



BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA

(RECOGNISED BY MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS UNDER PRIORITY CATEGORY)

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2nd October 2022

The
Mr. Multan Singh
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
SP SECTION 1: JNS.
New Delhi 110 001

Sub: AGM 2022 and Election of Office Bearers for the Bridge Federation of India for the term 2022-2026

Dear Madam,

I am glad to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Federation of India will be conducted on 16th September 2022 at PYC Hindu Gymkhana. Pune.

Elections of office bearers of the federation for the term 2022-2026 was conducted during the AGM. Executive Committee of the BFI has appointed Mr. R.Venkatesh Email bridgerv@gmail.com an eminent sports person, as the returning officer.

Please find enclosed the report and the results from the Returning Officer.

Thanking you with warm regards,

Yours faithfully,



C.M.KULKARNI
Hon. Gen.Secretary.

Enclosed as above:
Copy to, Secretary Sports, MYAS
DG, SAI

BFI 2022-2026 MC Election Summary (Aug 20-Sep 16)

DATE.03/10/2022.

This document is consolidation of all activities performed by returning officer (undersigned), with support from outgoing Bridge federation of India (BFI) officials, since the time of appointment (Aug 20th, 2022) till date of elections (Sep 16th, 2022), related to nomination, Scrutiny and withdrawal of candidates for the election of office bearers and executive members (EC) of BFI Managing Committee for the years 2022-26. This document also covers details of voting for various MC posts and announcement of final results.

As per BFI calendar of events for 2022, returning officer was appointed on Aug 20th.

Memorandum of Articles (MOA) of Association of Bridge Federation of India (BFI) ratified in the EGM held on August 10th, 2022 is the reference document for planning, definition of rules and execution of entire election process.

Nominations process-Aug 22nd till Sep 5th

Key officials involved – R.Venkatesh (Returning officer), Sundareshan (BFI President), C.M.Kulkarni (BFI Secretary), Anand Samant (BFI Vice President), EC members (Presidents and Secretaries of all states and UTs-total 22 in number, fully affiliated to BFI)

- a) Nomination forms issued to all state/UT affiliated to Bridge federation of India (BFI) on Aug 22th. 6 PM on Sep 5th was defined as last date for nominations.
- b) Total of 14 positions in the managing committee with following break-up
 - i) President
 - ii) Secretary
 - iii) Treasurer
 - iv) Vice President (s)-2
 - v) Joint Secretary(s) – 2
 - vi) Executive Committee (EC) members – 3
 - vii) Elite Sports person(s)-4
- c) Candidates, Proposer and Seconder were asked to provide name, BFI Master points registration Number, Phone Number, email Id with the signatures and post for which they have been nominated. Additionally, candidates were asked to provide their date of birth and affiliated (parent) state registration number with Bridge federation of India (BFI)
- d) Candidates provided all required above details in one or multiple forms in either hard copy or soft copy (exception granted to facilitate nominations of candidates in different geographical locations to that of proposer/seconder).
- e) Every state/UT allowed to file only one nomination for the posts of President, Secretary and Treasurer. For the other posts, number of nominations by any state/UT, for any post cannot exceed no of slots available for that post (max 2 for

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- VP/Joint Sec, 3 for EC member and 4 for Elite Athletes (exception granted since proposing state can vote for all its candidates in elections).
- f) Candidates were asked to submit government approved Identity card (PAN/Aadhar etc) for age proof verification for those candidates nominating for post of President, Secretary or Treasurer.
 - g) Criteria for Elite Sports Persons (needs to meet any 2 out of 3 criteria below)
 - i) BFI Grand Master or Senior Life Master (top 2 out of 10 categories) as per BFI master point scheme
 - ii) Represented India in Open/Women/Mixed/Seniors in world championships in last 5 years
 - iii) Won BFI Federation Ranking points event in Open Teams category in last 3 years
 - h) Provisional (pre scrutiny) List of nominations published on Sep 6th

Scrutiny process-Sep 1st till Sep 6th

Key officials involved – R.Venkatesh (Returning officer), Pranab Bhattacharya (BFI Masterpoints Secretary), Sundaresan (BFI President), C.M.Kulkarni (BFI Secretary), Anand Samant (BFI Vice President), relevant officials of state/UT affiliated to BFI

