Bridge Federation of India (BFI)

National Ranking and Selection Policy 2026–27

A. Purpose

This policy is the **primary and binding document** governing the selection of Indian teams for participation in international bridge championships under the banner of India, in accordance with the guidelines of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) recommendations regarding the selection of sportspersons representing India at international events.

Its objectives are to establish clear and transparent guidelines for:

- Selection of Indian teams based on pair evaluations and coaching camps.
- Transparent allocation of ranking points for performances in national and international events.
- Identification and invitation of potential candidates in each category for coaching camps.

B. Applicability

This policy applies to the following BFI-recognized international events:

1. **BFAME Championships** – odd-numbered years (held once in 4 years) (SAI-supported).
2. **World Bridge Teams Championships** – odd-numbered years - Country representation approved by BFI
3. **World Bridge Games** – held in even numbered years - Country representation
4. **World Open Series** – If the team/pair is sent by BFI – Country representation.
5. **Asia Pacific Bridge Federation (APBF) Championships** – Invitation by Zone VI to ZONE IV (if BFI is invited and team is supported by SAI).
6. **Asian Games** – once every four years.
7. **Asia Cup** – once every four years.
8. **Commonwealth Bridge Championship – once every four years (If supported by SAI)**

Exception: For invitation-based international events **not supported by SAI**, this policy does not apply. In such cases, BFI may adopt separate selection methods, including offline/online trials or direct nomination.

C. Ranking Points Events

- Ranking points will be considered for events held between one selection cycle and the next, i.e. from **1 April to 31 March** of the following year so as to include all ranking events defined under BFI of each respective cycle.

  Eligibility to Participate in Selection Trials

- **Open, Mixed, Women and Seniors:** A pair must earn ranking points in at least 2 Ranking Events in the current year
  This applies to all categories, irrespective of the total number of events held.

Factorisation Rule
In all National Level-1 ranking events, ranking points will be pro-rated based on the scale given for each category of the event (see Annexure 1).

D. Scope

- Policy applies to **Open/Men, Women, Mixed and Seniors** categories.
- Outstanding **Juniors** may be considered in these categories on recommendation of the Junior Selection Committee.
- **BFI may exempt an Asian Games or WBF Medallist from the new-pair partnership requirement**, provided that the proposed partnership has existed during the **current and preceding year** and the pair has achieved **Top 8 positions together in at least four ranking events** in the **same category** in which they intend to participate. Any such exemption shall be **subject to the approval of the National Coach and the Selection Committee**.
- Separate ranking and selection rules apply for **Juniors/Sub-Juniors** based on performance in Junior Nationals, Camps and BFI Online events held along with coach reports.
- For the purposes of this policy, an "athlete" means a **pair** (for purpose of MYAS/SAI definitions).

E. Performance Evaluation

Key Rules

- Ranking points are awarded to **partnerships only**.
- If a player forms a new partnership, they carry sum of **30% of their highest previous accumulated points respectively**. The new pair's total is averaged to form their starting points. **Such new partnerships should have played at least 3 ranking events in the current year cycle**
- In 5-member teams, only the pair meeting the **minimum quota / maximum boards played** will be eligible.
- For Open event points claimed in Mixed/Women categories:
    - Pair must play **>25%** of eligible rounds → 100% weightage in Mixed/women category
    - Pair playing **exactly 25%** → 50% points.
    - Pair playing **<25%** → No points credited.

Performance Period

- If trials are held **before 30 June** of the respective calendar year.
    - Current year (up to entry deadline) → **100% weightage**.
    - Previous year → **50% weightage**.
- Once points are counted at 100%, they automatically reduce to **50%** in the next cycle

F. Qualification for Selection Trials

- **Open / Men:** Top 12 ranked pairs + 4 next-ranked pairs (self-funded)* = 16 pairs.
- **Mixed:** Top 12 ranked pairs + 4 next-ranked pairs (self-funded)* = 16 pairs.
- **Women:** Top 8 ranked pairs + 4 next-ranked pairs (self-funded)* = 12 pairs.
- **Seniors:** Top 12 ranked pairs + 4 next-ranked pairs (self-funded)* = 16 pairs.

- **Ranking List Cut off:** Limited to **Top 24 pairs per category for Open / Men**, Mixed and Seniors categories & 16 for Women (excluding deceased players).

Self-funded players must be from the **Top 24 pairs** in each of the **Open/Men, Mixed and Seniors** categories and from the **Top 16 pairs in the Women's category**, excluding deceased players once the registrations for top 12 pairs have been received for that category.

Such players will be required to **bear the complete expenses related to their participation in the camp** and will be treated as participating **at no cost to BFI**.

