

SA BRIDGE FEDERATION

CODE OF ETHICS & PROCEDURAL PRINCIPLES FOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

June 2024

This document is intended as a duty statement and guide for Tournament Directors, with regard to both ethical and performance standards.

- A Tournament Director should aim to achieve equity for all players at all times and in all situations. Justice should not only be done, but it should also be seen to be done.
- Whenever they give a ruling based on the direct application of Law, the Tournament Director should, if requested, be prepared to read the relevant clause or clauses from *The Laws*.
- A Tournament Director should endeavour to ensure that their rulings are fully explained to and understood by the players, without them being required to ask the reasons for the ruling.
- When in ANY doubt about a ruling, a Tournament Director must be prepared to seek advice from other experienced directors or (when appropriate) experienced players.
- Before making a bridge judgement ruling, a Tournament Director should, if possible, seek advice from another director or, if another director is not available, from uninvolved but experienced players of an appropriate standard. This is both to test their bridge judgement and to ensure that they have not overlooked something obvious. It will often be appropriate to delay giving a final ruling on bridge judgement decisions until the end of a session.
- In the interests of “maintaining the progress of the game” (Law 82), a Tournament Director shall always give a prompt ruling when called to the table for technical situations, even though it may not be possible for them to explain the ruling fully at the time on the basis of the relevant Law/s. In such cases, the Tournament Director is responsible for confirming the correctness or otherwise of their ruling as soon as practicable and then for making any appropriate adjustments to ensure equity for all players involved.
- If a Tournament Director realises that they have given an incorrect ruling, they shall do all in their power to correct that ruling (in accordance with the requirements of Law 82) promptly.
- A Tournament Director shall be prepared to offer the right of review (or appeal, if appeals are reinstated) to any player whenever that is applicable, and shall be aware of the procedures needed to organise the review (appeals) committee.
- The Tournament Director is the official representative of the sponsoring organisation and is therefore responsible for ensuring that the policies and regulations are implemented.
- A Tournament Director should ensure that they are fully aware of and conversant with any or all Supplementary Regulations published by the sponsoring organisation.

- A Tournament Director shall accept responsibility for publishing scores promptly after any session. Results shall be deemed to be provisional until the Director has endorsed the publication of checked scores. Final, confirmed scores should be published before the start of the next session.
- A Tournament Director shall be thoroughly prepared and well organised for the type of session/event for which he has accepted responsibility.
- A Tournament Director shall remain courteous at all times in all dealings with players.
- A Tournament Director shall be neatly dressed.
- A Tournament Director shall not consume alcohol on the floor of an event during session time, and shall not direct any session when in any way under the influence of alcohol.
- A Tournament Director should consistently promote the principle of Active Ethics. In particular, they should always be impartial and not exhibit favouritism towards any player or players.