



World Bridge Federation
an International Sports Federation (IF)
recognized by the International Olympic Committee

WBF – TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS' REGULATIONS

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Article 1. Introduction

All bridge competitions and Championships organised directly by the World Bridge Federation or whose organisation has been delegated by the WBF to an NBO or other organiser, must be run and directed by Tournament Directors (TDs) who are authorised and recognised by the WBF by special appointment.

Compliance with the above provision is an essential requirement for the WBF's validation of competition results and rankings and the award of WBF Master-Points.

All NBOs are expected to be aware of and observe the aforementioned provision.

Article 2. Organisation

The institutional aims of the WBF in tournament directing are carried out by the WBF Tournament Directors Committee –TD Committee.

The organisation, recruitment, training of WBF Tournament Directors is the responsibility of the TD Committee.

The proposal of the employment of WBF Tournament Directors in WBF events is the responsibility of the TD Committee.

Article 3. Tournament Directors Committee

The TD Committee is composed of a Chairman, six members and a Secretary appointed by the WBF Executive Council (see Article 5). The Committee holds office for the same four-year period of office as the WBF. The WBF Executive Council may withdraw appointments during the period.

The Committee meets at least once a year. Meetings are valid only if the majority of members are present. Decisions are taken by majority vote and in the case of a tie the Chairman has the deciding vote.

The minutes of meetings must be sent to the WBF President.

Article 4. Appointment, function and responsibilities of the Chairman

The Chairman is appointed by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the WBF President. The Chairman has the following function and responsibilities:

- a. He chairs the Committee which he convokes upon his own initiative. He provides the Agenda for Committee meetings;
- b. He supervises and controls all TD organisation and is responsible for this with the WBF Executive Council;
- c. He nominates all TDs at WBF Championships and tournaments to the WBF Executive Council for approval and reports to the WBF Executive Council about their activity. All nominations should take into account the representation of the WBF Continental Zones, a correct TD rotation in order to guarantee the best professional activity and distribution of all concerned;
- d. Having considered the opinion of the TD Committee, he proposes to the Executive Committee the attribution of qualifications of TDs;

- e. He initiates disciplinary action of TDs
- f. The Chairman cannot carry out tournament directing activities during his chairmanship.

Article 5. Nomination, function and responsibilities of the TD Committee

The six members of the TD Committee are appointed by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the Chairman of the TD Committee. One member must be a Head TD, three must be Assistant Chief TDs or higher and one must be a member of the WBF Executive Council.

The TD Committee has the following function and responsibilities:

- a. it supervises Tournament Directing activity at all events;
- b. it manages funds received from the WBF;
- c. it takes care of the improvement and optimisation of the technical training of TDs;
- d. it decides and organises training and refresher courses, appointing the lecturers and tutors;
- e. it decides and organises the examinations for the promotion of TDs, appointing the members of the examination Committee;
- f. it studies, prepares, executes and develops didactic material for the training and updating of TD categories;
- g. it recommends to the WBF Executive Council which then deliberates registrations, suspensions, expulsion and re-registration of TDs in the WBF Official TD Register in accordance with Articles 19-23, and the attribution of category in accordance with Article 9.
- h. it proposes to the WBF Executive Council which then deliberates upon salaries, per diem and reimbursement of expenses of TDs appointed to direct WBF events;
- i. it proposes to the Executive Committee which then deliberates upon the nominations of Zonal TD Commissioners;
- j. it accredits merit to TDs who have shown distinction in their activities.

Article 6. The Secretary of the TD Committee

The Secretary is appointed by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the Chairman of the TD Committee and participates, without the right to vote, in Committee meetings and takes the minutes of the meetings.

The Secretary ensures the execution of the deliberations of the Committee under the supervision of the Chairman and is responsible for keeping documents, registers and minutes.

Article 7. Zonal TD Commissioners

Commissioners are proposed by the TD Committee with the concurrence of the WBF Zone President, and approved by the WBF Executive Council. Appointments may be withdrawn during this period. At the end of the two-year term of office Commissioners may be re-nominated. A Commissioner should preferably be a current or past member of the WBF TD Register and in particular is responsible for:

- a. the supervision of the conduct and behaviour in the bridge activity of TDs of his zone who are on the WBF Official TD Register;
- b. the annual report to the Chairman of the TD Committee on the activity of the above mentioned TDs and the indication of any questions or requirements with regard to the category of TDs;
- c. informing to the Chairman of the TD Committee immediately, and within 48 hours from the occurrence of, or from being acquainted with the facts or matters which carry disciplinary effects for TDs in the zones for which he is responsible;
- d. cooperating with the Zone and NBO Officers in organisation of training and refresher TD seminars and courses.
- e. Informing TDs in the Zone of law changes or law interpretation or other items of interest to TDs.

