

Laws - 11/26/2017

Present:

Chip Martel, Chair

Adam Wildavsky, Co-chair

Peter Boyd

Chris Compton

Allan Falk

Ron Gerard

Robb Gordon

Matt Koltnow

Al Levy

Eric Rodwell

Becky Rogers

Aaron Silverstein

Matt Smith

By Phone:

Roger Stern

Also Present:

Marcin Wasłowicz - Video Surveillance

Bruce Lang

Linda Dunn - ACBL Counsel

Jay Whipple - D9 Board Member and ACBL President-elect

The ACBL Laws Commission meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM PST.

Minutes from the last meeting (Kansas City NABC, March 12, 2017) were approved. The Commission acknowledged with gratitude Linda Dunn's effort in assembling comprehensive minutes.

The Chairman chose to discuss the Agenda Item 4 Comparable Call (Law 23) writeup prior to Item 3. The author, Matt Smith has not received a lot of feedback on the writeup.

It was suggested for hand #1 to change the DQ to a small club.

The discussion evolved in a more general sense to what makes a call's meaning similar.

In addition, a focus was on Law 23C and the question of what “outcome could well have been different” means. Does it include random “lucky” results for the offending side? The **Commission** concluded that this phrase does not apply to “rub of the green” differences, but only to those where a good result was a consequence of the infraction, not merely subsequent to it.

There was a discussion of what to do when the partner of the infractor takes into account that the substituted call might have been chosen to make it a comparable call, rather than a normal hand for the call chosen (e.g. North passes out of turn, South opens 1H and North bids 1N despite having spades since 1N is a comparable call (to P) and 1S is not. South later allows for North having spades). Overall, this was considered to be allowed as long as it doesn’t help the offending side to a better contract than it might well have reached had there been no infraction.

It is pointed out that Law 16C2 does not apply per Law 23B.

Roger Stern asked about applying Law 73 in lieu of Law 16B. The director has to use judgement about adjusting the score when a good result was assisted by a withdrawn call. [Note, the WBF laws commission considers that the remark about 16C2 also makes 73 inapplicable when a comparable call is chosen.]

After more discussion the commission moved on to Item 3 - WBF Laws Committee Minutes.

Adam reported that the WBF Laws Committee’s work for the next nine months or so will be on Commentary to the Laws. It was hoped to be released simultaneously with the Laws, but it wasn’t ready.

Adam expressed appreciation to Matt Koltnow for revising remarks in the draft commentary from the WBF Laws Chair Ton Kooijman.

The next item referred to 3rd seat openings. Al Levy said the background was in a USA versus Spain match in Wroclaw. The committee generally agreed that a 3rd suit opening non-vulnerable and particularly at favorable vulnerability could contain “anything”. But if a pair does this repeatedly it is an agreement and apparently not allowed under current ACBL regulations. While this is a Competition and Conventions Committee issue, the Commission expressed its opinion that it should be allowed with proper alerting.

There was discussion of spectator interference (pointing out irregularities). This was codified up until the 1997 Laws. The Commission felt that a pair should not lose its rights because a kibitzer points out an irregularity before the pair does, since it is often difficult to say that the kibitzer “belongs” to a given pair. However, the kibitzer should be recorded in a player memo and the kibitzer should be reprimanded and/or ejected from the event.

There was discussion about claims and blocking suits. After discussion there was consensus to let directors decide as at present.

Non-random deals - The ACBL CEO has proposed hands “crafted” for level of play. There was also discussion about BBO Robot “best hand” events. The Commission agreed that such manipulation may or may not be a good idea depending on circumstances. But the Commission agrees that such games are not “Bridge” under the Laws.

Old Business - none

New Business - Al Levy mentioned that the WBF is gradually raising the Senior age to 65 by increasing it 1 year every 2 years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM