

FREMANTLE BRIDGE CLUB

APPEALING A DIRECTOR'S RULING

What to do if you think the Director may have made an incorrect ruling? The Laws are very protective of the sensibilities of those willing to be Directors. The last thing we would want is to offend those of our members who take on the job. Remember though, you must call the Director to get a questionable ruling in the first place.

During play, the Director's decision MUST be accepted. Any player-initiated request for such a review should be made politely to the Director concerned, who might then choose to consult with others should s/he wish to check the ruling. This is allowed under the Laws.

A contestant or his/her captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his/her table by the Director.

Whilst acknowledging that an appeal is a serious business, your committee feels it would be ideal if the process could be de-stigmatised, de-formalised and de-sensitised in club sessions to extract its educational potential. We would like to encourage our members to suggest such reviews more in the interests of getting to the bottom of what the Law actually is – than for any other reasons.

Any such appeal, if deemed to lack merit, may be the subject of a sanction imposed by the Fremantle Bridge Club.

TIME FOR APPEAL

Any appeal for a ruling or an appeal of the Director's ruling must be made within **30 minutes** after the official score is available for inspection and all appeals shall be made through the Director.

CONCURRENCE OF APPELLANTS

No appeal shall be heard unless both members of a partnership or the captain of a team concur.

DIRECTOR'S ROLE

An appeal on a matter strictly of Law or Regulation is heard in the first instance by the Director.

The Director has the opportunity to discourage frivolous protests but s/he is not intended to act as a buffer between appellant and the Appeals Committee, passing along only those appeals s/he considers meritorious. S/he is intended to refer all protests routinely to the Appeals Committee, although s/he may, under unusual circumstances, offer informal, friendly advice to an appellant not to waste their own time and that of the Committee's.

CLUB APPEALS COMMITTEE

The FBC Appeals Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director and two experienced Directors of the Club.

As stated, an appeal on a matter strictly of Law or regulation is heard in the first instance by the Director. An appellant subsequently has the right to carry his/her case to the Appeals Committee, but the Appeals Committee can do no more than attempt to convince the Director that s/he is in error. The Appeals Committee cannot overrule the Director on a point of Law or Regulation. However, the Appeals Committee may suggest that they disagree and that the Director reconsider. If the Director agrees that the original decision was wrong, then s/he should gracefully change it.

In matters of Bridge judgement or of a disputed fact (e.g., Did the revoke cost opponents more than the adjustment given to them?), the Appeals Committee is the final judge and may adjust the Director's ruling.

Players will not be given the opportunity to debate with members of the Appeals Committee as their decision is final.