



“Bridge for Peace”

International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

WBF Statutes

Chapter 1

Name – Status – Purpose

Article 1 - Name & Duration

The name of the federation is the World Bridge Federation (“WBF”). The duration of the WBF is unlimited.

Article 2 - Status and Resources

The World Bridge Federation, founded on August 18, 1958 in Oslo, recognised by the International Olympic Committee as an International Sport Federation, International University Sport Federation (“FISU”), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) is a non-profit making organisation of a strictly civil nature incorporated as an association in accordance with article 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code and registered in the Commercial Register of the Canton de Vaud.

The WBF is a recognised member of the Global Association of International Sport Federations (“GAISF”), the Association of Recognised IOC International Sports Federations (“ARISF”), the International Mind Sports Association (“IMSA”), and is a Signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”).

The WBF’s resources consist of 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.

Article 3 - Headquarters

The official headquarters and administrative offices of the WBF are based in Lausanne, Switzerland, but by decision of the Executive Council (“EC”), may be moved to another location in Switzerland.

Article 4 - Guiding Principles & Motto

The WBF recognises and pursues the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, in particular the aims:

- a) to blend bridge with culture and education and to promote the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles;



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b) to encourage the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity;

c) to fight and reject any violation of human rights.

The motto of the WBF is "Bridge for Peace".

Article 5 - Purpose

The purpose of the WBF shall be:

- to promote, foster, promulgate, develop and govern the sport of Bridge internationally;
- to support and encourage the development of youth bridge, in particular by encouraging and assisting NBOs in promoting bridge in schools, universities and other educational and youth organisations;
- to be in the Olympic Movement, remaining affiliated with the 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 spreading Olympism and Olympic education;
- to federate national bridge organisations in all countries;
- to devise methods and conduct competitions to award international or world championship titles;
- to establish standard laws for its contests adopting recognised standards of fair-play and good ethics and supplementing these as may be required;
- to support and encourage the promotion of positive sport ethics;
- to dedicate its efforts to ensure that in bridge contests the spirit of fair play prevails;
- to fight against unethical behaviour, manipulation of competitions and alterations of results in bridge;
- to fight against doping in sport and to take measures, the goal of which is to prevent endangering the health of bridge players.

The WBF endeavours to maintain friendly relations amongst its members and amongst Zonal Conferences. The WBF does not permit any political, religious, gender or racial discrimination or any violation of human rights amongst its members.



Chapter 2 Members

Article 6 - Members

The members of the World Bridge Federation are the National Bridge Organisations (“NBOs”).

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

The expression “country” shall mean 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.

Each NBO must be duly constituted under the laws of its jurisdiction and shall seek recognition by its national governing authority (e.g. National Olympic Committee, National Sports Committee, National Association of Sports Federations and/or Governmental Authorities).

Article 7 - Admission Requirements

Any NBO wishing to affiliate with the WBF is required:

- To exercise Bridge activity in its country and internationally, in particular by organizing and participating in competitions, implementing bridge education and training programmes for bridge players, with regards in particular to the development of youth bridge;
- To respect the Statutes, By-Laws, Laws of Bridge, Rules and Regulations and any other guidelines or principles of the WBF as well as to recognize and enforce any decision rendered in application thereof;
- To conduct its activities in compliance with the Olympic Charter;
- To implement a Disciplinary Code and a Code of Ethics reflecting the provisions of the WBF Disciplinary Code, the WBF Code of Ethics *mutatis mutandis*, which shall apply in its sphere of activities, including its jurisdiction;
- To manage its affairs autonomously and without interference from bodies outside the Olympic Movement;
- To have an appropriate and updated register of members,
- To pay the Membership fees and other monies owed to the WBF when due;
- To refuse membership of any bridge association and/or bridge club located outside of its country, unless duly authorized by the WBF;
- To be open to all nationals or bona fide residents of the particular country;
- To agree to play in WBF competitions against all other NBOs which are qualified members of the WBF.

The Executive Council has the power to decide whether to grant membership to an NBO. The granted membership has to be ratified by the next ensuing Congress.



Article 8 - Resignation

Any member of the WBF may resign in writing to the President on six months' notice. For the avoidance of doubt, the resignation shall not affect any financial or other obligations that have arisen during the term of membership.

