



Information sheet about the appeals process.

1) An incident/Infraction occurs at the table and the Director is called.

This may involve such things as an insufficient bid, lead out of turn etc. but the most common subjects that may lead to an appeal are misinformation, misexplanation, breaks in tempo and issues following from them.

2) The director ascertains the facts and makes a ruling.

This ruling will generally be based on Bridge Law and the decision will usually protect the non-offending side. In some cases the facts may be disputed or be somewhat grey and the director will interpret and rule as best they can in these circumstances.

3) Either pair may appeal the ruling OR the director may instruct a pair to appeal.

Each pair has the right to appeal the director's ruling. It is recommended that before making an appeal, the opinion of a designated "Appeals Advisor" be sought. The list of designated Appeals Advisors is posted on the notice board. If an Appeals Advisor is not present you may contact a member of council who might recommend a suitable person to advise you.

4) The appellants advise the director of their intention to appeal.

Once the decision has been made to appeal, the director should be informed. He will then issue the appeals form.

5) The appeals form is completed.

There are three sections to be completed. These should be done in the order of

- 1) the appellants
- 2) the respondents
- 3) the director

Before the appeal is heard, the director will supply each pair and each member of the Appeals Committee with a completed copy of the appeals form.

6) The director advises the Appeals Coordinator (AC) of the appeal.

The AC will convene a panel of not less than three suitable people to hear the appeal, one of whom shall Chair the appeal. After consultation with all relevant parties, the AC will advise both pairs when the appeal will be held. As a general rule the appeal will be heard directly before the next session.

7) The appeal is heard.

The following steps will occur during the appeal

- The Chair will introduce all parties and outline the procedure
- The director will explain their ruling
- The appellants will be allowed to present their case
- The respondents will be given the same opportunity
- Members of the appeals committee may ask questions
- The players leave and the committee makes a decision

8) The decision and reason for the decision are written on the appeals form.

The director will be given the form and will then advise both pairs of the decision.

The appeals process is an integral part of the game of Bridge and is designed to give players an opportunity to state their case in reference to an irregularity. As with all rulings it is rarely possible for both pairs to be completely satisfied with the outcome and players are asked to accept the decision in a sporting manner.