- a) All Candidates, who provided soft (electronically through email) copies, were clearly mandated to ensure that all physical / hard copies of same forms will reach returning officer at the earliest, failing which their nomination will be rejected.
- b) Checked if authorized persons (President, Secretary or their authorized representative) nominated candidate
- c) Check if all proposer/seconder/candidates are registered with BFI Masterpoints scheme
- d) In case candidate nominated by different state, checked if parent state has any objection to their candidature as well as to ensure this process was not adopted to circumvent rules of maximum allowed nominations for a state depending on number of slots available for given position.
- e) Age verification (less than 70 yrs as on polling day) for those candidates applying for post of President, Secretary and Treasurer was done.
- f) Checked if any candidate served for 4 successive years (2 terms) in any of key office-bearers' post (President, Secretary and Treasurer) in previous 2 terms in previous 2 terms (2018-20 and 2020-2022)
- g) Checked if there were no serious disciplinary/ethical violations of the candidate at the state or national level
- h) Checked if all nominated Elite Sportspersons meet specified criteria
- i) Valid list of candidates was submitted to all registered state/UT associations on Sep 5th to check if any clarifications/objections, to the list published

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Key findings of Scrutiny process

- a) All candidates for key posts (President, Secretary, Treasurer) are less than 70 years. Only one candidate Sutanu Behura for the post of President can serve for duration of approx. 2 years (as per MOA referenced above). All other candidates for key posts can complete the full tenure of 4 years before age of 70 years
- b) No candidate has served for 4 successive years (2 terms) in any of single or combination of key posts (President, Secretary, Treasurer). Only 2 candidates, C.M.Kulkarni (Secretary) and Hemant Pande (Treasurer), in the current list of candidates, have served for only one term of 2 years in key posts in the previous managing committee. There will no special voting restrictions/rules for any of the posts.
- c) All candidates were nominated (either proposed or seconded) by key office bearer (Pres or Sec) of state association or their authorized representative. In case of candidates not nominated (Ms Hema Deora) by parent state, there were no objections from the parent state for the said nomination.
- d) Puducherry bridge association had to regularize registration of new members (including candidate V.Shanmugham for EC member) with BFI Masterpoints scheme. This exception granted because of technical glitches in BFI web-site and registrations was done offline. All other candidates and all proposer(s)/seconder(s) were registered members of BFI MPs scheme.
- e) All nominations for Elite Sportspersons have fulfilled stringent criteria set for the same
- f) There were no objections to any of filed nominations from any of the state/UT associations
- g) All nominations are eligible for contest of elections pending submission of hard copies of their nomination papers which were submitted within timeline specified.
- h) As per MOA referenced above, at least 2 lady members should be part of new Managing committee (1 Pres, 2 VPs, 1 Sec, 1 Treasurer, 2 Joint Secs, 4 Elite Sportspeople and 3 EC members). In case no or only one lady member is part of new executive committee after all results are confirmed, one or 2 (depending on vacancy) of the highest scoring ladies in EC members poll will be co-opted by new Executive committee (exception since election process of lady members is not clearly defined in MOA)
- i) Last date of withdrawal of nominations - 6 PM on Sep 8th

Summary of withdrawal-Sep 9th

- a) Only one candidate Sunil Varghese withdrew from contest for post of Vice President on Sep 8th by electronic mail.
 - b) 2 candidates for the post of Vice President, Ms Hema Deora and Mr Krishan Goyal are automatically elected since 2 positions available for the post of VP.
 - c) Need to conduct elections for all remaining 6 posts (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Secretary, EC member and Elite Sport persons)
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- d) Final list of candidates for various posts for elections published on Sep 9th

Preparation for final Voting - Sep 9th till Sep 15th

Key officials involved – R.Venkatesh (Returning officer), EC members (Presidents and Secretaries of state/UT affiliated to BFI), Chetan Raval (BFI employee), T.C.Pant (BFI Joint Secretary), C.M.Kulkarni (BFI Secretary)

