



# BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA

## SELECTION POLICY FOR INDIAN TEAMS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### 1. Overview

The Bridge Federation of India (BFI) is the apex body governing the game of Bridge in India. The BFI is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) under the 'Priority' category. There is a need for a transparent policy governing selection of Indian teams, at international events. This document outlines the policy to be followed by the BFI while selecting teams to represent India at various international events, tournaments and competitions.

### 2. Types of International Events

Bridge is played at the international level in various formats. The major ones are listed below.

#### 2.1 As Part of Multi-National, Multi-Disciplinary Events

Bridge has been included as a medal category event at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. This could potentially pave the way for the inclusion of Bridge as a medal event in other multi-national, multi-disciplinary events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Afro-Asian Games and others where Indian National contingents participate. There are usually limitations on the number of teams from each country that can be part of such events.

#### 2.2 Multi-National Bridge Events (involving National teams)

The World Bridge Federation (WBF) is the international governing body for Bridge and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee. There are regional bodies, affiliated to the WBF, such as the Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East (BFAME) and the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation (APBF) that are responsible for the sport in their respective regions. The WBF, BFAME, APBF and other bodies organize various events where national teams participate representing their respective countries. These include events such as the World Bridge Teams Championships (comprising of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi Trophy), The World Bridge Games, the BFAME Championships, the Asia Cup, Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships and so on. There are usually limitations on the number of teams from each country that can be part of such events.

#### 2.3 Invitational / Transnational / Self-Registered Tournaments

Various international events are conducted on an invitational or self-registered basis where the participants in a team are not obliged to all be from the same country, nor are there restrictions on the numbers of teams from each country that may participate.

### 3. Categories Involved

Depending on the format of the event, there are various categories that may be available for participation.

Category	Description
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<b>Open</b>	Teams can comprise of men and women of any age
<b>Men</b>	Teams can comprise of only men of any age
<b>Women</b>	Teams can comprise of only women of any age
<b>Senior</b>	Teams can comprise of men and women, above the age of 60 as of a cut-off date
<b>Mixed</b>	Pairs that form the team must comprise one man and one woman of any age
<b>Super Mixed</b>	Teams must comprise of at least one pair of men and one pair of women of any age
<b>Youth</b>	Specific defined age limits such <25, <20 and so on. Teams may comprise of boys and girls or only girls (as specified by the organizers)

The events could also be for Pairs, in place of Teams, with similar categories as listed above.

## 4. Funding Availability

Bridge in India, has over the years been reliant on individual sponsors and benefactors who have put together teams of players and provided all funding necessary for training, travel, boarding and lodging, entry fees (if any) and so on. The teams that have represented India to date have largely been self-funded in this manner. The BFI has not had the funds to support the sizeable expenses involved in participation at international events.

The MYAS, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), has till recently been providing a limited amount of funding to the BFI.

However, with the inclusion of Bridge as a medal category event in the Asian Games, SAI has come forward to provide financial assistance for the Bridge contingent to represent India at these games. This funding covers training camps, selection camps, travel, boarding & lodging, coaching and so on (within SAI's existing framework of rules and guidelines).

Hence, participation in such events can be broadly classified on the basis of source of funding as below

### 4.1 Self-Funded

Funding arrangements have been made independently by the participating teams themselves.

### 4.2 BFI Funded

Funding arrangements have been made by the BFI, with or without support from Government of India through agencies such as SAI.

## 5. Selection Format and Eligibility for International Events

The selection format as well as eligibility of players shall vary according to the type of event as well as the source of available funding. The BFI appointed Technical Committee and Selection Committee shall oversee this process.

### 5.1 For Multi-National, Multi-Disciplinary Events – BFI Funded

When Bridge is being held as an event as part of a multi-national, multi-disciplinary event as detailed in section 2.1 above, teams representing India shall be funded by the BFI through funds obtained from SAI. The BFI shall announce and organize selection trials to select the team as below.



### 5.1.1 Eligibility

All players participating in the selection trials must be Indian Citizens (for the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that an Indian Citizen is one who holds only an Indian passport).

### 5.1.2 Selection Format

The format of the selection trials shall be determined by the Selection Committee, in consultation with the Technical Committee. The selection process shall adhere to the guidelines laid out by SAI.

The selection shall be carried out with the primary aim of maximising the number of podium and medal finishes for India at the event. This selection may be carried out on a team basis or pair basis for each of the relevant categories detailed in Section 3 above, at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The criteria for selection shall also be determined by the Committee and may involve multiple camps. The Selection Committee may, at its discretion, nominate individual players or pairs to specific categories (such as the Super Mixed) where holding separate trials could be challenging.

## 5.2 For Multi-National Bridge Events – Self-Funded

For multi-national Bridge events as detailed in section 2.2 above, funding has typically been unavailable from the BFI (or SAI) and has been self-funded.

### 5.2.1 Eligibility

All players participating in the selection trials must be Indian Citizens (for the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that an Indian Citizen is one who holds only an Indian passport).

### 5.2.2 Selection Format

The format of the selection trials shall be determined by the Selection Committee of the BFI, in consultation with the Technical Committee of the BFI. The selection process shall be on a team-basis. The qualification criteria to be a part of the Selection Trials shall be the performance of teams during the course of the year at specific National level events and this information shall be disseminated with sufficient notice, by the BF periodically.

However, in some categories listed under section 3, a different format may be adopted due to the non-availability of sufficient teams (Women / Mixed / Super Mixed for example). Alternate qualifying criteria may be established for some categories such as Seniors as the category is not one that is organised at the National level events.

## 5.3 For Multi-National Bridge Events – BFI Funded

If the BFI is in a position to fund participation (with or without assistance from SAI) at multi-national Bridge events as detailed in section 2.2 above, then the following will apply.

### 5.2.1 Eligibility

All players participating in the selection trials must be Indian Citizens (for the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that an Indian Citizen is one who holds only an Indian passport).

### 5.2.2 Selection Format

The format of the selection trials shall be determined by the Selection Committee of the BFI, in consultation with the Technical Committee of the BFI. The selection process shall adhere to the guidelines laid out by SAI.



The selection shall be carried out with the primary aim of maximising the number of podium and medal finishes for India at the event. This selection may be carried out on a team basis or pair basis for each of the relevant categories detailed in Section 3 above. The criteria for selection shall also be determined by the Committee and may involve multiple camps. The Selection Committee may, at its discretion, nominate individual players or pairs to specific categories (such as the Super Mixed) where holding separate trials could prove to be challenging.

#### 5.4 For Invitational / Transnational / Self- Registered Events – Self- Funded

The BFI is typically not involved in the selection of teams for such events. The teams may comprise of people of different nationalities and their participation is self-funded.

#### 5.5 Youth Events

Selection for teams to represent India at Youth events will be carried out on a case by case basis. Various factors such as age, examination schedules and geographic location of the interested participants will be taken into account by the BFI before the selection criteria and format are determined.

##### 5.5.1 Eligibility

All players participating in the selection trials must be Indian Citizens (for the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that an Indian Citizen is one who holds only an Indian passport).