

**MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
THE BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA**

- I. Name of the society: The name of the society shall be The Bridge Federation of India “ herein after referred to as “ **The Federation**”.
- II. JURISDICTION: The jurisdiction of the Federation shall extend to and include territories constituting the Union of India.
- III. REGISTERED OFFICE :
 - (a) The Registered Office of the Federation shall be situated at 18, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
 - b) The administrative office of the Federation will be at the convenience of the President / Secretary. The administrative office may be shifted at the time when the new office bearers take over, after election or expiry of the current committee’s term.
- IV. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: The Official Language of the Federation shall be English or such other language as may be formally adopted by the Council hereafter.
- V. COUNCIL: “The word “Council “appearing in this Memorandum shall carry the same import and meaning as in the Rules and regulations and Articles of Association of the Federation.
- VI. OBJECTS: The Federation shall have all or any of the following objects: -
 - 1) To promote and develop the game of Bridge in India

- 2) To affiliate and continue to remain affiliated to the World Bridge Federation and also to the zonal body constituted under the World Bridge Federation Regulations.
- 3) To nominate or appoint representatives on the World Bridge Federation and any international, zonal or statutory body under it.
- 4) To seek recognition by the Indian Olympic Association and follow the Olympic Regulations.
- 5) To nominate members to Indian Olympic Association
- 6) To organize and control the game of Bridge in India particularly with reference to the rules and regulations for the conduct of the game.
- 7) To promote the formation of new State, Union territory and District level organizations in unaffiliated States, and to affiliate them as well as organizations having an all – India character to the Federation in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Federation.
- 8) To co-ordinate Inter-State activities in respect of the game of Bridge including holding of Inter State and Zonal tournaments and arranging Inter –Organizational and National Championships.
- 9) To arrange, conduct and manage National. International Bridge Championships, matches and tournaments in any part of India and to assist and to collaborate in the conduct and management of International and Zonal Championships, matches, and tournaments in any part of the World.
- 10) To select teams and players to represent India and to promote, control, and finance visits abroad by such teams and players
- 11) To promote, control, and if necessary, to finance the visits to India of foreign teams and players.
- 12) To adopt, publish and maintain laws relating to the game as adopted or sanctioned by the World Bridge Federation and make additions or alterations thereto if and when necessary, and to make Rules and regulations for the purpose of the Federation.

- 13) To Maintain or cause to be maintained a Register of players and prescribe conditions and fees for registration of such players with the Federation, Zonal body and World Bridge Federation.
- 14) To make rules and bye-laws for the appointment of Tournament Directors under various classifications and categories.
- 15) To collect funds for the purpose of the Federation and to use such funds in such manner as may be considered desirable for the promotion of the objects of the Federation.
- 16) To sell, mortgage, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with any part of the property of the Federation for the benefit of the Federation.
- 17) To borrow monies and raise funds or secure the payment of monies in such manner and on such terms as may be deemed expedient, and to purchase, redeem, settle and payoff any debts duly incurred.
- 18) To undertake and to execute any trust the undertaking and execution whereof may seem desirable
- 19) To obtain and accept donations and grants from Governments and Statutory Bodies, bequests, gifts and trusts from any person or body corporate or otherwise and to give prizes, donations, bequests and monetary assistance in furtherance or maintenance of any of the objects of the Federation, Grants from Govt. of India shall solely belong to the Federation.
- 20) To acquire by all lawful means movable and immovable property and to apply both the capital and the income there from and the proceeds of the sale or mortgage thereof for and of the objects of the Federation.
- 21) To start or to sanction and / or subscribe to funds, or to stage a match or tournament, for the benefit of players or persons who may have rendered service to the game of ridge, or for their families, or to donate to a national sporting cause or Institution.

- 22) To establish and maintain a Library of books, journals magazines and periodicals relating to sports to the game of Bridge.
- 23) To recognize and / or subsidize such institutions as having objects similar to those of the Bridge Federation of India and generally to do all such other acts and things as may seem to the Federation to be convenient, incidental, and / or conducive to the attaining of or carrying on of the objects of the Federation.
- 24) To recognize and / or subsidize such institutions as having objects similar to those of the Bridge Federation of India and generally to do all such other acts and things as may seem to the Federation to be convenient incidental and / or conducive to the attaining of or carrying on of the objects of the Federation.
- 25) To constitute an Athletes' Commission in line with the recommendations made under the MAS sports code from time to time to understand players, requirements. The Commission shall include Prominent / Eminent/ Elite sports persons of which at least two shall be women.
- 26) To constitute an Ethics Commission to monitor and evaluate players for their ethical play, behavior and conduct during their appearance at the national and international level.
- 27) To form an independent Women Development Board for the development and promotion of women players.
- 28) To form an independent Junior Development Board for the development and promotion of Junior players
- 29) To ensure fair treatment to all players and prevent any kind of sexual harassment to women, girls, and also ensure that no discrimination is made on the grounds of race, gender, political affiliation, religion, or creed
- 30) To formulate the conditions laid down in the National Sports Code from time to time, including but not limited to an anti- doping code,

prevention of age fraud code, citizenship criteria for selection of National team and prevention of sexual harassment

- 31) To create an ID of all players and maintain a robust data base to ensure there is no age fraud,
- 32) To formulate, notify, publish and circulate the committee for prevention of sexual harassment of women players. posh@bfi.net.in
- 33) To undertake and abide by the World Anti Doping Code(WADA) and national Anti – Doping Code (NADA) which are mandatory for Olympic events aswell as the WBF Doping Regulations and to take all necessary steps required for their implementation.