Article 9 - Suspension

Without prejudice to any other provision for suspension elsewhere in the Statutes, By-Laws, Code of Ethics or other Rules and Regulations, a member may be suspended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Executive Council either upon the request in writing by the relevant member or if the Executive Council concludes, in its discretion, that the member is not conforming or has not conformed with the requirements for an application for membership of the WBF.

In the event of a failure for a period of two full years to pay the annual dues or charges the suspension is automatically sanctioned by the Executive Council.

A suspended member may not exercise any of the rights or benefits of membership of the WBF during the period of suspension. The suspension does not discontinue the obligation to pay the annual dues.

A member temporarily suspended may be reinstated at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Council on such conditions as the Executive Council may prescribe.

Article 10 - Removal

Without prejudice to any other provision for removal elsewhere in the Statutes, By-Laws, Code of Ethics or other Rules and Regulations, a member may be removed by the Executive Council, providing its reasons for such decision are approved on an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total members. The removal has to be ratified by the next ensuing Congress.

After two years of suspension for failure in payment of the annual dues or charges, a member, if not reinstated, is automatically removed by the Executive Council.

Any membership dues owed up until the time of removal remain due and payable notwithstanding the removal.

Article 11 - Effect

As soon as an NBO is recognised as an affiliated member of the WBF, it automatically becomes an affiliated member of a WBF Zonal Conference (see article 14 below). No NBO can be an affiliated member of a Zonal Conference without being an affiliated member of the WBF.

Resignation, Removal and Suspension from the WBF are automatically extended to the Zonal Conference.



Chapter 3

Zonal Conferences & Associate Member

Article 12 - Zonal Conferences

The world shall be divided into five continents, following the five rings of the Olympic Movement (America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania). Each continent must always contain at least one Zonal Conference.

The continents of Europe, Africa and Oceania shall be represented by one Zonal Conference each. The continents of America and Asia may be represented, as determined by the Executive Council, by a maximum of three Zonal Conferences. The Executive Council shall be entitled, subject to an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority, to split or merge Zonal Conferences in the continents of America and Asia.

The role of Zonal Conferences within the WBF system shall be to administer and further the objectives of the WBF and to organize zonal competitions.

Article 13 - Requirements

The Zonal Conferences shall have their own Statutes and By-Laws that shall respect and be consistent with these Statutes and the WBF By-Laws.

The Zonal Conferences shall respect the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the Statutes, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, Disciplinary Code and other Rules & Regulations, and the decisions of the WBF and otherwise act in the best interest of the WBF. The Zonal Conferences shall also implement a Disciplinary Code and a Code of Ethics reflecting the provisions of the WBF Disciplinary Code and the WBF Code of Ethics *mutatis mutandis*, which shall apply in their sphere of activities, including their jurisdiction.

Article 14 - Geographical affiliation

Members located within the geographical scope of a Zonal Conference may be affiliated to such Zonal Conference only and not to another Zonal Conference, save that in exceptional circumstances, the Executive Council may, upon application of a member, authorize such member to be affiliated to a Zonal Conference to which it does not geographically belong.

The Zonal Conference concerned by the possible affiliation of a member that does not geographically belong to it shall be consulted prior to any decision being taken by the Executive Council in this respect, without any limitation to the Executive Council's discretion.

Article 15 - Associated Members

In recognition of historic contribution, outstanding support and distinguished services to the development of bridge, the Congress, on the proposal of the Executive Council, may afford the status of Associated Member to a Bridge Organisation which is not part of the WBF. The relations between the WBF and the Associated Member/s are provided and set out in the By-Laws. Associated Members shall not have any vote at the WBF Congress.



Chapter 4 Authority

Article 16 - 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 these Statutes.

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

Article 17 - Jurisdiction for competitions

The WBF, members and Zonal Conferences shall have jurisdiction (including, without limitation, technical and disciplinary jurisdiction) over the competitions governed by their own statutes and competition regulations, which must be approved by the WBF.

This Article 17 shall not prevent the WBF from issuing regulations providing for certain of its rules and regulations to apply within the context of qualification systems for WBF Events and events that award WBF Master-points under the jurisdiction of members or Zonal Conferences.

In case of dispute between any entities (WBF, member(s), Zonal Conference(s)) 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 members and Zonal Conferences.

Article 18 - Principle of Reciprocity

Each member and Zonal Conference must accept and respect all decisions taken by other members and/or Zonal Conferences in disciplinary matters. In particular, all members 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 these Statutes and in any other WBF Regulations.

