



“Bridge for Peace”

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

## WBF By-Laws

### Preamble

#### Article 1 – Preamble

According to Article 38 of the WBF Statutes, the Executive Council (“EC”) 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.

### Chapter 1 Offices & Finance

#### Article 2 – Offices

##### 2.1. Headquarters

According to Article 3 of the Statutes, the official headquarters and administrative offices of the WBF are based in Lausanne, Switzerland, but by resolution of the EC, may be moved to another Swiss location; such resolution requires a majority of three quarters of the total votes.

##### 2.2. Other Offices

The WBF may also have secondary offices at such other places as the EC may from time to time determine, or as the business of the WBF may require.

#### Article 3 – Finance, Books & Records

##### 3.1. Dues and Fees.

The amount and time for payment of all dues, fees and other charges shall be as from time to time fixed and determined by the EC subject to review by the Congress.

##### 3.2. Funds

The monies of the WBF shall be deposited in the name of the WBF in such bank or banks or trust company or trust companies as the EC shall designate and shall be drawn out only by the President, the Treasurer or by their designees authorised in writing.

##### 3.3. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the WBF shall begin on the first day of January in each year, unless otherwise provided by the EC.



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### **3.4. Compensation**

The compensation paid to any officer, agent, consultant or employee of the WBF shall be fixed and approved by the EC.

### **3.5. Books and Records**

The books, accounts and records of the WBF, except as may be otherwise required by law, shall be kept at its principal office or at such other place or places as the EC may from time to time appoint. The EC shall determine whether and to what extent the accounts and books of the WBF or any of them, shall be open to inspection of the members, and no member shall have the right to inspect any account or book or document of the WBF except as conferred by law or by resolution of the EC.

## **Chapter 2 Members**

### **Article 4 – Membership**

#### **4.1 Organisation**

Membership in the WBF is by Federations and consists of affiliated membership. A National Contract Bridge Organization (“NBO”) of any country may apply for membership in the WBF and be elected thereto by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the EC present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that all the needed requirements are fulfilled.

#### **4.2 Application procedure**

Each NBO wishing to affiliate with the WBF must forward to the WBF the request for admission and affiliation, undertaking, in writing, to respect the Statutes, Laws and Rules & Regulations of the WBF.

The WBF will forward to the applicant Organisation the necessary official application form and questionnaire and will inform the President of the Zonal Conference (“ZC”) of the application asking for the position of the ZC in respect of the application.

These documents, duly completed, must be returned to the WBF together with the following:

- a) two copies of the Statutes of the applicant Organisation, one of which must be in English, together with an undertaking to keep the WBF informed of any changes which might be made subsequent to affiliation to the WBF;
- b) a Certificate, signed by one of the authorities described above, authorising the application to be submitted;
- c) a detailed report on the structure of the organisation and its activities in the field of bridge.

### **Article 5 – Admission**

The WBF President shall be provided with the request of affiliation, the relevant documents and the report of the Zonal President.

The President may request supplementary information and once satisfied the application is complete will list the matter for consideration at the next meeting of the EC.



Any application for admission is examined by the EC which, if necessary, will appoint one of its members to investigate the application. The investigation will be specific to the activity in the applicant country.

If satisfied that all the requirements for membership of the WBF have been met, the EC may grant membership to the applicant Federation and report to the next Congress for its ratification.

If the EC grants the membership, the Applicant, the Zonal President and all Federations will be notified.

The membership is effective upon approval of the EC.

#### **Article 6 – Resignation**

Any affiliated member wishing to resign its membership must inform the WBF in writing.

The President will put the Resignation on the agenda for the next meeting of the EC.

The resigning NBO, the Zonal President and all Federations will be notified of the resignation by the WBF. In addition the resigning NBO will be reminded of its outstanding financial or other obligations.

In the case of possible litigation on any question (financial or otherwise) the WBF may make representations to the National Organisation which endorsed the application for admittance of the Federation, now resigning, or to any other national body under which the Federation operates.

#### **Article 7 – Suspension**

The EC is responsible for dealing with the suspension of affiliated members and, where necessary, reporting this matter to the Congress.

An affiliated member may be suspended for any of the reasons set out in the Statutes.