VII. FUNDS: The income, funds and property of the Federation shall be solely applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Federation as set forth above, and specifically to aid and assist financially or otherwise any Bridge projects, to promote, advance and develop the game of Bridge and generally to do all such acts and things to promote the cause of the game of Bridge. And no portion of the income, funds and property of the Federation shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any person by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise. However, provided nothing herein shall restrict the powers of the Federation under the objects of the same to pay in good faith any allowance, compensation, remuneration or any other sum to any Office bearer, Member, Directors, Agent or Representative and other person or persons in return for any services rendered or to be rendered to the Federation.

VIII. REGISTRATION: The Federation shall be registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 or any law in force at the time.

IX. ALTERATION, EXTENSION OR A ABRIDGEMENT OF PURPOSES: Whenever it shall appear to the Executive Committee of the Federation that it is advisable to alter, extend or abridge the Federation's objects or for other purposes within the meaning of the

Societies Registration Act, or to amalgamate the Federation, either wholly or partially with any other society, the Committee may submit the proposition to the Council in a written or printed report and may convene a special general meeting for the consideration thereof according to the rules and regulations of the Federation, but no such proposition shall be carried into effect unless such report shall have been delivered by email or sent by post to every member of the Federation ten days previous to the special general meeting convened by the Committee for the consideration thereof, nor unless such proposition shall have been agreed to by the votes of three fifths of the council members as replied by email/post and confirmed by the votes of the three fifths of the Council members presents at a second special general meeting convened by the Executive Committee at an interval of one month after the former meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF
THE BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA**

1.INTERPRETATION :

Every reference in these Rules to a singular shall include the plural and words denoting masculine gender shall include feminine gender, unless there is something in the subject or context repugnant or inconsistent therewith. Marginal notes and /or titles shall not affect the construction of any rule howsoever.

1. "State" shall mean and territory described as such in the Constitution of India
2. "The Federation" shall mean The Bridge Federation of India (Abbreviated BFI)
3. "The Societies Act" shall mean the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and statutory modifications thereof
4. "Union Territory" shall mean and territory described as such in the Constitution of India
5. "Year" shall mean, official year commencing from the 1st day of April in one calendar year to the 31st day of March in the succeeding calendar year.
6. "Rules" shall mean the Rules and Regulations of the Federation in force from time to time.
7. "Zone" shall mean the area any competition or contest recognized and / or sanctioned by the Federation as such.
8. "Open Tournament" shall mean a competition, match, contest, tournament or Championship open to a registered or unregistered player, as may be prescribed by the Federation from time to time.
"All India Tournament" shall mean any competition or contest

recognized and sanctioned by the Federation as such and is open to at least 50% of the affiliated States/ Union Territory Associations and satisfying the prescribed conditions by the Federation

9. "Player "shall include a Bridge player, who is registered or un-registered with the Federation or its constituents' associations.
10. "Registration Fee" shall mean the prescribed fee payable by a player / or constituent to the Federation whether it be for payment to the World Bridge Federation or to the Zonal body or for registration under master point and technical management for the period specified.
11. "Registered Player "shall mean a player duly registered with the Federation directly or through a Member Association or Organisation an whose name is borne on the Register of players.
12. "Membership Fee" shall mean the prescribed fee determined by the federation payable by a member Association to The Federation either directly or through any other source to remain in good standing with federation.
13. "Member" shall mean a State Association, Union territory or an All India Sports Controlling body affiliated to the Federation.
14. "Council" shall mean and include the Executive Committee members and the duly nominated representatives of the members of the Federation.
15. "Game "shall mean the game of Bridge in its various forms.
16. "OFFICE BEARERS" shall mean, The President, Honorary General Secretary, and the Treasurer.
17. "Executive Committee" shall mean the Office bearers of the Federation along with the Vice -Presidents, Joint – secretary's, the Elected / Nominated Executive Members and the Chairman of the Technical Development Committee & National Laws Commission
18. "PERMANENT MEMBER ' shall mean – the association registered under the relevant act, framed in the state /union territory having

registered players and bridge activities to conduct, control and promote the game of bridge in the state/ union territory, where the office bearers are elected on a periodic basis, can be considered eligible for permanent membership, the permanent member will be a member of the council will have voting right in the council and individuals who are part of a permanent member will be eligible to contest in the elections for the executive board, permanent members will have ONE representative in the governing council meetings and TWO representatives for the election of the office bearers and the Executive Committee members.

Associate Member: Board / Institution / State/ Union Territory / City /Club
Any organization / institution of All India character from public or private sector working for the development of Bridge in the country where the Office bearers are duly elected on a periodical basis or as provided in their constitution, can be considered for Associate Membership THESE MEMBERS WILL NOT HAVE ANY VOTING RIGHTS

19. "Office bearers" shall mean the President the Vice Presidents ,the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Joint Secretaries and Executive members for the time being to the Federation.
20. "Office bearers" shall mean President, Secretary General and Treasurer
21. Executive Committee shall mean President, the Vice Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Joint Secretaries and Executive members elected from time to time to the Federation.
22. "President " shall mean the President of the Federation and the Chairman of the Council duly elected in the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

23. "Representative" shall mean the duly nominated representative of a Member
24. "Secretary" shall mean the honorary Treasurer of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.
25. "Treasurer" shall mean the Honorary Treasurer of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting.
26. "Vice Presidents" shall mean any one of the Vice presidents of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting.
27. "Joint Secretary" shall mean any one of the Honorary joint Secretaries of the Federation duly elected in the Annual General Meeting.
28. "Executive member" shall mean any one of the Executive members of the Federation duly elected/ nominated in the Annual General Meeting.
29. 'PROINENT/EMINENT/ELITE SPROTS PESONS" shall mean athlete who has finished in top 4 positions at National Level championships and in top 8 positions at International Championships

II. FORCE OF RULES

Every member of the Federation including a member of an affiliated organization or an affiliated District Association and every player participating in any tournament or match under the auspices of the Federation shall be bound to conform to the Rules and Regulations in force from time to time.

