

VERDICT AND NOTICE OF DISCIPLINE

The United States Bridge Federation (the “USBF”) held an Invitational Online Bridge Tournament from May 30, 2020 to June 3, 2020 (the “USBF Invitational”). During the USBF Invitational, players reported that Mr. Huub Bertens appeared to have illicit knowledge of deals he was playing.

In light of the allegations, the USBF requested its outside counsel, Marty Harris, to assemble an expert committee of USBF members (the “Investigating Committee”) to investigate the allegations. After a thorough examination of the facts, the Investigating Committee (Dana Berkowitz, Mitch Dunitz, Marty Harris (chair), Howard Weinstein, and Steve Weinstein) produced a report totaling more than 700 pages including Appendices (the “Final Report”). In the Final Report, the Investigating Committee unanimously concluded that Mr. Bertens “illegally possessed and used information about other players’ hands.”

Pursuant to the *USBF Guidelines for Conducting Adjudicatory Proceedings* (the “*USBF Guidelines*”), the Investigating Committee submitted its Final Report to the COO of the USBF, Jan Martel, to determine whether charges should be brought against Mr. Bertens.

After reviewing the Final Report, Ms. Martel determined that a *prima facie* case had been made that Mr. Bertens had obtained information about other players’ hands in violation of the USBF Competitor’s Agreement, the USBF General Conditions of Contest, the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, and an email regarding ethics that was sent to all participants shortly before the USBF Invitational.

On September 7, 2020, pursuant to the *USBF Guidelines*, Ms. Martel forwarded to the USBF Board of Directors the Charge against Mr. Huub Bertens and requested that the Board convene as an Adjudicatory Committee to hold a hearing.

Over the next 4-1/2 months, the USBF Adjudicatory Committee: (a) examined all 253 USBF Invitational hands in which Mr. Bertens was involved; (b) reviewed hundreds of pages of documents, including expert reports, submitted by the Attorney-Advocate for the Charging Party; (c) reviewed hundreds of pages of documents, including expert reports, submitted by the three (3) Attorney-Advocates for Mr. Bertens; and (d) listened to fourteen (14) days of live testimony.

The USBF Adjudicatory Committee, after full and careful consideration of all the subject USBF Invitational hands and all of the other evidence, arguments, and testimony presented by the Parties and their Attorney-Advocates, unanimously finds, to its comfortable satisfaction, that Mr. Bertens is guilty as charged.

DISCIPLINE

The Adjudicatory Committee of the USBF imposes the following sanctions. Effective immediately, Mr. Huub Bertens is:

1. Barred from membership in the USBF until January 1, 2028, at which time he may re-apply for membership in the USBF;
2. On probation for a three-year period commencing on the date, if any, that he is re-admitted as a member of the USBF; and
3. Barred for life from serving on the Board of Directors of the USBF.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pursuant to the *USBF Guidelines*, no member of the Adjudicatory Committee may discuss any aspect of these confidential proceedings.

Dated: January 31, 2021

USBF Adjudicatory Committee

Brad Moss, Chair
Kate Aker
Mark Aquino
Lynn Baker
Steve Garner
Josh Parker