

Our ref: L&E/DIS/2319/16175

28 September 2021



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THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION  
Broadfields, Bicester Road  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8AZ  
Telephone: 01296 317200

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By email: [nicole@nicoleanncook.com](mailto:nicole@nicoleanncook.com)

Dear Nicole,

***Decision of the Disciplinary Committee***

I am writing to notify you of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, for which purpose I attach a copy of the Written Record of the decision approved by the Disciplinary Committee under Rule 9.3 of the EBU Disciplinary Rules(2019).

I am required by the Disciplinary Rules to draw a number of matters to your attention, and there are a number of other things which it may be helpful to draw to your attention:

1. Under Rule 1.1 (xi), the note of the reasons for the decision referred to in Rule 9.3 (iii) is not part of the Written Record which I am obliged to send to you; but under Rule 9.5 you are entitled to request a copy. This request should be in writing (email acceptable) and should be received within 14 days.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is a suspension of EBU membership under Rule 11.1 (ii) and not merely a ban on participation in EBU competitions under Rule 11.1 (iii).
3. The effect of a suspension of membership is that for the period of the suspension you will not be entitled to any of the benefits of membership.
4. Specifically, you will not be entitled to play in:
  - a) Any EBU competition (this includes EBU online games on the Funbridge, RealBridge and Bridgebase Online (BBO) platforms or any other online platforms.
  - b) Any competition requiring a licence from the EBU or from any County Association; or
  - c) Any other competition organised by any other body for which EBU membership is a requirement.
5. You will also not be entitled to earn Master Points or have any scores registered for NGS, from events in which you are entitled to play.

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6. Any County Association of which you are a member is, unless the Disciplinary Committee directs otherwise, which it has not done in your case, required to take the like action, which means that you will not be entitled to play in any Essex event. Events organised by a County Association of which you are not a member are generally covered by 4(c) above as EBU membership will normally be required.
7. Whether you are entitled to play in competitions organised by any other body, such as an affiliated club face to face session, which do not require a licence from the EBU or from a County Association, will depend on the policy of the organisation concerned. It is open to any such organisation to permit you to play, or not to do so.
8. You have the right to appeal against the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee (Rules 9.6 and 8.20). This letter incorporates the summary of the provisions of the Rules concerning your right of appeal referred to in Rule 9.6.
9. You are deemed to have received this letter on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and any appeal must be filed within 21 days of that date, i.e. by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021(Rule 8.20).
10. Any appeal must be filed by submitting a written Notice of Appeal, with copies of all documents relied on in support of the appeal, to me as Deputy L&EC Secretary. Email is an acceptable means of submission of the Notice of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal should set out the decision appealed against and the grounds on which it is submitted that the Disciplinary Committee has erred; and any failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute grounds for summary dismissal of the appeal (Rules 10.7 and 10.9).
11. For an appeal to proceed, a deposit of £100 is required, which will normally be returned unless the appeal is considered frivolous by the Appeals Committee (Rule 10.1).
12. The Laws & Ethics Committee also has the right to appeal against the sanction imposed. The same time limit applies (Rule 10.2).
13. The suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Committee takes effect as soon as the time for appeal has elapsed, in other words it will run from Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Wednesday 13 April 2022, inclusive, in the absence of an appeal. If there is an appeal it does not take effect until the appeal has been determined (Rule 11.3).
14. Once the time for appeal has elapsed (or once the appeal has been determined, if applicable) I am required (Rule 11.5) to notify the sanction imposed to:
  - a) any County Association of which you are a member;
  - b) any affiliated club of which you are a member; and
  - c) any affiliated club at which you play – the Rules do not specify a time frame, and in practice any club at which you have played in a session uploaded to the

EBU under UMS, in the period of two years prior to the date of the Disciplinary Committee's decision, is notified.

15. Rules 11.8 and 11.9 allow for other notifications. In the case of suspensions of membership, notification is made to the following;

- a) The European Bridge League;
- b) The World Bridge Federation (who notify BBO)
- c) The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Bridge Unions;
- d) The Contract Bridge Association of Ireland; and
- e) Bridge Great Britain.

If you have any queries I will be happy to try to answer them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Dhondy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue highlight behind it.

Jeremy Dhondy

Deputy Secretary to the Laws & Ethics Committee  
jeremy@ebu.co.uk