

MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
THE BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA

I. **TITLE:** The organisation shall be called “The Bridge Federation of India” - herein after referred to as “The Federation”.

II. **JURISDICTION:** The jurisdiction of the Federation shall extend to and include territories constituting the Union of India.

III. **REGISTERED OFFICE:** (a) The Registered Office of the Federation shall be situated at 18, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

(b) The administrative office of the Federation will be at the convenience of the President / Secretary. The administrative office may be shifted at the time when the new office bearers take over, after election or expiry of the current committee's term.

IV. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** The Official Language of the Federation shall be English or such other language as may be formally adopted by the Council hereafter.

V. **COUNCIL:** The word “Council” appearing in this Memorandum shall carry the same import and meaning as in the Rules and Regulations and Articles of Association of the Federation.

VI. **OBJECTS:** The Federation shall have all or any of the following objects:-

1. To promote and develop the game of Bridge in India.
2. To affiliate and continue to remain affiliated to the World Bridge Federation and also to the zonal body constituted under the World Bridge Federation Regulations.
3. To nominate or appoint representatives on the World Bridge Federation and any international, zonal or statutory body under it.
4. To seek recognition by the Indian Olympic Association and follow the Olympic Regulations.
5. To nominate members to Indian Olympic Association.
6. To organize and control the game of Bridge in India particularly with reference to the rules and regulations for the conduct of the game.
7. To promote the formation of new State, Union territory and District level organizations in unaffiliated States, and to affiliate them as well as organizations having an all - India character to the Federation in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Federation.
8. To co-ordinate Inter-State activities in respect of the game of Bridge including holding of Inter-State and Zonal tournaments and arranging Inter-Organizational and National Championships.
9. To arrange, conduct and manage National, International Bridge Championships, matches, and tournaments in any part of India and to assist and to collaborate in the conduct and management of International and Zonal Championships, matches, and tournaments in any part of the World.

10. To select teams and players to represent India and to promote, control, and finance visits abroad by such teams and players.
11. To promote, control, and if necessary, to finance the visits to India of foreign teams and players.
12. To adopt, publish, and maintain laws relating to the game as adopted or sanctioned by the World Bridge Federation and make additions or alterations thereto if and when necessary, and to make Rules and Regulations for the purpose of the Federation.
13. To maintain or cause to be maintained a Register of players and prescribe conditions and fees for registration of such players with the Federation, Zonal body and World Bridge Federation.
14. To make rules and bye-laws for the appointment of Tournament Directors under various classifications and categories.
15. To collect funds for the purpose of the Federation and to use such funds in such manner as may be considered desirable for the promotion of the objects of the Federation.
16. To sell, mortgage, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with any part of the property of the Federation for the benefit of the Federation.
17. To borrow monies and raise funds or secure the payment of monies in such manner and on such terms as may be deemed expedient, and to purchase, redeem, settle and pay of any debts duly incurred.
18. To undertake and to execute any trust, the undertaking and execution whereof may seem desirable.
19. To obtain and accept donations and grants from Governments and Statutory Bodies, bequests, gifts and trusts from any person or body corporate or otherwise and to give prizes, donations, bequests and monetary assistance in furtherance or maintenance of any of the objects of the Federation. Grants from Govt. of India shall solely belong to the Federation.
20. To acquire by all lawful means movable and immovable property and to apply both the capital and the income there from and the proceeds of the sale or mortgage thereof for and of the objects of the Federation.
21. To start or to sanction and / or subscribe to funds, or to stage a match or tournament, for the benefit of players or persons who may have rendered service to the game of Bridge, or for their families, or to donate to a national sporting cause or Institution.
22. To establish and maintain a Library of books, journals, magazines and periodicals relating to sports in general and the game of Bridge in particular.
23. To maintain the official website of the Federation and to subsidise a Journal or a magazine devoted to the game of Bridge.
24. To recognize and / or subsidise such institutions as having objects similar to those of the Bridge Federation of India, and generally to do all such other acts and things as may seem to the Federation to be convenient, incidental, and / or conducive to the attaining of or carrying on of the objects of the Federation.

VII. FUNDS : The income, funds and property of the Federation shall be solely applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Federation as set forth above, and specifically to aid and assist financially or otherwise any Bridge projects, to promote, advance and develop the game of Bridge and generally to do all such acts and things to promote the cause of the game of Bridge, AND no portion of the income, funds and property of the Federation shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any person by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise. However, provided nothing herein shall restrict the powers of the Federation under the objects of the same to pay in good faith any allowance, compensation, remuneration or any other sum to any Office-bearer, Member, Directors, Agent or Representative and other person or persons in return for any services rendered or to be rendered to the Federation.