- a) All Electoral College (EC) - states and UTs fully affiliated and all membership dues paid to Bridge Federation, are eligible to vote. Total of 20 states and 2 UTs were eligible to vote
- b) Every State/UT irrespective of size/no of members, were eligible to have maximum of 2 votes (one each to Pres or Sec / their representative if they can't physically travel to vote)
- c) No postal/electronic voting and only one vote per person
- d) In case, either President and/or Secretary couldn't travel, they nominated an authorized representative from the same state/UT resp who will vote on their behalf based on prescribed choice(s) of respective state/UT managing committee.
- e) List of all voters (either EC members or their representative) for all states/UT was prepared by Sep 15th
- f) Ballot paper were prepared in alphabetical order of names for 6 posts for which elections to be held. One ballot paper for key managing committee posts (President, Secretary and Treasurer). Second ballot paper for other 3 posts (Joint Secretary, EC member and Elite Sports persons) where voters had to choose multiple options
- g) Seals prepared (no pens/pencils allowed) for voting
- h) Ballot boxes and ballot papers were sealed to be opened in front of all candidates and voters.
- i) Candidates who could not be physically present on voting day could nominate a representative at either or/and polling booth / counting centre (same place).

Campaigning process-Sep 9th till Sep 14th

- a) Contact details of all voters were shared with candidates (only EC members and not their representatives)
- b) Contact details of candidates were shared with voters in case voters felt need to contact candidates for any details regarding their back-ground and plans if elected.
- c) A few of the candidates prepared brief profile with their achievements/plans which was shared with EC
- d) Candidates also had option to contact voters (not representatives) directly

Voting Day – Polling and Counting (Sep 16th)

Key officials involved – R.Venkatesh (Returning officer), Pranab Bhattacharya (BFI Masterpoints in charge and Identification officer), Chetan Raval (BFI employee and in charge of ballot boxes and issuing ballot papers), Official counting agents - K.Swaminathan, S.R.C.Sekar, S.Vijayaraghavan, V.Ramkumar, Soumalya Ghosh, Pranab Bhattacharya, Gora

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- a) Polling booth - Conference room, 2nd floor at PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Time-7,30 PM
- b) Sealed ballot papers were opened in front of candidates/voters. Total of 50 ballot papers for each of key managing committee and other posts respectively
- c) 2 empty ballot boxes (one each for key MC posts and other posts) were shown to all candidates and voters
- d) Voters (as per list prepared earlier) were asked to show authorized government approved identity card as well as Identification officer (in charge of BFI Masterpoints scheme) cross-checked all candidates based on BFI Masterpoints scheme data. All voters had to sign against their names and take ballot papers.
- e) Total of 43 votes (only one vote from Puducherry) voted for all posts
- f) Entire voting process finished in one hour (8.30 PM). No ballot papers were wasted and extra 7 ballot papers were destroyed in front of candidates.
- g) Counting started at 8.45 PM for key managing committee posts. For each candidate, we had BFI official (one of the BFI directors, dealing operators etc) in addition to candidate or representatives. All votes were valid. Results for key MC posts announced by 9.20 PM.
- h) Counting started for other posts (second ballot paper) by 9.30 PM. All votes were valid except a few of voters chose less than maximum allowed for a few of the posts.
- i) For all candidates there was no discrepancy between official and personal vote tally. All results (no tie-break) announced by 10.15 PM

Final results and list of new executive committee members and BFI managing committee for 4-year term 2022-26 given below

President – Sutanu Behuria (Himachal Pradesh)

Secretary – C.M.Kulkarni (Karnataka)

Treasurer – K.P.Mathur (Rajasthan)

Vice Presidents (2) – 1-Ms Hema Deora (Maharashtra) and 2-Krishan Goyal (Punjab)

Joint Secretaries (2) – 1-Ms Puja Batra (Delhi) and 2-Ranjan Bhattacharya (Delhi)

Executive Committee (EC) member (3) – 1-Ms Richa Shriram (Delhi), 2-Ms Monica Jajoo (West Bengal) and 3-Sunil Varghese (Tamil Nadu)

Elite Sportspersons (4) – 1-Sandeep Thakral (Delhi), 2-Subhash Gupta (Delhi), 3-R. Krishnan (Tamil Nadu) and 4-Sumit Mukherjee (West Bengal)

R. Venkatesh

(Returning Officer)