Article 8. WBF Official TD Register

Those who have the right shall be registered in the Official Register and grouped into various categories according to their qualification.

The Official Register is kept by the WBF under the supervision of the Chairman of the TD Committee and shall be displayed on the WBF web-site.

Article 9. TD Professional Categories

TDs are divided into two categories according to their training and professional competence:

- a. Zone International TD;
- b. WBF TD.

The above-mentioned categories are accredited by the WBF Executive Council to those with the necessary requirements who have passed the relevant examinations, on the proposal of the TD Committee.

The qualification and professional category, certified by a certificate issued by the WBF and signed by the WBF President and the Chairman of the TD Committee, are valid from the date of accreditation.

Article 10. Zone International TDs

The category of Zone International TD is accredited to those over twenty-one years old, who fulfil the following requirements:

- a. they are recommended as Zonal International TDs by the Zonal Commissioner and approved by the TD Committee who may require examinations or other requirements.
- b. they have not been convicted of an intentional offence;
- c. they have not been disqualified or have been prohibited for more than a year by the WBF, WBF Zones, NOC, NBO to which they belong, another WBF NBO or any other Sports Federation;

- d. they are not subject to any disciplinary or pending judiciary procedures;
- e. they are not sanctioned;

The initial inability, discovered after registration, or the subsequent failure to fulfil any one of the prerequisites listed in points a), b) and c), will result in immediate and definitive loss of category.

In the case of d) and e) the registered TD will be suspended for the relevant period.

A Zone International TD can directly assume the responsibility to direct any international event organised by a Zone and/or an NBO and may cooperate with and assist a WBF TD in his duties.

Article 11. WBF TDs

There are 5 categories of WBF TDs:

- a. WBF Head TD;
- b. WBF Chief TD;
- c. WBF Assistant Chief TD;
- d. WBF TD;
- e. WBF Assistant TD.

Appointment to a category is accredited by the TD Committee to those Zone International TDs and other TDs who have a very good knowledge of English, have passed relevant examinations, have fulfilled any requirements demanded by the TD Committee, and who are not subject to any disciplinary or pending judiciary procedures or sanctions.

Appointment to categories a), b) and c) are subject to the approval of the WBF Executive Council.

Article 12. Accreditation, Qualification and Duties of a Head TD

Every four years, at the beginning of the legislature, the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the WBF President, in accordance with the Chairman of the WBF TD Committee, appoints one or more WBF Head TDs, chosen from among the WBF Chief TDs.

A WBF Head TD is in office for a four-year period, and may be withdrawn by the WBF Executive Council during this period. At the end of the four-year term of office a WBF Head TD may be re-nominated.

For every WBF Championship a Head TD from among the list of Head TDs will be appointed by the WBF Executive Council. The appointed Head. TD assumes direct responsibility for directing this WBF event and is the only person responsible for all matters relating to directing the competition.

In particular the Head TD must:

- a. assign the roles and duties to the participating TDs and staff, deciding rosters where necessary;
- b. supervise and coordinate the directing of all assistants, checking that it is always carried out in the best way possible and fulfilling the aim of the event;
- c. write a report on the running of the Championship, detailing the events which required TD intervention and which may result in disciplinary action, enclosing the relevant reports from assistants, and also all the documents relating to complaints;

- d. write a report on his assistants' work and on their level of professionalism; suggesting possible improvements to raise the standard of their work and indicating in any case their attitude.

Article 13. Accreditation, Qualification and Duties of the WBF Chief TDs

The qualification of Chief TD is accredited to those WBF Assistant Chief TDs who, in addition to having distinguished themselves in their activity have shown: capacity to organise, guide and manage competitions; sense of group organisation; attitude in communicating with colleagues, subordinates, officers and players; excellent knowledge of English.

The WBF Chief TDs cooperate with and assist the WBF Head TD. A WBF Chief TD can be designated to act as a Co-Head TD and can assume direct responsibility for directing a WBF international competition, or a section thereof.

