

South Australian Bridge Federation

Disciplinary By-Laws Adopted by resolution of the SABF Management Committee at the meeting of

1. REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

1.1 A complaint may be submitted by:

- a. Any player participating in a session during which an alleged breach occurs.
- b. Any individual affected by a breach occurring outside of a session.
- c. The Tournament Director.

1.2 A written complaint must reach the offices of the SABF within seven (7) days of the date on which the breach is alleged to have occurred.

1.3 The accused person(s) is/are to be informed by the person(s) laying the charge (also within seven (7) days and either personally or through a representative) that a report is to be or has been submitted.

2. THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

2.1 A complaint submitted by a Tournament Director will be considered by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee who will apply the Mandatory Penalties as listed hereunder and inform the accused accordingly.

2.2 Having been informed of the outcome, the accused may request a Disciplinary Hearing to be held. In such an event, the reasons and grounds for requesting a Hearing are to be set out in detail. The request is to be submitted to the office of the SABF in writing together with a \$100 deposit within seven (7) days of being informed of the sentence imposed.

2.3 Should the grounds for a request for a Disciplinary Hearing be considered by the Disciplinary Committee appointed to hear the case to be frivolous and vexatious, the accused shall forfeit the \$100 deposit to help defray the costs of the Hearing.

2.4 Complaints submitted by persons other than a Tournament Director shall be dealt with by a Disciplinary Committee.

3. APPEALS

3.1 A person found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct, or the initiator of any complaint, has the right to appeal against the decision.

3.2 The written appeal must be lodged within seven (7) days of the Disciplinary Committee's decision having been orally communicated and must set out in detail the reasons and grounds for the Appeal and be accompanied by a \$100 deposit.

3.3 If the grounds of appeal are considered by the Appeal Committee to be frivolous or vexatious, the appellant shall forfeit the \$100 deposit to help defray the costs of the Appeal.

3.4 If a suspended player appeals against the Disciplinary Committee's decision, he or she may only continue playing prior to the Appeal being heard at the discretion of the President of the SABF.

4. MANDATORY PENALTIES

4.1 Should a person be found guilty of committing an offence, the Mandatory Penalties as listed below shall be applied.

4.2 If he or she is found guilty of more than one offence, committed on the same occasion, a cumulative sentence may be imposed.

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

4.4 No part of a sentence may be suspended for a second or subsequent offence committed within ten (10) years.

4.5 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.

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

4.7 In the table of Mandatory Penalties, "D" indicates that the penalty is discretionary, "L" indicates a lifetime suspension, "R" indicates a reprimand, "W" indicates a warning and numbers indicate the number of weeks of suspension.

TABLE 1 – MANDATORY PENALTIES

	Offence	Penalty		
		1st	2nd	3rd+
1	Verbal abuse of an opponent or partner.	W -2	R-4	4-8
2	Verbal abuse of a Tournament Director.	2-4	4-8	8-12
3	Making of any racial, religious or cultural remark or comment to which offence might reasonably be taken.	2-4	4-8	8-12
4	Use of crude or abusive hand signals or gestures.	W-R	R-2	2-4
5	Threat of assault or physical interference.	R-2	2-4	4-8
6	Physical interference without intent to cause grievous bodily harm.	8-12	12-24	52
7	Physical assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.	52	L	
8	Engaging in public acts of misconduct or unruly public behaviour whilst representing the SABF.	R-2	2-4	4-8
9	Presenting at a session in an intoxicated state or becoming intoxicated during the course of a session.	R-2	2-4	4-8
10	Wilful damage or abuse of playing cards, scoresheets, bidding pads or other equipment or property.	R-2	2-4	4-8
11	Persistent non -premeditated breaches of the Laws of Bridge with the effect of gaining an unfair advantage and/or unauthorised information.	R-2	2-4	4-8
12	Use of a pre-arranged illegal understanding or method with intent to gain an unfair advantage and/or unauthorised information.	2-8	4-24	8-L
13	Any unauthorized absence for a period of one deal or longer, not approved of in advance by the Director or Tournament Sub Committee.	D	D	D
14	Any other offence not specifically covered by any of the above.	D	D	D