

Bedford Bridge Club – appeals procedure

The laws of the game contain two Laws (92 and 93) dealing with the right to appeal and the procedures to be followed. These are reproduced in Appendix 1 for convenience.

1. PREAMBLE

- A. Bedford Bridge Club (BBC) is the Regulating Authority for BBC events and follows these laws with the exceptions set out in Sections 2 and 3 below (as provided under Law 93.c.3.b).**
- B. BBC does not operate an Appeals Committee for its regular club nights.**
- C. The Tournament Director (TD) is therefore required to hear and rule on all appeals.**
- D. Since the TD is invariably playing in the event it is often the case that, having established the facts, he/she is unable to make a judgement ruling at the table where sight of the hands is required. In such circumstances the non-offenders will usually reserve their rights and the TD will ask them to speak to him at the end of the event if they feel they have been damaged and are seeking redress.**
- E. Two scenarios are possible:**
 - **Scenario A: The TD will make a ruling at the end of play if he/she believes he/she possess the skill and experience to do so and will convey the outcome to the offenders and the non-offenders (although the latter will often have already gone home by then). If the TD wishes to seek expert advice before making a ruling he will attempt to do so at the end of play if a suitable expert is available in the club-room.**
 - **Scenario B: if an expert is not available, the TD will advise the offenders and non-offenders of his intention to seek advice elsewhere and to make a ruling by noon the next day.**

Note: the TD should not seek advice from the member of the EBU Referees Appeals List who would ordinarily hear any subsequent appeal against the TD's eventual ruling. This is because he/she would have to exclude themselves from hearing any subsequent appeal on the basis of having already provided the TD with a prior opinion.

2. TIME OF APPEAL

If either the offenders or non-offenders wish to appeal the TD's ruling, they must advise the TD...

- **By noon the following day under Scenario A**
- **By noon of the day after that under Scenario B i.e. 24 hours after the TD has conveyed (often by email) his ruling to the parties concerned. This generous period of time is necessary to allow for the TD's ruling to be received by both the offenders and non-offenders (some of whom may be at work and unable to respond until the evening), and to allow both parties sufficient time to assimilate, respond to, and appeal the ruling).**

Note: the TD will advise the scorer about delayed rulings and subsequent appeals so that results can be posted on the BBC website with a provisional flag.

3. PROCEDURES OF APPEAL

The TD will refer the appeal to a member of the EBU Appeals Referees List (at the time of writing BBC refers appeals to David Harris) in accordance with the provisions of Law 80B2(k)...

... <http://www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/appeals/referees.htm>

The TD will furnish the Appeals Referee with a description of events at the table, the nature of the appellant's appeal, and any relevant supporting remarks submitted to him by either party. The TD will also provide the Appeals Referee with copies of the hands (usually via the hand records on the BBC website).

The decision of the Appeal Referee is conveyed to the TD who in turn advises the offenders and non-offenders of the outcome.

The decision of the Appeal Referee is final and all parties are bound by the outcome as set out in Law 93.c.3.a.

APPENDIX 1 – extract from the Laws

LAW 92: RIGHT TO APPEAL

A. Contestant's Right

A contestant or his captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the Director. Any such appeal, if deemed to lack merit, may be the subject of a sanction imposed by regulation.

B. Time of Appeal

The right to request or appeal a Director's ruling expires 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection unless the Tournament Organizer has specified a different time period.

C. How to Appeal

All appeals shall be made through the Director.

D. Concurrence of Appellants

An appeal shall not be heard unless:

1. in a pairs event both members of the partnership concur in making the appeal (but in an individual contest an appellant does not require his partner's concurrence).
2. in a team event the team captain concurs in making the appeal.

LAW 93: PROCEDURES OF APPEAL

A. No Appeals Committee

The Director in charge shall hear and rule upon all appeals if there is no Appeals Committee (or alternative arrangement under Law 80B2(k)), or if such cannot operate without disturbing the orderly progress of the tournament.

B. Appeals Committee Available

If a committee is available:

1. The Director in charge shall hear and rule upon such part of the appeal as deals solely with the Law or regulations. His ruling may be appealed to the committee.
2. The Director in charge shall refer all other appeals to the committee for adjudication.
3. In adjudicating appeals the committee may exercise all powers assigned by these Laws to the Director, except that the committee may not overrule the Director in charge on a point of law or regulations, or on exercise of his Law 91 disciplinary powers. (The committee may recommend to the Director in charge that he change such a ruling.)

C. Further Possibilities of Appeal

1. Regulating Authorities may establish procedures for further appeals after the foregoing procedures have been exhausted. Any such further appeal, if deemed to lack merit, may be the subject of a sanction imposed by regulation.

2. The Director in charge or the Appeals Committee may refer a matter for later consideration by the Regulating Authority. The Regulating Authority has authority to resolve any matter finally.

3. (a) Notwithstanding 1 and 2 above, where deeming it crucial to the progress of the tournament the Regulating Authority may assign the responsibility for dealing finally with any appeal to the respective tournament Appeals Committee and, along with the parties to the appeal, is then bound by the outcome.

(b) With due notice given to the contestants a Regulating Authority may authorize the omission or modification of such stages as it wishes of the appeals process set out in these Laws.