Illawarra Bridge Association
TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Updated March 2026

1. INTRODUCTION:

These regulations shall apply to major tournaments run by the Illawarra Bridge Association (**IBA**) as well as all club sessions.

These regulations should be read in conjunction with:

- the *IBA Code of Conduct*
- the *IBA Disciplinary and Ethics Regulations*

The following sections of the *Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations dated Dec 2024*[1] **(*NSW Regulations*)** are adopted as part of these regulations.

7- Fouled boards
11- Tie breaks, Replacement of unavailable Pairs or Teams
12- Scoring Procedures
13- Procedures pending Appeals.

2. CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Management Committee shall appoint from among the suitably qualified Directors a Chief Tournament Director for such duration and on whatever terms the Committee decides. Notwithstanding the duration of appointment, the Management Committee may replace the Chief Tournament Director at any time.

3. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee (TC) will be appointed at the first Management Committee Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. It will be chaired by the IBA Club President or his/her representative. In addition, it will consist of the Chief Tournament Director, and at least two (2) other Club members. Convenors of Congresses and State Championships are to be invited to all meetings of the committee and will have the right to speak but not to vote.

It will:

- meet once per month,
- determine and publish a timeframe for the efficient management of the IBA calendar
- forward the meeting minutes to the IBA Management Committee.
- include in its agenda for each meeting
    - the IBA congresses as permanent items on the agenda

[1] https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Bridge-NSW-Tournament-Regulations.pdf

- review upcoming events two (2) months in advance
- review generation of boards for the following month, their placement in appropriate folders on the IBA computer and the status of the dealing roster
- review of IBA events for any improvements

➢ for Congresses and Special Events
- appoint a person to apply to Bridge NSW for club congresses.
- liaise with the Convenors appointed by the MC to determine a timeframe for the efficient management of the IBA Congresses
- appoint organisers for other special State or National events conducted by the club (e.g. State-wide Pairs, Australia Wide Pairs, UHMP)
- arrange a MyABF entry for all club events requiring pre-registration (specifically Swiss and Teams events)
- decide on any rules & cut off dates for upcoming event

➢ for Directors
- pass on relevant details of upcoming tournaments to directors who will then advertise the events at each session
- ensure that directors are aware of their responsibility to report incidents during a session to the TC
- keep Directors aware of changes to the laws of bridge and any relevant regulations
- liaise with the tournament director regarding all the above and inform the director whether a director's report is required for a particular tournament

➢ address any computer issues – software updates etc

➢ update Web with Tournament issues

4. SYSTEMS

System Cards. For any cub Red Point Event or where the Director determines that a system card is required, each player shall have on the table during the periods of play a legible system card properly identified with their name and their partner's name. The system card shall be on a form provided by the ABF. The onus is on the pair to prepare an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. System cards should remain on the table during play.

The System classifications adopted by the ABF shall apply as well as the System restrictions specified in the *NSW Regulation* (that is paragraphs 4.3 to 4.8).

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be at the Director's discretion with reference to *Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations*[2]*.*

[2] https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SubstitutionRegulations.pdf

6. BIDDING

The IBA uses bidding boxes for its Club sessions and also for major tournaments. Allowance for written bidding can be made by the Director.

The IBA adopts the Bidding and Play Procedures included in section 5 of the *NSW Regulations* which incorporates rules about the use of Bidding Boxes and Written Bidding.

The Tournament Committee is responsible for providing a copy of the *NSW Regulations* in a prominent place in the **Club Room**[3] players will be regularly reminded of their responsibilities when bidding.

Players must note that in framing questions about the auction, special care must be exercised to avoid pointing to one particular bid which could induce a call or lead based solely on the question. Should any player feel that a "pointed" question has been asked the Director should be called immediately (Rule 5.3 *NSW Regulations*)

7. ALERTS

The *ABF Alerting Regulations*[4] shall apply, except that alert cards shall be placed in a prominent spot on the table and attention drawn to the alerted bid.

The Tournament Committee is responsible for providing a copy of the *Bridge NSW Alerting Rules Summary*[5] in the Club Room and for disseminating information about alerts through the *IBA Newsletter*.

8. DIRECTORS

8.1 Playing Directors

Where a Playing Director controls a session, they should avoid making determinations at their own table. Where another suitably qualified Director is in attendance, they should call that Director. Where there is no other Director available, they must indicate that they are assuming the role of the Director at their table by standing at the table to make a ruling.

For the avoidance of doubt, any comment made by a Playing Director at their table when they have not indicated they are acting as the Director is considered the action of a player.

8.2 Discipline Procedures

The Director should follow the steps provided in section 7 of the IBA Disciplinary and Ethics Regulations.

