



ABF NBO Officers' Seminar

World Bridge Federation

**International Federation
recognised by the**



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE



ABF NBO Officers' Seminar

Focus on the WBF, its structure and organization

By Gianarrigo Rona

An Ancient Greek aphorism said "Gnothi Seauton" that means "know thyself".

To be able to achieve our goals we need to know very well ourselves.

This is the main reason why we need to focus on the World Bridge Federation.



ABF NBO Officers' Seminar

The WBF was formed on 18th August 1958 in Oslo, Norway, by delegates from Europe, USA and South America. In 1999 the WBF was recognised by the International Olympic Committee as an International Sports Federation. In 2000 the WBF was admitted as a member of GAISF, the General Association of International Sports (now SportAccord). The WBF is member of ARISF (Association of the IOC Recognised International Sport Federations), founder member of IMSA, (International Mind Sport Association), is recognized by FISU (International Federation of University Sport) and UNESCO and is Code Signatory of WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency).



ABF NBO Officers' Seminar

The WBF is a non-profit making sport organisation of a strictly civil nature, incorporated in the Swiss Laws and registered in the Commercial Register of the Canton the Vaud in accordance with art. 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.

The WBF is the Federation
of the National Bridge Organisations
(NBOs)



WBF Headquarters

The Headquarters of the WBF
is in Lausanne, Switzerland at the
Maison du Sport International



The purpose of the World Bridge Federation

- to promote, foster, promulgate and develop the sport of Bridge throughout the world;
- to support and encourage the development of youth bridge;
- to be in the Olympic Movement, remaining affiliated with International Olympic Committee (IOC) as a recognized International Federation (IF) in conformity with the requirements of the Olympic Charter and to contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the Olympic Charter, in particular by way of spread of Olympism and Olympic education



The purpose of the World Bridge Federation

- to federate national contract bridge association in all countries;
- to devise methods and conduct competitions to award international or world championship titles;
- to support and encourage the promotion of positive sports ethics;
- to dedicate its efforts to ensuring that in bridge, contests the spirit of fair play prevails;
- to fight against doping in sport and to take measures, the goal of which is to prevent endangering the health of bridge players.



The purpose of the World Bridge Federation

*The WBF
endeavours to maintain
friendly relations amongst its members
and amongst Zonal Conferences.*

*The WBF
does not permit
any political, religious or racial discrimination
or any violation of human rights
amongst its members.*



The purpose of the World Bridge Federation

This purpose has not to be intended as a simple enunciation, we have to strongly believe in it, we have to be strongly convinced of its rootedness.

This has to be the guideline of our activity, always impressed in our mind.



Resources

The WBF's resources are constituted by members' annual dues or charges, gifts and donations and any other resources, such as income from competition, tournaments and other events organized by the WBF; its resources shall be applied exclusively in furtherance of its purposes; no part of its resources or earnings shall accrue to the benefit of any private person.



Organisation

For purposes of administration and furtherance of its objectives and to comply with the International Olympic Committee's principles of the five IOC rings, the WBF structure is divided into five geographical Continental Conferences identical to the IOC's five rings.



Organisation

For purposes of administration and zonal competition, the world is divided by the Executive into appropriate geographical Zones.



Organisation

The WBF Executive established eight zones, three corresponding to the Continents (Africa, Europe, Oceania) three within America (North America, Central America & Carribean, South America) and two within Asia (Asia & Middle East and Pacific Asia) which shall be entitled to have at least one member on the Executive and berths at the WBF Championships.



Organisation

Each zone has its own Zonal Conference of its member NBOs, organising, managing and administering its activity and conducting both its own zonal competitions and those delegated to it by the WBF.

The Executive has power to require each Zone to submit its Constitution and By-Laws which must be in conformity with the principles established by the WBF Constitution and By-laws



Zones

The eight Zonal Conferences are:

Zone 1 – Europe

Zone 2 - North America

Zone 3 - South America

Zone 4 Asia and the Middle East

Zone 5 - Central America and Caribbean

Zone 6 - Pacific Asia

Zone 7 - South Pacific (Oceania)

Zone 8 - Africa



Zonal Changes

The Executive has power to create additional Zones as the activities of the WBF may require and, for cause, may also alter the assigned territory or withdraw recognition of the existing Zones.

Any NBO which wishes to change from one Zone to another must obtain the approval of the Executive.



Membership

The WBF has shown strong and steady growth and its membership now comprises 117 National Bridge Organisations (NBOs) with approximately 1,000,000 affiliated members who participate actively in competitive bridge events (locally, nationally and internationally).



