

EBU KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS



REGULATIONS – RULINGS IN
MATCHES PLAYED PRIVATELY

INTRODUCTION

The greater part of the [General Regulations for EBU Knockout Events](#) were revised in November 2017, but the section relating to Rulings and Appeals is still in the course of revision. Pending the issue of a revised version, the equivalent section of the September 2016 issue of the Regulations, contained in this document, continues to apply.

The numbering has not been changed, notwithstanding that it duplicates some of the numbering in the new version of the General Regulations.

Any enquiries should be addressed to:

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RULINGS IN MATCHES PLAYED PRIVATELY

22 In a match played privately, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee shall apply as contained in the current 'Blue Book'. In any respects not specifically covered by these regulations, the current regulations and directives of the EBU shall apply. The following clarification of the factors affecting the application of law and regulations is issued in the light of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, sections 9B1(a) and 92B, with respect to matches played privately.

a 'End of Round' (Law 8B)

A 'round' in a match played privately comprises a number of boards played without an interval in which scores may be compared. A pair who meet their colleagues and compare scores have already completed the round in which they have been engaged.

b 'Calling the Director' (Law 9B)

The equivalent of summoning the Director in accordance with Law 9B1 is to inform one's opponents at the table that one wishes to have a ruling. The request for a ruling must be specific and should be made before the protesting side calls on the next board, or the end of the round, whichever is the sooner.

c Drawing attention to a possible irregularity

Any comment at the table which points to the possibility of an irregularity draws attention to the irregularity within the meaning of Law 9B1(a). If no request for a ruling is then stated the players are in the position generally of players when attention is drawn to an irregularity and the Director is not immediately summoned.

(Reservation of Rights under Law 16A1 does not override this condition if the request for a ruling is not then made within the specified time limit).

23 Calling for a Ruling

Problems often arise in matches played privately when there is a dispute that involves more than just the reading and application of the law. If you think an irregularity has occurred which has damaged your side, you should proceed as follows:

- a Raise the matter (by, say, reserving your rights) at the time, preferably before the board has finished, but certainly before you remove your cards from the next board.

- b Confirm your wish to have a ruling before your opponents have left the table to score up that set of boards; if after scoring you withdraw your request that would be an end of the matter.

A failure to take these steps puts you in the same position as a player in a public competition who fails to call the Tournament Director at the appropriate time.

You may still request a ruling as long as you do it within twenty minutes of the end of the match. However, the longer the time lapse, the more difficult it is to establish the facts and Directors, like Tournament Directors in public competitions, may be less inclined to find damage which the player did not appear to be aware of at the time. However, a player who could not have known an irregularity had occurred will be in a stronger position than one who could or should have noticed but did not mention it at the time.

24 When a ruling of the first instance is required

If a ruling of the first instance is required, the procedures outlined below should be followed:

- a Captains agree upon an outcome.
- b Captains contact a principal member of the EBU panel of Tournament Directors as listed in section 25.
- c Captains agree upon a suitable arbiter.
- d Captains contact any other EBU Tournament Director (as listed in the EBU diary), or a member of the panel of Referees (see 27 below), or a member of the Laws and Ethics Committee. If contacting a member of the panel of Referees for a ruling of first instance, it must be made clear to the Referee that this is a request for a ruling of the first instance rather than an appeal against such a ruling.
- e Captains submit the case in writing to the EBU as described below.

25 Means of obtaining a ruling of the first instance

Under the above, captains may decide to forward details of the question with the match result for arbitration. In that case, or when it proves impossible to obtain a ruling, please ensure that full details are supplied (along with such statements as the players and captains wish to make).

The result should be endorsed 'Subject to ruling on board....' and both captains should confirm their agreement with the details forwarded.

Teams should be aware, if they chose to request a ruling in this way, that a decision based on Law 12C1(c) could result in a tied match. They should play additional boards at the time (as prescribed in paragraph 9) to cover this eventuality.

Alternatively, the names and telephone numbers of the principal members of the EBU panel of Tournament Directors are published in the EBU diary and on the EBU website at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/td-list>.

26 Effect of a ruling of the first instance

Any decision obtained by the procedures above is a binding ruling to be acted upon (but see also the section below relating to appeals). If a score adjustment is awarded on the board no substitute board is played.

A ruling that a board shall be cancelled, if known by the captains prior to the start of the last set of boards, allows a replacement to be added to the next set to be played (with identical dealer and vulnerability); such a decision becoming known later than this means that no replacement board should be played.

A substitute board may need to be played even if a procedural penalty (normally 3 IMPs, or 100 aggregate points in the case of the Hubert Phillips, but occasionally more) has been issued.

27 Appeals Procedures

A ruling made under the provisions of 24 b, c, d or e above may be appealed by either captain. Appeals may be dealt with in one of two ways. Appeals should be dealt with in writing (option b below) if either captain wishes or if the two captains are unable to agree upon a suitable Referee. Notification of the intention to appeal a ruling already received must be made within 12 hours of receiving the ruling.

- a By on-site telephone to a member of the EBU panel of Referees, as listed in the EBU diary and on the EBU website at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/appeals-referees>.

Both team captains must be present at the time of the telephone call, and the Referee must not have been involved in the ruling of first instance. It must be clear to the Referee that this is an appeal against a ruling already received. See section (b) below for guidance regarding the sort of information which the Referee will require. The Referee's decision may

include the forfeiture of the deposit (see below), in which case the deposit should be submitted along with the match result.

b By writing to the Union, in which case a deposit of £30 (ie the current standard sum for an appeal in a teams' game) must be received before the appeal can be considered. To submit such an appeal, write down:

- Full details of the hand with bidding, and with play if relevant; show dealer, vulnerability
- The result on the board (in both rooms) and the amount of the swing on any substitute board, in the event one has been played
- Details of the matter protested, with any statements of players involved
- The ruling of the first instance, and who gave it
- A statement on behalf of each side, signed by its captain

The Union would be responsible for arrangements to determine the appeal, and for altering the match score, should this be required in the outcome.

Teams should be aware if they choose to appeal a ruling in this way, that a decision based on Law 12C1(c) could result in a tied match. They should play additional boards at the time (as prescribed in paragraph 9) to cover this eventuality.



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