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

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

All decisions rendered by the WBF in application of this Article shall be final and binding on all members and Zonal Conferences.



Chapter 5 Organisation

Article 19 - Organisation of the WBF

The government of the WBF shall be vested in a Congress, a President and an Executive Council, together with a Management Committee when the Executive Council is not in session (see Chapter 9).

The officers of the WBF include the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the General Counsel. The Executive Council, on the proposal of the President, elects from amongst its members the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The General Counsel is not a member of the Executive Council and is appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council.

The honorary officers of the WBF are the President/s Emeritus, and the members of the Honour Committee.

The disciplinary bodies of the WBF are the Disciplinary Tribunal and the Anti-Doping Hearing Tribunal.

The technical advisor of the WBF regarding matters related to the organisation and the rules and regulations of the bridge competitions is the High Level Players Commission.

Standing or special Committees and appointments may be constituted and are subject to the applicable law and the By-Laws. The committees may (without limitation to the power of the Executive Council to establish and appoint further committees) include the Advisory Committee, the Finance Committee, the Statutes and By-Laws Committee, the Medical and Prevention Commission, the Competitions Committee, the Credentials Committee, the Rules and Regulations Committee, the Laws Committee, the Systems Committee and the Youth Committee.

The officers, honorary officers, advisors, committees and any further special appointments, are further described in the By-Laws.



Chapter 6 The Congress

Article 20 - Status

The Congress is the supreme authority of the WBF.

Article 21 - Composition & Attendance

The Congress is composed of the authorised delegates of the members. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the Congress by one delegate.

The President chairs the Congress but shall not have any voting rights.

The members of the Executive Council, the Candidates for Elections, the President/s Emeritus, the Honour Committee members, the General Counsel, the HLPC's Chairman, the Chairmen of the WBF Committees, the other WBF Officers and the Presidents of the Zonal Conferences are entitled to attend the Congress but shall not have any voting rights and shall not act as a proxy.

Article 22 - Nature and sessions

The Congress may be held on an ordinary and extraordinary basis.

The ordinary Congress is held every two years in the even numbered years.

An extraordinary Congress may be called by the President and or the Executive Council when deemed necessary at their discretion and must be called upon request of one fifth of those entitled to vote at the Congress. The request must be addressed in writing to the President. At least thirty days' notice shall be provided of an extraordinary Congress, and the business is limited to that on the agenda distributed with the notice. Notice may be given by email or by postal mail. An extraordinary Congress has no powers not held by an ordinary Congress.

An extraordinary Congress may be convened together with an ordinary Congress but with separate agendas.

Article 23 - Functions and power of an ordinary Congress

The Congress shall have the powers and functions explicitly conferred upon it by these Statutes and the By-Laws of the WBF, including:

- a) To amend the Statutes, subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present;
- b) to hear and approve the report of the President;
- c) to examine the balance sheet and accounts for the two years following the last ordinary Congress and hear the auditors' report;
- d) to define or to delegate the Executive Council to define, every four years, membership dues;
- e) to ratify the admission and removal of members decided by the Executive Council;
- f) to carry out elections, every four years, in accordance with these Statutes;
- g) to bestow the title of President Emeritus;
- h) to afford the status of Associated Member, subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

The decisions taken at the Congress come into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by Congress.



Article 24 - Quorum

One third of the members shall be present for a vote to be validly carried out (quorum).

For the election of members to the Executive Council the quorum shall be one half of the members plus one.

To vote on the dissolution of the WBF, the quorum shall be four fifths of the members.

Article 25 - Ballots, Number of Votes

Each member is entitled to one (1) vote.

The elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Voting on any other matters shall take place by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a majority of the members present.

Whether on a secret ballot or a show of hands, only delegates and duly appointed proxies present at the Congress may cast votes.



Chapter 7 The President

Article 26 - The President

The President represents the highest single authority of the WBF as the Chief Executive Officer.

The President presides at meetings of the Congress, the Executive Council and the Management Committee and may represent the WBF legally in all circumstances or by authorizing someone to act on his behalf. He represents the WBF on all formal occasions and takes precedence over all other members. He takes all measures necessary to ensure the good conduct and progress of the affairs of the WBF and protect the image of the WBF subject to the subsequent approval of his actions by the Congress, the Executive Council or the Management Committee. He is invited to attend the meetings of all the Committees of the WBF but shall have no vote unless he is otherwise a member of such committee.