Affiliated NBOs

The WBF consists of 46 NBOs in Europe, 3 in North America, 10 in South America, 12 in Asia & Middle East, 18 in Central America & Caribbean, 12 in Asia Pacific, 4 in South Pacific, 12 in Africa.

In total 117 affiliated NBOs.



PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY

Members and Zonal Conferences retain their entire autonomy and independence of action and are free to set up their internal organisation as they see fit, within the limits imposed by the WBF Constitution.

The WBF observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its members.



JURISDICTION FOR COMPETITIONS

The WBF, NBOs and Zonal Conferences
shall have jurisdiction
(including, without limitation, technical and
disciplinary jurisdiction)
over the competitions governed by their own
Statutes and regulations, as provided
by the WBF By-Laws.



CONFLICT & DISPUTE

In case of dispute between any entities
(WBF, NBOs, Zonal Conferences)
as to who shall assume jurisdiction
over a disciplinary matter,
the WBF shall decide at its own discretion.

The WBF's decision shall be final and binding
on all NBOs and Zonal Conferences.



PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY

Each NBO and Zonal Conference must accept and respect all decisions taken by other members and/or Zonal Conferences in disciplinary matters.

In particular, all NBOs and Zonal Conferences shall apply and enforce sanctions of other members or Zonal Conferences or of the WBF (including for the avoidance of doubt suspensions or bans) within their geographical jurisdiction, provided that such sanction respects the principles set out in this Constitution and in any other WBF Regulations.



REPORTING OF THE SANCTIONS

All sanctions
must be reported to the WBF
in a timely manner
by the NBOs and/or Zonal Conferences
imposing the same.



WBF Final Decisions

The WBF may, at its discretion, decide to apply a sanction rendered by a NBO or a Zonal Conference to the events under its jurisdiction and/or grant worldwide effect to it.

All decisions rendered by the WBF shall be final and binding on all NBOs and Zonal Conferences.



Government

Government of the WBF is vested in the Congress, the Executive Council, the President and the Officers with defined powers, electing and holding office in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the WBF.



The Congress

The Congress has the powers in the WBF not delegated to the Executive under the Constitution and By-Laws.

Each NBO in good standing may designate and accredit one Delegate to the Congress.



The Executive Council

The Executive exercises supreme executive and administrative powers over the affairs of the WBF consistent with the WBF Constitution and the By-Laws. The management of the affairs, property and business of the WBF is vested in the Executive.



The Executive Council consists of:

The WBF President

17 Members elected by the Zonal Conferences

2 Members (one man and one woman) elected
by the High Level Players Commission – HLPC

The Zonal Conferences with the right
to elect more than one Executive have
to elect at least one man or one woman



The President

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the WBF. He shall preside at all meetings of the Executive and Congress, has general supervision of the affairs of the WBF, signs or countersigns all certificates, contracts and other instruments of the WBF as authorized by the Executive, makes reports to the Executive and the Congress.



The President

The President must, for his first term, be elected from the members of the Executive and, once elected, the President must resign as a Zonal Representative but continues as a member of the Executive.



The Officers

The Officers of the WBF are elected by the Executive on the proposal of the President and, in addition to the President himself, are:

The Vice President/s

The Treasurer

The Hon. Secretary

The General Counsel



The High Level Players Commission

The HLPC is composed by 15 members ,14 appointed by the Zones (within its highest ranking players, preferably a World Grand Master) in addition to the Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee.

Two of its members, who have to be WBF Grand or Life Masters and participated at one of the WBF World Championship in the eight years preceding the election, are elected to serve as members of the Executive with full voting rights.



The WBF Committees

Standing or special committees of the WBF, including the Management Committee, may be constituted from time to time and, subject to applicable law and the By-Laws, such committees are vested with such powers as the Executive may see fit. The members of all committees, other than the High Level Players Commission, are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive.



The Management Committee

The Management Committee is appointed by the President from the members of the Executive and past President of the WBF, subject to the approval of the Executive.

The Committee has and exercises, when the Executive is not in session, all the powers of the Executive except those requiring a specific number of affirmative votes.



The WBF Discipline

The Disciplinary Organs of the WBF are:

- The Disciplinary Commission
 - The WBF Tribunal
- The Anti-doping Hearing Panel
 - The WBF Prosecutor



The Disciplinary Commission

The President, with the approval of the E. C., appoints a Disciplinary Commission consisting of not fewer than five (5) members.

