

VANCOUVER BRIDGE CLUB – APPEALS *

General

Contestant's Rights

A contestant may appeal for a review of any ruling made by the Director or by any of his assistants.

Time for Appeal

Any appeal for a ruling or an appeal of the Director's ruling must be made within 30 minutes after the official score is available for inspection.

How to Appeal

All appeals must be made through the Director.

Concurrence of Appellants

No appeal shall be heard unless both members of a partnership or the captain of a team concur.

Procedures of Appeal

Director's Role

The Director shall hear and rule upon all appeals at a VBC club masterpoint game. When an appeal is requested, the Director should review the situation with all players involved to make sure of the facts. The Director may also consult with other directors for their opinion before making a final ruling. The Director is under no obligation to call an appeals committee, but may decide to call one if circumstances warrant and if it can meet without disturbing the orderly progress of the game. The Director should try to discourage frivolous protests and offer informal, friendly advice to an appellant not to waste his own time and that of the committee's.

Club Appeals Committee

When the Director has elected to convene an appeals committee, an appeal on a matter strictly of Law or regulation is heard in the first instance by the Director. An appellant then has the right to carry his case to committee, but the committee can do no more than attempt to convince the Director that he is in error. *No committee can overrule the Director on a point of Law or regulation.* Further appeals may be made to the ACBL Laws Commission. This committee may accept an appeal on a point of Law, and at their sole discretion.

When there is more than Law at issue, the Director must refer all other appeals to the committee for adjudication. In matters of bridge judgment or of disputed fact (*e.g.*, Did a player revoke? Did his revoke cost his opponents more than the penalty gave them?), the committee is the final judge.

Powers And Duties Of An Appeals Committee

It must adjudicate every case that is brought before it, but may dismiss an appeal as being frivolous and assess a penalty against the player(s) filing such a charge or appeal. The Director must inform the committee that its rights and powers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Uphold the Director's ruling.
- b. Cancel the Director's ruling and make any adjustment the committee believes will constitute an equitable solution. The adjustment may be:
 1. Assignment of an Adjusted Total Point Score —
The committee may attempt to estimate what final contract would have been played had the infraction in question not occurred and to calculate the probable result that would have been achieved. It may then order the board scored as though that result was actually attained at the table.

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2. Award of an Adjusted Score —
The committee may adjust the matchpoint score received by either side or both sides.
3. Cancel Results —
The committee may cancel the result on the board in question and award an average, average plus or average minus score to either or both sides. Please note that, while the scores need not balance, except for rare instances, such as the Director having made an error in Law, the total matchpoints should not exceed top on a board.
4. Award Overall Percentages Scores —
The committee may award one or both sides their overall percentage score in the session on the board in question (in effect not permitting the board to affect the disputants' scores one way or another).
5. Assess Matchpoint Penalties —
The committee may assess a matchpoint penalty against the offenders without granting any compensation to the nonoffending side.

* This article was adapted for the VBC from sections of [Duplicate Decisions](#).