VIII. REGISTRATION: The Federation shall be registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 or any statutory law in force at the time.

IX. ALTERATION, EXTENSION OR ABRIDGEMENT OF PURPOSES : Whenever it shall appear to the Executive Committee of the Federation that it is advisable to alter, extend or abridge the Federation's objects or for other purposes within the meaning of the Societies Registration Act, or to amalgamate the Federation, either wholly or partially with any other society, the Committee may submit the proposition to the Council in a written or printed report and may convene a special general meeting for the consideration thereof according to the rules and regulations of the Federation, but no such proposition shall be carried into effect unless such report shall have been delivered by email or sent by post to every member of the Federation ten days previous to the special general meeting convened by the Committee for the consideration thereof, nor unless such proposition shall have been agreed to by the votes of three-fifths of the Council members delivered in person or by proxy, and confirmed by the votes of the three-fifths of the Council members present at a second special general meeting convened by the Executive Committee at an interval of one month after the former meeting.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF
THE BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA

I. INTERPRETATION:

Every reference in these Rules to a singular shall include the plural and words denoting masculine gender shall include the feminine gender, unless there is something in the subject or context repugnant or inconsistent therewith. Marginal notes and / or titles shall not affect the construction of any rule howsoever.

- (1) "State" shall mean any territory described as such in the Constitution of India.
- (2) "The Federation" shall mean The Bridge Federation of India. (Abbreviated BFI)
- (3) "The Societies Act" shall mean the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and statutory modifications thereof.
- (4) "Union Territory" shall mean any territory described as such in the Constitution of India.
- (5) "Year" shall mean, Official year commencing from the 1st day of April in one calendar year to the 31st day of March in the succeeding calendar year.
- (6) "Rules" shall mean the Rules and Regulations of the Federation in force from time to time.
- (7) "Zone" shall mean the area in which the affiliated organizations are grouped from time to time.
- (8) "Championship" shall mean any competition or contest recognized and / or sanctioned by the Federation as such.
- (9) "Open Tournament" shall mean a competition, match, contest, tournament or Championship open to a registered or unregistered player, as may be prescribed by the Federation from time to time. "All India Tournament" shall mean any competition or contest recognized and sanctioned by the Federation as such and is open to at least 50% of the affiliated States / Union Territory Associations and satisfying the prescribed conditions by the Federation.
- (10) "Player" shall include a Bridge player, who is registered or un-registered with the Federation or its constituent associations.
- (11) "Registration Fee" shall mean the prescribed fee payable by a player to the Federation whether it be for payment to the World Bridge Federation or to the Zonal body for the period specified.
- (12) "Registered Player" shall mean a player duly registered with the Federation directly or through a Member Association or Organization and whose name is borne on the Register of players.

(13) "Membership Fee" shall mean the prescribed fee payable by a player to the Federation either directly or through a member association or an organization under the MP scheme and whose name is borne on the rolls of the Master Point plan.

(14) "Member" shall mean a State association, Union territory or an All India Sports Controlling body affiliated to the Federation.

(15) "Council" shall mean and include the Executive Committee members and the duly nominated representatives of the members of the Federation.

(16) "Game" shall mean the game of Bridge in its various forms.

(17) "Executive Committee" shall mean the Office bearers of the Federation and the Chairmen of the Technical Development Committee & National Laws Commission

(18) i) Ordinary Member :

a) A State or Union Territory Association having bridge activities.

ii) Associate Member:

a) A Central Sports Controlling Body of a Central Government organisation of an All India Character having bridge as one of the recognized sports.

(19) "Office bearers" shall mean the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Joint Secretaries for the time being to the Federation.

(20) "President" shall mean the President of the Federation and the Chairman of the Council duly elected in the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

(21) "Representative" shall mean the duly nominated representative of a Member.

(22) "Secretary" shall mean the Honorary General Secretary of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

(23) "Treasurer" shall mean the Honorary Treasurer of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting.

(24) "Vice-Presidents" shall mean any one of the Vice-Presidents of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting.

(25) "Joint Secretary" shall mean any one of the Honorary Joint Secretaries of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General meeting.

II. FORCE OF RULES:

Every Member of the Federation including a member of an affiliated organisation or an affiliated District Association and every player participating in any tournament or match under the auspices of the Federation shall be bound to conform to the Rules and Regulations in force from time to time.