III. NAME AND STYLE OF A MEMBER ORGANISATION

While describing the State or Union Territory by its nomenclature, no organization shall have the word "India" or "Indian" attached to its name

IV. MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION WILL BE OPEN TO

(a) Permanent member:

The Association frame in the State / union territory registered under the relevant act having registered players and bridge activities to conduct, control and promote the Bridge in the state / union territory, where the Office bearers are elected on a periodical basis, can be considered or permanent member.

At the time of application and to maintain the membership with Bridge Federation of India the member unit must have registered players from more than 50% of the districts in its State / UT affiliated to the unit

b) Associate Member: Board /Institution/ State /Union Territory / City / Club
Any organization / Institution of All India character from public or private sector working for the development of Bridge in the country where the Office bearers are duly elected on a periodical basis or as provided in their constitution, can be considered for Associate membership.

c) That it should hold an Annual Championship of its own

d) In all cases of acceptance or rejection of application for Membership shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee provided that in case of rejection the grounds of rejection are mentioned and submitted to the council for approval in the next General Meeting. The Council may admit such an applicant by simple majority of votes.

e) It shall be an explicit condition of the membership that all disputes arising within the Federation shall be settled under the Arbitration Act,1940.

V. OFFICIAL YEAR:

The Official year of the Federation shall be from the 1st day of April , in one calendar year to the 31st day of March in the succeeding calendar year.

VI. ADMISSION FEE AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

a) All members shall upon application for membership be required to pay an admission fees may be prescribed by the Federation from time to time.

b) A members shall pay to the Federation an annual subscription of the prescribed amount within 30days of the receipt of the notice or by 31st July, whichever is earlier. Such subscription shall be calculated as the subscription for the official year or part thereof for which the same is due.

ii) No representative of a member will have the right to attend and vote at any meeting of the Council or Executive Committee or any other committee of the federation unless the subscription for the official year and other dues if any have been paid as required.

iii) Any member who has failed or neglected to pay any amount de to the Federation either by way of subscription, surcharge or amount due otherwise, may be given notice in writing calling upon the Member to pay such amount within 30 days of the date of notice. If, before the expiry of the period of notice, such defaulting member fails or neglects to pay the amount due. Such member shall forth with cease to be a member of the Federation. The Executive Committee or a constituted Attorney of the Federation will have the right to sue and recover the amount due, including court charges and expenses from such defaulting Member.

iv) If a defaulting Member pays all the dues and the prescribed re-admission fee, he may be readmitted as a member at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A re-admitted member shall pay any subscription falling due in the interval as if such member continued to be a member during such interval.

v) No member shall adopt any Rules or regulation which is inconsistent with or contrary to the Memorandum and Articles of Association or the Rules &

regulations of the federation from time to time in force and a Member shall be bound to alter, modify and / or delete any portion or part of its Constitution, Rules and Regulations and Bye-laws as may be required by the Federation at any time. All affiliated members shall implement a directive by the Federation within the stipulated date.

VIII. RESIGNATION

A member desiring to resign membership of the Federation shall give a written intimation thereof to the Honorary general Secretary and the Executive Committee shall accept the same from the date of resignation provided no amount is due from the Member so resigning.

IX. EXPULSION

If a member refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of the Rules and Regulations of the Federation or is guilty of misconduct such as the Executive Committee considers likely to endanger the harmony, or to adversely affect the aims and objects of the federation, such a Member shall be liable to expulsion by a resolution of the Council at the instance of the Executive Committee, provided that not less than 2/3rds of the Members present vote in favour of the said resolution and approved also that at least 14 days before the meeting at which such resolution as framed by the Executive Committee for its expulsion, and that the Member has at such meeting and before the passing of such resolution had an opportunity of giving orally and or in writing any explanation or defence he may think fit. The Executive Committee shall give or post to the member by registered post a letter confirming the adoption of such a resolution, on the passing of the resolution, the Member shall forth with cease to be a member of the Federation and shall not have any claim whatsoever against the same. No Appeal shall lie from the decision of the Federation it will be in the power of the Executive Committee to exclude such

member from the Federation till such resolution has been passed or rejected by the council.

X. RE ADMISSION OF EXPELLED MEMBER:

A member expelled under Rule IX may be readmitted by the council in its meeting if a two thirds majority of those present vote for such re-admission and provided also that the cause of such expulsion has been removed to the satisfaction of the Council and all arrears or dues at the time of expulsion are paid in full by such Member along with the re-admission fee as prescribed.

XI. COUNCIL

The supreme authority of the Federation shall rest in the council. Permanent members shall nominate **one** representative to the council.

XII. The council shall have jurisdiction and control over a player with the territorial jurisdiction of a Member and any person playing bridge under the ages of Member and /or submitting to the jurisdiction of a members shall be deemed in so facts to submit to the jurisdiction of the federation.

XIII. OFFICE BEARERS:

A) Nominations for Office Bearers shall be submitted only by a Permanent Member to the designated Returning Officer in the prescribed form ten clear days before the Annual General Meeting at which such office bearers are to be elected.

Nominee shall be the registered player of the federation and residing state in which he belongs. No person shall be nominated as Office Bearer if he is disqualified to hold office as a Director under the Indian Companies Act.

The election for Office Bearers shall be held once in four years

No person who has already held the office of the president/ Secretary, consecutively for 2 terms. (8years) shall be eligible to seek re-election to any of the said offices or the Vice President or Treasurer, till the expiry of a period of at least four years from the date on which he last vacated his office. No office bearer of BFI shall be eligible to be office bearer of any other NSF excepting IOA.

