

PASS OUT OF TURN WHILE IT IS PARTNER'S TURN AND RHO HAD NOT BID

A senior and reliable well wisher has sent us the following without mentioning where and in what tournament this had happened and requesting us to give our opinion..

The information as given by him are ::--

North was dealer. South passed before anybody had bid. Director was called. He ruled:” bidding returns to North and South has to PASS at his next turn”.

North bids 2Hearts. Not alerted. When asked by opponents, explained as Weak 2 suiter, Heart and another suit of lower rank.

	♠ ----- ♥ xxxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ xxxxx		N 2H P P	E 2S 5H P	S P P P	W 4NT 6S
♠ QJxx ♥ Ax ♦ AK9xx ♣ AQ		♠ AKxxxx ♥ Qx ♦ J8x ♣ K10	Contract = 6S by East Opening Lead: H 8 by S			
	♠ xxx ♥ KJ108 ♦ xx ♣ Jxxx					

THE PLAY: East played H Ace placing K with N as he planned to end-play N after eliminating Clubs & Spades so that he is forced lead either diamonds or give a ruff & sluff.

RESULT: 6S by E down ONE.

EAST called the Director. Issue raised was whether N can call just with 2 HCP when he knew that his partner has to pass by LAW and they- NS- would not have to pay a heavy penalty. E-W had 33 HCP amongst them. East assumed that rest of points were placed with N after his call.

The grievance of East was that he should be allowed 6S because N has deliberately misled by calling 2H when his partner was the offender. (out of turn pass).

Director Ruling- after listening to all the facts at the table ruled : 5S made by E.

APPEALS COMMITTEE Deliberations:

E-W were asked to appear before the committee which they did. All the facts were ascertained and established as correct.

N-S were not available to the Appeal's committee

The Committee reached a consensus on following points:

1. 6S cannot be allowed after the actual play at the table. 2H by N could be psych'd in normal circumstances. However, no damage has been done in Auction as E-W had reached a reasonable contract.
2. North had indeed taken unethical and undue advantage of out of turn pass by S. It deserved a disciplinary action against N-S team.

DECISION of Appeal's committee:

1. Table score stands.
2. The matter must be reported to National authority
3. A penalty of 2 VP is imposed on N-S team.

OUR OPINION

We, Editor, BridgeIndia. Website offer our opinion on the above matter believing what was sent to us by the senior well wisher. This opinion is given with intention to enrich our knowledge about Bridge Law and Rulings on tourney irregularities.

This is our personal opinion and is not binding on anyone Others may differ.

We consider that the **primary duty of an Appeal's committee is to find out what would be the normal result if there is no infringement and award it to contestants**. Also the result in the other table (if no irregularity is there) may be taken into account.

The laws of WBF, to be considered, are the following::--

Law 30 A ::-- When a player has passed out of turn before any player has bid, the offender must pass when it is his turn to call and Law 23 may apply.

Law 23::-- Awareness of potential damage.> Whenever in the opinion of the director an offender could have been aware at the time of the irregularity that this could well cause damage to Non-offending side, he shall require the auction and play to continue (if not completed).When the play has been completed, Director awards an adjusted score if he considers the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity *

- As for example , by the **partner's enforced Pass**.

Law 73 C ::-- Player Receives Unauthorized Information from Partner:

When a player has available to him unauthorized information from his partner, such as from a remark, question, explanation, gesture, mannerism, undue emphasis, inflection, haste or hesitation, an unexpected* alert or failure to alert, he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorized information.

An opening Pass indicates less than an opening hand .**And this information is UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION to his partner in this case.**

(Suppose bidding started without "OUT OF TURN PASS", will anyone bid 2H with the hand quoted ?. Most of the players with equal calibre will not open 2H.

(Did they have convention card > if so what range was mentioned for 2H bid > See the usefulness of insisting on Convention Cards in all District & above level tourneys)

Law 16D2 ::-- Information from withdrawn calls and plays ::--

When a call or play has been withdrawn as these laws provide >

1) For a Non-offending side, all information arising out of withdrawn calls and plays is authorised whether the action is its own or opponents.(Suppose N bids, south alerts and gives explanation, East makes a bid and now, south calls director to state that his explanation is wrong. Now East is permitted to change his call .The first bid of EAST is authorised information to WEST -West can take advantage of it -(For opponents it is unauthorised.)

2).**For an offending side, information arising out of its own withdrawn action and that of non offending side is UNAUTHORISED.**

.A player of the offending side (NOTE > It is offending side meaning both) may not choose from among logical alternatives, one that could have been demonstrably suggested over another by the unauthorised information.

In the present case, PASS by North is logical alternative. Director and Appeal's committee might have used this rule to offer relief to non offending side.

When we ask equal calibre players whether they will open 2♥ in North position, many will pass.

When we ask same players whether they will lead 8 from KJ108, many will not open from that finesse position in a slam. Wanting a swing, few may play ♥K hoping A or Q with partner. But certainly not ♥8.

We shall think of the normal bidding without Out of Turn Pass.::--

E bids 1 Spade, West 2 Diamond ,East 2 Spades and reach 6pades finally.

Normal lead by South will be Spades . But certainly not Hearts. East sets up Diamond for a heart discard and 6Spade makes.

It is the duty of Appeal's committee to award equity and justice .The appeal's committee had all the time and at least 2 Masters to discuss all possibilities and had the advantage of having LAW BOOK in their hands.

We state that our above opinion need not be agreed by others.