Article 14. Accreditation, Qualification and Duties of the WBF Assistant Chief TDs

The qualification of Assistant Chief TD is accredited to those WBF TDs who, in addition to having distinguished themselves in directing and in their behaviour and deontology have shown: full knowledge of the International Code and all by- laws, rules and regulations concerning the organisation, running and directing of bridge tournaments; excellent knowledge of technical bridge, both in the bidding and the playing of the cards; ability to manage the playing room.

The WBF Assistant Chief TDs cooperate with the Head TD and the Chief TDs in managing and directing Championships and can assume direct responsibility for directing a section of them and any other Zone competition, which awards WBF Master-Points.

Article 15. Art. 15 – Function and Duties of the WBF TDs and WBF Assistant TDs

The WBF TDs and Assistant TDs manage and direct at Championships following instructions from and under the responsibility of the Head TD or Chief TD or Assistant Chief TDs. The WBF TDs may be responsible, in the case of absence of higher qualified WBF TDs, for any Zone competition, which awards WBF Master-Points.

Article 16. Request for Promotion to Superior Category

- 16.1. Requests for promotion from Zone International TD to Assistant WBF TD or WBF TD must be presented to the TD Committee at least 30 days before the examinations and must include:
 - a. auto-certification of possession of required prerequisites;
 - b. certification of having participated successfully in professional training and refresher courses;
 - c. personal Curriculum indicating previous professional activity;
 - d. opinion of the appropriate NBO President and Zone Commissioner.
- 16.2. Requests for promotion to Categories c), b) or a) (see Article 11) must be presented to the TD Committee by active TDs based on performance at WBF International events and who are recommended by a WBF Head TD. The TD Committee may demand other requirements for promotion. The promotion is subject to the approval of the WBF Executive Council.

- 16.3. Promotion to a superior category may be requested after a minimum period of four years, which may be reduced to two years by the WBF TD Committee.

Article 17. Honorary Category

The title of WBF Honorary TD is accredited to those WBF TDs who, having reached the highest level of TD qualification and having distinguished themselves particularly, have ceased their directing activity, by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the WBF TD Committee. The title is for life.

Article 18. Incompatibility

The activity of directing is incompatible with the office of Member of the WBF or Zone Council and General Counsel, of Member of the WBF or Zone Credential Committee, Disciplinary Commission or Committee or any other position specified by the WBF Laws and Regulations.

During the period of office the TD will maintain his place on the Register and category but may not carry out any TD activity.

Article 19. Removal from the Official TD Register

Removal from the WBF Official TD Register is recommended by the TD Committee and deliberated by WBF Executive Council. Removal may be a consequence of:

- a. application from the registered member himself (see Article 20); OR
- b. failure to practice (see Article 21) OR;
- c. striking off (see Article 22).

Removal is effective for all purposes from the date on which the WBF Executive Council ratifies the decision on this except for the case provided for in a) in which case removal becomes effective from the date on which the WBF Executive Council receives the application. Removal results in loss of qualification and category.

Notice of the removal must be sent to the person concerned, the President of his NBO, the President of his Zone and the Zone Commissioner by electronic means and must be acknowledged by the recipient. In the event of non-acknowledgement by all recipients the information will be sent to the person concerned by registered letter.

Article 20. Removal upon Request

By submitting an application to the WBF very member may:

- a. ask to be removed from the WBF Official TD Register; OR
- b. ask to be removed from the WBF Official TD Register for a period of not more than two years. Beyond this period of two years, the provisions of Article 21 are applicable.

Article 21. Removal for Failure to Practice

Failure to practice by a registered member for more than two years, irrespective of the category to which the member belongs, except when he has proficiently attended refresher courses, results in removal from the WBF Official TD Register.



Practice is proved by transmitting reports countersigned by the Zone Commissioner, to the TD Committee.

It is considered failure to practice when

a member has not directed at any Zonal or NBO event for two years OR.

a member declines three times, not necessarily consecutively, to accept a task assigned to him except for refusals due to legitimate impediments which are adequately documented OR

A member has not directed at an official WBF event or has not attended an official WBF refresher course, seminar or workshop (face to face, Zoom or online) for six years.

