

1st September 2015

Hello Everyone,

Following are a few clarifications regarding the activity of the Israeli Bridge Federation (IBF) regarding the allegations of misconduct against the pair Fisher – Schwartz.

Last Thursday (27/8/15) the chairman of the IBF was handed a long and detailed report containing concrete allegations against the pair Fisher – Schwartz. The report details several dozens of distributions and points to an illicit method where information was exchanged between Fisher and Schwartz during the bidding process.

This has been the first time the Federation has been presented with real information alleging such misdemeanors by the pair (as opposed to allegations based on interpretations of atypical bidding instances.)

The person who handed the aforementioned report has requested to remain unidentified and, due to the nature of the report and its material irrelevance to its originator, his request has been honored.

Immediately following receipt of the report, the IBF has acted directly to establish a Special Ethics Committee (SEC) to investigate the report and its allegations, receiving its charter on Sunday, 30/8/2015.

The committee has been given extensive privileges to investigate both allegations detailed in the abovementioned report of 27/8/15 as well as any additional allegations that may subsequently be presented (the committee's charter has been elsewhere publicized.)

The committee has met for an initial discussion on 31/8/15. During this meeting the pair Fisher – Schwartz have issued a statement that they will not participate, as a pair, in bridge tournaments in Israel and abroad. It has also been established that their right to retract this decision based on future developments is reserved.

In addition, the committee has established that any person or persons who are interested to present additional information pertaining to these allegations may do so up to 30/9/15, in writing, to the following e-mail address: sec@bridge.co.il

Fisher and Schwartz will be given the opportunity to review and relate to any such allegations, after which committee hearings will be held.

The charter for the Special Ethics Committee had been presented to the relevant International bridge governing bodies.

In addition, it has been established that the meetings of the committee will be open to the public, unless otherwise decided.

The IBF wishes to take the opportunity to thank the committee members for the time dedicated to these proceedings.

You may follow the proceedings on an ongoing basis in the IBF web site.

Oryah Meir,
SEC coordinator.