Other Provisions:

Exemption for Asian Games / WBF Medallists

BFI may exempt an Asian Games or WBF medallist from the new-pair partnership requirement, provided that:

1. The proposed partnership has **existed during the current cycle or the preceding year's cycle**; and
2. The pair has achieved **Top 8 positions together in at least four ranking events** in the **same category** in which they intend to participate; and
3. For this purpose, results from **both the current cycle and the preceding year's cycle** may be taken into consideration.
4. This exemption shall be subject to **BFI's approval and verification of the pair's partnership and ranking-event results**.
5. . Any such exemption shall be **subject to the approval of the National Coach and the Selection Committee**.

- **New Partnerships:** If a player forms a new partnership, they carry sum of **30% of their highest previous accumulated points respectively**. The new pair's total is averaged to form their starting points. **Such new partnerships should have played at least 3 ranking events in the current year cycle**

- Players may be barred due to **disciplinary, medical, NADA violations, or misconduct**.

G. Invitation to the National Camp

The above pairs will be invited to the national camp conducted live under SAI guidelines, which will be structured as:
Elimination Stage(s) → Consists of Round Robin format or a suitable Swiss draw and top 8 qualify for Final Stage. In case 12 or less pairs participate in the camp, selection committee may have only 1 stage for such event.

- Final Ranking = **Final VP Score + Ranking Point Carryover**

Final Stage – All events

- Final Ranking = **Final VP Score + Ranking Point Carryover + Camp Performance Carryover at Elimination Stage**

Weightages given for Camp performance:

Stage I – First Round Robin / Elimination Stage

1. **Format:**
   Stage I shall consist of a **Single Round Robin of 11 rounds**, with **14 boards per round**.
2. **Schedule:**
   The Stage I matches shall be played over the designated camp dates as notified by BFI.
3. **Qualification for Stage II:**
   The **Top 8 pairs** at the conclusion of Stage I, determined on the basis of their **combined camp performance and applicable Ranking Point weightage**, shall qualify for Stage II.
4. **Ranking Point Weightage:**
   Ranking Points shall carry a weightage of **1.5 VPs per round** in Stage I.
5. **Ranking Point Carryover Formula:**

   Ranking Point Carryover = 1.5 × n × (RP − RP_min) / (RP_max − RP_min)

Where:

- **n** = Number of matches/rounds to be played in the Round Robin
- **RP** = Ranking Points of the pair
- **RP_max** = Highest Ranking Points among all participants in Stage I
- **RP_min** = Lowest Ranking Points among all participants in Stage I

Stage II – Final Stage

1. **Format:**
   Stage II shall consist of a **Double Round Robin**, with **14 boards per match**.
2. **Qualification:**
   The eight pairs qualifying from Stage I shall participate in the Final Stage.
3. **Schedule:**
   The Final Stage shall be conducted over the designated camp dates as notified by BFI.
4. **Carryover from Stage I:**
   The performance carryover from Stage I shall be awarded to the finalists at **0.5 VPs per round** in the Final Stage.
5. **Ranking Point Weightage:**
   Ranking Points shall carry a weightage of **1 VP per round** in the Final Stage.

Draw for Stage II

The draw for the first round of the Final Stage shall be based on the **overall performance in the camp, including the applicable Ranking Point weightage**, in the following order:

- **Rank 1 vs Rank 8**
- **Rank 2 vs Rank 7**
- **Rank 3 vs Rank 6**
- **Rank 4 vs Rank 5**

Ranking Point Carryover – Stage II

The Ranking Point carryover for the Final Stage shall be calculated as follows:
Ranking Point Carryover = 1.0 × n × (RP − RP_min) / (RP_max − RP_min)
Where:

- **n** = Number of matches/rounds to be played in the Final Stage
- **RP** = Ranking Points of the pair
- **RP_max** = Highest Ranking Points among the finalists
- **RP_min** = Lowest Ranking Points among the finalists

Camp Performance Carryover – Stage II

The Camp Performance carryover shall be calculated as follows:
Camp Performance Carryover = 0.5 × n × (VP − VP_min) / (VP_max − VP_min)
Where:

- **n** = Number of matches/rounds to be played in the Final Stage
- **VP** = VP score of the pair in Stage II, **excluding carryover**
- **VP_max** = Highest Stage II VP score among the finalists, excluding carryover
- **VP_min** = Lowest Stage II VP score among the finalists, excluding carryover

Final Ranking

The final ranking of the pairs shall be determined on the basis of the **total VPs**, calculated as:
Final Score = VPs scored in Stage II + Ranking Point Weightage in Stage II + Stage II Carryover
The pair securing the **highest total score** shall be ranked first, followed by the subsequent pairs in descending order of their total scores.