III. NAME AND STYLE OF A MEMBER ORGANISATION:

While describing the State or Union Territory by its nomenclature, no organisation shall have the word 'India' or 'Indian' attached to its name.

IV. MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION WILL BE OPEN TO:

(a) Ordinary Member: A State or Union Territory Association having registered players and bridge activities;

(b) Associate Member: A Central Sports Controlling Body of a Central Government and semi-government and public sector organization of Government of India of an All India Character having registered players and bridge activities;

© Corporate Member: A company with All India character and having registered bridge players and bridge activities;:

(i) That the Association or Organization or Industrial organization which has a legally constituted sports body registered under societies' Act and having its own sports activities.

(ii) That it should hold an Annual Championship of its own.

(d) In all cases of acceptance or rejection of application for Membership shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee provided that in case of rejection, the grounds of rejection are mentioned and submitted to the Council for approval in the next General Meeting. The Council may admit such an applicant by simple majority of votes.

(e) It shall be an explicit condition of the membership that all disputes arising within the Federation shall be settled under the Arbitration Act, 1940.

V. OFFICIAL YEAR:

The Official year of the Federation shall be from the 1st day of April, in one calendar year to the 31st day of March in the succeeding calendar year.

VI. ADMISSION FEE AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

(a) All Members shall upon application for membership be required to pay an admission fee as may be prescribed by the Federation from time to time.

(b) i) A Member shall pay to the Federation an annual subscription of the prescribed amount within 30 days of the receipt of the notice or by 31st July, whichever is earlier. Such subscription shall be calculated as the subscription for the official year or part thereof for which the same is due.

ii) No representative of a Member will have the right to attend and vote at any meeting of the Council or Executive Committee or any other Committee of the Federation unless the subscription for the official year and other dues if any have been paid as required.

iii) Any member who has failed or neglected to pay any amount due to the Federation either by way of subscription, surcharge or amount due otherwise, may be given notice in writing calling upon the Member to pay such amount within 30 days of the date of notice. If, before the expiry of the period of notice, such defaulting Member fails or neglects to pay the amount due, such Member shall forth - with cease to be a member of the Federation. The Executive Committee or a Constituted Attorney of the Federation will have the right to sue and recover the amount due, including court charges and expenses from such defaulting Member.

iv) If a defaulting Member pays all the dues and the prescribed re-admission fee, he may be re-admitted as a Member at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A re-admitted

Member shall pay any subscription falling due in the interval as if such Member continued to be a member during such interval.

VII. No member shall adopt any Rule or Regulation which is inconsistent with or contrary to the Memorandum and Articles of Association or the Rules & Regulations of the Federation from time to time in force and a Member shall be bound to alter, modify and / or delete any portion or part of its Constitution, Rules and Regulations and Bye-Laws as may be required by the Federation at any time. All affiliated Members shall implement a directive by the Federation within the stipulated date.

VIII. RESIGNATION:

A member desiring to resign membership of the Federation shall give a written intimation thereof to the Honorary General Secretary and the Executive Committee shall accept the same from the date of resignation provided no amount is due from the Member so resigning.

IX. EXPULSION:

If a Member refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of the Rules and Regulations of the Federation or is guilty of misconduct such as the Executive Committee considers likely to endanger the harmony, or to adversely affect the aims and objects of the Federation, such a Member shall be liable to expulsion by a resolution of the Council at the instance of the Executive Committee, provided that not less than 2/3rds of the Members present vote in favour of the said resolution and approved also, that at least 14 days before the meeting at which such resolution is to be considered, the Member has had the notice thereof and of the resolution as framed by the Executive Committee for its expulsion, and that the Member has, at such meeting and before the passing of such resolution, had an opportunity of giving orally and or in writing any explanation or defence he may think fit. The Executive Committee shall give or post to the Member by registered post a letter confirming the adoption of such a resolution. On the passing of the resolution, the Member shall forth with cease to be a member of the Federation and shall not have any claim whatsoever against the same. No appeal shall lie from the decision of the Federation. It will be in the power of the Executive Committee to exclude such Member from the Federation till such resolution has been passed or rejected by the Council.

X. RE-ADMISSION OF EXPELLED MEMBER:

A member expelled under Rule IX may be readmitted by the Council in its meeting if a two thirds majority of those present vote for such re-admission and provided also that the cause of such expulsion has been removed to the satisfaction of the Council and all arrears or dues at the time of expulsion are paid in full by such Member, along with the re-admission fee as prescribed.

