

Breaking News

This section will be regularly edited and expanded to keep directors and players up to date with new information on the new Laws as it comes to hand. So read this section regularly for updates. Already we have changes to the Laws due to drafting or typographical errors. So, if you have already downloaded the 2007 Laws, make the following changes,

Law 40B2(c)(i) - "auction period" has been changed to "auction"

Law 79B2 - "C or D below, as applicable," changed to "C below or Law 87, as applicable,"

Regarding the **Regulatory Authority** problem mentioned in Section 1. Keith McDonald, QBA and ABF President, advises me that Zone 7 comprising essentially Australia and NZ have been well aware of these problems for some time. Back in February the zone met to discuss them. The draft of the 2007 Laws had been promulgated to National Bridge Organisations (NBOs) by that time, but there was an embargo on their public release, so the ABF had to reluctantly go along with this embargo. Arrangements are well in hand to regulate re delegation or assignment of powers to the states and the clubs.

There are many parts of the new Laws which give the Regulatory Authority discretion to use or not use certain areas of the Laws, and to lay down guidelines for their implementation. There is quite a lot of work to be done. The first thought was to apply the new Laws on Feb 1 2008, but there is some doubt as to whether all the preliminary work will be done by then.

Meantime Australia and New Zealand have been hard at work developing uniformity of approach. NZ has already adopted the ABF System and Alert Regulations in toto. There are a couple of minor areas still to be sorted.

Update November 1st

It's not yet definite, but it now seems unlikely that the new Laws will be implemented before the Gold Coast Congress in 2008.

Update Jan 30th 2008

The ABF has received advice from the WBF that Law 27C is to be modified. It is not certain yet whether this means the Law will be re-written or some guidance provided by way of a footnote or an interpretation.

If you have read my article on Law 27, you will know that I predicted that this would be the most difficult area of the 2007 Laws for all directors. I applaud efforts to make it more comprehensible and practicable.

Keep checking on this column for further updates.