The President submits for the approval of the EC the election of the Officers and members of the Management Committee.

Apart from the cases expressly foreseen in the Statutes, the President, with the approval of the EC, appoints and/or revokes the Committees, the Commissions, the special groups or any other person useful to the management of WBF.

In particular, but not limited to the following, the President:

- supervises the day-to-day business and functioning of the WBF;
- chairs all meetings of the Congress, the Executive Council and the Management Committee;
- signs every official WBF document, including minutes, rulings and certificates;
- represents the WBF in all matters involving the IOC and other international sports bodies, political authorities and before judicial courts and tribunals;
- convenes the Congress;
- presents to the Congress a report on the WBF activities;
- appoints and removes from office the General Counsel;
- other duties upon delegation by the Executive Council or the Congress.

The President may be represented in his duties by a duly empowered person; a power of attorney shall be given in writing by the President.

Article 27 - Election

The President shall be elected by the Executive Council at the first meeting of the newly installed Executive Council following the (ordinary) Congress in the electoral year (as defined at article 31 below). The current President and Treasurer shall be entitled to vote in this election.

A President elected for his first term must be a member of the Executive Council at the time of his election and in order to preserve continuity and to ensure experienced leadership, must have been member of the Executive Council for at least two years of a legislature. The President, upon assuming office, shall resign as a zonal representative.

The rules and procedure for the candidacy and the election of the President are provided by the By-Laws.



The term of office of the President shall be of four years and shall commence on the 1st January directly following his election. The President may be re-elected but may not under any circumstances serve more than three full terms of four years.

Article 28 - Vacancy

Should the position of President become vacant for any reason or the President is unable as a result of incapacity to fulfill his duties, the first Vice-President will provisionally fulfill the functions of the President.

Should the vacancy or incapacity be permanent, a new President shall be elected at the next ensuing Executive Council meeting for the remainder of the four-year term of the former President.



Chapter 8 The Executive Council

Article 29 - The Executive Council

All executive and administrative powers relevant to the effective supervision and administration of the affairs and activities of the WBF (consistent with the WBF Statutes) are vested in the Executive Council.

The Executive Council consists of the President and up to 24 other members, including:

- up to 19 (nineteen) members elected by the Zonal Conferences;
- 2 (two) members elected by the High Level Players Commission.
- 3 (three) members elected by the Congress. The President/s Emeritus and the General Counsel are entitled to attend the Executive Council meetings with consultative powers but no voting rights.

The members of the Honour Committee may be invited by the President to attend meetings without voting rights: they must be invited when the agenda includes the election of new members of the Honour Committee, in which event they shall have voting rights on that issue.

Article 30 - Executive Council Members elections

The rules and regulations for the election and the installation of the Executive Council are provided and set-out in the By-Laws. In any event:

- The election of the members of the Executive Council shall take place every fourth year from and including 2022 (each such year being an “electoral year”) save that the initial election of members elected by Congress will take place at the Congress in 2020 with those elected serving for a term of two years.
- Each Zonal Conference has the right to elect its own representative member(s) as per the By-Laws.
- All elections by the Zonal Conferences or the HLPC must be made in advance of the (ordinary) Congress taking place in the electoral year; such elections must be notified immediately to the WBF Secretary.
- Candidates to be elected to the Executive Council by Congress shall be in good standing with their NBO. The three persons elected must be from three different Zonal Conferences.
- The HLPC shall elect one representative of each gender, who shall be from different Zonal Conferences.
- The term of office of the Executive Council members shall start on the day following their election and shall cease in the subsequent electoral year at midnight on the day on which the relevant body (i.e. Zonal Conferences, HLPC and Congress) elects its representatives for the next Executive Council.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the President and the Treasurer shall assume these functions on the 1st January directly following their election to such positions and shall serve in those functions for four full calendar years; consequently, the term of the President and Treasurer as Executive Council members shall be extended by such period



as is necessary (being less than 12 months in all circumstances) to allow them to serve in those functions for the four calendar years.

- The body that elected the Executive Council member serving as Treasurer in the electoral year shall, when making its elections to the Executive Council, specify that the term of one of the relevant persons shall start on 1 January of the following calendar year (as opposed to on the day following the election).
- Where a new President is elected from amongst those persons elected by the Zonal Conferences or the HLPC, the relevant body shall elect a replacement as soon as reasonably practicable following the election of such President and, in any event, before the end of the electoral year; where the Congress elects one or more candidates to the Executive Council who have already served a previous term on the Executive Council, the Congress shall also elect a fourth person as an alternate for the eventuality that one of the persons elected to the Executive Council by Congress is then elected as President by the new Executive Council. The alternate would then assume office as an Executive Council member on the day on which the President assumes office i.e. on the 1 January following his election.