XI. COUNCIL:

The supreme authority of the Federation shall rest in the Council consisting of the representatives of Members, and the Executive Committee for the time being and the immediate past President of the Federation. Members may nominate representatives to the Council as below.

A. Ordinary Members:

- a) Membership upto 300 - 1 representative;
- b) - do - 301 to 600 - 2 representatives;
- c) - do - 601 and above - 3 representatives;
- d) Associate Members/Corporate Members Nil

XII. The Council shall have jurisdiction and control over a player within the territorial jurisdiction of a Member and any person playing bridge under the aegis of Member and / or submitting to the jurisdiction of a Member shall be deemed ipsofacto to submit to the jurisdiction of the Federation.

XIII. OFFICE BEARERS:

(a) Nominations for Office Bearers shall be submitted by a Member in the prescribed form ten clear days before the Annual General Meeting at which such office-bearers are to be elected. No person shall be nominated as Office-Bearer if he is disqualified to hold office as a Director under the Indian Companies Act. The election for Office Bearers shall be held once in two years.

(b) The following shall be the Office-Bearers of the Federation.

1. President
2. 6 Vice-Presidents
3. Honorary General Secretary
4. Honorary Treasurer
5. 2 Honorary Joint Secretaries

(c) "Office-Bearers" shall hold office in accordance with the stipulations by the Council.

(d) The President Emeritus, if any, shall not be an office bearer but whenever present shall preside over social functions. The social functions of the Federation shall include the inaugural and closing ceremonies at the time of Winter & Summer National Championships.

XIV. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS:

1. **THE PRESIDENT:** The President shall be elected by the Council, not necessarily from among its members and subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The President may hold the office for a maximum period of twelve years with or without break. He shall cease to hold the post on attaining the age of seventy years. He shall have to convene and shall preside if present, over all the meetings of the Council and the Executive and of any Committee of which he is a Member. In case of equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote. If in the opinion of the President, any emergency has arisen which requires immediate action to be taken, he shall have the authority to take such action as he deems necessary and shall report the same at the next meeting of the Council or the Executive Committee whichever in the ordinary course would have dealt with the matter of importance by circulation to Members of the Executive Committee and act on that basis.

The President shall cause Rules to be framed regarding the following and place the same at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

(i) Travel rules relating to the Office Bearers and members of the Executive Committee.

(ii) Rules relating to various expenditures by different office bearers relating to telephone bills, postage, stationery and other office expenses.

(iii) The President is empowered to sanction expenditure unto 10% over the annual budget and get it ratified at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The President shall exercise overall supervision to enforce financial control within the overall annual budget.

The President will undertake measures to improve the financial health of the Federation. He will also try to raise resources through various Sponsored Bridge events.

2. **VICE-PRESIDENTS:** 6 Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from among its members. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside over the meetings and shall exercise all the powers to the President. The President shall nominate one of the Vice-Presidents as a Senior Vice-President to function as the President in the case of the President's absence from the country, or for any other reason.

The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible to popularize the game particularly in their respective regions and cause to improve the overall membership of the Federation.

One of the Vice-Presidents shall be the Chairman of the finance committee. The Vice-President will undertake measures to improve the finances of the Federation. One of the Vice-Presidents shall be the Chairman of the Master-Point Committee and he shall co-ordinate the Master Point activity.

The Vice-Presidents in addition to their active participation in popularizing the game shall be responsible to augment the funds of the Federation.

3. **HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY:** The Honorary General Secretary shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from its members subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The Honorary General Secretary may serve a maximum two terms of two years each after which a maximum cooling period of two years will apply to seek fresh election. He shall cease to hold the post on attaining the Age of 70 years. He shall be the Secretary of the Council and the Executive Committee. Unless otherwise directed, the Secretary shall:

(i) Keep and maintain the minutes of the Annual General and Special General Meetings of the Council, Meetings of the Executive Committee, Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by the Council and the Executive Committee in proper form and shall cause them to be correctly recorded and confirmed.

(ii) Carry on all correspondence in the name of the Federation, Council and the Executive Committee.

(iii) Be in charge of all correspondence and records of the Federation, and such properties, articles and things as may be entrusted to his care.

(iv) Upon the direction or with the prior concurrence of the President, convene the Annual General Meetings, the Special General Meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee, and of such other Committees as the President may direct.

