

Appeals

Personnel

- Appeals Committees should consist of 3 to 5 members with good bridge experience (strong players and at least one member with reasonable knowledge of the laws)
- The Committee has to be unbiased (watch nationality, relationships, if you have to have participants of the tournament in the committee – may be the case in national events – their ranking) and should not have prior knowledge of the case.
- Committee members and substitutes have to be announced before the tournament starts.

Proceedings

- TD writes all the facts he gathered at the table, his ruling, applicable laws and reasoning for this ruling on the appeal form.
Players / captains may add statements in writing but are not required to do so.
- TD, appellants and defendants and Committee members have to be present simultaneously. No extra conversations (eg appellants + Committee but no others) should take place.
- The appealing side must be present, the non-appealing side should be present. TD has to inform the non-appealing side that there is an appeal.
- Committee sits in one side of the table, TD in the middle of the other side, appellants on his right, defendants on his left.
- TD hands out copies of the appeal form to all participants and the money (to be collected from appealing side beforehand) to the committee.
- The Chairman introduces the committee members and explains the proceedings
- TD explains facts and ruling – Committee members ask further questions to TD (no interruption by appellants and defendants)
- Appellants explain why they appeal – Committee members ask further questions to appellants (no interruption)
- Defendants give their comments – Committee members ask further questions to defendants (no interruption)
- When the committee has all the answers and the participants have nothing more to add appellants, defendants and TD leave the committee

Appeals

- Committee tells the decision to the TD
- TD informs the players

Points to consider

- Appeals on questions of law or regulation are not handled by the Committee but by the Chief Director. If his decision is thereafter brought to the Appeals Committee it may not overturn the decision (it may recommend to the TD that he reconsider)
 - While players are present the Committee should not volunteer comments but only establish the facts.
 - TDs should not tell players whether they think an appeal could be frivolous or not.
 - Players should not discuss the decision with Committee members afterwards. They can appeal to the National Authority.
 - Have a look at the 'Code of Practice'
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Practice example

Pairs, Board #2

♠ KT43
♥ J42
♦ AQ64
♣ 32

♠ T987
♥ 87
♦ 75
♣ AKJT7

♠ QJ65
♥ 96
♦ KJT98
♣ 84

♠ A
♥ AKQT53
♦ 32
♣ Q965

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	pass	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	3♣
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

Lead: ♦T

Result: 10 tricks, +630 NS

Appeals

E called TD after play explaining that W had asked for a description of opener's hand after the 3♣-bid, receiving '4♥, 5♣, 14-16 HCP' as an answer. With correct information he would have led ♣ (especially because W might have doubled 3♣).

After finding out all the facts you the TD decided to adjust the score to +200 for EW. Furthermore you penalized NS an extra 20% of a top.

NS appeals (score and penalty).

Prepare an appropriate appeal form.

The decision certainly needed more facts than the ones listed above. Invent all the facts you need as appropriate.

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Tabiano, 2001