The members of the Executive Council and the Advisory Committee cannot be appointed as member of the Commission.

If the case arises the members of the Commission are selected by the President to compose the Disciplinary Tribunal.



The Disciplinary Tribunal

The WBF Tribunal is composed by the Chairman and two other members.

The function, power and duties of the Tribunal are to investigate and judge any matter involving alleged unethical or reprehensible conduct or behavior as provided, together with the rules of the proceedings, by the Disciplinary Code as adopted by the Executive Council.



The WBF Antidoping Hearing Panel

The function, power and duties
of the Antidoping Hearing Panel
are to investigate and judge any violation to the
WADA and WBF Antidoping Code



The WBF Prosecutor

The WBF General Counsel acts as Prosecutor.

The Prosecutor may decide to investigate a case of possible Reprehensible Conduct either on his own initiative or following a complaint or referral by an NBO or party with a legitimate interest.



The Medical and Prevention Commission

The fight against doping in bridge and the measures, the goal of which is, to prevent endangering the health of bridge players that are integral part of the WBF purposes, are under control and in the capacity of the

Medical and Prevention Commission
and the
TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemptions)
Sub-Commission



The Medical and Prevention Commission

The Commission consists of a president and up to six other members.

The President and the members, who have to be medical doctors or biologists, cannot be member, except of medical apparatus, of the Executive Council or of any of the WBF or Zonal Authorities.



The WBF TUE Sub-commission

The Commission consists of a chairman and two other members, appointed within the members of the Medical and Prevention Commission .

Its function is to examine and approve, according to the WBF and WADA policy, the Therapeutic Use Exemptions Application Forms submitted by the players.



The Honorary Officers

The Honorary Officers of the WBF are:

The President/s Emeritus

The President of the Congress

The Honour Committee



President Emeritus

The title of the President Emeritus may be awarded by the Executive to an individual who, through outstanding services on behalf of the WBF, deserves the highest honorary title. He needs not be a Zonal Representative.

The President Emeritus is entitled to attend all meetings of the Executive and the Congress, but has no vote unless otherwise qualified to vote. The President Emeritus presides over the Advisory Committee.



President of the Congress

The Executive has the power to confer this title on a person, not a Zonal Representative, who has rendered outstanding and distinguished service to the WBF.

The President of the Congress is entitled to attend all the meetings of the Executive and the Congress without voting right.



The Committee of Honour of the WBF

The Committee consists of those individuals elected thereto by the Executive in recognition of their unselfish efforts in making a significant contribution to the enhancement and growth of bridge throughout the world. The Committee of Honour shall not exceed thirteen living members, assuring that at least one representative of each sex is included.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to fill any appointment foreseen in the Statutes, By-laws and any other WBF Rules & Regulations a person has to be of majority age according to Swiss Law and fulfill the requirement set out in the Statutes and By-laws.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In any event no person shall be appointed to any position envisaged within these Statutes who:

- a) has been convicted of a crime by the ordinary justice with a binding restrictive sanction or with a binding sanction which include disqualification from holding public office for a period of one year or more;
- b) has been convicted by the sport justice (WBF, Zonal Conferences, NBOs, IOC, WADA, International Sport Federations, National Sport Federations) with a binding sanction for a period of one year or more.



Incipient failure

The incipient failure,
detected after the appointment,
or the failure to disclose during the mandate
of the abovementioned requirements,
will result in the immediate automatic
forfeiture of the position held.



WBF Membership

The National Bridge Organization – NBO – of any country is eligible, subject to the WBF By-Laws, to apply for membership of the WBF, and may be elected by the Executive.

In accordance with the Olympic Charter, only one NBO for each country may become a member of the WBF



Country

The expression “country” means any country, state, territory or a part of territory recognized by the international community. The name of the NBO must reflect the territorial extent and tradition of its country and must be approved by WBF as being in conformity with the Olympic Charter and the IOC regulations.



NBO Eligibility for WBF membership

- be the sole national organization controlling Bridge in its Country
- be open to all nationals or bona fide residents of the particular Country subject only to meeting the requirements of such NBO



NBO Eligibility for WBF membership

- have an appropriate register of members, undertake to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the WBF
- uphold an image of integrity and enforce a standard of ethics acceptable to the WBF
- play bridge according to the current International Codes



NBO Eligibility for WBF membership

- exercise Bridge Sport activity in its country and internationally, in particular by organizing and participating in competitions and implementing bridge education and training programs for bridge players
- comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the WBF governing its bridge competitions,,



NBO Eligibility for WBF membership

- conduct its activities in compliance with both the Olympic Charter and the rules & regulations of the WBF
- agree to play in WBF competitions against all other NBO's which are qualified members of the WBF.