(v) Circulate to all members of the Council and Executive Committee a statement of accounts prepared by the Hon. Treasurer.

(vi) Will have no powers to spend money on behalf of the Federation except as provided in the annual budget to him or sanctioned by the President in writing in advance.

(vii) Exercise general supervision over all matters relating to the Federation in consultation with the President.

4. **HONORARY JOINT SECRETARIES:** Two Honorary Joint Secretaries shall be elected by the Council not necessary from its members. The Joint Secretaries shall carry out the work allotted to them by the Secretary and the President whom they shall give their co-operation in the discharge of their duties and to carry out the objects of the Federation. In the absence of the Secretary or on his inability to function, one of the Joint Secretaries may be nominated as Honorary General Secretary by the President. He shall also act as ex-officio Secretary of any Committee to which he is attached as such. Each of the Joint Secretaries will be assigned a specific responsibility which includes General, Technical, Master Points, Press & Publicity, Coaching & Training.

5. **HONORARY TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from among its members subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The Honorary Treasurer may serve a maximum two terms of two years each after which a minimum cooling period of two years will apply to seek fresh election. He shall cease to hold the post on attaining the Age of 70 years. He shall exercise general supervision over the funds of the Federation and shall advise the Council as regards its financial policy. He shall receive all subscriptions, donations and other monies and keep a regular account of receipts and disbursements. He shall be responsible for all sums received by the Federation from whatever source derived and shall issue receipts for the same on the official form. He shall prepare invoices for Affiliation and player's registration fees payable by the affiliated associations by end of May each year and collect the same. He shall submit the details of receipts and payments every quarterly to the Secretary / President and issue notices for the collection of dues from the member associations. He shall also submit to the Council at its General Meeting a statement of Income & Expenditure account, and Audited balance sheet. The Treasurer shall also prepare and recommend an annual budget valid for the concerned financial year starting April 1st and ending 31st March of the next calendar year for the approval of the Executive Committee at the time of its next meeting.

XV. The Bankers to the Federation shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and may be changed from time to time as the Executive Committee may deem expedient. The account of the Federation shall be jointly (any two) operated by the President, General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

XVI. Whenever found expedient or essential, the Council may appoint the President and two other members of the Council as Trustees of the Federation to supervise and protect the properties of the Federation.

XVII. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Council shall ordinarily be held at the time of Winter Nationals or earlier and in any case not later than 31st March following. The Secretary or the President shall give not less than 21 day's notice of the meeting to all Members and shall circulate with the notice a copy of the agenda. The Business transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall include the following.

- (i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the audited balance sheet and the Income and Expenditure account as presented by the Honorary Treasurer.
- (iii) To elect the office bearers once in two years.

- (iv) to constitute a Technical and Development Committee, the National Laws Commission and any other Committee, as may be considered desirable, in order to carry out the objects of the Federation
- (v) to consider any recommendation of the Executive Committee, and any motion, notice whereof is given to the Honorary General Secretary by any Member or Office-bearer, ten clear days before the date of the meeting.
- (vi) to appoint auditors.
- (vii) to consider any other matter introduced with the Chairman's permission.

XVIII. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

(i) A special general meeting of the Council may be called at any time by a resolution of the Council or of the Executive Committee or on a requisition in writing by at least one fourth of the Members or at the discretion of the President, to consider such matters as may be mentioned in the resolution or requisition or indicated in writing by the President. The Secretary shall give not less than 21 days clear notice of such meeting to all members and shall also circulate with the notice a copy of the agenda.

(ii) In the case of an emergency, the President in his discretion may convene a meeting at a shorter notice but of not less than 10 days.

(iii) On receipt of the intimation of a special meeting of the Council, Members may propose any further matter including an amendment of, or addition to and deletion from the Memorandum and Articles and Rules and Regulations of the Federation. Such proposal along with an explanatory note shall have been posted to the Honorary General Secretary so as to reach him not later than 14 clear days before the meeting. On receipt of such proposal, the Secretary shall post to the Members a copy of the proposal, not less than 10 days before the meeting.

(iv) In the event of the Secretary failing to convene a Special General Meeting, within 30 days of the receipt of a requisition the requisitionists may themselves convene a meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition at such place and time as may be determined by them by giving the requisite notice as per these rules.

XIX. (a) VOTING:

(i) Votes may be taken either by show of hands or by ballot as may be decided by the President. All matters capable of being so decided shall be decided by a majority vote, provided that no amendment or addition to and deletion from the Memorandum and Articles shall be adopted unless it is carried by a majority of total membership of the Federation or by a majority of not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting.