The suspended Federation, Zonal Conferences, all the affiliated members and the National Organisation which endorsed the application for admittance of the suspended Federation and/or any other national body under which the suspended Federation operates, will be notified in writing by the WBF

The Honorary Secretary will inform the suspended Federation of its outstanding financial or other obligations to be fulfilled.

In the case of suspension for reasons of financial default, the suspended Federation may re-instate its position by payment of any amount/s outstanding, plus a fine of 10% or such amount as may be approved by the EC.

#### **Article 8 – Removal**

The removal of a Federation for cause may be determined by the EC subject to the ratification of the next Congress.

The Federation in question will be invited by the WBF to present its defence before the EC; such representation may be presented orally or in writing.

If the EC decides removal, the Removed Federation will be notified in writing with copies sent to the Zonal President, all the affiliated members and the National Organisation that endorsed the application for admittance of the removed Federation and/or any other national body under which the removed Federation operates.



### **Article 9 – Re-admission**

Re-admission of removed Federations can be at any time decided by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the EC on such conditions as the EC may prescribe and is subject to the ratification of the next Congress.

If a Federation has been removed for financial reasons, it must comply with the provisions for the suspended Federations before re-admission may be considered.

Such provisions shall include settlement of all outstanding financial or other questions with its own or other Zonal Conferences, other Affiliated Federations and Sport Organisations.

### **Article 10 – Membership rights**

Affiliated Federations are entitled:

1. to vote at the Congress;
2. to submit proposals to the Congress;
3. to make nominations for office in the WBF
4. where appropriate, to make nominations for positions on the elected structures of the WBF;
5. to participate in the official events of the WBF
6. to use the WBF logo in the format prescribed by the EC

### **Article 11 – Membership Obligations**

Affiliated Federations have a continuing obligation to satisfy the admission requirements that are set out within Article 7 of the Statutes.

Affiliated Federations are obliged to pay an annual fee. Subject to changes in the economic situation, the fees - which are fixed in USD - are established for four-years by the Congress.

Fees are due on January 1st in each year and must be paid before June 30th in that year. Late payments are subject to a fine of 10%.

Fees are due in their entirety for federations admitted before the 30th June in any year and for those that have resigned. If admission has occurred after June 30th, one-half of the annual fee is payable for the remaining part of that year.



## **Chapter 3**

### **Zonal Conferences & Associate Members**

#### **Article 12 – Zonal Conferences**

The Zonal Conferences of the WBF are:

- Zone 1, Europe
- Zone 2, North America (including Mexico)
- Zone 3, South America
- Zone 4, Asia and Middle East
- Zone 5, Central America and Caribbean
- Zone 6, Asia Pacific
- Zone 7, South Pacific
- Zone 8, Africa

#### **Article 13 - ZC Formation**

The NBOs in each Zone shall unite in a Zonal Conference. The ZC shall decide any question in which different organizations dispute the right to be the NBO for a country within the Zone. A Zone designated by the EC that does not have a ZC shall establish one as soon as practical after designation of the Zone. The NBO in the Zone with the largest membership shall have primary responsibility to establish the ZC but, in the event of no ZC within six months after designation of the Zone, the EC may assign to another NBO within the Zone the responsibility to organize the ZC is established within such period as may be fixed by the EC. After a ZC has been established for a Zone, no NBO within its Zone may become or remain a member of the WBF unless it is also a member in good standing of the ZC.

#### **Article 14 – Logos**

Each ZC has its own Logo approved by the WBF EC

#### **Article 15 – Communication**

The ZC shall be responsible for the notification, in writing, to the WBF of:

- the address of their headquarters, all the related data and the updating of any changes or modifications
- the name and related data of the President and members of the Board as soon as elected
- the information concerning events, championships and any other relevant activity, in particular concerning any disciplinary action taken with regard to the integrity of sport of bridge.

#### **Article 16 – Zonal Representation on EC**

In accordance with the Statutes the ZC are entitled to elect up to nineteen members of the WBF EC.

All such members shall be elected by the ZC in accordance with its rules and must fulfil the requirements of the WBF Statutes and By-Laws.

Each ZC shall be responsible for the notification, in writing, to the WBF of the name, address and all other relevant data of each such member, as soon as elected.



In case of vacancy, for any reasons, of the member or members during their term the ZC shall select their replacement and notify the WBF accordingly.

