

New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club	
Title Appeals Policy	
Procedure	Ensuring Fairness and Transparency The appeals procedure ensures fairness by allowing players to challenge rulings made by the director. This structured process involves several key steps to hear all parties and maintain the game's integrity. The director has full authority, and it is assumed to be competent to enforce the Laws of the game. However, many rulings will require the Director to exercise their bridge judgement and in doing so, the Director will resolve any doubt in favour of the non-offending side. Player's may appeal against a ruling when: a) The facts are in dispute b) The non-offending side believes that they have not gained an equitable adjustment for damage caused by an opponent's infraction c) The offending side believes that the director has erred in the application of the Law or their bridge judgement. More detailed information regarding Appeals can be found in the current NZ Bridge Manual. Initiating an Appeal An appeal may be lodged only by a player present at the table where the ruling was given and must be made through the director no more than 30 minutes after the score for the session has been made available. Both members of the pair appealing must consent. An appeals form (found in current NZ Bridge Manual) must be filled out by the appellants and/or the director that includes the bridge law under which the ruling has been made. Polling other players The director may poll other players of a similar skill level to the players involved on their opinion of action taken at the table. A player must not be polled if they have still to play the hand. Any player polled may not be a member of the appeal committee. Appeals Committee The committee comprises of impartial and experienced players - typically, it includes a chairperson and two other members. Any person that has been polled on the matter or has any prior knowledge of the matter must excuse themselves from the appeals committee.

	Hearing the Appeal Normally the appeal will take place on the day that it is lodged. For a club session the appeal may be conducted within the week following but before the start of the next session of the event. During a scheduled hearing a) the director presents the case b) the appellant states why they are appealing the decision c) the defendant may speak to the matter This process should happen with as little interruption as possible. All parties have an opportunity to speak and a wholly courteous manner is expected from the attendees as well as the Appeals committee. It is unethical to make a public accusation of cheating against another player. Any such accusation should only be made privately to the director. Please refer to the NZ Bridge Manual. Deliberation and Decision The committee deliberates privately and reaches a decision based on evidence and arguments. The majority vote decides if consensus isn't possible. It should be noted that a committee member's personal feelings regarding a person or situation should not contribute to the outcome Notification of Decision The decision, including a summary, findings, and any corrective actions, is documented and communicated to both parties as well as the director. The director will adjust the result of the board according to the Appeals Committee's ruling. Record Keeping All appeal documents are retained for transparency and future reference, aiding in the process's improvement.
Reference	NZ Bridge Manual.
Responsibility	M&G Committee
Date	V3 Updated 7 October 2025