Bridge Federation of India (BFI)

National Ranking and Selection Policy 2025–26

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 WBF-recognized international events:

1. **BFAME Championships** – odd-numbered years (SAI-supported).
2. **World National Teams Championships** – odd-numbered years (SAI-supported).
3. **Other WBF/World Bridge Tour events** – even-numbered years (if BFI is invited and SAI-supported).
4. **Asian Games** – once every four years.
5. **Asia Cup** – once every four years.

For the 5th Asia Cup, it has been mutually agreed with the APBF Council that **two teams from India** are likely to participate in the **Men, Women, Mixed, and Seniors categories**, subject to the condition that the minimum participation of **16 countries** in each category is not fulfilled.

For the representation of **Team India** in each category:

1. **Team 1 (India A):**
   Will comprise the **top three ranking pairs**, along with **one or two reserve pairs**, based on the National Ranking System.
2. **Team 2 (India B):**
   Will be **nominated by the BFI Selection Committee**, in consultation with the **National Coaches**, from among the **qualifiers in the final league** of the Evaluation Camps and analysis of the **performance in national events.**

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

- **Men & Mixed:** A pair must earn ranking points in at least 2 Ranking Events.
- **Women:** A pair must earn ranking points in at least 2 Ranking Events.
- 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, and Mixed** categories.
- Outstanding **Juniors** may be considered in these categories on recommendation of the Junior Selection Committee.
- Separate ranking and selection rules apply for **Juniors/Sub-Juniors**.
- 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.
- 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**:
    - 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:** 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.

Ranking List Cut off: Limited to **Top 24 pairs per category** (excluding deceased players).

Other Provisions:

- BFI may invite additional pairs based on **exceptional performance** (subject to 180+ days review and national coach recommendation).
- **30% carryover rule** applies for partnership changes.
- Players may be barred due to **disciplinary, medical, NADA violations, or misconduct**.

G. Trials Procedure

Trials will be conducted live under SAI guidelines, structured as:
Elimination Stage(s) → Consists of Round Robin format and top 8 qualify for Final Stage. In case of 10 or less pairs to participate for the camp, there may be only 1 stage for such event.

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

Final Stage – All events Events

- Final Ranking = **Final VP Score + Ranking Point Carryover + Camp Performance Carryover at Elimination Stage**
- (Exact weightage to be defined in supplementary circular).

H. Team Selection

Open/Men

- 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**.

Mixed & Women

- Top 3 pairs in the final league + 1 or 2 reserve pairs
- Same conditions on coaching attendance, discipline, and replacement apply.

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 – 176 pts
- Zonal Events – 132 pts
- BFAME/CG – 44 pts
- BFI Nationals – 88 pts
- Sponsored National Events – 66 pts
- HCL International – 79.2 pts
- EA International – 79.2 pts
- 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
- Gondwana 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 – Kolkata
- West Zone Championship – To be announced
- North Zone Championship – Delhi Gymkhana
- South Zone Championship – Madras Gymkhana

International Events

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

Mixed Category

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

Women's Category

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

Annexure 3 – Governance

Ranking Advisory Committee

- Mr. S. Sundarram (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. Shantanu Rastogi (Invitee)
- Mr. R. Venkatesh (Eminent Player)

Technical Committee

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

National Coaches (Advisors)

- Mr. S. Sundarram (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)