(ii) The record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting and the Special General Meeting shall after the approval of the Chairman of the Meeting, be circulated within one month of the meeting to the members of the Council and then entered in the Minute Book. The Minutes shall be duly confirmed after correction, if any, and signed by the Chairman at the next General meeting.

(iii) Except for want of quorum, no meeting of the Council once summoned shall be postponed or cancelled. If at any meeting of the Council the meeting is postponed for want of quorum the meeting shall stand adjourned to the succeeding day at the same time and place and shall continue until the agenda is completed. No quorum shall be necessary for an adjourned meeting;

(iv) Accidental omission to give notice of an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting or Meetings of the Committees to any member entitled to attend, or the non-receipt of the notice by him, shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meetings unless the members present decide otherwise.

(v) Only State affiliated Association representatives / members should be allowed to vote.

(vi) The Associate Members (hereinbefore referred as Central Sports Controlling Bodies) shall not be eligible to vote.

(vii) EC will decide the number of votes that each association is entitled depending upon the minimum / maximum registered players in the association.

(viii) Further it is suggested that two more individuals who are Technical Committee and Laws Committee Chairman should be allowed to vote in AGM.

(ix) Subject to the Rules mentioned above, at the Annual General Meeting, one vote to each of the representatives vides Rule XI and Executive Committee members will have one vote each. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his own.

(b) QUORUM:

I Executive / Council Meetings – 5 members;

I AGM / SGM / EOGM – 1/3rd of total members;

XX. POLL:

(i) At any General Meeting unless a poll (before the declaration of the result of the show of hands) is demanded by at least five members present and entitled to vote, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has, either on a show of hands or by ballot, been carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence of its having been passed or lost. If a poll is demanded, it shall be taken in such a manner as the Chairman directs.

(ii) In case of any dispute as to the admission or rejection of a vote, the Chairman shall determine the same and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

(iii) The demand for a poll on a matter under consideration shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any other business. No poll shall be demanded on the election of the Chairman of a meeting.

XXI. ATTENDANCE:

It is compulsory on the part of the Office Bearers to attend 2/3rd of the meeting. Further, leave of absence will have to be intimated within a reasonable time before the meeting, exception in extreme circumstances.

Council Members shall be eligible of reimbursement from the Federation for attending Meetings. Three tier AC railway return fares from the home town to the place of meeting in addition a lump sum of Rs. 1500 as incidental expenses. The members will not be eligible for reimbursement for the Summer and Winter National meetings.

DISQUALIFICATION:

If any member, without leave of absence, fails to attend 2/3rd number of meetings of the committee he will be disqualified to be a committee member. Such disqualified member shall be given notice of disqualification, duly passed in the committee meeting and the committee shall be vested with the power of co-opting any other person as the committee member for that post or any other post in the committee and such co-opted person shall hold the office till the next election along with other members.

If any State Association affiliated to the BFI is not functioning properly, for instance elected office bearers absenting themselves in AGM or EC, not conducting tournaments or acting for promotion of Bridge, in such case BFI has got their right to prevent them from voting in AGM after giving them notice.

XXII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, six Vice-Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, two Honorary Joint Secretaries, the Honorary Treasurer, Chairmen of Technical Development Committee and Nationals Laws Commission and immediate past President.

(b) **Powers of Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee shall, save as otherwise provided herein before, have powers:

(i) to carry out the objects of the Federation specified in clause VI of the Memorandum of Association.

(ii) to prohibit any act or practice by a Member which in the opinion of the Committee is detrimental to the interest of the game and to deal with such Member in any manner it may think proper.

(iii) to consider and deal with all questions as to the right of representation at General Meetings.

(iv) to decide question of eligibility of persons nominated or elected as members of the Executive Committee.

(v) to determine penalties to be inflicted on any member or any player for an infringement of the Rules of the game and of the Rules of the Federation.

(vi) to sanction open tournaments and to prohibit the holding of unauthorized championships or contest in the area under its control.

(vii) to appoint one or more of its members to act on the tournament Committee of management of any championship or open tournament held in the area under its jurisdiction.

(viii) to delegate all or any of its powers to a duly appointed Committee or Sub-Committee.

(ix) to enlist the services of any person for any special purpose. Such person need not necessarily be a member of the Executive.

(x) to do all such other things as may be necessary for the general welfare and conduct of the business of the Federation.