Any person holding position in civil services of the Govt. and semi-Govt. organization shall obtain no objection certificate from the authorities before seeking the position as office bearer. All such persons shall be eligible to be in post for a maximum of five years

b) The following shall be the Office bearers of the Federation Minimum 25% of the total strength of the Executive committee must be elite sports persons and minimum 2 lady members

- 1) President
- 2) 2 Vice Presidents
- 3) Honorary General Secretary
- 4) Honorary Treasurer
- 5) 2 Honorary Joint Secretaries
- 6) 5 Executive members

C) "Office bearers "shall hold office in accordance with the stipulations by the Council or as per the directive of the Govt. guidelines

d) The President emeritus, if any, shall not be an office bearer but whenever present shall preside over social functions . The social functions of the

Federation shall include the inaugural and closing ceremonies at the time of winter and summer National Championship.

XIV. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS:

1. **THE PRESIDENT:** The President shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from among its members and subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The President may hold the office for a maximum period of Eight years with or without break or 12 years with a break of ONE term He shall cease to hold the post on attaining the age of seventy years. He shall have to convene and shall preside if present, over all the meeting of the Council and the Executive and of any Committee of which he is a Member. If in the opinion of the President any emergency has arisen for which immediate action has to be taken, he shall have the authority to take such action as he deems necessary and shall report the same at the next meeting of the council or the Executive committee whichever in the ordinary course would have dealt with the matter of importance by circulation to members of the Executive committee and act on that basis. In case of President attaining Age of 70 years during the existing term and before the expiry of tenure period he/she shall retire with immediate effect,new election needs to be held at the earliest for the post. The Executive Committee shall delegate his duties to any elected member to oversee for the interim period, which cannot exceed more than 3 months.

The President shall cause rules to be framed regarding the following and place the same at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

(i) Travel rules relating to the Office bearers and members of the Executive Committee

(ii) Rules relating to various expenditure by different office bearers relating to telephone bills, postage, stationery and other office expenses.

(iii) The President is empowered to sanction expenditure upto 10% over the annual budget and get it ratified at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The President shall exercise overall supervision to enforce financial control within the overall annual budget.

The President will undertake measures to improve the financial health of the Federation. He will also try to raise resources through various sponsored Bridge events.

2. VICE PRESIDENTS: 2 Vice presidents shall be elected by the council not necessarily from among its members, in addition, the Council shall elect 4 Executive members for the better functioning of the Executive Board without voting rights.

In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-presidents shall preside over the meetings and shall exercise all the powers to the President. The President shall nominate one of the Vice-presidents as a Senior Vice-president to function as the President in the case of the President's absence from the country, or for any other reason.

The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible to popularize the game particularly in their respective regions and cause to improve the overall membership of the Federation.

One of the Vice –Presidents shall be the Chairman of the Finance committee; The Vice-President will undertake measures to improve the finances of the Federation.

3. HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY: The **Honorary** General Secretary shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from its members subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The Honorary General Secretary can hold the office for a period of 8 (eight) years with or without break and shall cease to hold the office on attaining the age of seventy years. He shall be the Secretary of the council and the Executive Committee. Unless otherwise directed, the Secretary shall:

(i) Keep and maintain the minutes of the Annual General and Special General Meeting of the Council, Meetings of the Executive Committee, Committee and Sub-committees appointed by the council and the Executive committee in proper form and shall cause them to be correctly recorded and confirmed.

(ii) Carry on all correspondence in the name of the Federation, Council and the Executive Committee.

(iii) Be in charge of all correspondence and records of the federation, and such properties, articles and things as may be entrusted to his care.

(iv) Upon the direction or with the prior concurrence of the President, convene the Annual General Meeting, the Special General Meeting of the Council and

the Executive Committee, and of such other committee as the President may direct.

(v) Circular to all members of the council and Executive Committee a statement of accounts prepared by the Hon. Treasurer.

(vi) Will have no powers to spend money on behalf of the federation except as provided in the annual budget to him or sanctioned by the President in writing in advance.

(vi) Exercise general supervision over all matters relating to the Federation in consultation with the President.

The Joint Secretaries shall carry out the work allotted to them by the Secretary and the President whom they shall give their co-operation in the discharge of their duties and to carry out the objects of the federation. In the absence of the Secretary or on his inability to function, one of the Joint Secretaries may be nominated as Honorary General Secretary by the President. He shall also act as ex-officio Secretary of any Committee to which he is attached as such. Each of the Joint Secretaries will be assigned a specific responsibility which includes General, Technical, Master Points, press & Publicity coaching and Training. In case of Secretary attaining age of 70 years, during the existing term and before the expiry of tenure period / he / she shall retire with immediate effect. The Executive committee shall delegate his duties to any one of the members to oversee for the interim period, which cannot exceed more than 3 months.

HONORARY TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be elected by the Council not necessarily from among its members subject to the confirmation of the statutory guidelines of the Ministry of sports and Youth Affairs Government of India in regard to the age and tenure. The Honorary general Secretary can

hold the office for a period of 8 (eight) years with or without break and shall cease to hold the office on attaining the age of seventy years. He shall exercise general supervision over the funds of the federation and shall advise the council as regards its financial policy. He shall receive all subscriptions, donations and other monies and keep a regular account of receipts and disbursements. He shall be responsible for all sums received by the Federation from whatever source derived and shall issue receipts for the same on the official form. He shall prepare invoices for Affiliation and player's registration fees payable by the affiliated associations by end of May each year and collect the same. He shall submit the details of receipts and payments every quarterly to the Secretary / President and issue notices for the collection of dues from the member associations. He shall also submit to the Council at its General Meeting a statement of Income and Expenditure account, and Audited balance sheet. The Treasurer shall also prepare and recommend an annual budget valid for the concerned financial year starting April 1st and ending 31st March of the next calendar year for the approval of the Executive Committee at the time of its next meeting. In case of Treasurer attaining age of 70 years during the existing term and before the expiry of tenure period he / she shall retire with immediate effect. The Executive committee shall delegate his duties to any one of the members to oversee for the interim period, which cannot exceed more than 3 months.

