

Illawarra Bridge Association

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

DECEMBER 2018

Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee will be appointed at the first Management Committee Meeting of the year. It will be chaired by the IBA Club President or his/her representative. In addition it will consist of the Chief Tournament Director, a Congress Convenor and at least two (2) other Club members

It will:

- meet once per month,
- have our congresses as permanent items on its agenda
- Determine and publish a timeframe for the efficient management of the IBA Congresses
- liaise with the Convenor to determine a timeframe for the efficient management of the IBA Congresses
- Ensure generation of boards for the following month and their placement in appropriate folders on the IBA computer
- Address any computer issues – software updates etc
- Update Web with Tournament issues
- Look at upcoming events 2 months in advance
- publish a registration sheet and advertise all major events
- decide on any rules & cut off dates for upcoming events
 - pass on relevant details of upcoming tournaments to directors who will then advertise the events at each session
- ensure that directors are aware of their responsibility to report incidents during a session to the TC
- keep Directors aware of changes to the rules of bridge
- liaise with the tournament director regarding all the above and inform the director whether a director's report is required for a particular tournament
- review IBA events for any improvements
- forward the meeting minutes to the IBA Management Committee.

In particular the IBA Tournament Committee will ensure that the IBA follows the tournament regulations as set out in the NSWBA Tournament Regulations dated July 1 2011 for major tournaments such as our annual Pairs and Teams Congress, the Swiss Pairs event and Restricted Pairs event and also our regular Club sessions except as laid out in the Supplementary Regulations below.

The tournament regulations of the NSWBA can be found on the NSWBA website. In addition The NSWBA brought in the NSWBA Congress Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations effective from 2 January 2018, and a set of guidelines for a complainant reporting an issue at a Congress in December 2018.

These 2 documents can be found on the NSWBA website and have, with minor alterations, been incorporated into our Disciplinary and Ethics Regulations (see below)

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

Substitutions

Substitutions shall be at the Director's discretion with reference to Rule 4.4 of the NSWBA Tournament Regulations.

Alerts

Alert cards shall be placed in a prominent spot on the table and attention drawn to the alerted bid.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee will be chaired by the Club President or his/her representative and will be appointed as needed.

Rules and Ethics Committee

The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be the IBA Management Committee.

In essence, the Rules and Ethics Committee deals with all breaches of etiquette, manners and proprieties. This committee handles all complaints regarding the attitude and behaviour of the players at the club. Matters may be brought before the Rules and Ethics Committee by players or the Director or by a report of the Recorder.

It will be chaired by the Club President or his/her representative.

When it meets it will be guided by the IBA Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations 2018:

Correction Period Process

The Correction Period Process for Club events will be 7 days, except that for the last week of a multi week event this should be reduced to 24 hours.

IBA DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS REGULATIONS 2018

PREAMBLE

Although the *NSWBA Congress Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations* effective from 2 January 2018 specifically state that they do not apply to players in regular club duplicate sessions (SCOPE 1.2

(a)) the IBA Tournament Committee is of the opinion that:

- I. the IBA's Code of Conduct encourages players to be ethical bridge players
- II. the NSWBA Congress Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations give a clear guideline to the processes and penalties for breaches of this code
- III. the IBA Management Committee in its role as the IBA Ethics Committee would appreciate a definitive guideline for the process that need to be followed and the subsequent mandatory penalties to be applied should a person be found guilty of an offence
- IV. with minimal changes the NSWBA Congress Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations can and should be adapted for all our Club sessions

The *IBA Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations 2018* will address the above. It is an important complement to our Code of Conduct and to Laws 73 and 74 of Duplicate Bridge.

ILLAWARRA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT May 2018

The Illawarra Bridge Association, in line with bridge clubs around the world and in particular with the NSWBA and the ABF is of the belief that an actively ethical player contributes to the enjoyment of all bridge players by continuously striving to maintain a courteous manner toward both partner and the opponents by avoiding any behaviour that would make any player uncomfortable. Good ethics and etiquette are fundamental to bridge.