XXIII. For the purpose of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, the governing body of the Federation shall be the Executive Committee;

XXIV. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice in a year and oftener if so determined by the President, who shall also determine the manner in which the proceedings are to be conducted.

XXV. A special meeting of the Committee may be convened at any time at a short notice by the President and shall be convened on a requisition to that effect being made in writing by not less than six members of the Committee. Such requisition shall specify the object of the meeting proposed to be called and shall be sent by Registered post to the Secretary.

XXVI. Except for the meeting of the Executive Committee after the election in the Annual General Meeting, fourteen days' clear notice of a meeting together with a copy of the agenda shall be given to the members of the Committee by the Secretary.

XXVII. Unless otherwise determined, five members shall form a quorum of the Executive Committee meeting. The President, or in his absence any one of the 6 Vice-Presidents, shall be the Chairman of the Meeting. In the event of equality of votes on any matter under consideration, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

XXVIII. A resolution numbered and circulated to the members by post, telegraph, or otherwise, on being agreed to and approved in writing with or without amendment, shall be as valid and effective as if it has been passed at an Executive Committee Meeting. Such Resolution shall be ratified at the next meeting of the Committee.

XXIX. The Executive Committee shall have the power and discretion to institute or defend any action or actions at law against the Federation and shall have the further power and discretion to appoint and authorize a member or any other person to be the constituted attorney of the Federation as may be required or considered necessary by the Committee.

XXX. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill in a vacancy amongst the office bearers and of an auditor or auditors whenever such vacancy occurs. Such appointment shall operate till the next Annual General Meeting.

XXXI. The Executive Committee shall have the power and discretion to decide any disputes and difference between members and matters referred to it by a Member. A Member aggrieved by a decision or award of the Committee may within 30 days file an appeal to the Council together with a fee of Rs. 100/- and the Council shall rule upon such appeal.

XXXII. As in the case of the Executive Committee, all Committees and sub-committees will have the authority to lay down the procedure for transaction of business, unless such authority is restricted by the Rules and Regulations of the Federation.

XXXIII. Office-bearers, members of the Council (except when attending the Annual General Meeting) and the Executive Committee, and other Committees required to attend a meeting at any place other than place of residence may be paid such travelling and other allowances as per travelling rules laid down by the Council or by prior permission of the President in writing.

XXXIII. TECHNICAL & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

One of the Honorary Joint Secretaries of the Federation for the time being acting as Ex-officio Secretary and six members elected at the Annual General Meeting as laid down hereafter shall form the Technical and Development Committee of the Federation.

The six members need not be members of the Council and one of them shall be nominated by the President as Chairman of the Committee, having a casting vote in addition to his own.

The Ex-officio Secretary and two members amongst the six longest in office shall retire at every Annual General Meeting but will be eligible for re-election.

A casual vacancy in the Committee may be filled by the Committee itself but such new members shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting and the places filled by election.

The Technical and Development Committee shall recommend ways and means to develop and raise the standard of the game and in particular to have research work done in bidding and play technique and make it available to the Members through its own resources or resources approved by the Federation.

The Technical and Development Committee shall also arrange for coaching and teaching for those interested in learning the game at different levels and for teacher training and certification. It will also prepare a regular coaching scheme for submission to the Government for financial assistance.

The Technical and Development Committee will also work out better methods of scoring and comparing performance. The Committee shall determine and lay down the procedure and methods of selection of players / pairs / teams and prepare a panel of them for representation in International contests, for visiting foreign countries, for participation in tournaments and exhibition matches, and to select the same for playing against foreign visiting teams, and also determine the necessary discipline and the practice procedure for the selected players. The Committee will be authorized to nominate or recommend a panel of playing / non-playing Captains, Coaches, Managers and / or any other Officials connected with such teams.

The Technical and Development Committee will also lay down the procedure for the training, selection and categorization of Directors. It may also lay down qualification and prescribe tests for each category of Directors. The Technical and Development Committee may also advise the BFI about the necessity to modify the existing Master Point Scheme with a view to removing imbalances and to rationalise the Scheme, and to make its working smoother and easier.

All decisions and recommendations of the Technical and Development Committee shall be sent to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee disapproves the recommendation of the Technical and Development Committee, the matter will be put up before the Council in the General Meeting for a decision.

The Council in General meeting shall have powers to consider and alter, modify, delete and add to any recommendations of Technical and Development Committee at the instance of the Executive Committee or at least one-fourth of the total membership of the Federation in current affiliation.

