

Regional Director Report – March 2024

EDGAR

The ACBL Board of Directors has been committed to taking online cheating very seriously and has provided a grant to support the development of EDGAR, a non-profit cheating detection tool created by Brian Platnick and Franco Baseggio.

Additional support has also been given to the Institute for Bridge Arbitration to hear serious cases of cheating. The IBA is an independent body of arbitrators who are experienced bridge players that have been trained to work as arbitrators to hear cases of collusive cheating.

Prior to implementing EDGAR, many tests have been conducted to test the reliability of EDGAR and although there were a few false negatives, there were no false positives (a situation in which EDGAR decides that an innocent person is cheating), so the reliability of EDGAR's determinations are sound and there is no concern about wrongly accusing a player of cheating.

EDGAR works by looking at a statistically valid sample of deals played by a player online. It looks at certain markers and compares the percentage of successful outcomes from these markers to the known percentages of non-cheating expert players. The markers involve some defensive actions like opening leads and pinpoint shifts after the opening lead and some bidding situations. When an average online bridge player scores higher in these decision situations than the best expert players in the world they are known to be cheating.

EDGAR has been put into full use by the ACBL Recorder's office as of February 1st. Some groups of players will regularly be put through EDGAR. This list of players will include anyone associated with the ACBL, employees and members of the Board of Directors and other ACBL committees. Other groups of players will be randomly selected for review.

If EDGAR finds that a player is cheating online, there will be different options employed. In cases of players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints, they will either be subject to Fast Track Discipline. Depending on the level of expertise, they will either receive a warning or an automatic suspension.

Players with more than 2,500 masterpoints will either agree to a Negotiated Resolution or be sent to the IBA for a full hearing. The findings of the arbitration hearing are final and not eligible for appeal.

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