

THE PACIFIC ASIA BRIDGE FEDERATION CONSTITUTION

(Revised and Approved on July 26, 1992 at the FEBF Council Meeting in Hong Kong)

(Federation name changed in 1995 in Perth)

(2nd Revision approved on August 28, 2003 at the PABF Delegates' Meeting in Manila)

ARTICLE 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation (PABF), hereinafter called the Federation. It shall be a non-profit organization: its resources shall be applied exclusively in furtherance of its beneficent purpose and no part of its resources or earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private person.

ARTICLE 2. Objects

The objects of the Federation shall be:

- a) to promote, foster and promulgate the game of contract bridge throughout the regions under its jurisdiction, which may extend beyond the geographical area defined as Zone 6 by the World Bridge Federation (WBF).
- b) to advise members in general on the game of bridge under competitive conditions.
- c) to foster friendly relations between members affiliated to the Federation.
- d) to co-operate with the WBF.
- e) to arrange zonal competition amongst members and to select the champions to represent Zone 6 of WBF in the WBF Tournaments.
- f) to encourage members to participate in international competitions.

ARTICLE 3. The Council

The government of the Federation shall be vested in the Council. Representatives on the Council shall consist of two delegates from each ordinary member, and one delegate from each associate member, together with the Vice-President and the Executive Officers comprising the President, the Executive Vice-President, WBF Representative, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Each representative shall have one vote on the Council.

ARTICLE 4. Office

The Office of the Federation shall be in the city of the residence of the Secretary who shall be in charge thereof.

ARTICLE 5. Language

The official language of the Federation shall be English.

ARTICLE 6. Membership

6.1 Ordinary Members

A contract bridge organization operating within any independent or substantially self-governing country or territory or part of a territory within the regions falling under the jurisdictions of the Federation, and which is also recognized by the WBF as an NCBO, may apply for ordinary membership of the Federation and be elected thereto as such by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council, provided that any NCBO, to be eligible to apply for ordinary membership, shall:

- a) have an appropriate register of members,
- b) be open to all citizens or residents of the particular independent or

- substantially self-governing country or territory or part of a territory, subject only to meeting the requirements of such NCBO,
- c) undertake to comply with the Constitution of the Federation,
 - d) uphold an image of integrity and enforce a standard of ethics acceptable to the Federation,
 - e) comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation governing its bridge competitions.
 - f) play bridge according to the current International Codes and
 - g) agree to play bridge in competitions organized by the Federation against all participants invited to such competitions.

6.2 Associate Members

A contract bridge organization operating within any independent or substantially self-governing country or territory or part of a territory located within the regions falling under the jurisdictions of the Federation, but which is not recognized by the WBF as an NCBO, may apply for associate membership of the Federation and be elected as such by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council, provided that any such contract bridge organization to be eligible to apply for associate membership, shall fulfill the same qualifications as applicable to an NCBO, as well as such additional qualifications as the Council may deem fit to impose in each particular case.

6.3 Resignation

Any member of the Federation not in arrears of dues or in breach of its membership obligations may resign in good standing.

6.4 Suspension

- a) A member may be suspended from membership if it fails to pay its annual dues or charges for a period of two full years, or
- b) A member may be suspended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Council's full voting capacity, either for an indefinite period or for any defined period, if the Council concludes, in its sole discretion, that the member is not conforming or has not conformed with requirements for eligibility for membership in the Federation or is bringing disrepute upon the Federation or its bridge competitions. The decision of the Council in this respect shall be final.

6.5 Reinstatement

Any member suspended pursuant to Article 6.4 may be reinstated by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council, and the Council may, if it deems appropriate, impose pre-conditions for reinstatement.

ARTICLE 7. The Council

7.1 Powers

The Council shall exercise full executive and administrative power over the affairs of the Federation consistent with the Constitution which may include the appointment of committees to carry out work on behalf of the Council.