6. The Treasurer shall co-ordinate with appointed Chartered Accountant/s to audit the accounts on regular basis. He should maintain the records and accounts of the Federation to be accessible Government and will be ready to produce the same as and when required/asked for.

7. Executive members: Executive members shall perform duties similar to those of Vice Presidents

8. Elite / Eminent sports persons: The elite/ Eminent sports persons shall advise the Federation on the needs of the players and shall help the Federation in making policies with respect to medical fitness, doping and infrastructure for better organization of events.

XV. The Bankers to the Federation shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and may be changed from time to time as the Executive Committee may deem expedient. The account of the Federation shall be jointly (any two) operated by the President General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

XVI. Whenever found expedient or essential the council may appoint the President and two other members of the council as Trustees of the Federation to supervise and protect the properties of the Federation.

XVII. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual general Meeting of the Council shall ordinarily be held every year, preferably on or before 30th of September facilitating submission of necessary papers before the deadline date.

The Secretary or the President shall give not less than 21 days notice of the meeting to all members and shall circulate with the notice a copy of the agenda. The Business transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall include the following: -

- (i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report
- (ii) To receive and adopt the audited balance sheet and the Income and Expenditure account as presented by the Honorary Treasurer.

(iii) To elect the office bearers once in four years

(iv) To constitute a technical and Development Committee the National Laws Commission and any other committee as may be considered desirable in order to carry out the objects of the Federation.

(v) To consider any recommendation of the Executive Committee and any motion, notice whereof is given to the Honorary General Secretary by any member or office bearer, ten clear days before the date of the meeting

(vi) To appoint auditors

(vii) To consider any other matter introduced with the Chairman's Permission

XVIII. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

(i) A Special general meeting of the council may be called at any time by a resolution of the council of the Executive Committee or on a requisition in writing by at least one fourth of the members or at the discretion of the President to consider such matters as may be mentioned in the resolution of requisition or indicated in writing by the President. The Secretary shall give not less than 21 days clear notice of such meeting to all members and shall also circulate with the notice a copy of the agenda.

(ii) In the case of an emergency, the President in his discretion may convene a meeting at a shorter notice but of not less than 10 days

(iii) On receipt of the intimation of a special meeting of the council, Members may propose any further matter including an amendment of or addition to and deletion from the Memorandum and articles and Rules and regulations of the Federation such proposal along with an explanatory note shall have been posted to the Honorary General Secretary so as to reach him not later than 14 clear days before the meeting. On receipt of such proposal the Secretary shall post to the members copy of the proposal not less than 10 days before the meeting.

(iv) In the event of the Secretary failing to convene a Special General Meeting within 30 days of the receipt of a requisition the requisitionists may themselves convene a meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition at such place and time as may be determined by them by giving the requisite notice as per these rules.

Election of office Bearers and members of Executive Board:

Manner of Election:

(1) Office Bearers and other members of the Executive committee of BFI shall be elected by secret ballot

(2) Election shall be held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the procedure prescribed hereinafter, from amongst the representatives of the Permanent members.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

(1) Each permanent member from amongst the State/Union Territory duly affiliated by BFI as its permanent Member shall have two votes at the elections of the Office Bearers and Executive committee members.

For the purposes of Sub-clause (1) each permanent Member State/Union Territory shall be represented by the representative duly authorized by the President or Secretary General /Secretary of the affiliated Permanent member however, in case President /Secretary General /Secretary nominates different person(s) the person(s) authorized by the President shall be deemed to be the duly authorized person(s) irrespective of the date.

3) Each permanent Member shall intimate the name(s) of their representative(s) mentioned in sub clause (2) latest by within the time stipulated in the Election notice letter and such intimation shall be addressed to the President /Secretary General of BFI on their letter head duly signed by President / Secretary General /Authorized signatory of that member unit, so as to reach him on or before the aforesaid date; any change in the name of any authorized representative after the expiry of date of filing nomination or any intimation received thereafter shall be permitted only with the approval of the president of BFI.

(4) The President /Secretary General of BFI shall prepare the list of the authorized representatives of the permanent Member States/Union Territories in prescribed Form, and circulate a copy of the list so prepared by them to all permanent members with 10 days from the closed of filing of nomination papers by display on the website of BFI.

(5) The President /Secretary General shall also furnish a duly authenticated copy of the list mentioned in sub clause (4) to the Returning Officer as soon as may be after their appointment by the President of BFI under clause (5) below

(6) Any permanent member unit which has not conducted their Election (If due) before /prior to the that year's BFI election will not be eligible to vote or contest in the BFI election.

5. Returning Officer

As soon as may be before/ after the issue of the Notice for the AGM, the President of BFI nominate a person as Returning Officer for conduct of election of Office Bearers and members of Executive Board within 7 days in accordance with the provisions of these Bye-laws.

6. Nomination of Candidates:

1) The nomination of a candidate for election as Office Bearer or others to the Executive Board shall be made in the prescribed Form. And for the post of the office bearers only those candidates can contest as clarified in Eligibility Clause stated above.

(2) The nominee of a candidate for election as Office Bearer or a Member of Executive Board shall be proposed by one of the representatives of Member States/ Union Territories whose name is included in the Electoral College list in Form 1, and also seconded by 1(one) other such representative.

(3) Each candidate shall be entitled to be nominated by not more than 2 (two) nomination papers

4) Each nomination paper shall be delivered to the Returning Officer in person /email by the candidate himself / herself at the registered address/email address as communicated in the notice.