Article 31 - Functions of the Executive Council

Without limitation to its powers and obligations, the Executive Council has the following functions:

- a) to elect the President of the WBF and, on the proposal of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the other officers indicated in the above article 19 unless the competence to elect such officers is explicitly reserved for another body.
- b) to study all proposed amendments to the Statutes before they are submitted to the Congress;
- c) to issue rules of procedure, including the By-Laws;
- d) to uphold the spirit of the Olympic Charter and the strict observation of the WBF Regulations;
- e) to monitor the running of the Zonal Conferences and members;
- f) to appoint representatives to carry out functions relating to the promotion and co-ordination of bridge in a region, country or member;
- g) to consider and, if it judges appropriate, to adopt the proposals of the committees that fall within its powers;
- h) to prescribe an Ethics Code, Disciplinary Code and/or Code of conduct with rules of procedure and sanctions;
- i) to issue Anti-Doping Regulations in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code;
- j) to issue the Laws of Bridge, guidelines and rules concerning the sport of bridge, the participation in the bridge competitions and the related organisation and management;
- k) to maintain good relations with the IOC, sports organizations, public authorities and other international organizations;
- l) to elect, upon proposal of the President, the members of the Management Committee;
- m) to elect the members of the Honour Committee and to award medals and recognitions;
- n) to appoint the Auditors;
- o) to ratify the decisions of the Management Committee and decisions taken by the President in urgent circumstances;
- p) to remove members subject to the ratification of the Congress ;
- q) to review any application to become a member of the WBF and issue recommendations to the Congress in this respect;



- r) to define the international calendar in consultation with the Zonal Conferences and to grant the WBF patronage to different proposed events;
- s) to deliberate and decide on any other matter relating to the organisation and governance of the WBF that is not explicitly reserved for another person, body or organ.

Article 32 - Meetings, Quorum, Votes, Minutes

The Executive Council meets at least once a year. The Executive Council is convened by the President or upon the request made to the President of at least half plus one of its members. No proxy is allowed.

Half plus one of the total members of the Executive Council must be present for a vote to be validly carried out (quorum) and, unless provided otherwise in these Statutes, voting is by majority.

Each member of the Executive, including the President, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters within the Executive's jurisdiction. In the case of a tie the President or the person who presides over the meeting has the casting vote.

The minutes of the deliberations of the Executive Council are the responsibility of the Secretary and signed by the President.



Chapter 9 Management Committee

Article 33 - Composition

The Management Committee consists of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, up to three other members of the Executive Council (including one of the two representatives of the HLPC and one of the members elected by the Congress) elected upon proposal of the President by the Executive Council. There shall be at least one man and one woman.

The President/s Emeritus and the General Counsel are entitled to attend the meetings of the Management Committee with consultative powers but with no voting rights.

Article 34 - Powers

The Management Committee shall have and may exercise, when the Executive Council is not in session, all the powers of the Executive Council except those requiring a qualified majority.

Article 35 - Meetings

The President may convene meetings of the Management Committee, either in person or via conference call, at any time, and shall convene meetings at least twice a year, without formality and with reasonable notice. Proxies are not allowed.

The President may invite other members of the Executive Council and/or other persons to participate, without voting rights, in meetings of the Management Committee where they are involved in activities and matters to be discussed.

The minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee are the responsibility of the Secretary and signed by the President. The minutes shall be sent for information to all members of the Executive Council and a summary shall be published on the WBF Website.

Article 36 - Forfeiture

If for any reason the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer or Secretary forfeit their office, they shall be replaced by newly elected officers as soon as reasonably practical.



Chapter 10 Dispute resolution

Article 37 - Disciplinary Panels

A Disciplinary Panel of not less than five members and no more than seven ~~is~~ shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council. The members of the Disciplinary Panel may not be Officers of the WBF or Zonal Conferences, or from the WBF or Zonal Conferences Executive Councils or the WBF Advisory Committee. The WBF Disciplinary Code may provide further restrictions.

Disciplinary cases will be referred to the WBF Tribunal comprised of three members of the Disciplinary Panel.