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[3] For the purposes of these regulations the Club Room is either the IBA Hall, the Thirroul Railway Institute Preservation Society hall, or such other venue at which IBA conducts a session covered by these regulations.
[4] http://abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFAlertRegs2017.pdf
[5] https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Alerting-Rules-Summary.pdf

9. APPEALS

Law 92 provides players a right of appeal for a review of any ruling made at their table by the Director. Law 93 outlines procedures for review involving an appeals committee. The Laws specifically include the provision for sanctions in the case of requests for review that lack merit.

In 2000 the WBF moved to the use of a single Reviewer rather than an Appeals Committee and IBA is adopting the same approach. The procedure for reviews is as follows.

9.1 All requests for review of a ruling shall be made through the Director. The right to request a review expires one hour after the official results have been posted on the club website. A late appeal may be accepted at the Director's discretion. A review will not be conducted unless both members of a partnership concur in making the appeal.

9.2 Reviews will be conducted by a Reviewer appointed for that purpose. Where the Chief Tournament Director has not been involved in the decision, then the Chief Tournament Director shall be the Reviewer. In all other cases the Reviewer will be appointed by the Club President or Vice-President.

9.3 The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other Directors were consulted where appropriate. In matters requiring the exercise of bridge judgment the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a clear judgmental view to be obtained. Finally, the Reviewer will check that the ruling issued (based upon all the information available) was within the bounds of reasonableness. Note, however, that the mere fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different adjustment will not be a good enough reason for the ruling to be varied.

9.4 The Reviewer may not overturn any procedural penalties imposed under Law 90 but may recommend that the Director reconsider the imposition of the penalty.

9.5 In conducting the review, the Reviewer must:

- Ensure that the Director has followed the entire process correctly prior to making the ruling.
- Ensure that the questions posed to any players polled were proper and complete.
- Ensure that players of the relevant standard have been consulted.
- Ensure that the final ruling is consistent with the facts and opinions expressed by the players polled.

9.6 When the Reviewer determines that the ruling is in some way defective, it is returned to the Director so that the deficiencies in the process may be corrected and a new ruling issued.

9.7 Where the Reviewer determines the request for review is without merit, then the Reviewer may recommend to the Director the imposition of a penalty quantified in matchpoints, International Matchpoints or Victory Points as the stage of the match warrants.

9.8 Subsequent to the review, a player may seek an additional review by the Management Committee (as the Regulating Authority). Equally, the Director or the Reviewer may refer the matter to the Management Committee. Any request by a player for further review deemed to lack merit is a breach of the club Code of Conduct as a breach of IBA policies and shall be dealt with accordingly.

10. CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

Law 74 requires that all players always maintain a courteous attitude. It emphasises that "a player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game."

Specific examples of this include:

- unsolicited advice or criticism such as comments about the opposition's bidding or their card play
- advising them of how they could/should have bid their cards
- advising them of how they could have made the contract.
- gloating i.e. taking great pleasure in making an unmakeable contract because of an opponent's error. It's hardly something to be proud of!
- being rude to either an opponent or your partner.
- declaring your hand when the opposition still has winning tricks in their hand. It is better to play out the hand if there is likely to be any contention

Any person who feels that they have been wronged should immediately call the Director and explain what has happened so that appropriate action can be taken in a timely manner.

Under the Laws the Director has an obligation not to tolerate improper behaviour (Law 81), is empowered to impose procedural penalties (Law 90) and to suspend a player for all or part of the current session. (Law91).

All players are bound by the IBA Code of Conduct.

ILLAWARRA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

Updated March 2026

The Illawarra Bridge Association, in line with bridge clubs around the world and in particular with the ***BRIDGE NSW*** and the **ABF** is of the belief that an actively ethical player contributes to the enjoyment of all bridge players by continuously striving to maintain a courteous manner toward both partner and the opponents by avoiding any behaviour that would make any player uncomfortable. Good ethics and etiquette are fundamental to bridge.

The IBA insists that players are treated with respect and dignity and is committed to providing a friendly atmosphere in its club rooms.

IBA members should:

- **be polite and courteous at all times**
- **respect other people's rights to have different opinions or ways of thinking**
- **conduct their game in a proper, mature and inoffensive manner**
- **assist new members and guests and try to show patience and understanding**
- **at all times abide by this Code of Conduct as well as the rules of the IBA, BRIDGE NSW and the Australian Bridge Federation.**

Members should be aware of their obligations under Laws 73 and 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge[6]

[6] The Laws are available at http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/2017-laws-of-duplicate-bridge/

IBA DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS REGULATIONS

March 2026

1. THE RULES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be the IBA Management Committee.

In essence, the Rules and Ethics Committee deals with all breaches of etiquette, manners and proprieties. This committee handles all complaints regarding the attitude and behaviour of the players at the club. Matters may be brought before the Rules and Ethics Committee by players or the Director.

