

MINUTES

ACBL National Laws Commission
2016 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.
Saturday, July 23, 2016

Members Present:

Chip Martel, Chairman
Adam Wildavsky, Vice-Chairman
Peter Boyd
Chris Compton
Ron Gerard
Matt Koltnow
Al Levy
Eric Rodwell
Rebecca Rogers
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein

Also Present:

Jeff Polisner
Dan Plato

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

1. The minutes from the Reno meeting, Spring 2016, 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, at its most recent meeting, completed a review of some of the more complicated issues, including Law 12c1(b). The ACBL Laws Commission discussed whether Law 12c1(b) should be revised. Members of the Commission felt that the section was applied too frequently by directors in situations where the error committed by the non-offending side was related to the infraction. The Commission discussed whether the Laws should provide relief in situations where the non-offending side has made a low percentage bid or play related to the infraction. The Commission members were split on this question.
4. The Laws Commission discussed whether Law 12c1(e) should be dropped from the new Laws, pursuant to an inquiry from the WBF Laws Committee as to whether there was any objection to eliminating this section from the Laws. The Commission unanimously agreed that Law 12c1(e) should be removed from the next version of the Laws.

5. The Laws Commission discussed Law 15C. Law 15C concerns the play of a wrong board, which is discovered during the auction period. The WBF Laws Committee is leaning towards a stronger rule that requires the board to be cancelled and not replayed by the proper contestants. The WBF view provides that the unauthorized information is too pervasive to allow later play of the board by players who have already heard part of the auction. The WBF was also concerned with the possibility of unauthorized information to be passed before the board is replayed. Some Laws Commission members felt that the board should almost always be replayed and that the director can make a determination about whether an adjusted score should be awarded. The Laws Commission members were split on whether the Laws should allow the board to be replayed, even when there is unauthorized information present.
6. The Commission members discussed an auction 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. The Commission members agreed to table the issue.
7. Having no further business, the Commission adjourned at 12:00 p.m..