ZC 1, Europe and ZC 2, North America, shall each be entitled to elect five members; ZC 6, Asia Pacific, two members and each other ZC one member. Each ZC that is allocated two or more representatives shall elect at least one representative of each gender.

The EC shall have the authority, based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, to increase the entitlement of any ZC to elect an additional member to the EC, subject always to the maximum of nineteen.

The EC shall also have the authority to reduce the entitlement of any ZC and to eliminate a ZC's entitlement to any member of the EC under such conditions and based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, provided that in any such case a ZC with no members on the EC shall be entitled to an official observer, without voting rights, on the EC.

In the above case of reduction of the members, the EC shall have the authority to require the ZC to remove any member so that the ZC has only the number of members on the EC to which it is then entitled.

The member or members shall continue to serve in office for the full term of the legislature unless removed for cause by the EC or unless at any time a ZC's entitlement regarding the number of representatives is reduced.

#### **Article 17 – Report to the WBF EC**

The ZCs will report about their activity at the meetings of the EC.

#### **Article 18 – Associated Members**

The relations between the WBF and any Associated Member shall be defined in the relevant Memorandum of Understanding approved by the WBF EC by a majority of two thirds of its total members.

In any event, in accordance with Article 15 of the Statutes, only Congress shall afford the status of Associated Member.

## **Chapter 4 Authority**

#### **Article 19 – Reporting of Sanctions**

In accordance with Article 18 of the Statutes, all disciplinary sanctions must be reported to the WBF in a timely manner by the Member NBOs and/or Zonal Conference imposing the same.

The reports shall be addressed to the WBF President who will arrange for such information to be circulated to the other Zones and Member NBOs.



## Chapter 5 Organisation

### Article 20 – Organisation

In accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes, the government of the WBF is vested in:

- the Congress
- the President
- the EC
- the Management Committee

The organisation of the WBF also includes:

- Officers
- Honorary Officers
- Disciplinary Bodies
- Technical Advisors
- Standing and Special Committees
- Special appointments

## Chapter 6 The Congress

### Article 21 – Generality

The Congress shall have the powers explicitly conferred upon it by Statutes and the By-laws. The Congress may also make recommendations to the EC in respect to any administrative or EC matters subject to the jurisdiction of the EC.

The Congress shall be entitled to receive reports on the affairs of the WBF and the business transacted by the EC at each of the meetings of the Congress.

### Article 22 – Meetings

A regular meeting of the Congress in Ordinary Session shall be held every two years in even numbered years at the place and time of the World Bridge Championship or at a place and time otherwise decided by the EC.

An extraordinary Congress may be called in accordance with Article 22 of the Statutes.

### Article 23 - Convocation

The date, the place and the agenda of the Congress is the responsibility of the EC, whilst the convocation is made by the President.

The convocation of the Congress shall be published on the WBF Website and forwarded electronically by the Honorary Secretary to all affiliated members and other persons entitled to attend, at least 60 days prior the date of the meeting.

Any affiliated member may submit in writing to the Honorary Secretary, at least thirty days before the Congress, a matter for discussion to be put on the Agenda. The EC has the right to refuse the inclusion.

If updated, the Agenda shall be delivered prior to the start of the meeting.



#### **Article 24 - Agenda**

The Agenda shall include:

1. Roll Call to determine the quorum
2. Appointment of the Scrutinising Committee
3. Approval of minutes of preceding meeting
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Election of the members of the EC, when required
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Adjournment

#### **Article 25 - Accreditation**

The delegates and other persons allowed to attend the Congress must register at the Accreditation Desk before the opening of the meeting and must be accredited by the Honorary Secretary.

To be accredited to the Congress, the delegates must submit:

- a) If NBO President, an identification document
- b) If NBO Bona Fide Member, an identification document together with an official letter from the NBO confirming his appointment

#### **Article 26 - Proxy**

If an NBO, for any reason, is unable to be represented by its own delegate it may give a proxy to another NBO accredited delegate, filling and signing the official WBF Proxy Form, to be submitted to the Accreditation Desk and to be accredited by the Honorary Secretary.

No delegate shall have more than one proxy and cannot cast more than two votes, including his own.

#### **Article 27 - Scrutinising Committee**

The Scrutinising Committee, composed of 3 members, one of them acting as chairman, shall be appointed by the Congress on the proposal of the President.