The IBA insists that players are treated with respect and dignity and is committed to providing a friendly atmosphere in its club rooms.

IBA members should:

- **be polite and courteous at all times**
- **respect other people's rights to have different opinions or ways of thinking**
- **conduct their game in a proper, mature and inoffensive manner**
- **assist new members and guests and try to show patience and understanding**
- **at all times abide by this Code of Conduct as well as the rules of the IBA, NSWBA and the Australian Bridge Federation.**

In addition members should be aware of their obligations under Laws 73 and 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge

The following regulations describe the procedures to be followed in reporting and dealing with breaches of the above code of conduct

SCOPE

- 1.1 These regulations apply to players in all IBA events
- 1.2 Complaints against directors are not subject to these regulations. Such complaints should be submitted directly to the IBA Management Committee

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 2.1 A complaint may be submitted by:
 - a) Any player participating in a session during which an alleged breach occurs;
 - b) Any person affected by a breach occurring in or around the playing venue during a bridge session;
 - c) The Director.
 - 2.2 Complaints must be submitted to the Secretary of the IBA, either by email or in writing c/- the offices of the IBA.
 - 2.3 A written complaint must reach one of the addresses specified in regulation 2.2 within seven (7) days of the date on which the breach is alleged to have occurred.
 - 2.4 The IBA will notify the accused person(s) that a complaint has been submitted within 7 days of receiving said complaint.
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THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

- 3.1 All complaints will be directed by the Secretary of the IBA to the Chair of the Ethics Committee, who will assign a member of the Committee as the Investigating Officer to conduct the initial disciplinary process. The Chair has discretion to appoint further Committee members to assist in the process.
- 3.2 The Investigating Officer will interview the complainant, the accused person(s) and any other relevant parties. If the complaint is sustained (the standard is “comfortable satisfaction”), the Mandatory Penalties as listed in Table 1 will be applied. The Investigating Officer, in consultation with any other appointed Committee members and the Chair of the Ethics Committee, will determine the exact penalty within the range set, and in accordance with any separately developed penalty guidelines.
- 3.3 Having been informed of the outcome, the accused may appeal the decision and request a Disciplinary Hearing to be held before a separately convened Hearing Committee, which will consist of between 3 and 5 members of the Committee or other co-opted people, as appointed by the Chair, excluding the original Investigating Officer(s). In such an event, the reasons and grounds for requesting a Hearing are to be set out in detail. The request must be submitted to the Secretary of the IBA in writing within seven (7) days of being informed of the sentence imposed.
- 3.4 In the period between an applied suspension and the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing, the accused may only continue playing in IBA bridge events at the discretion of the Chair of the Ethics Committee.
- 3.5 The accused is entitled to be represented before the Hearing Committee by a lawyer or by a financial member of a bridge club affiliated with the NSWBA. If the accused disputes facts found during the initial disciplinary process, witnesses may give evidence on matters relevant to the findings of fact.
- 3.6 The Hearing Committee has the option of acquitting the player, varying the applied penalty within the ranges specified in Table 1, or modifying the offence under which the player is charged and applying the appropriate mandatory penalty for the modified offence. An appeal considered by the Hearing Committee to be frivolous or vexatious may attract an increased penalty within the range specified in Table 1.

MANDATORY PENALTIES

- 4.1 Should a person be found guilty of committing an offence, the Mandatory Penalties as listed in Table 1 shall be applied.
- 4.2 The start date of any suspension will be determined by the Chair of the Ethics Committee having regard to any disruption to pending IBA events and any other relevant considerations.
- 4.3 Suspension applies explicitly to all IBA bridge events
- 4.4 A list of suspended players and their periods of suspension will be maintained by the IBA and passed on to the IBA Directors
- 4.5 If a person is found guilty of more than one offence, committed on the same occasion, all or part of the penalties may be applied concurrently at the discretion of the Ethics Committee.
- 4.6 All or part of the sentence for a first offence may be suspended for a period, as is deemed fit.
- 4.7 No part of a sentence may be suspended for a second or subsequent offence committed within seven (7) years of a first offence.

