



Victorian Bridge Association Limited

ACN 004 595 993

December 14, 2015

Memorandum to Victorian Affiliated Club Secretaries

Congress Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

Ben Thompson, the President of the VBA, mentioned in his November President's column that the VBA wants to put together a congress-level Disciplinary & Ethics committee to address the issue of player behaviour at congresses. As he said, it's difficult for a variety of reasons for clubs to investigate and act on poor behaviour at their congress when they might not see the player in question for another year.

A set of draft regulations is attached for comment, however in brief we are proposing the following:

- committee will comprise 12 members; 6 from Melbourne Metro and 2 each from West, North and East country clubs
- Members to be proposed and selected from time to time by clubs in the relevant area; Congress convenors might be suitable, however clubs may nominate whomever they wish.
- Initial investigation and determination of incidents to be made by 1-2 members
- Players found guilty can appeal
- Penalties are expressed in weeks, which simplifies administration
- Penalties increase for 2nd and subsequent offences
- Penalties will be mandatory for congress events; individual clubs could if they wish abide by the penalties at their club sessions when notified that a member has been the subject of an incident
- The VBA, as the state body, will act as the secretariat

The committee size and structure has been chosen so that any investigation can include someone from a club reasonably close to the player concerned, and also so that members are unlikely to be involved in more than 1 investigation per year.

This only works if virtually all congress-running clubs agree to abide by the committee's rulings.

At this stage, **we are asking for in principle agreement** to "sign up" to this initiative. Please provide a response (whether positive or negative) to Kim Frazer at secretary@vba.asn.au by 15 February 2016. Even if your club is unable to reach a decision before then we would appreciate hearing that.

You are also welcome to seek further information or provide specific thoughts on this proposal.

Schools Bridge Program: Following on from the recently held Youth Bridge Week, attached is a document detailing the VBA's proposal to implement a Schools Bridge Program modelled on the lines of the very successful Eastern Region program. This program will utilise the funds raised in Youth Bridge week to further youth bridge in Victoria. The VBA now has a volunteer who has offered to co-ordinate the program, and further expressions of interest from club members around the state who are willing to assist will be appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Kim Frazer

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