The Committee shall be comprised of delegates.

The duty of the Committee consists in the explanation to the delegates of the voting procedure, the counting of votes, the control of the regularity of the ballots and the report of the results to the President of the Congress.

#### **Article 28 - Minutes**

The minutes of the deliberations of Congress are the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary and signed by the President.

#### **Article 29 – Candidates for election**

Nominations for EC members to be elected by the Congress must be in writing or e-mail and forwarded by the NBO to the Honorary Secretary together with a written signed declaration by the Candidate that he is in good standing with the NBO of the Country of which he is a citizen or a bona fide resident and that he knows of and fulfils the conditions of admissibility required by the Statutes and By-Laws.





A CV of the Candidate must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least 30 days before the date of the Congress.

Once the deadline for nominations has ended, details of the Candidates, together with their CVs, will be circulated via e-mail to the affiliated NBOs and published on the WBF website.

Candidates must be physically present at the Congress at the time of the election, save in cases of *force majeure*.

#### **Article 30 – Candidates from the Floor**

If, and only if, there are insufficient candidates, representing at least 3 different Zonal Conferences, NBOs may present further candidates subject to the following conditions:

- a) the candidates must be presented at the opening of the Congress and registered in the minutes by the Hon. Secretary or his delegate;
- b) only NBOs of the Zonal Conferences that do not already have a candidate may present one, and no more than one, candidate for each Zonal Conference;
- c) the candidate must submit a written signed declaration, countersigned by his NBO which assumes the related responsibility, to be in good standing with his own NBO and in accordance with all the other conditions of admissibility.

#### **Article 31 – Election**

The election of the EC members takes place by secret ballot.

Each NBO may cast a vote for up to 3 candidates providing they are from 3 different Zonal Conferences. Ballot papers with more than 3 preferences selected and/or with more than one candidate from the same Zonal Conference, shall be void.

The three candidates with the highest number of votes from 3 different Zonal Conferences shall be elected.

In the event of a tie there are further secret ballots amongst the candidates up to the breaking of the tie.

## **Chapter 7 The President**

#### **Article 32 – Role and functions**

The role and functions of the President are described in the Statutes and By-Laws

#### **Article 33 – Election**

Any individual fulfilling all the Statutes and By-Law requirements may be elected by the EC to the presidency of the WBF.

A majority of three quarters of the total votes shall be required for the first three ballots. Should no candidate reach the relevant majority in the first three rounds of voting, a simple majority of the total votes shall be required for the following ballots.

If there are more than two candidates and none reaches the relevant majority, after each round of voting the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated until only 2 candidates remain.



## **Chapter 8**

### **The Executive Council**

#### **Article 34 – Role and functions**

The role and functions of the EC are described in the Statutes and By-Laws

#### **Article 35 – Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the EC shall be held in conjunction with the Championships conducted by the WBF as notified by the President.

Notice of the date and venue for the meeting must be given by the President at least one month before except in the case of an emergency. The notice of the meeting should be accompanied by the agenda.

#### **Article 36 – Special Meetings**

If circumstances so require, special meetings may also be convened at the call of the President upon at least fifteen days' written notice setting forth the time, place and purposes of the meeting.

Any one or more members of the EC (or any Committee thereof) may participate in a special meeting of the EC (or such Committee) by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time; participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

#### **Article 37 – Action without a Meeting**

In lieu of a meeting, any matter within the jurisdiction of the EC, not requiring a qualified majority of votes, may be acted on, at the call of the President, by written ballot. In such case, at least one week notice setting forth the matter to be acted on shall be given to each member of the EC.

#### **Article 38 – Presiding**

The President presides over meetings of the Council. In his absence the First Vice-President shall preside. If the First Vice-President is also not available the Second Vice-President shall preside. The President may authorise one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at any particular time.

#### **Article 39 – Minutes**

The minutes of the deliberations of the EC are the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary, signed by the President or by the presiding person and by extract published on the WBF Website.



## Chapter 9 The Officers

### **Article 40 – Vice-Presidents**

Two Vice-Presidents are elected by, and from among, the members of the EC on the proposal of the President who will indicate the order of precedence; the Vice-Presidents must be from different Zones. They assist the President and can be charged with special duties.