It will be chaired by the Club President or his/her representative.

WHEN IT MEETS IT WILL BE GUIDED BY ARTICLES 11 & 12 OF THE RULES OF THE IBA[7] AND THESE IBA DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS REGULATIONS

2. SCOPE

These regulations are an adaptation of the Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations of Bridge NSW and will apply to ALL major tournaments organised by the IBA. As well they will be used at all Club sessions.

Whilst the Bridge NSW Rules and Regulations are meant for Congresses *the IBA is of the opinion that:*

I. *the IBA's Code of Conduct encourages players to be ethical bridge players*
II. ***The BRIDGE NSW Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations** give a clear guideline to the processes and penalties for breaches of this code*
III. *the IBA Management Committee in its role as the IBA Ethics Committee appreciates a definitive guideline for the process that needs to be followed and the subsequent mandatory penalties to be applied should a person be found guilty of an offence*
IV. *with minimal changes the **BRIDGE NSW Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations CAN BE UTILISED FOR ALL OUR CLUB SESSIONS AND USED BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE ALONGSIDE SECTIONS 11 & 12 OF THE RULES OF THE IBA (2015)***
V. *It is an important complement to our Code of Conduct and to Laws 73 and 74 of Duplicate Bridge.*

[7] https://illawarra.bridgeaustralia.org/documents/IBA%20Constitution%202015.pdf

Complaints against Directors[8] are not subject to these regulations. Such complaints should be submitted to the Chief Tournament Director, or, if the complaint is against the Chief Tournament Director, they should be submitted to the President of the IBA.

3. REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1 A complaint may be submitted by:

a) Any player participating in a session during which an alleged breach occurs;
b) Any person affected by a breach occurring in or around the playing venue during a bridge session;
c) The Director.

3.2 Complaints must be submitted to the Secretary of the IBA, either by email or in writing to the offices of the IBA.

3.3 A written complaint must reach one of the addresses specified in regulation 3.2 within seven (7) days of the date on which the breach is alleged to have occurred.

3.4 The IBA will notify the accused person(s) that a complaint has been submitted within seven (7) days of receiving the complaint.

4. THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

4.1 All complaints will be directed by the Secretary of the IBA to the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee, who will assign a member of the Rules and Ethics Committee as the Investigating Officer to conduct the initial disciplinary process. The Chair has discretion to appoint further Committee members to assist in the process.

4.2 The Investigating Officer will interview the complainant, the accused person(s) and any other relevant parties. If the complaint is sustained (the standard is "comfortable satisfaction"), the Mandatory Penalties as listed in Table 1 will be applied. The Investigating Officer, in consultation with any other appointed members of the Rules and Ethics Committee and the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee, will determine the exact penalty within the range set, and in accordance with any separately developed penalty guidelines.

4.3 Having been informed of the outcome, the accused may appeal the decision and request a Disciplinary Hearing to be held before a separately convened Hearing Committee, which will consist of between 3 and 5 members of the Rules and Ethics Committee or other co-opted people, as appointed by the Chair of that Committee, excluding the original Investigating Officer(s). In such an event, the reasons and grounds for requesting a Hearing are to be set out in detail. The request must be submitted to the Secretary of the IBA in writing within seven (7) days of being informed of the sentence imposed.

4.4 In the period between an applied suspension and the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing, the accused may only continue playing in IBA bridge events at the discretion

[8] Note a reference to a Director means a person in their capacity as a Director, that is, as a non-playing Director or as a playing Director who has indicated they are acting as a Director as provided under 8.1 of the IBA Tournament Regulations.

of the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee.

4.5 The accused is entitled to be represented before the Hearing Committee by a lawyer or by a financial member of a bridge club affiliated with Bridge NSW. If the accused disputes facts found during the initial disciplinary process, witnesses may give evidence on matters relevant to the findings of fact.

4.6 The Hearing Committee has the option of acquitting the player, varying the applied penalty within the ranges specified in Table 1, or modifying the offence under which the player is charged and applying the appropriate mandatory penalty for the modified offence. An appeal considered by the Hearing Committee to be frivolous or vexatious may attract an increased penalty within the range specified in Table 1.

4.7 NOTE that under articles 11 & 12 of its Rules the IBA also has in its power to suspend or expel a player from the Association.

5. MANDATORY PENALTIES

5.1 Should a person be found guilty of committing an offence, the Mandatory Penalties as listed in Table 1 shall be applied.

