

Laws Commission March 3, 2025

Members present were

Robb Gordon

Bart Bramley

Chris Compton

Allan Falk (by phone)

Ron Gerard

Matt Koltnow

Howard Weinstein.

The guests present were

Suzi Subeck (WBF Laws)

Jeff Ford (C&C)

Franco Baseggio.

Absent members were

Adam Wildavsky

Peter Boyd

Lynne Feldman

Oren Kriegel

Rui Marques

Eric Rodwell

Aaron Silverstein

- Meeting called to order at 11:02 MST.

Minutes from 6/10/2023 were deferred. The Allan Falk version of the minutes, which are a change in format, not substance, will be included as a supplement and the full committee will have an opportunity to vote on the format.

- Election of Officers

Adam Wildavsky was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

Robb Gordon was re-elected as Chairman.

There were no other nominations and no objections.

- Pauses at trick one. There was a lengthy discussion about a request from C&C to respond to a proposal about play by dummy and 3rd hand at the first trick.

Chris Compton moved to mandate a pause by declarer to call a card at trick 1. Second by Doug Couchman. Amended to include a length of 15 seconds. Motion fails 2 to 5.

Howard Weinstein moved, and Compton seconded that the previous interpretation be a suggestion to C&C. Ron Gerard opined that it's a Laws issue and cited 73A. This was disputed – the words were “Regulating Authority”. Motion passes 4-2-1 abstention.

Jeff Ford agreed to transmit the recommendation.

Moved by Couchman, seconded by Compton that the LC Interpretation interprets Law 73D1 to the effect that Declarer shall take inference by 3rd hand's tempo at his own risk, 'coffee housing' by virtue of the tempo isn't a possible ruling under 73D and shall not be heard to have suffered damage resulting from acting on such tempo.

Gerard commented that it would be useful to suggest that a pause by defender at trick one is recommended practice to avoid unauthorized information, and there was general agreement.

- There was a discussion concerning whether and when there is a statute of limitations for seeking redress when misinformation is discovered. No action was taken.
- Matt Koltnow presented the issue of multiple unplayed boards due to 'mis-caddying' in a team event, stating that Laws 86B2(a) and 12C2(b) seemed to provide for no alternative other than to award 3 IMPs to each team for each unplayed board, a potentially overly generous result.

After discussion, Koltnow moved that in cases where Ave+ is being assigned to both sides in a team game, Ave+ is worth 3 on the first missed board, 2 on the second, 1 on the third, and none on all following. Second by Compton. Passed unanimously.

- Due to Allan Falk needing to leave, discussion on Law 76 is deferred.
- Discussion of possible inequity in revoke laws. General agreement is that a revoke should not be penalized when it is impossible to lose any trick via legal play. This will be discussed at the WBF.
- Franco Baseggio talked about his project to assemble a compendium of LC interpretations.

He is asking for assistance in proofreading the document and clarifying conflicting passages. He has agreed to continue with the project on an ongoing basis. Matt Koltnow

volunteered to work on the project. Chris Compton agreed to help if Allan Falk was unavailable. *

The commission extended thanks to Franco.

- Meeting adjourned at 12:08 MST sine die.

* Allan Falk agreed to work on the compendium.