

THE INSTITUTE FOR BRIDGE ARBITRATION

American Contract Bridge League, Claimant

vs.

Case No. IBA-24-01

Molly Walsh, Respondent

Consent Award

This is a “Consent Award” arising out of an arbitration between the American Contract Bridge League (“ACBL”) and one of its members, Molly Walsh (“Respondent”). Pursuant to the arbitration agreement between the ACBL and Respondent, and to the procedures of the Institute for Bridge Arbitration, the below panel was chosen as the arbitrators of this dispute.

The ACBL has accused Respondent of improperly sharing information with her partner while playing on BBO in ACBL sanctioned online games under the username molwalsh. In separate emails to the panel, the ACBL and Mrs. Walsh have informed the panel that they have settled the matter and have mutually requested that the panel enter this agreed upon judgment order.

Accordingly, as Arbitrators, we hereby enter the following award in favor of the ACBL and against Respondent:

1. Mrs. Walsh takes responsibility for the substance of the allegations.
2. A 3-month suspension starting retroactively on August 7, 2024 and ending on November 6, 2024 is hereby imposed on the Respondent.
3. 2-year probation following suspension with an exclusion on playing with Susan Kennedy in ACBL-sanctioned online games for the entire probationary period is hereby imposed on the Respondent. During the entire probationary period, the Respondent will be a Member Not in Good Standing.
4. A 10% Masterpoint reduction is hereby imposed on the Respondent.

5. The Respondent is hereby required to complete the Ethics Certification and Fair Play Pledge as a precondition to her being allowed to play in any ACBL-sanctioned event.

The above sanctions reflect the parties' agreement, not the independent judgment of the arbitrators, who express no opinion regarding them.

This Consent Award is final and enforceable in accordance with prevailing law.

/s/ James M. Lawniczak, panel chair

/s/ Howard S. Engle

/s/ Stephen P. Samuels

Dated: August 22, 2024