



CSB NBO Officers' Seminar

Ethics, Behaviour and Discipline in Bridge – Policy and Procedure

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What is ethics?

At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives.

Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy.

The term is derived from the Greek word *ethos* and can mean custom, habit, character or disposition.



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Why should that concern Bridge?

The World Bridge Federation is an International Sport Federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee. As such we are required to follow the Olympic rules and embrace its aims.



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Introduction to the Olympic Charter

The Olympic Charter (OC) is the codification of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, Rules and Bye-laws adopted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It governs the organisation, action and operation of the Olympic Movement and sets forth the conditions for the celebration of the Olympic Games. In essence, the Olympic Charter serves three main purposes:

- 1. The Olympic Charter, as a basic instrument of a constitutional nature, sets forth and recalls the Fundamental Principles and essential values of Olympism.**
2. The Olympic Charter also serves as statutes for the International Olympic Committee.
3. In addition, **the Olympic Charter defines the main reciprocal rights and obligations of** the three main constituents of the Olympic Movement, namely the International Olympic Committee, **the International Federations** and the National Olympic Committees, as well as the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, all of which are required to comply with the Olympic Charter.



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Fundamental Principles of Olympism

1. Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.
2. **The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.**
3. The Olympic Movement is the concerted, organised, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. It covers the five continents. It reaches its peak with the bringing together of the world's athletes at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games. Its symbol is five interlaced rings.



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4. The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.
5. **Recognising that sport occurs within the framework of society, sports organisations within the Olympic Movement shall have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport, determining the structure and governance of their organisations, enjoying the right of elections free from any outside influence and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied.**
6. The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Olympic Charter shall be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
7. **Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.**



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Does the World Bridge Federation fulfil its obligations under the Olympic Charter?

- The WBF is currently re-drafting its Statutes to ensure that they are IOC compliant and fit for purpose
- Gianarrigo Rona has drafted a Code of Ethics to underpin the Statutes and stress the importance of ethics within our Sport
- SportAccord (the International Federations' Union) proposed in 2015 a Sport Integrity Declaration. The WBF adopted that Declaration.
- The WBF attends meetings of relevant organisations that have a mutual desire to ensure that ethics and the integrity of sport is maintained and upheld at all levels.



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What are the practical applications that can be undertaken to support these policies?

- All bridge organisations, whether Zonal Organisations, National Federations or Clubs, should satisfy themselves that their Articles of Governance are compliant with their obligations and amend them if necessary. The recent example of FIFA demonstrates the need for such diligence in ensuring good governance.
- All sport organisations should establish and publish a Disciplinary Code for its players to adhere to. The latest WBF Disciplinary Code is available on its website.



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- For those who may have breached the Disciplinary Code there is a need to have a process to judge potential breaches. It is imperative that the executives who run the organisation are not directly involved with the investigation, prosecution and determination of any breaches that may have occurred. These functions should be dealt with independently to ensure that there is fairness of process.
- There must be appropriate sanctions for any breaches. To achieve consistency in sentencing those who have offended the Disciplinary Code, it is desirable to have guidelines to assist sentencers in their deliberations. The WBF issued guidelines to the Federations last year.