5) No person shall be eligible to nominate more than one candidate for the same post, either as proposer or seconder and if he / she so does

his/her signature on the nomination papers delivered second in point of time to the Returning Officer shall be deemed to be inoperative.

- 6) No person shall be permitted to withdraw his / her name as proposer/seconded once the nomination paper subscribed by him/her has been delivered to Returning Officer.
- 7) As soon as the due date for filing nominations is expired the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him/her post wise in prescribed form and publish the same on BFI website.

7. Scrutiny of Nominations

1) The Returning Officer in his/her office shall scrutinize each nomination paper, one by one received by him/her and determine its validity or otherwise.

2) In the case of any nomination filed by a Government Servant the Returning Officer will only accept the nomination if the nomination includes an NOC from the department of the candidate and assurance that the candidate is in compliance with all Central Government orders (issued from time to time) while contesting for the elections. If the NOC is not submitted along with the nomination form then the nomination form will stand rejected.

3) At the scrutiny of nominations each candidate or one of his/her authorized representatives shall have the right to be present and raise any objection in relation to nomination of a candidate for the post for which he/she has filed his/her nomination.

4) After the scrutiny of all nomination papers has been completed by him/her the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of validly nominated candidates in the prescribed form. Contesting candidates can request a copy from the Returning Officer.

8. Withdrawal of candidates:

(1) Each candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his / her candidature before the deadline given for withdrawal

(2) Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be submitted in the prescribed form either by the candidate himself / herself or by a person duly authorized by him/her in writing

(3) Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled

(4) The returning Officer shall accept the notice of withdrawal if he / she is satisfied as to the genuineness of the notice.

(5) As soon as may be after due date of submissions, the Returning Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates in the prescribed form and display a copy of the same on the BFI website and also furnish a copy of the same to each of the candidates /their authorized representatives, if they so request

(6) The names of the contesting candidates shall be arranged for each post, in alphabetical order according to English alphabets.

Un-contested Returns: and contested Elections

(1) Where the number of contesting candidates for any post or category of post, is equal to the number of posts to be filled, all such contesting candidates shall be deemed to be duly elected unopposed to those posts and it shall not be necessary to take a poll for election to such post.

(2) Where the number of contesting candidates for any post or category of post, is more than the number of posts to be filled, a poll shall be taken by secret ballot for those posts remaining unfilled

(3) The ballot papers for posts remaining unfilled shall be in the prescribed form to be made individually

(4) The names of contesting candidates on the ballot papers shall appear in the same order as given earlier

10. Poll

(1) The Poll for the posts remaining unfilled above shall be taken post wise and shall commence during the AGM

(2) Each contesting candidate can nominate one person (if he / she so desires) only from amongst the authorized Representatives list of Bridge Federation of India, to be present at the Poll (Polling station)

(3) At the Poll each authorized representative of member states/ Union Territories, whose name is included in the Electoral college list shall be entitled to

(i) cast one vote for each of the posts remaining unfilled, where only one such seat is to be filled

(ii) cast as many votes as are the no of seats to be filled for any post, where more than one seat is to be filled.

(4) In case any voter casts his / her vote for more than one candidate, or for more than two or three candidates as the case may be his /her vote for that post shall be invalid.

(5) Each voter shall be required before he is supplied with a Ballot paper, to give his / her signature on the authenticate copy of the Electoral College list used by the returning Officer for taking the poll.

No proxy voting will be permitted and only those individuals included on the Electoral college will be permitted to vote in the Elections and each individual will be required to carry a photo ID card as proof of their identify such as any one of the following – Aadhar card or Driver's license or Passport or PAN card or Voters ID card.

(6) The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in a voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station.

(7) The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark (✓) against the name of the candidate of his / her choice and any other mark, like (x) etc or word placed on the ballot paper by him/her shall render the ballot paper liable to rejection.

(8) The tick mark (✓) to indicate the vote shall be placed by the voter only by means of article specifically provided or the purpose by the returning Officer, and a ballot paper marked otherwise by means of any other pen ball point pen, etc by the voter shall render the ballot paper liable to rejection.

(9) The ballot paper marked by a voter shall be deposited by him/her in a ballot box specifically prepared and sealed by the Returning Officer and placed at such a conspicuous place in the polling station that it shall be constantly visible to all present in the polling station.

(10) The Returning officer shall close the poll at the appointed hour however all those voters who are present at the polling station at the appointed losing hour shall be entitled to vote even if the poll proceedings have to be extended for some more time.

(11) After all the voters referred to in sub clause (9) have voted the Returning Officer shall close the ballot box and shall not permit thereafter any person to vote.

12) Polling will be done in below order

- (1) President
- (2) Secretary general
- (3) Treasurer
- (4) Vice-Presidents
- (5) Joint – Secretaries
- (6) Executive members
- (7) Elite sports persons (subject to compliance of 25% representation criteria not fulfilled in above elected posts or as deemed necessary)

11. Counting of Votes:

- (1) The Returning Officer shall take up the counting of votes as soon as may be after the polling for any post is complete.
- (2) Each contesting candidate can nominate one authorized representative and he/ she shall be entitled to be present at the place of counting of votes.
- (3) The returning Officer shall take up the counting of votes, post-wise and category wise, where applicable
- (4) Each ballot paper on which a vote has been recorded in accordance with sub-clauses (3) to (8) of clause (10) shall be treated as one vote for the candidate for whom it has been validly marked; and if any ballot paper has been marked in violation of any of the aforesaid provisions of sub-clauses (3) to(8) of clause (10) shall be rejected by the Returning Officer.