5.2 The start date of any suspension will be determined by the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee having regard to any disruption to pending IBA events and any other relevant considerations.

5.3 Suspension applies explicitly to all IBA bridge events, not to their membership of the Association.

5.4 A list of suspended players and their periods of suspension will be maintained by the IBA and passed on to the IBA Directors

5.5 If a person is found guilty of more than one offence, committed on the same occasion, all or part of the penalties may be applied concurrently at the discretion of the Rules and Ethics Committee.

5.6 All or part of the sentence for a first offence may be suspended for a period, as is deemed fit.

5.7 No part of a sentence may be suspended for a second or subsequent offence committed within seven (7) years of a first offence.

5.8 Any suspended sentence imposed for a first offence must be added to the sentence for a second offence, provided the period for which the suspended sentence was imposed has not expired.

5.9 If a person is found guilty of any subsequent offence even if other than the type of offence of which the person was first guilty, it shall be deemed to be a second offence unless the person can show reason why it should not be so.

5.10 For the purpose of second and subsequent offences, an offence will remain on the person's record for seven (7) years.

5.11 In the table of Mandatory Penalties:

a) "D" indicates that the penalty is discretionary

b) “L” indicates a lifetime suspension;

c) “W” indicates a warning;

d) numbers indicate the number of weeks of suspension.

TABLE 1- MANDATORY PENALTIES

	Offence	Penalty for 1st offence	Penalty for 2nd offence	Penalty for 3rd or later offence
1	Verbal abuse of an opponent or partner	W-12	4-24	8-52
2	Verbal abuse of a Director	2-12	4-24	8-52
3	Making any racial, religious or cultural remark or comment to which offence might be taken	W-12	4-24	8-52
4	Use of crude or abusive hand signals or gestures	W-4	2-8	4-24
5	Threat of assault or physical interference	W-12	4-24	8-52
6	Physical interference without intent to cause grievous bodily harm	8-12	12-52	52-L
7	Physical interference with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	L		
8	Wilful damage or abuse of playing cards, scoresheets, bidding pads, Bridgemates or other equipment or property	W-12	2-24	4-52
9	Persistent non-premeditated breaches of the Laws of Bridge with the effect of gaining an unfair advantage and/or unauthorized information	4-12	12-24	12-52
10	Deliberate, and disguised or concealed, violation of the laws of bridge intended to improve one's score	26-208	L	
11	Breach of IBA's policies where it is reasonable to presume the player to expect or be aware of such policies or requirements	W	W-2	2-4
12	Playing in a club session whilst suspended	D	D	D
13	Making vexatious and repeated complaints against a player or pair	W	D	D
14	Any other offence not specifically covered by any of the above	D	D	D

6. SERIOUS OFFENCES LISTED IN TABLE 1 & OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED ABOVE

6.1

Law 91- PENALIZE OR SUSPEND

i. Director's Powers

In performing his duty to maintain order and discipline, the Director is empowered to assess disciplinary penalties in points or to suspend a player or contestant for the current session or any part therefof. The Director's decision under this clause is final (see Law 93B3)

ii. Right to disqualify

The Director is empowered to disqualify a player or contestant for cause, subject to approval by the Tournament Organizer

Should an IBA Director have cause to suspend a player from a Club session then:

(a) he/she must write a report and forward it promptly to the Management Committee to review in their role as the Rules and Ethics Committee.

(b) A copy of this report must be entered into the Directors' Log

6.2 Should a player be suspended from a session the Director will notify the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee or their designated representative as soon as practically possible. The Chair will then notify the player as to whether or not the player is able to attend any bridge sessions run by the IBA until the Rules and Ethics Committee makes a ruling.

7. ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR IN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

The Director has an important role to play in the Disciplinary practices of the IBA

The Tournament Committee is responsible for ensuring that all IBA Directors are aware of their responsibilities in the Club's disciplinary processes

The table of Mandatory penalties allows players to be suspended from sessions. Also, under IBA Rules – article 11 players may be suspended or expelled from the Association for persistently refusing or neglecting to comply with the Rules of the IBA or wilfully acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the IBA.

It is necessary therefore to have a record of offences that occur.

The Tournament Committee requires IBA Directors to:

- Record in the Directors' Log any serious misdemeanours that occur at the table where the Director has been called.

STEPS:

The Director should:

- Take note of what occurred
- Take the player aside and inform the player that the misdemeanour will be noted in the Directors' Log
- Take each of the other players aside and ask them to write a brief report of the incident where necessary. These reports should be attached to the Director's entry in the Directors' Log
- Should it be necessary the Director must send a report to the Management Committee of the IBA promptly.