

MINUTES

ACBL National Laws Commission
2016 Fall Meeting in Orlando, FL
Saturday, November 26, 2016

Members Present:

Chip Martel, Chairman
Adam Wildavsky, Vice-Chairman
Peter Boyd
Allan Falk
Ron Gerard (by phone)
Robb Gordon (by phone)
Matt Koltnow
Al Levy
Eric Rodwell
Rebecca Rogers
Aaron Silverstein
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein

Also Present:

Maurizio Di Sacco
Sam Whitten

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. The minutes from the, Summer 2016 meeting, were approved.
2. The Laws Commission reviewed the new Appendix G: Screen Procedures passed by the ACBL Board of Directors at the Summer BOD meeting. The Commission members discussed the new procedures but did not suggest any further changes to the ACBL Screen Procedures.
3. Adam Wildavsky gave a report from the WBF Drafting Committee. The WBF Laws Committee is nearing completion of their draft of the 2017 laws and it will be made available shortly for comment. Some of the more challenging laws are still being considered.
4. The Laws Commission discussed the case where each defender (e.g. West and East) has a penalty card and West is on lead. The Commission agreed that law 50D1.(b) clearly says that the lead penalties take precedence over West's obligation to play a penalty card at his first turn to play. The Commission further agreed that some education (perhaps in the

“Duplicate Decisions” feature of *The Bulletin*) would be helpful to make sure this is understood.

5. The Commission members continued discussion of the extent to which the opposing side is entitled to know that the opponents are having a misunderstanding. For example, after 2H-P-4H-P-P-P, the 4H bidder explained the 2H bid as strong during the auction, and after the final pass, the 2H bidder informs his LHO, before the opening lead, that his bid was weak instead of strong. The Laws allow the 2H bidder’s LHO to change his final pass and bid with the knowledge that both 2H & 4H were likely weak. However, if the 2H bidder does not inform his LHO of the misinformation, then the directors will adjust the board under the theory that the LHO is only entitled to the correct information about the 2H bid but not the 4H bid. After extensive discussion, no consensus was reached.
6. New Business: With respect to Law 73B2, the Laws Commission affirmed that prearranged signaling other than as allowed by law is a grave offense even if there is no evidence the signals were used to advantage.
7. Having no further business, the Commission adjourned at noon