(50) The Returning Officer shall thereafter ascertain the result of counting and the candidates who have secured the maximum no. of votes in the said descending order, post wise and category wise, where applicable equal to the

no. of seats to be filled for each post or category or posts, where applicable, shall be deemed to have been duly elected to those posts.

12. Declaration of Results:

The names of contesting candidates who shall be deemed to have been elected at the election in accordance with sub-clause (6) of clause (11) shall be declared as having been duly elected to their respective posts by the Returning Officer at the Annual General meeting (AGM)

XIX. (a)VOTING

(I) Votes may be taken secret ballot. All matters capable of being so decided shall be decided by a majority vote, provided that no amendment or addition to and deletion from the Memorandum and article shall be adopted unless it is carried by a majority of total membership of the federation or by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.

(ii) The record of the proceedings of the Annual general Meeting and the Special General Meeting shall after the approval of the Chairman of the Meeting be circulated within one month of the meeting to the members of the council and then entered in the Minute Book. The Minutes shall be duly confirmed after correction, if any and signed by the Chairman at the next General meeting.

(iii) Except for want of quorum, no meeting of the council once summoned shall be postponed or cancelled. If at any meeting of the council the meeting is postponed for want of quorum the meeting shall stand adjourned by 30 minutes and shall continue after until the agenda is completed. No quorum shall be necessary for an adjourned meeting.

(iv) Accidental omission to give notice of an Annual General Meeting or Special general meeting or Meetings of the Committees to any member entitled to attend or the non receipt of the notice by him shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meetings unless the members present decide otherwise.

(v) The state /Union territory duly affiliated as a permanent member as per the rules of the society shall have the number of votes as stated in CLAUSE XI, in the council from that member unit and each representative having one vote each.

(vi) The Associate Members shall not be eligible to vote.

(b) QUORUM:

I) Executive /Council Meetings – 5 members

I) AGM/SGM/EOGM- 2/3 rd of total members

XX. POLL

(I) At any General Meeting unless a poll (before the declaration of the result of the show of hands) is demanded by at least five members present and entitled to vote, a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has, either on a show of hands or by secret ballot been carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence of directs.

(ii) In case of any dispute as to the admission or rejection of a vote, the Chairman shall determine the same and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

(iii) The demand for a poll on a matter under consideration shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any other business. No poll shall be demanded on the election of the Chairman of a meeting.

XXI. ATTENDANCE

It is compulsory on the part of the Office Bearers to attend 2/3rd of the meeting, Further leave of absence will have to be intimated within a reasonable time before the meeting, exception in extreme circumstances.

Council members shall be eligible of reimbursement form the Federation for attending meetings. Three tier AC railway return fares from the home town to the place of meeting in addition a lump sum of Rs 1500 as incidental expenses. The members will not be eligible for reimbursement for the Summer and Winter National meetings.

DISQUALIFICATION:

If any member, without leave of absence fails to attend 2/3rd number of meetings of the committee he will be disqualified to be a committee member. Such disqualified member shall be given notice of disqualification. Duly passed in the committee meeting and the committee shall be vested with the power of co-opting any other person as the committee member for that post or any other post in the committee and such co-opted person shall hold the office till the next election along with other members.

If any State Association affiliated to the BFI is not functioning properly for instance elected office bearers absenting themselves in AGM or EC, not conducting tournaments or acting for promotion of Bridge, in such case has got their right to prevent them from voting in AGM after giving them notice.

XXII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Two Vice Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, Two Honorary Joint Secretaries, the Honorary Treasurer, 5 Executive members shall be elected to the

Executive committee (Minimum 25% of the total strength of the Executive Committee should be of Elite sports persons) The Executive committee shall consist of at least 2 lady members.

Tenure of the executive committee shall be of 4 years

(b) Powers of Executive Committee

The Executive committee shall save as otherwise provided herein before powers:

- (i) to carry out the objects of the Federation specified in clause VI of the Memorandum of Association
- (ii) to prohibit any act or practice by a member which in the opinion of the Committee is detrimental to the interest of the game and to deal with such member in any manner it may think proper
- (iii) to consider and deal with all questions as to the right of representation at General meetings
- (iv) to decide question of eligibility of persons nominated or elected as members of the Executive committee
- (v) to determine penalties to be inflicted on any member or any player for an infringement of the Rules of the game and of the Rules of the federation,
- (vi) to sanction open tournaments and to prohibit the holding of unauthorized championships or contest in the area under its control.
- (vii) to appoint one or more of its members to act on the tournament committee of management of any championship or open tournament held in the area under its jurisdiction.
- (viii) to delegate all or any of its powers to a duly appointed committee or sub-committee.

(ix) to enlist the services of any person for any special purpose such person need not necessarily be a member of the Executive.

(x) to do all such other things as may be necessary for the general welfare and conduct of the business of the federation.

(xi) To constitute an Athletes commission and Boards for Development of Women and Junior players and implement recommendations of the commissions.

(xii) To take appropriate action on doping by coordinating with National doping Agency

(xiii) To ensure that no age fraud takes place by players by players and take necessary measures to prevent sexual harassment of women players.

(xiv) For the purpose of the societies registration Act XXI of 180 the governing body of the Federation shall be the Executive Committee.

XXIII. For the purpose of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 the governing body of the Federation shall be the Executive Committee.

These members need not be members of the council and one of them shall be nominated by the council as Chairman of the Committee having a casting vote in addition to his own.

The Ex-officio Secretary and two members amongst the six longest in office shall retire at every annual General meeting but will be eligible for re-election.

A casual vacancy in the committee may be filled by the Committee itself but such new members shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting and the

places filled by election. But the office bearers will have to be elected by the council, as soon as the retirement (attaining 70 years) or resign.

Or on being removed from the office by the council.