XXXV. NATIONAL LAWS COMMISSION:

The National Laws Commission shall be comprised of eight members, elected at the Annual General Meeting as laid down hereunder. One of the members shall be nominated by the President as Chairman of the Commission having a casting vote in addition to his own.

Two members amongst the eight, longest in office shall retire at every Annual General Meeting but will be eligible for re-election.

A casual vacancy in the Commission may be filled by the Commission itself but the new member shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting and the place filled by election. The National

Laws Commission shall maintain the laws of the game as laid down by the World Bridge Federation and other recognized International Organizations, together with any additions or alterations made thereto by the Federation. It shall settle all disputes relating to laws and ethics of the game between participants either in any District, State, Zonal or National Championship or any International Matches that are staged in India. The Commission shall take cognizance only of those cases where reference is made to it by the President or the Council. The Laws Commission will also examine the propriety of bidding and **play conventions vis-à-vis the World Bridge Federation referred to it by the Executive or the Technical and Development Committee.** It shall also interpret the rules and its finding shall be final.

XXXVI. Any member of the Technical and Development Committee or the National Laws Commission, may be substituted at any time by a specific resolution of the Executive Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members.

XXXVII. INDEMNITY:

Every office-bearer and member of the Committee or employee of the Federation, permanent or temporary, acting for the Federation shall have the right of indemnity and it shall be the responsibility of the Committee to pay out of the Federation all costs, expenses and losses incurred by such person. The Committee shall also be liable by reason of any contract entered into act or thing done by him in the discharge of his duties.

XXXVIII. CODE OF DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, suspend or otherwise discipline a player for any of the following reasons:

- (i) In case of any impropriety / cheating / fraud committed by the said player.
 - (ii) In case of misbehaviour with officials or fellow contestants during various bridge competitions or contests or during meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, or any other bridge related forum.
- 1) The Executive Committee shall appoint a "Disciplinary Committee" which shall consist of 5 members.
 - 2) Complaints against a player for misconduct shall be referred to the "Disciplinary Committee" unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.
 - 3) The Disciplinary Committee shall establish adhoc procedures for the hearing of any charges, keeping in mind the convenience of the parties and the right to be heard.
 - 4) No action shall be taken by the Executive Committee or the Disciplinary Committee without first.
 - (a) Notifying the accused player of the nature of the charges against him.
 - (b) Allowing sufficient time for the accused to answer such charges, whether in person, by representative or by affidavit.
 - 5) The "Disciplinary Committee" shall investigate the complaints and in connection therewith may adjudge after notice and an opportunity to be heard that the player be reprimanded, censured, suspended, expelled or any combination of the proceeding or otherwise be disciplined as a player. No suspension or expulsion so adjudged by the Disciplinary Committee shall become effective.

XXXIX. FINANCE:

The funds of the Federation shall be under the control of the Executive Committee which will have the power to spend such sums of money as they deem proper for carrying out the aims and objects of the Federation.

XL. INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

(i) Any point not covered by these rules, shall be decided in the light of the Rule or Rules most nearly applicable, and in accordance with the general spirit of the said Rules.

(ii) At any meeting, the Chairman shall have the right to interpret the Rules and decide all points of order or procedure, and his decision thereof shall be final and binding.

XLI. ALTERATION OF RULES & REGULATIONS:

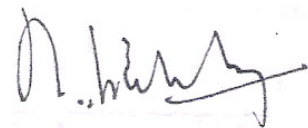
The Federation may from time to time alter all or any of these rules and regulations and make new rules and regulations to the exclusion of or in addition to all or any of the regulation for the time being of the Federation and the rules and regulations so made and for the time being in force shall be deemed to be the rules and regulations of the Federation of the same validity as if they had been originally contained in these presents and shall be subject in like manner to be altered modified subsequently by an appropriate special resolution carried out by at least two-third majority in any General Meeting.

XLII. ASSETS & LIABILITIES:

All assets and liabilities of the Federation prior to registration shall stand vested in the Federation with effect from the date of registration.

XLIII. DISSOLUTION OR WINDING UP:

The Federation shall not be dissolved or voluntarily wound-up unless such dissolution or winding-up is decided upon by a resolution adopted at a General Meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose by majority of 3/4th of the members present and voting. In case of dissolution or winding-up, if there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any assets and / or property whatsoever, the said assets and property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members, but it shall be handed over to a society having similar objects to be determined by votes of not less than 3/5th of members.



N R KIRUBAKARA MOORTHY

President

December 2010