

# **Ethics and Discipline: the Integrity in Bridge**

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# What do we mean by ethics?

At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. It is those principles that 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.

# Why should that concern Bridge?

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

## 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.

# 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.
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.**

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

- **The WBF reviews its Statutes to ensure that they are IOC compliant and fit for purpose – last September the Congress approved the latest version of our Statutes**

- **Article 4 of the WBF Statutes - 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;
- 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”.

- **Gianarrigo Rona drafted a Code of Ethics to underpin the Statutes and stress the importance of ethics within our Sport**
- **Sport Accord (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.

## **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 example of FIFA is a harsh reminder of 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.
- 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 in 2015.



## **World Bridge Federation Code of Ethics**

(approved by the WBF Management Committee on 18 June 2016  
and ratified by the WBF Executive Council on 6 September 2016)

### **1. Preamble**

1.1. The World Bridge Federation (WBF), and each of its members and its administration, its Affiliated Federations, the Continental Conferences, the Zonal Conferences, the members of the bridge authorities, the organising committees of official WBF events and participants at WBF events are to show respect and esteem towards the national and international sports authorities and the government of their countries.

1.2. The WBF parties undertake to disseminate the culture of ethics and integrity within their respective areas of competence and to serve as role models.

1.3. All players, non playing captains, team managers, coaches, chief delegations, tournament directors, championships staff officers and other responsible personnel engaged in bridge activity are required to follow the principles set out below.

### **2. Respect and human dignity**

2.1. The respect of human rights and dignity is a fundamental requirement during all activities of the sport of bridge on a local, national and international level.

2.2. Discrimination of any kind is not permitted amongst the participants, with respect to race, sex, religion, ethnicity, philosophical or political belief, or family status.



2.3. Any violation of the physical or intellectual integrity of participants will not be tolerated. All doping at any level is absolutely prohibited. All points contained in the anti doping code of the WBF and the Olympic Movement are to be scrupulously observed.

2.4. Physical, moral, professional or sexual harassment is prohibited.

2.5. The WBF and its designated agents or committees ensure safe and appropriate conditions and provide players with good medical care for their physical and moral well-being. Special attention is given to youth contest programs, education and training and ensuring their overall health and safety.

### **3. Integrity of conduct**

3.1. WBF members or their representatives are not permitted, directly or indirectly, to demand, accept or propose any kind of remuneration, commission, advantages, any obscure/unofficial favours, while involved in the organisation and conduct of official events or activities of the WBF.

3.2. Only tokens of consideration of friendship of nominal value in accordance with prevailing local customs, may be given or accepted by WBF representatives (officers, officials or people in charge for WBF events). Such tokens may not lead the impartiality and integrity of the WBF parties being called into question. All other form of token, object or benefit constitutes a gift which may not be accepted but must be passed on the organisation of which the beneficiary is a member.

3.3. The hospitality offered to WBF parties, as well as those accompanying them, may not exceed the normal standard of the host country.

3.4. During the conduct of their activities, WBF members are expected to display correct deportment, to declare any conflict of interest between the organisation of which he/she is a member and all other organizations with which the WBF has relationships. If a conflict should or could appear, the president of the WBF is to be informed.

3.5. The WBF representatives are to handle their responsibilities with diligence and care. They shall abstain from any false declarations and shall behave in a dignified and respectful manner. They demonstrate fairness in all sport activities and decisions which might affect the reputation of the WBF.

3.6. Members of the WBF authorities may not be linked to enterprises or persons whose activities are incompatible with the principles or the rules of the WBF and its Code.

3.7. The WBF members, officers, tournament directors, staff officials and participants of WBF events are not permitted to demonstrate undue pressure or influence the vote or the direction of decisions made in the WBF and especially must avoid any cooperation sought by influencing the work and evaluation of the tournament directors.

## **4. Integrity of competitions**

4.1. The WBF parties shall commit to combat all forms of cheating and shall continue to undertake all the necessary measures to ensure the integrity of bridge competitions.

4.2. The WBF parties must respect the provision of the World Anti-Doping, the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions and the WBF Disciplinary Code.

4.3. All forms of participation in, or support for betting related to the World Bridge Championships, and all forms of promotion of betting related to the World Bridge Championships are prohibited.

4.4. Participants in the World Bridge Championships must not, by any manner whatsoever, manipulate the course or result of a competition, or any part thereof, in a manner contrary to sporting ethics, infringe the principle of fair play or show unsporting conduct.

## **5. Good Governance and Financial Resources**

5.1. The Basic Universal Principle of Good Governance, in particular transparency, responsibility and accountability must be respected by all WBF parties.

5.2. The WBF resources may only be used to support bridge aims and objectives as approved by decisions at the appropriate level of the WBF. The income and expenses of the WBF authorities and their designates must be documented according to sound accounting practices and be fully transparent.

5.3. The WBF members recognise the important contribution and involvement of television, sponsors, partners and other supporters of bridge activities required for the development of the sport of bridge. All supporters and partners have to abide by the rules of the WBF and the current Code. They cannot interfere or obstruct the organisation of events, which are exclusively the responsibility and competence of the WBF.

5.4. The organisers of official WBF events and WBF members must adhere to the respective guidelines, the statutes, the rules and regulations of the WBF and the national federation, and the decisions taken by the sports authorities at the various levels of hierarchy. They have to refuse all approaches made by any third party, or third party authority, to obtain financial gain or political influence which does not conform to the rules and agreements with the WBF.

## **6. Relations and confidentiality**

6.1. The WBF maintains harmonious relations with business and sport organizations, event organisers and government authorities, by conforming to

principles of universality and political neutrality. All organising groups must ensure that their country respects the statutes, the rules of the WBF and the current Code. The WBF and the organisers are to respect the agreement to conduct the activity in all its forms and to take decisions with the respective and appropriate sport institution.

6.2. The members of the WBF authorities are free to participate in public life of the state of which they are part. They should not conduct themselves publicly, nor proclaim an ideology which is contrary to the rules of the WBF and the current Code.

6.3. The members of the WBF authorities are responsible to safeguard the environment for all events which they organize by respecting all rules and norms.

6.4. The members of the WBF authorities are to be respectful of confidential information in which they share. Passing on any information should not give them any personal profit or advantage, and should not be used to harm the reputation of a person or an organisation.

## **7. Enforcement**

7.1. All WBF members are expected to comply with the rules established by the WBF and the present Code.

7.2. The WBF members are to inform the WBF Executive Council of any violation of the present Code and the rules of the WBF.

7.3. The WBF Executive Council will review the application of the approved Code every year. It identifies any contravention of the rules and imposes applicable sanctions.