The technical and development committee shall recommend ways and means to develop and raise the standard of the game and in particular to have research work done in bidding and play technique and make it available to the members through its own resources or resources approved by the Federation.

The technical and development committee shall also arrange for coaching and teaching for those interested in learning the game at different levels and for teacher training and certification. It will also prepare a regular coaching scheme for submission to the Government for financial assistance

The technical and development Committee will also work out better methods of scoring and comparing performance. The Committee shall determine and lay down the procedure and methods of selection of players/pairs/teams and prepare a panel of them for representation in international contests for visiting foreign countries for participation in tournaments and exhibition matches and to select the same for playing against foreign visiting teams, and also determine the necessary discipline and the practice and the practice procedure for the selected players. The Committee will be authorized to nominate or recommend a panel of playing /non playing captains coaches Managers and /or any other officials connected with such teams

The Technical and Development Committee will also lay down the procedure for the training selection and categorization of Directors, It may also lay down qualification and prescribe tests for each category of Directors. The Technical and development committee may also advise the BFI about the necessity to modify the existing Master Point scheme with a

view to removing imbalances and to rationalize the scheme and to make its working smoother with a view to removing imbalances and to rationalize the scheme and to make its working smoother and easier,

All decisions and recommendations of the Technical and Development Committee shall be sent to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee disapproves the recommendation of the Technical and Development Committee the matter will be put up before the council in the General Meeting for a decision

The Council in General meeting shall have powers to consider and alter modify delete and add to any recommendations of Technical and Development Committee at the instance of the Executive Committee or at least one fourth of the total membership of the Federation in current affiliation.

XXXV. NATIONAL LAWS COMMISSION:

The National Laws commission shall be comprised of five members, nominated by the council at the Annual General Meeting as laid down hereunder, one of the members shall be nominated by the Council as chairman of the commission having a casting vote in addition to his own.

Two members amongst the five longest in office shall retire at every Annual General Meeting but will be eligible for reelection.

A casual vacancy in the Commission may be filled by the Commission itself but the new member shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting and the place filled by election. The National Laws Commission shall maintain the laws of the game as laid down by the World Bridge Federation and other recognized International Organizations, together with any additions or alterations made thereto by the Federation. It shall

settle all disputes relating to laws and ethics of the game between participants either in any District, State, Zonal or National Championship or any International Matches that are staged in India. The Commission shall take cognizance only of those cases where reference is made to it by the President or the Council. The Laws Commission will also examine the propriety of bidding and play conventions vis-à-vis the World Bridge Federation referred to it by the Executive or the Technical and Development Committee. It shall also interpret the rules and its finding shall be final

XXXVI. Any member of the Technical and Development Committee or the National Laws Commission, may be substituted at any time by a specific resolution of the Executive Committee supported by at least two- thirds of the members.

XXXVII.INDEMNITY:

Every office-bearer and member of the Committee or employee of the Federation, permanent or temporary, acting for the Federation shall have the right of indemnity and it shall be the responsibility of the Committee to pay out of the Federation all costs, expenses and losses incurred by such person. The Committee shall also be liable by reason of any contract entered into act or thing done by him in the discharge of his duties.

XXXVIII. CODE OF DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, suspend or otherwise discipline a player for any of the following reasons:

- (i) In case of any impropriety / cheating / fraud committed by the said player.
- (ii) In case of misbehavior with officials or fellow contestants during various bridge competitions or contests or during meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, or any other bridge related forum.

- 1) The Executive Committee shall appoint a “Disciplinary Committee” which shall consist of 5 members.
- 2) Complaints against a player for misconduct shall be referred to the “Disciplinary Committee” unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.
- 3) The Disciplinary Committee shall establish ad hoc procedures for the hearing of any charges, keeping in mind the convenience of the parties and the right to be heard.
- 4) No action shall be taken by the Executive Committee or the Disciplinary Committee without first.
 - (a) Notifying the accused player of the nature of the charges against him.
 - (b) Allowing sufficient time for the accused to answer such charges, whether in person, by representative or by affidavit.
- 5) The “Disciplinary Committee” shall investigate the complaints and in connection therewith may adjudge after notice and an opportunity to be heard that the player be reprimanded, censured, suspended, expelled or any combination of the preceding or otherwise be disciplined as a player. No suspension or expulsion so adjudged by the Disciplinary Committee shall become effective unless a representation right is given to the player.

XXXIX. FINANCE

The funds of the Federation shall be under the control of the Executive Committee which will have the power to spend such sums of money as they deem proper for carrying out the aims and objects of the federation,

XL INTERPREATION OF RULES. Any point not covered by these rules, shall be decided in the light of the F Rule or Rules most nearly applicable and in accordance with the general spirit of the said rules

- (l) At any meeting the Chairman shall have the right to interpret the Rules and decide all points of order or procedure and his decision thereof shall be final binding.

XLI. ALTERATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS'

The Federation ay from time to time after all or any of these rules and regulations and make new rules and regulations to the exclusion of or in addition to all or any of the regulation for the time being of the Federation and the rules and regulations so made and for the time being in force shall be deemed to be the rules and regulations of the Federation of the same validity as if they had been originally contained in these presents and shall be subject in like manner to be altered modified subsequently y an appropriate special resolution carried out by at least two third majority in any General Meeting.

XLII. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

'All assets and liabilities of the Federation prior to registration shall stand bested in the Federation with effect from the date of registration.

XLIII. DISSOLUTION OR WINDING UP:

The federation shall not be dissolved or voluntarily wound up unless such dissolution or winding up is decided upon by a resolution adopted at a General Meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose by majority of 3/4th of the members present and voting In case of dissolution or winding up, if here remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any assets and /or property whatsoever the said assets and property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members but it shall be handed over to a society having similar objects to be determined by votes of not less than 3/5th of members.