H. Team Selection

Open/Men/Mixed/Seniors

- Top 3 Pairs in the final league + 1 or 2 reserve pairs from the final league.
- All must attend training/coaching for **60–90 days** under the direction of the National Coach.
- Players are subject to replacement if deemed unfit due to **indiscipline, misconduct, or violation of the BFI Disciplinary Code 2024**.

Annexure 1 – Ranking Points System

Points awarded to Top 8 ranks (Teams & Pairs):

- 1st: 100% | 2nd: 90% | 3rd: 80% | 4th: 70% | 5th: 50% | 6th: 40% | 7th: 30% | 8th: 20%

Event Points (Rank 1, Teams):

- WBF Championships (**Where Country representation takes place**) – 176 pts (top 8 positions)
- Asian Games Event – 132 pts (only for semi finalists, no pair event considered)
- BFAME/Commonwealth Bridge Championships/APBF (**Where Country representation takes place**)– 44 pts (only for semi finalists, no pair event considered)
- BFI Nationals – 88 pts
- Inter State – 66 Pts.
- Sponsored National Events – 66 pts
- HCL International – 79.2 pts
- EA International – 79.2 pts
- BFI Four Zonal Championships – 22 pts (only for teams)
- Mixed & Women's Events – 22 to 66 pts (depending on level)

Annexure 2 – Events Covered

National Level Events (All Categories)

- Mohanlal Bhartia Grand Prix (Delhi)
- Shree Cement Nationals
- HCL International Bridge Championships ***(International)***
- Holkar National Championships
- Tolani Open National Masters
- Nagpur Club Annual Event
- EA Bridge International Championships ***(International)***
- Any additional BFI-recognized event (per supplementary circular)

Federation Events

- Summer Nationals
- Winter Nationals
- Inter-State Championships

Zonal Events

- East Zone Championship – Balrampur Chini, Kolkata
- West Zone Championship – CCI, Mumbai
- North Zone Championship – Kr Murli Manohar Memorial, Bareilly
- South Zone Championship – Madras Gymkhana

International Events

- Any WBF event supported by MYAS and SAI in the preceding selection year

Mixed Category

- *National Championship:* Smt. Vijaya Jajoo Memorial (Teams & Pairs),
- *Sponsored – National level:* HCL Mixed Pairs (Delhi), Prime Mixed Teams and Pairs (Mumbai), EA Bridge Mixed Pairs (Chennai)
- *Qualifying (Cat-B):* K.K. Bhatnagar Mixed (Summer Nationals), Phoenix Mixed Pairs (Winter Nationals), V.K. Agrawal Mixed Pairs, Madras Gymkhana Mixed Pairs

Women's Category

- *National Championship:* EA Bridge Women Nationals (Pairs), Inter-State Women Nationals (Teams and Pairs)
- *Qualifying (Cat-B):* Gouri Rao Women Pairs (Summer Nationals), Amla Ruia Women Pairs (Winter Nationals), AILBA Women Pairs (Mumbai)

Seniors' Category (More than 60 years for local participation and as per WBF criteria based on that respective year for qualifying in the national camp)

- Ashok RUIA Senior Teams (Winter Nationals)
- Ashok RUIA Senior Pairs (Winter Nationals)
- Any Ranking Senior Event under the Ranking point Scheme of BFI
- All Open/Mixed Category Ranking teams and Pairs event satisfying the age criteria

Annexure 3 – Governance

Ranking Advisory Committee

- Mr. TC Pant (Chairman, Technical Committee)
- Mr. Debasish Ray (Hon. Gen. Secretary, BFI)
- Mr. Anand K.S. Samant (Eminent Player)
- Mr. Anil Padhye (Eminent Player)
- Mr. B. Prabhakar (Eminent Player)
- Mr. S. Sundarram (Eminent Player)
- Mr. Shantanu Rastogi (Invitee)
- Mr. R. Venkatesh (Eminent Player)

Technical Committee

- Mr. TC Pant(Chairman)
- Mr. S Sunderram
- Mr. Debasish Ray
- Mr. Anand K.S. Samant
- Mr. B. Prabhakar
- Mr. Shantanu Rastogi
- Mr. M.B.V. Subrahmanyam
- Mr. Anil Padhye

National Coaches as enrolled in SAI Empanelment List 2026-27

- Mr. Koushik Mukherjee (National Coach)
- Mr. Anal Shah (Men Coach)
- Mr. Vinay Desai (Mixed Coach)
- Mr. Girish Bijoor (Seniors Coach)
- Mr. Arvind Vaidya (Women’s Coach)
- Mr. Sandeep Thakral (Juniors Coach)
- Mr. Anil Padhye (Juniors Coach)