

	The Rockhampton Bridge Club Inc.	
By-Law – 03b	APPEALS COMMITTEE	Approved:- 8 June 2010

1. Purpose of By-law

The By-law has been issued by the Management Committee to detail the role of the Appeals Committee, the membership of the Committee and the process for election of members of the committee.

2. Format of Committee

The Committee must consist of a Chairman and a minimum of two(2) other members, all of whom are Directors of bridge play or experienced bridge players and are members of the Association. This Committee is referred to as the “Club Appeals Committee” since there will be situations where appeals must be heard by ad hoc Appeals Committees should the full Club Appeals Committee not be present.

3. Election of Members

The members of the Club Appeals Committee must be appointed at the Annual General Meeting after the election of the new Management Committee. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by determination by the Management Committee.

4. Responsibility of the Appeals Committee

The Committee is responsible for ensuring that all appeals against bridge rulings are fairly resolved and that details of all appeals are provided in writing to the Tournament Committee.

For Bridge Congresses and other major events the Club Appeals Committee must ensure that either all three Members are present, or shall appoint suitable substitute Members, and shall inform the Director of play of the membership of the Appeals Committee for that event.

5. Appeal process

Appeals against decisions of the Director of play must be referred to an Appeals Committee consisting of three experienced bridge players. It is impractical to expect that all three elected members of the Appeals Committee would be present at every bridge play session, so there may be situations where an ad hoc Appeals Committee will be need to be established.

All appeals shall be made in writing through the Director of play and are to clearly state the reason for the appeal and how the person or team may have been disadvantaged.

In any club competition or session the right to appeal expires fifteen(15) minutes after the official score has been made available

Except in an individual contest, both members of a pair or the Captain of a team must concur in lodging an appeal. An absent member of the team shall be deemed to concur.

The Director of play shall immediately take action as follows should there be a formal appeal against the Director’s ruling:-

- All three Club Appeals Committee members, or nominated substitutes present – Director refers appeal to Appeals Committee for action.
- One or more elected Members of Club Appeals Committee present – Director requests the Committee Member(s) to form an ad hoc Appeals Committee for the purpose of hearing that appeal.
- No Members of Club Appeals Committee present – Director requests three experienced bridge players who are present to form an ad hoc Appeals Committee for the purpose of hearing that appeal.
- Should an appeal involve a member of the Appeals Committee the other members shall agree on a suitable substitute for the purposes of that appeal.

Ideally an appeal should be heard at a suitable break in, or at the end of the relevant session. The decision by the Appeals Committee shall be given to the Director of play concerned, who in turn shall advise the player(s) who had made the appeal. Decisions shall be clearly given in writing signed by the members of the Appeals Committee who had considered the appeal.

The decision by the Appeals Committee shall be final for the purposes of that appeal.

The Chairman of the Appeals Committee which heard the appeal shall promptly submit a report in writing to the Chairman of the Club Appeals Committee, who shall in turn report on the appeal to the Tournament Committee and the Management Committee.