Article 22. Removal for Striking Off

- a. Expulsion from one's NBO, decided by its competent authority, results in automatic invalidation of qualifications, registration and removal from the WBF Official TD Register.
- b. Removal from the WBF Official TD Register for reprehensible behaviour as defined in the WBF Disciplinary Code, or for infringement of ethical and deontological criteria (see Article 28 and Article 30) is recommended by the TD Committee and decided by the WBF Executive Council and is subject to appeal to the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

Article 23. Suspension

Suspension from the WBF Official TDs Register may be a consequence of:

- a. application from the registered member himself (See Article 20)
- b. suspension from Zone or National activity decided by the TD's Zone or NBO;
- c. suspension from WBF activity decided by the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

Article 24. Re-registration

Re-registration with the WBF Official TD Register, on application submitted by a person who has been cancelled from it, except for cases provided for in Article 22 for which re- registration is not allowed, is deliberated by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the WBF TD Committee.

Re-registration requires fulfilment of the following prerequisites.

The applicant shall be interviewed by the WBF TD Committee. Should the applicant pass the interview, the TD Committee should indicate the category at which the candidate should be re-registered in the WBF Official TD Register. The category cannot, in any case, be of a superior grade to the candidate's previous one but may be inferior. Should the result of the interview be negative, the candidate may ask to sit an examination after an interval of at least six months.

Article 25. Professional Refresher Courses

Professional refresher courses are organised by the WBF TD Committee. A Zone's Commissioner is entitled to organize Zonal or inter-Zonal courses approved by WBF TD Committee.

The TD Committee decides the subjects for discussion and course organisation. Information on courses is sent to all interested parties.

Article 26. Examinations

The Zone's Commissioner or the Chairman of the WBF TD Committee, depending on the nature of the course as above mentioned in Article 25, sends to all interested parties at an appropriate time in advance information on the venues, dates, terms and conditions of examination sessions. Examinations consist of written, oral and practical sessions and concern knowledge of the game, in both the bidding and card play, International Code, WBF Systems Policy, WBF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, on competent directing in the playing room, the conduct of appeals and on behaviour.

The Examination Board may at its discretion pass or fail a candidate based on the results in the examination. Candidates deemed inappropriate may sit the examination once again after a period of one year. This period may be reduced to six months by the WBF TD Committee.

Article 27. Examination Board

The Examination Board is appointed by the TD Committee and is composed

- for WBF and inter-zones' courses of the Chairman of the TD Committee or his designee, and at least two TDs, preferably chosen by a Head TD or Chief TD;
- for the zones' courses of the Chairman of the TD Committee or the Zonal Commissioner, and at least two TDs, preferably chosen by a Head TD, Chief TD or Assistant Chief TD.

In the event of the Chairman or the Commissioner being unable to attend, the Chairman will appoint a substitute, chosen from among adequately qualified WBF TDs to chair the board.

Article 28. Ethics

Registered members of the WBF Official TD Register are expected to comply with the moral rules provided for by the WBF By-Laws and Regulations.

In particular, they should maintain an appropriate standard of behaviour and strictly respect the deontological criteria which underlie the activity of TDs and the direction of bridge competitions. The competition direction should always be inspired by the fundamental concepts of diligence, competence and utmost professionalism, which also underline membership of the category of WBF TDs in relation to contestants, colleagues, the WBF and its Organs, representatives, membership and third parties.

Article 29. Rights of Registered TDs

Persons registered in the WBF Official TD Register have the right to bear the title achieved.

TDs have the right to defend their own image and honour. They also have the right of protection as may be necessary by the WBF, Zones, NBOs and other competition organisers.

For their professional services TDs are entitled to fees, expenses and allowances to be paid by the structures in which they operate or carry out their activity.

TDs have the right to wear the WBF uniform at any bridge event organised under the auspices of the WBF.

Article 30. Duties of Registered TDs

TDs are bound to:

- a. comply with the WBF Constitution & By-Laws, Laws, Codes, Rules and Regulations, including these specific Regulations and any directive given by the WBF or the TD Committee;
- b. maintain appropriate behaviour in strict respect of deontological criteria;
- c. compile their own professional Curriculum truthfully;
- d. direct competitions, participate in courses and meetings for which they are appointed or convoked by the appropriate bodies, except in case of legitimate impediment of force majeure;
- e. send reports on competitions;
- f. attend refresher courses organised by the WBF or Zone Commissioners;
- g. carry their TD badge visibly during the whole competition;
- h. wear the WBF uniform;
- i. inform, verbally or in writing as appropriate, any interested party whom they intend to discipline.
- j. Inform the competent authority (e.g. the Championship Committee) of any incident that could be subject to further disciplinary action.