

CHAPTER XIII - GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

C. APPEALS AND RECORDERS

Section 1 - Appeals

- 1.1 See [Handbook for Appeals Committee](#) on the ACBL website.
- 1.2 A further appeal to the National Authority (ACBL) in accordance with The Laws of Duplicate Bridge may be allowed only as follows:
 - a. On a point of law to and at the discretion of the ACBL Laws Commission.
 - b. On an allegation of bias of a committee member or members to and at the discretion of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. The appellant is required to present evidence that the bias was not known at the time of the hearing.
 - c. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the decision of the Bridge Appeals Committee that heard the issue.

Section 2 - Recorders

- 2.1 See Recorder [Regulations and Procedures](#) on the ACBL website
- 2.2 Videotaping
 - 2.2.1 The ACBL Recorder may videotape in conjunction with an
 - 2.2.2 Recorder Regulations are amended as follows:
 - 2.2.2.1 Additional ACBL Recorder Duties
 - a. Advise Unit and District recorders as necessary.
 - b. Conduct seminars for recorders at NABCs as appropriate.
 - c. Supervise the National Office of Recorder as necessary concerning files.
 - d. Determine whether to videotape in conjunction with an investigation with the concurrence of the ACBL Executive Director.

Section 3 – Zero Tolerance

- 3.1 Zero Tolerance Policy

- 3.1.1 The ACBL Board of Directors and ACBL Management are committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. In accordance with Laws 74, 80F, 81C4, 90A, 91 and 92A (“Laws of Duplicate Bridge” or “Laws”), the following policy outlines what is expected of all players. At any event at which an ACBL TD is required to officiate onsite, the provisions of the following policy will be enforced.
- 3.1.2 The ultimate purpose of the ZT Policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our tournaments. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:
- a. Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
 - b. Greeting others in a friendly manner.
 - c. Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
 - d. Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)
- 3.1.3 The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:
- a. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
 - b. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
 - c. Gloating over good results.
 - d. Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
 - e. Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.
- 3.2 If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.
- 3.3 Zero Tolerance Procedures - The following procedures have been given to the tournament directors for implementation.
- 3.3.1 At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZT for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.

- 3.3.2 The director, when called, shall attempt to determine the facts. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate minimum $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board each = $\frac{1}{2}$ board). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.
- 3.3.3 If it is determined that a second offense has occurred in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. When a player is ejected or in the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament, the Recorder shall be notified and shall investigate and report to a Charging Party to determine whether a disciplinary committee will be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
- 3.3.4 Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.
- 3.3.5 In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision, but could *recommend* that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee.
- 3.3.6 A ZT report form shall be available for players to report incidents which occur away from the table; and for directors to document complaints and action taken. The DIC shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Tournament Chairman and/or Recorder.

(Effective October 2018)