it necessary or

desirable, the appellant will be requested to expand and augment the grounds and arguments he has put forward to support his appeal;

2.4.2 a consideration by the Appeals Committee as to whether or not having considered the Notice of Appeal [as expanded and augmented if appropriate] the Appeals Committee wishes to hear the appellant in person;

2.4.3 in the event that the Appeals Committee, in its absolute discretion, decides that it does not need to hear the appellant in person in order fairly and properly to deal with the appeal, it will move on to consider and reach a decision on the appeal;

2.4.4 in the event that the Appeals Committee decides that it is necessary to hear the appellant in person in order fairly and properly to deal with the appeal, the Appeals Committee shall adjourn and the appellant shall be requested to attend a reconvened meeting of the Appeals Committee. At such reconvened meeting the appellant will [if he represents himself] be heard and [at the discretion of the Appeals Committee] the chairman or his designate may be requested to comment on the representations of the appellant

2.5 The Appeals Committee shall have the power to uphold or vary the decision of the Committee if satisfied that such penalty is excessively harsh or excessively lenient or inappropriate

2.6 The Appeals Committee shall have the like powers and duties as the Committee in relation to publication and reporting its findings

2.7 Save for the selected members of an Appeals Committee no other member or ex-officio member shall attend a meeting of an Appeals Committee unless specifically requested or authorised in writing by the chairman of the Appeals Committee

2.8.1 Any member who has been expelled or suspended from the Union and any person who resigned from the Union after a complaint was made against him shall be entitled at the expiration of one year from the date of expulsion or suspension to apply to the Council for reinstatement.

2.8.2 The Council may reinstate such person either before or after receipt of such application or postpone such reinstatement for so long a period as it may in its absolute discretion think fit, but not beyond the date of any then suspension