The Vice-Presidents in order of precedence shall exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.

### **Article 41 – Treasurer**

The EC, on the proposal of the President, shall elect from among its members a Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all monies and securities of the WBF and shall keep regular books of accounts. He shall disburse the funds of the WBF in payments of just demands against the WBF or as may be ordered by the EC, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and will render audited accounts covering each calendar year and an interim report at each meeting of the EC and the Management Committee setting forth an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the WBF. He shall perform all duties incident to his office or which are properly required of him by the EC. The Treasurer shall also be Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer is responsible, in particular:

- for the preparation and presentation at appropriate times, of the financial reports, the budgets and the financial plan; once approved, he is responsible for implementing the plans and monitoring the budgets;
- for the financial administration of accounts in accordance with the financial rules approved by the EC and by the Management Committee.

### **Article 42 – Honorary Secretary**

The EC, on the proposal of the President, shall elect from among its members the Honorary Secretary and is responsible for prescribing, in addition to the specific functions prescribed by the Statutes, By-Laws and other WBF Laws, Rules & Regulations, the terms, conditions and requirements of the appointment.

### **Article 43 – General Counsel**

The General Counsel shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the EC.

He shall be the Chief Counselling Officer of the WBF in all legal matters and is entitled to attend, without voting rights, meetings of the EC, Management Committee and Congress, and to formulate proposals and give suggestions.

The General Counsel shall not be a Zonal Representative nor a member of the EC.



## **Chapter 10**

### **The Honorary Officers**

#### **Article 44 – President Emeritus**

The title of the President Emeritus shall be honorary and may be awarded by the Congress to the outgoing or former WBF President. He need not be a Zonal Representative. The President Emeritus shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the EC, Management Committee and the Congress, but shall have no vote unless otherwise qualified to vote. The President Emeritus (the first awarded if more than one) shall preside over the Advisory Committee.

#### **Article 45 – The Committee of Honour**

The Committee of Honour of the WBF shall consist of those individuals elected thereto by the EC 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 gender is included.

Nominations and elections may be held at meetings of the EC with nominations to be made by a minimum of three EC members from three different zones. Election to the Committee shall require the affirmative vote of three-quarters of those entitled to vote who shall include: voting members of the EC, and any of the Presidents Emeritus or existing members of the Committee of Honour who are present. Voting for election to the Committee of Honour shall be by secret ballot. Induction to the Committee shall occur on the occasion of an official ceremony of the particular World Championship at which time the individual shall be presented with a suitable pin designating his election to the Committee of Honour.

## **Chapter 11**

### **The Committees**

#### **Article 46 – The High Level Players Commission**

The technical advisor of the WBF regarding matters related to the organisation and the rules & regulations of the bridge competitions is the High Level Players Commission (“HLPC”)

The HLPC consists of not less than seven and not more than nine members, representing at least four ZCs. One member shall be appointed by the WBF Youth Committee and the others are appointed by the EC on the proposal of the President; those appointed by the EC shall include at least two males and two females and must be chosen from among the WBF World Grand or Life Masters who participated in a World Championship in the previous eight years.

At its first meeting of each legislature the HLPC shall elect from among its members a Chairman.

The HLPC shall advise the President and the EC on general matters concerning sport activity and carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the EC.

The HLPC shall elect two of its members, who must be of opposite genders and from different Zones to serve as members of the EC with full voting rights.

The procedure of conduct of the meeting, described for the other WBF Committees, shall apply to the meetings of the HLPC.



## **Article 47 – Committees**

Standing Committees shall be appointed, and Special Committees may be appointed, including their respective Chairman and Secretary, by the President with the approval of the EC.

Save for cases expressly foreseen in the Statutes and By-Laws, the Committees shall consist of not less than five and no more than seven members including the chairman. The WBF President is an *ex officio* member of all Committees without voting rights unless otherwise qualified.

All committees shall keep regular minutes of their meetings and shall report the same to the President and then to the EC at its next meeting.

A quorum for any WBF Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee; provided appropriate notice thereof has been given, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting, or the written approval of a majority of all the members of a Committee without a meeting, shall be sufficient for the approval of any matter within the jurisdiction of such Committee. Each such Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure and shall meet as provided by such rules or by the direction of the EC.