- 4.8 Any suspended sentence imposed for a first offence must be added to the sentence for a second offence, provided the period for which the suspended sentence was imposed has not expired.
- 4.9 If a person is found guilty of any subsequent offence even if other than the type of offence of which the person was first guilty, it shall be deemed to be a second offence unless the person can show reason why it should not be so.
- 4.10 For the purpose of second and subsequent offences, an offence will remain on the person's record for seven (7) years.
- 4.11 In the table of Mandatory Penalties:
- a) "D" indicates that the penalty is discretionary
 - b) "L" indicates a lifetime suspension;
 - c) "W" indicates a warning;
 - d) numbers indicate the number of weeks of suspension.

TABLE 1- MANDATORY PENALTIES

	Offence	Penalty for 1st offence	Penalty for 2nd offence	Penalty for 3rd or later offence
1	Verbal abuse of an opponent or partner	W-12	4-24	8-52
2	Verbal abuse of a Director	2-12	4-24	8-52
3	Making any racial, religious or cultural remark or comment to which offence might be taken	W-12	4-24	8-52
4	Use of crude or abusive hand signals or gestures	W-4	2-8	4-24
5	Threat of assault or physical interference	W-12	4-24	8-52
6	Physical interference without intent to cause grievous bodily harm	8-12	12-52	52-L
7	Physical interference with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	L		
8	Wilful damage or abuse of playing cards, scoresheets, bidding pads, Bridgemates or other equipment or property	W-12	2-24	4-52
9	Persistent non-premeditated breaches of the Laws of Bridge with the effect of gaining an unfair advantage and/or unauthorized information	4-12	12-24	12-52
10	Deliberate, and disguised or concealed, violation of the laws of bridge intended to improve one's score	26-208	L	
11	Breach of IBA's policies where it is reasonable to presume the player to expect or be aware of such policies or requirements	W	W-2	2-4
12	Playing in a club session whilst suspended	D	D	D
13	Making vexatious and repeated complaints against a player or pair	W	D	D
14	Any other offence not specifically covered by any of the above	D	D	D

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLAINANT REPORTING AN ISSUE

Within 7 days of an incident you must lodge with the Secretary of the IBA:

1. The event name
2. The date of the incident
3. The session and board number (if relevant)
4. The name of the person you are complaining about (“the subject of the complaint”)
5. The name of the director
6. The names of all four persons at the table (if relevant)
7. The names of all other people who witnessed the incident
8. Your opinion as to which of the Offences (listed at the end of this document) occurred.
9. Your recollection of the incident confined to:-
 - a. Words spoken during the incident and by whom;
 - b. Actions you observed at the time of the incident;
 - c. Your perception of the attitudes of the people involved at the time of the incident, and
 - d. Your own feelings at the time of the incident.

Please note: if the IBA Ethics Committee believes that your complaint is sustained on the balance of probabilities and if a penalty is imposed the subject of the complaint will be advised of:-

- i. the evidence relied on by the IBA Ethics Committee in coming to its decision, and
- ii. The names of the persons providing that evidence

Offences

1. Verbal abuse of an opponent or partner
2. Verbal abuse of a Director
3. Any racial, religious or cultural remark or comment to which offence might reasonably be taken
4. Use of crude or abusive hand signals or gestures
5. Threat of assault or physical interference
6. Physical interference without intent to cause grievous bodily harm
7. Physical interference with intent to cause grievous bodily harm
8. Wilful damage or abuse of laying cards, scoresheets, bidding pads, Bridgemates or other equipment or property
9. Persistent non-premeditated breaches of the Laws of Bridge with the effect of gaining an unfair advantage and/or unauthorised information
10. Deliberate, and disguised or concealed, violation of the Laws of Bridge intended to improve one's score
11. Breach of congress venue policies or operating permit requirements (where it is reasonable to presume the player to expect or be aware of such policies or requirements)
12. Playing in a Congress while suspended
13. Making vexatious and repeated complaints against a player or pair
14. Any other offence not specifically covered by any of the above.