7.2 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Council shall be held in conjunction with the Federation Championships or Congress. Where an ordinary member is represented by only one delegate, such delegate shall have two votes. In case a member is unable to send a delegate to a Council meeting it may submit a proxy to the President indicating which delegate should vote on its behalf.

7.3 Quorum

At a Council meeting, half the full member of the Council representatives as defined in Article 3 if present shall be a quorum.

7.4 Action without meeting

In lieu of a meeting, any matter within the jurisdiction of the Council may be acted on by Postal Ballot. In such case, at least four week's notice setting forth the matter to be acted on shall be given to each member of the Council.

ARTICLE 8. The Executive Officers

8.1 Term

The term of the Executive Officers shall be four championship periods. A championship period is defined as the period starting the day after the end of a Federation Championship, or Congress and ending at the last day of the next Championship, or Congress, provided that Championships or Congresses are held annually. Each candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by representatives on the Council. Election of such Officers shall be as agreed at the meeting.

The Executive Officers shall together represent the Executive of the Federation.

8.2 President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Federation. He/She shall preside at all meetings of the Council, have general supervision of the affairs of the Federation, and sign or countersign all certificates. He/She shall make reports to the Council and perform all such other duties as are incidental to the office or are properly required of him/her by the Executive.

8.3 Executive Vice-Presidents

The 1st Executive Vice President shall be responsible for the development of bridge and shall exercise the functions of the President during his/her absence.

The 2nd Executive Vice President shall be responsible for seeking sponsors and funds for PABF activities.

Both Executive Vice Presidents shall have such powers and discharge such duties as may be assigned by the Executives.

8.4 Secretary

The Secretary shall manage the affairs of the Federation and perform all such duties as may be assigned/delegated to him by the Executive and/or the President. The Secretary shall issue notices for all meetings and have charge of the minute books and all other records of the Federation.

8.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all monies and securities of the Federation and keep regular books of account. He/She shall disburse the funds of

the Federation as may be authorized by the President. He/She shall render audited accounts covering each championship period. He/She shall perform all duties incidental to his/her office or properly required of him/her by the Executive.

8.6 Vice-President

The Vice-President shall hold office for one championship period and shall be the Chairman of the member designated by the Council to hold the Federation Championships or Congress for that year.

8.7 Vacancies

Vacancies in any office arising from any cause may be filled in such manner as the Executive may deem necessary or expedient and shall be subject to confirmation at the first subsequent Council meeting.

8.8 Temporary Officers

The President may appoint such temporary Officers and agents, as he/she may deem necessary or expedient. Such temporary Officers shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be determined from time to time by the President.

8.9 WBF Representative

The WBF Representative shall be the alternate to the President of the PABF (i.e. Zone 6 of WBF) to attend all WBF Executive Council Meetings. As an alternate, the WBF Representative shall have such powers, and discharge such duties as may be assigned by the Executive Council of Zone 6.

ARTICLE 9. Finances

9.1 Dues and Fees

The amount and time for payment of all dues, fees and other charges shall be fixed and determined by the Council from time to time.

9.2 Funds

The money of the Federation shall be deposited in the name of the Federation in such banks or Trust Company or Trust Companies as the Council shall designate and shall be drawn out only by check signed by a person designated by resolution of the Council.

ARTICLE 10. Amendments of Constitution

Any proposal to amend the Constitution may be put to a meeting of the Council, provided that written notice thereof shall have been sent to the Secretary at least two calendar months before the meeting. On receipt of such notice, the Secretary shall forthwith circulate it to all members. Such amendments may be adopted by the Council if passed by no less than a two-thirds vote of the meeting.

ARTICLE 11. Patrons

The Federation may by unanimous vote grant the title of Patron to any person in recognition of his office or distinguished service rendered to the Federation. There shall not be more than three Patrons of the Federation.

ARTICLE 12. Bye-Laws

The Council may adopt such bye-laws as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its affairs (including the promulgation of rules to regulate the convening of the Federation Championships) if passed by no less than a two-third vote of a Council Meeting.