NBO Eligibility for WBF membership

- pay the Membership fees and other monies owed to the WBF when due
- implement a Disciplinary Code reflecting the provisions of the WBF Disciplinary Code *mutatis mutandis*, which shall apply in its sphere of activities, including its jurisdiction



Arbitration

In addition to other provisions of the Constitution and the By-Laws, any dispute arising on the occasion of, or in connection with, the WBF Tournaments, as provided in Article 9 of the By-Laws, shall be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations to the exclusion of any recourse to any national/state court.

The parties to such dispute shall undertake to implement in good faith the arbitral award rendered by the CAS.



The WBF Championships

The World Bridge Championships
operate on a four-year cycle



The WBF Championships

In the odd-numbered years

- The World Bridge Teams Championship
- The World Youth Open Bridge Championship

In the even-numbered years

- The World Bridge Games
- The World Bridge Series
- The World Youth Bridge Teams Championship



The World Bridge Teams Championship

This event includes the **Bermuda Bowl**, the **Venice Cup**,
the **d'Orsi Seniors Trophy**
and the **Transnational Open Teams**.

The Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Senior Trophy are for national teams, respectively Open, Women and Seniors, representing their own countries, qualified from the eight WBF Zonal Conferences.

The World Transnational Open Teams is open, without any qualification, to all teams, national or transnational, which want to participate



The World Youth Open Bridge Championship

This event includes pairs, teams and individual and is open, without any qualification, to all young players, juniors, girls, youngsters and kids, who want to participate accordingly to the conditions of contest.



The World Bridge Games

The World Bridge Games

(previously up to 2004 Bridge Olympiads, founded in 1960), are held every four years in the Summer Olympic Year

The WBG include National Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed Teams and Pairs

Each WBF NBO is entitled to one national team and unlimited national pairs in each category



The World Bridge Series

The World Bridge Series
are held every four years
in the non summer Olympic year
and consist of a series of teams and pairs
championships including the Roseblum
Trophy, the McConnel Cup and the Rand Cup.
All the events are open and transnational,
having no national restrictions and quota.



The World Youth Teams Championship

The World Youth Bridge Teams Championship

includes the Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy for Juniors, the José Damiani Cup for Youngsters, the Gianarrigo Rona Trophy for Girls and the Koç University Trophy for Kids

All the events are for national teams representing their own countries, qualified from the eight WBF Zonal Conferences



The International Events participated by the WBF

The World Mind Sport Games

The SportAccord World Mind Games

The IMSA Elite Games

The University World Teams Championship



The other WBF events

The Generali World Masters

The IOC Grand Prix

The World Juniors Camp

The World Wide Bridge Contest

The Pro Youth Simultaneous Tournaments



Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in the World Championships a player non-playing captain, coach, trainer and other team official must comply with the WBF Laws and Rules & Regulations. In addition the players and non-playing captains must comply with the conditions set forth in the Eligibility Code and must fill the WBF Commitment Form



Eligibility

Compliance with the WBF Eligibility Code is mandatory for any qualifying event leading up to any of the WBF Championships and for any event for which WBF Master Points are awarded.

The participation and accreditation to any WBF Championship has to be intended by strict personal invitation.



Eligibility

Any player convicted of collusive cheating is ineligible to play in partnership with another player convicted of collusive cheating or to play as a team-mate of another player convicted of collusive cheating in any WBF event or in any event where WBF Master-points are issued.



Eligibility

Any player and Non Playing Captain
must be a National
or a Bona Fide Resident
of the country of the NBO that he will
represent as player or non-playing captain.



Eligibility

No player may represent another country in a WBF championship, any regional or national championship recognized by the WBF, as such by the awarding of WBF Master Points, until at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since he/she has represented a different country in such events



Eligibility

The choice to represent a Country as a bona fide resident may be made only once in any 10-year period.

Those players nominated for participation in Youth Championships shall not be subject to the eligibility conditions.



Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals
will normally be awarded for WBF Championships.

Master Points and Placement Points
will be awarded in accordance
with the WBF Master Points plan.

The title, medals and/or trophies are awarded to all the
members of the team, irrespective of the number of
boards played, but the master point and playing point
awards will be adjusted.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Gianarrigo Rona