

# Minutes of the WBF Laws Committee

Wroclaw - 28 August 2022

Present

Ton Kooijman (In the Chair)

Laurie Kelso (Secretary)

Chip Martel

Maurizio Di Sacco

Eitan Levy

Adam Wildavsky

Jan Kamras (WBF President Elect)

Apologies

Matt Smith

Fu Qiang

Howard Weinstein

Al Levy

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:00am by welcoming those members present. He also acknowledged the contributions of Al Levy and Adam Wildavsky (both having previously foreshadowed their intention to leave the Committee).
2. Chip Martel was welcomed back (his name having been accidentally removed from the list of members in 2021). The Chairman also flagged his intention to invite back Antonio Riccardi (who had previously been an LC member between 2001 and 2005).
3. The Secretary tabled for consideration a document labelled: 'Compendium of Relevant WBF Laws Committee Decisions 1998-2019'. The purpose of this compendium is to make available information that was until now only accessible via the perusal of more than 30 different WBFLC documents. It is designed to be an ongoing reference source for both Tournament Officials and Administrators. The Secretary also acknowledged the work of Jacob Duschek upon which the document was based.

It was agreed that LC members would be afforded a period of four weeks in order to provide any further feedback in respect to any potential omission or additional inclusion. The Secretary would then arrange for the final version to be uploaded to the laws page of the WBF website.

4. The Secretary tabled for consideration an updated version of the 'Commentary on the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017'. The Secretary spoke briefly about the nature of the revision, indicating that the changes fell into one of three categories:
  - a) The correction of typographical errors and the replacement of certain examples with others considered to be more appropriate.
  - b) A revision (and expansion) of the section relating to 'comparable calls', plus the modification of some other sections based upon the most recent interpretations that were agreed upon at the 2019 LC meeting in Wuhan
  - c) The insertion at the end of each section of all the relevant previous WBFLC interpretations pertaining to the particular law being discussed.

It was agreed that LC members would be afforded a period of four weeks in order to provide feedback about any other items they might wish to see included. The Secretary would then arrange for the final version to be uploaded to laws page of the WBF website.

5. The Secretary tabled for consideration the current draft of the proposal to modify Laws 73 and 89 in order to better address matters of reprehensible conduct (as currently defined by the WBF Disciplinary Code).

Some members of the committee commented upon the extended gestation period associated with the creation of the new Law 89 and both Mr Levy and Mr Kamras reemphasised the need for the matter to be brought to a conclusion. It was therefore agreed that the Secretary would make whatever final changes were required and that it should then be forwarded for inclusion as part of the agenda of the next meeting of the WBF Management Committee (scheduled for November in Phoenix).

6. The Secretary informed the Committee that as a preliminary step towards the next decennial review of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge (to be completed by 2027), a worldwide invitation had been issued in May to tournament officials, directors, players, administrators, zones and NBOs; requesting that they send any thoughts they may have as to desirable changes in the laws.

Submissions should be sent via email to [2027laws@laikel.com](mailto:2027laws@laikel.com) prior to the announced deadline of June 30, 2023.

7. Mr Di Sacco asked that the Committee provide guidance to the Rules and Regulations Committee as to the application of the term 'unmistakable hesitation' in Law 16B1, (i.e., after the slow return of the bidding tray when screens are in operation). Mr Di Sacco explained that in a screened environment it was not always possible for players to diagnose whether partner or an opponent was the one who had broken tempo. He then made a suggestion as to how the screen regulations might be amended so as to address the issue.

The Chairman noted that the Screen Regulations fell within the remit of the R&R Committee. He then asked Mr Di Sacco to prepare a paper on the subject for the consideration of both committees (either jointly or separately).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:20pm.