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| Subject of Appeal: | Tempo (Illegal deception) | Case: | N4 |
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| Event | Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs | Event DIC | Harry Falk |
| Date | 11/28/2017 | Session | First Qualifying |


Auction

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ ¹ | Pass |
| 1♥ ² | Pass | 2♣ ³ | Pass |
| 2♦ ⁴ | Pass | 3♥ ⁵ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
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Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

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| 1: Transfer to ♥ |
| 2: Balanced hand with 2-3♥ or 3♥ with a Singleton |
| 3: Puppet to 2♦ |
| 4: Forced |
| 5: Invitational, 6♥ |
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Hand Record

| Board | 7 | N | David Caprera | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|---------------|---|-------------|
| Dealer | S | ♠ | 10653 | | |
| | | ♥ | QJ | | |
| | | ♦ | 9752 | | |
| Vul | Both | ♣ | KQ7 | | |
| W | Dror Padon |  | | E | Barry Goren |
| ♠ | A2 | | | ♠ | K98 |
| ♥ | K108 | | | ♥ | A97653 |
| ♦ | Q83 | | | ♦ | K64 |
| ♣ | A6432 | | | ♣ | 10 |
| | | S | Anne Brenner | | |
| | | ♠ | QJ74 | | |
| | | ♥ | 42 | | |
| | | ♦ | AJ10 | | |
| | | ♣ | J985 | | |

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| Final Contract | Result of Play | Score | Opening Lead |
| 4♥ by W | Made 5 | E/W +650 | ♣Q |

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at trick four. After West won the opening club lead with the Ace, he played a heart to dummy's Ace. South broke tempo slightly. At trick three, declarer led another heart and South paused for one to five seconds before playing her last heart. Declarer played the 10, losing to the Queen.

Director Ruling

The one to five seconds' pause by South was considered a break in tempo. As there was no demonstrable bridge reason for the break in tempo, and an innocent West was damaged from drawing the false inference that South had a choice of plays, the director adjusted the score to 4♥, making 6, EW +680.

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| Director's Ruling | 4♥ by W, Made 6, E/W +680 |
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The Review

N/S requested a review of the ruling. They felt that one to five seconds should not be considered a break in tempo, and they further do not think that was what caused declarer to choose to finesse.

North, South and West met together with the reviewer. At the review, N/S added that it would never be correct for South to play the Queen. Whatever she might have been thinking about, it was not playing the Queen. Therefore, an opponent using this information to decide his play could not be considered innocent.

West also felt that he erred; it had to be correct to play the King at trick three.

Panel Findings

Based on the input from the parties, the reviewer felt that declarer used the information from the break in tempo at his own risk. Law 73D1 does not protect him in such a circumstance. At the same time, he felt that by the same Law, South needed to be more careful to play in tempo when following with her last card in a suit.

As such, the reviewer restored the table result of 4♥ by West, making 5, EW +650. He gave a separate procedural penalty to NS of 1/6 board for failure to maintain even tempo, per Law 73D1, which says "it is desirable, though not always required, for players to maintain steady tempo and unvarying manner. However, players should be particularly careful when variations may work to the benefit of their side...."

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| Panel Decision | 4♥ by W, Made 5, E/W +650 N/S: 1/6 Board Procedural Penalty |
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Panel Members

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| Reviewer | Matt Koltnow |
| Member | Kevin Perkins |
| Member | Matt Smith |