

6/10/2023 Laws Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robb Gordon.

Present:

- Adam Wildavsky
- Allan Falk
- Chip Martel – WBF and ex-chair
- Howard Weinstein
- Oren Kriegel
- Robb Gordon
- Ron Gerard
- Suzi Subeck - WBF representative
- Bart Bramley
- Chris Compton
- Matt Koltnow
- Eric Rodwell
- Peter Boyd

Absent – Lynne Feldman, Aaron Silverstein, Doug Couchman, Rui Marques

Adam Wildavsky was elected to continue as vice chair by acclamation.

Chip Martel was recognized and thanked for his service as LC chairman for two decades.

Revisions to laws 73 and 89 came through from the WBF, which adopted only a small part of the ACBL's recommended language.

There was discussion whether special regulations should be created for online bridge events. The consensus seemed to be that this would be a useful thing to do, but the discussion ended with no move towards actually developing such regulations, leaving current Appendix O unchanged.

There was then discussion of whether bridge involving robots satisfies the Laws sufficiently to qualify for masterpoint awards to human competitors. The LC previously went on record to the ACBL Board of Directors to recommend that robot bridge be deemed non-compliant with the Laws, but the Board chose to reject our position. There was no motion to repeat the exercise.

Chairman Gordon inquired whether the LC should establish regular meeting times in light of the new event schedules at NABCs. The consensus was that with 10 a.m. start times, that is no longer a viable approach, and teleconferencing technology with audio and visual is not the most practical approach.

Allan Falk noted that a recent IBPA bulletin editorial raised an issue as to the appropriateness of time penalties at USBF (or any major bridge) championships. Where play is done use computers or tablets, it is possible to determine, exactly the time taken per pair, allowing competitors to potentially manipulate their opponents' time and associated penalties. After discussion, Chris

Compton moved that the LC inform the USBF and ACBL that we are against the imposition of slow play imp penalties in long matches

- Yeas: Bart, Oren, Chris, Howie, Peter
- Nays: Adam W., Allan, Ron
- Abstain: Suzi, Eric

See below

Allan then inquired whether, assuming there are time penalties of whatever kind, if it's sportsmanlike to delay so an opponent gets a time penalty. After discussion, Falk offered to submit two proposals, one each pro and con, to also include the issue of "sportsmanlike dumping".

Note concerning slow play motion.

This motion was subsequently brought up for reconsideration and was rejected as being outside the purview of the Laws Commission.

Robb Gordon, Chairman