

Guidance for WGCBC TDs: Handling rulings under the new review process (June 2026) replacing previous appeal process

This note sets out how Tournament Directors (TDs) should handle rulings and any subsequent request for review under the club's revised process agreed by the Committee (**see Appendix to this note**). Requests for review may relate to both **book rulings** and **judgement rulings**.

At the table book rulings

When called, the TD should take their book to the table and make a book ruling as promptly as possible so that play can continue. The ruling should be explained fully and clearly. TDs should avoid extended discussion or debate at the table.

If a player indicates disagreement, the TD should confirm the ruling and state they will review their ruling at the end of the session. Depending on the circumstances the TD might decide to seek advice from other TDs, Chief TD and/or their deputy before making their final ruling.

If a player still wishes to challenge the book ruling, they will need to indicate this in writing (email) to the session TD, who will complete an appeal form for the EBU as per the club rules and procedures.

At the table judgement rulings

Judgement rulings are more likely to result in a challenge or appeal to the EBU

- The TD should take time to establish the facts at the table before ruling. There may be a delay in giving a ruling at the table or at the end of the session if the issue requires further investigation. In which case the board is scored up as played, temporarily.
- The TD should make a note (board number, players, key facts, and reasoning). Sometimes a photograph should be taken of the play of the scored cards e.g. when there has been a revoke which changes the line of play, a contested claim etc.
- The TD should avoid being drawn into any argument at the table; the focus should be on establishing facts, not resolving disagreement there and then. UI can sometimes be passed between players if they try to discuss the issue before the bidding has been completed or the board played. This may result in the board becoming unplayable.
- The TD should make clear that any challenge will be dealt with after the session. This may result in a delay to a ruling being given whilst the TD seeks advice.

These steps are important because judgement rulings are more likely to be questioned and may require explanation later.

After the session – Requests for review

If the player is dissatisfied with the final ruling of the TD they can appeal to the EBU as per the club rules and procedures. If a request is made informally, the TD should ask for written confirmation.

The TD should retain the written request (or circulate it if advice is being sought) so there is a clear record.

In summary:

Reviewing the ruling

The session TD remains responsible for reviewing the ruling. The TD should reconsider the matter objectively and, where appropriate, seek advice from the Chief TD (or their Deputy). Where the Chief TD is conflicted, then the advice should be from another suitably experienced and independent TD. This applies to both book and judgement rulings.

The purpose of the review is to check correctness, not to defend the original decision nor to provide a formal appeal process. The TD should be open to revising or correcting the ruling if appropriate.

Outcome

The TD should communicate the outcome clearly, confirming whether the ruling stands or has been amended, with a brief explanation.

If players remain dissatisfied, they may have the matter referred to the EBU in accordance with its rules.

Key principles

- Make a clear ruling at the table and keep play moving
- Avoid debate at the table; use the review process instead
- Treat all rulings consistently, but take extra care with judgement rulings
- Keep notes, especially for judgement rulings
- Ensure requests for review are in writing
- Be open, fair and proportionate in reviewing decisions.

Satish Panchamia

WGCBC Chief Tournament Director

1st July 2026

APPENDIX

(Below details can be found on WGCBC's website under the "Club Information, Rules & Procedures -June 2026)

APPEALS AGAINST TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (TD) RULING
A request for review must be made in writing to the session TD, by email, within 24 hours of the published start time of the session in which the ruling was made. Both members of the pair must agree to such review. The partner's agreement must be confirmed within 48 hours of the published start time of the session. In a team match, the team captain must also agree within the same 48-hour period and will be included in communications about the review.
A written request should include where relevant: • The date and time of the session • The pair numbers and, in a team match, the team names or captains involved • The board number • The auction and play, where relevant • A short description of the circumstances • The ruling given, including any adjustment or penalty • The reason why the player believes the ruling should be reviewed, including any law or regulation relied upon if known
The session TD may then seek from the Chief TD of their Deputy (provided that any such person is not conflicted). After reviewing the matter, the session TD may either confirm the original ruling or revise or correct the ruling, including by making any consequential score adjustment or other correction.
Where the session TD is also the Chief TD or their Deputy, they may seek advice from another suitably experienced and independent TD.
If, following the completion of the club's review process as set out above, either the appealing players or the non-appealing players remain dissatisfied, they have the right to refer the matter to the EBU, subject to its rules, requirements, time limits, deposit amount required by the EBU at that time.