Notice of the meeting must be forwarded by the convener to the WBF President and a budget, if required, must be previously forwarded to the WBF Treasurer for his approval or otherwise.

## **Article 48 – Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees of the WBF are:

### ***48.1. Advisory Committee***

The Advisory Committee shall include the President/s Emeritus and members of the Committee of Honour. The Committee will make known its recommendations to the EC.

### ***48.2. Finance Committee***

The Finance Committee shall include the Treasurer, who shall act as Chairman. The function and duty of the Finance Committee shall be to consider and take account of the financial affairs of the WBF and to formulate the financial policies of the WBF for submission and approval by the EC.

### ***48.3. Credentials Committee***

The Credentials Committee shall including members from at least four Zones. The function and duty of the Committee shall be:

- to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players or entries nominated to participate in any WBF contest: the list of players, as well as non-playing captains, coaches and other representatives in teams events, nominated by a ZC or NBO as entrants for a forthcoming contest shall be furnished to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee or other designated representative as soon as registered and in any case not later than established deadline of the registration provided by the Conditions of Contest.
- to refuse to invite (or to revoke the invitation to) any player, as well as captain or coach or other representative in teams events, to participate in any WBF contest. No reasons need to be given by the Credentials Committee for a refusal to such persons.



To be effective, any refusal or revocation must be approved with the majority of two thirds of the total members, otherwise the case has to be decided by the EC with the majority of two-thirds of the members.

All issues of eligibility to participate in world championship events, as well as in all qualification events which may be run by a Conference Zone or NBO, are governed by regulations to be enacted by the EC that may be amended from time to time.

#### **48.4. Constitution and By-Laws Committee**

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall include the General Counsel, and the **Honorary Secretary**. The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters pertaining to the Constitution and the By-Laws of the WBF and to formulate and recommend to the EC any desirable alterations, amendments or repeals relating thereto.

#### **48.5. Rules and Regulations Committee**

The Committee shall include the Honorary Secretary and the General Counsel. The function and duty of the Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters pertaining to the Rules and Regulations of the WBF competitions and to formulate and recommend to the EC any desirable additions, amendments or repeals relating thereto.

The Rules and Regulations established by the Committee for each contest must mandatorily include that to be eligible for participation in WBF Tournaments, each contestant, as a condition of admission, agrees to abide by the Olympic Charter as well as all applicable Rules and Regulations of the WBF governing the contest, completing and signing the WBF Commitment Form.

The WBF Commitment Form must include the respect and acceptance of all the Laws, Rules and Principle governing the WBF and its activity and notably:

- respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and behave accordingly in the playing areas both at and away from the bridge table;
- refrain from using substances and procedures prohibited by the rules of the IOC, WADA and WBF;
- respect and comply in all respects with the applicable stipulations of the IOC Medical Code as to the non-use of prohibited drugs by contestants;
- consent to the power of the WBF through constituted authority to enforce proper behavior and to discipline an offender;
- agree to resolve any dispute or grievance arising out of any decision of the EC and/or of a Committee or an appellate body established by the WBF, in the event such decision affects or prejudices his rights with regard to his participation and play in a WBF Tournament, through recourse to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations.

In the event a team or pair refuses to play in any round or match against another team or pair, the match shall be recorded as forfeited and the offending team or pair and/or the NBO or Zone nominating such team or pair shall be subject to referral to the Disciplinary bodies.



#### **48.6. Laws Committee**

The Committee shall include members representing at least three Zones. The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters relating to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. The Committee shall make whatever changes in the laws it deems appropriate, subject to approval by the EC. The Committee shall interpret the laws; shall periodically review the laws; and at least once each decade shall make a comprehensive study and updating of the entire laws structure. The Laws Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure and shall act as provided by such rules or by direction of the EC.

#### **48.7. Youth Committee**

The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters relating to Youth Bridge and its development everywhere in the world, to take any appropriate initiative to promote and support teaching bridge in the schools, to stimulate the participation at the youth championships and events organised by the WBF, to consider important related issues and make recommendations to the EC for implementation.

The activities and the initiatives of the Youth Committee shall be subsidised by the Youth Fund instituted by the WBF. The Committee has to submit to the President and the Treasurer for their approval, on or before the 30 September, the program and the related budget for the coming year.