The eligibility, appointments, functions and duties of both the Disciplinary Panel and the WBF Tribunal and the applicable procedures are provided by the WBF Disciplinary Code as adopted by the Executive Council.

Violations of WBF Antidoping Code will be referred to the WBF Antidoping Hearing Tribunal as set out in the By-Laws.

Article 38 - By-Laws

The Executive Council shall adopt a set of By-Laws providing *inter alia* for the rules of enforcement of the Statutes, the procedures and rules of conduct of the organisation and of the governing bodies and the regulation and management of the affairs of the WBF. Thereafter, the By-Laws or any part of them may be amended by the Executive Council by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all its members entitled to vote.

Any amendment shall come into force on the date of the decision of the Executive Council. The amendment shall be notified to the members of the WBF as soon as practicable. If a majority of the members addresses a written objection to the amendment to the President within 60 days from the entry into force of the amendment, the amendment shall be considered as null and void.

Article 39 - Eligibility requirements

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

A President and/or a member of the Executive Council elected for his first term must not have reached his 76th birthday at the date of election. A President and/or a member of the Executive Council cannot be re-elected if at the end of his current term he has already reached his 80th birthday.

If at the end of his current term the President has served three full terms, he is no longer eligible to be re-elected.

No person who has a material source of income from playing bridge or from commercial activities related to bridge shall be elected as WBF President. The same provision is applied to the Members of the Executive Council and WBF Officers, except the HLPC members, and to the members of the Disciplinary Bodies or Auditors.



In any event no person shall be elected or appointed to, or continue to serve in respect of 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 and National Sport Organisations) with a binding sanction for a period of one year or more.

A failure to meet either of the above requirements (or a discovery of such failure) will result in the immediate automatic forfeiture of the position held.

Article 40 - Personal determination

Membership on the Executive Council or on any of the Committees of the WBF is a personal determination and is granted on the clear understanding that such members are not elected to represent their federations but to serve the international bridge community at large.

Elected WBF Council or WBF Committee members must not accept any position or function which can be in contradiction with his / her function as an elected member or presents conflicts of interests with the WBF. However, serving on the board of a Zonal Conference, an NBO or another bridge organisation does not constitute a conflict with the interests of the WBF.

Article 41 - Candidatures and Elections

The procedure and rules for the candidatures and elections of the President, the Executive Council Members and HLPC Members are provided for in the By-Laws

Article 42 - Jurisdiction for disputes

Any dispute arising from the present Statutes, their By-Laws and/or any WBF Regulation and not explicitly subject to the jurisdiction of another body according to the same shall be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute definitively.

Article 43 - Accounts and Financial Year

The financial year and the accounting system operate from the January 1st to the December 31st.

The accounts, which have been approved by the Executive Council, shall be examined and certified by the Auditors.

Article 44 - Allowance

Any office-holders' allowance shall be fixed and approved by the Executive Council.

Article 45 - Official Events

The official events of the WBF are described and set out in the By-Laws.

Article 46 - Transparency & Good Governance

The minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the WBF as well as the annual report of the Treasurer have to be published on the WBF Official Website.



Article 47 - Official Language

English is the official language of the WBF for all purposes, including for meetings, competitions, disciplinary matters and proceedings, any other activity and for the Statutes, By-Laws, Laws, Rules and Regulations, minutes and all the official documents published by the WBF.

Article 48 - Dissolution & Liquidation

The Congress shall have the exclusive power to resolve upon the dissolution of the WBF. This decision requires a two-thirds majority of 75% of all Delegates to the Congress. If the WBF is dissolved, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on the WBF shall be fully discharged and its remaining assets, if any, shall be donated to organisations active in activities similar to bridge.

Article 49 - Supremacy of Statutes

The Statutes of the WBF are the final and paramount authority and nothing contained in any Regulations shall prevail over or otherwise operate to circumvent or lessen the force and effect of the Statutes.

Article 50 - Modifications

The Statutes can only be modified by the Congress (subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present).

Article 51 - Interpretation

Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural, or vice versa. The headings are solely for organisation, convenience and clarity. They do not define, limit or describe the scope of these statutes or the intent in any of the provisions.

Certified as the Official Statutes of the World Bridge Federation, as approved by the Congress on 27th September 2018 and effective from 28th September 2018

Gianarrigo Rona, President

David R Harris, General Counsel