



South African Bridge Federation

1. Introduction

This document is a guide to the correct action to take should an irregularity occur at your table during any tournament run by the SABF, an affiliated Union or club.

2. Calling the Tournament Director [TD]

- The **TD** must be called as soon as attention is drawn to an irregularity. The right to redress may be lost if the **TD** is not called promptly.
- A player may call the **TD** if he thinks his or his partner's rights **may** have been damaged; the player does not have to be sure. Other players may not criticize a player for calling the **TD**.
- **Under no circumstances** should a player claim to know the correct penalty for any possible infringement and dictate any action to be taken to redress the fault; this is in the sole discretion of the **TD**.
- The **TD** should be called immediately if
 - any player refuses to answer questions about the meaning of a call
 - any player corrects any information he or his partner has given
 - any player lifts a card out of the bidding box and then replaces it with another
 - any player plays a card and then replaces it with another
 - there is an insufficient bid
 - there is a lead, play or call out of turn
 - there is a defender's exposed card
 - there is a dispute over a claim or over the number of tricks won or lost
 - there is behaviour that could be construed as rude, disrespectful or obstructive.
- There are certain circumstances where a player may reserve his rights without calling the **TD**.** These include, but are not limited to
 - slow play
 - bids made after partner has had a significant change in his bidding tempo
 - bids made with no hesitation after a jump bid has been made by the opponent on the player's right irrespective of whether a **STOP** card was used
 - hovering over the bidding box before making a bid.

If, at the end of the hand, the non-offending pair feels that one or more of the actions above may have resulted in damage to their side, they may now call the **TD**.

**It is advisable to inexperienced players to call the TD immediately if this occurs.

3. Appealing a TD's Ruling

All players have the right to appeal a **TD's** ruling should they feel that the **TD** has

- misunderstood the facts of the case
- misinterpreted the Law or made an incorrect ruling in terms of the Laws
- imposed an incorrect penalty

The player must inform the **TD** of his intention to lodge an appeal before the end of the current session.

The **TD** will form an Appeals Committee of no fewer than three members ** who will sit and take a decision by majority vote immediately after the session ends. No player directly involved in the infringement, nor in the case of a team's match any member of the teams involved, may sit on the committee. The **TD** may not sit on the committee. A deposit may be paid on submission of the appeal. This will be refunded to the player at the Appeals Committee's discretion. The Appeals committee's decisions are final

Should a club or tournament feel unable to field an Appeals Committee of suitable calibre to make a final ruling, then a written appeal may be submitted to the appropriate Union. It should be made clear to the appellants, that in these circumstances, whatever the outcome of the appeal, no change will be made to the tournament results.

** Please note that the Appeals Procedure differs at a SABF National Event.

4. Behaviour at Bridge

Bridge is an extremely enjoyable game and courteous behaviour is an important part of that enjoyment. To that end, all players are to

- greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round
- be good hosts or guests at the table
- make the game enjoyable for themselves, their partners and their opponents
- use only polite, and never rude or pejorative language
- switch off mobile 'phones!

As stated previously, the **TD** should be called immediately if any player's behaviour breaches these bounds.