#### **48.8. Medical & Prevention Commission**

The Commission has the following key responsibilities:

1. Supervising the provision of health care and doping control services during the World Championship.
2. Delivering evidence-based education to athletes and their entourage.
3. Developing and promoting the adoption of ethical standards in sports science and medicine.
4. Exploring the potential of new technologies to optimise athletes' health, and preventing their potential damaging effects.
5. Promotion of health and mental activity among the bridge players

### **Article 49 – Special Committees & Individual Appointments**

Special Committees and Individuals may be appointed from time to time, being invested with such powers as the EC may see fit, in particular:

#### **49.1. Organizing Committee**

For each championship and tournaments conducted by the WBF, the President shall appoint an Organising Committee. The members of the Committee shall include the President, the Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, a member of the EC who is a member of the HLPC and the WBF Operations Director and such other persons as the President may select after consultation with the President of the NBO of the host country. Subject to the approval of the President, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Organising Committee may be designated by the NBO of the host country provided such designation is made in writing to the President at least six months before the scheduled starting date of the tournament.



Subject to approval of the President, it shall be the function and duty of the Organizing Committee to make all necessary arrangements incident to the staging of the tournament. The Organizing Committee will remain in charge until the day prior to the start of the Championship.

#### **49.2. Championship Committee**

The President will appoint a Championship Committee which will be in charge from the day before the start of the Championship until the end of it: in this Committee the Host will appoint the On-site Organizer.

The Committee shall include the WBF President, WBF Treasurer, WBF Honorary Secretary, a member of the EC representative of the HLPC, the WBF Operation Director and the Chairman of the Rules & Regulations Committee.

The Committee is the governing authority of the Championship, as per the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the WBF Rules & Regulations and will provide its managing and running.

The duty of the Committee is also to consider important related issues and make recommendations to the EC for implementation.

#### **49.2. Reviewer**

Within any bridge event organised by the WBF a player who receives a ruling from a Tournament Director may ask for the process that produced the ruling to be reviewed. A Code of Practice shall be established and published for the conduct of reviews.

The President shall appoint such number of Reviewers as are necessary and appropriate for the good running of a Championship.

### **Article 50 – Removal**

With the approval of the EC, any member of the Committees and any individual appointment may be removed or replaced by the President.

## **Chapter 12 Dispute resolution**

### **Article 51 – Quorum**

Except as otherwise required by the Constitution or the By-Laws or by special rules of procedures adopted by a duly constituted body of the WBF a majority of members of any body of the WBF shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present in any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient for the approval of any matter.

### **Article 52 – Indemnification of Members of the EC and Officers**

The WBF shall indemnify any person made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that he, or the executor or administrator of his estate, is or was a member of any EC or any officer of the WBF or served another corporation of any type or kind, domestic or foreign, or any partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, in any capacity at the request of the WBF, to the extent permitted by law. The WBF may purchase and maintain indemnity insurance to the extent permitted by law.





## Article 53 – Notices & Waiver

### **53.1 Notices.**

Whenever the provisions of the Constitution or these By-Laws require notice to be given to any member of the EC or Delegate to the Congress or Officer, they shall not be construed to mean personal notice; such notice may be given in writing and transmitted by air mail post paid or electronic mail to the address as shown on the WBF records and the time when same is transmitted shall be the time of giving such notice.

### **53.2 Waiver.**

A waiver of any notice in writing signed by an EC member or Delegate, or Officer, whether before or after the time stated in said waiver for holding a meeting, shall be deemed equivalent to a notice required to be given to any such EC member, Delegate, or Officer.

## Article 54 – Amendments

Alterations, amendments or repeal of the By-Laws may be made in accordance with Article 38 of the Statutes.

## Article 55 - 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 By-Laws of the World Bridge Federation, approved by the Executive Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018, endorsed by the Congress on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and adopted by the Executive on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and in effect according to Article 38 of the Statutes from that date.***

***Articles 29, 30 and 31 amended by the Executive Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and in effect according to Article 38 of the Statutes from that date.***

***Articles 43 and 48.4 amended by the Executive Council on 31 March 2022 and in effect according to Article 38 of the Statutes from that date***

**Gianarrigo Rona, President**

**David R Harris, General Counsel**