

SOUTH AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The name of the organisation hereby constituted shall be the South African Bridge Federation, herein also called the SABF.

2 ADDRESS

The address of the office of the SABF shall be that determined by its Executive Council from time to time.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTS

3A To promote, foster and encourage the game of Contract Bridge throughout the Republic of South Africa;

3.1 In compliance with paragraph 9 of Part 1 of the 9th Schedule to the Income Tax Act:

3.2 To organise, manage and control Contract Bridge matches, contests, tournaments, congresses or any other form of competition or trial:

3.3 To be the National Contract Bridge Organisation (NCBO - as this term is understood by the World Bridge Federation) of the Republic of South Africa;

3.4 To associate or affiliate with any other bodies as the Executive Council may decide;

3.5 To unite in a Zonal Conference with other National Contract Bridge Organisations in the zone which is allocated to the Republic of South Africa by the World Bridge Federation;

3.6 To maintain a Master Point Register.

3.7 To publish a Magazine or use other means of disseminating items of bridge interest

3.8 To acquire and deal with assets of all kinds. to open and conduct accounts with banking or deposit-receiving institutions, and to have the same powers as are given to private companies under Act 61 of 1973;

3.9 Generally to take whatever steps are necessary to promote any of the foregoing aims and objects.

4 MEMBERSHIP AND ITS PRIVILEGES

4.1 Membership of the SABF shall be open to all bridge players but no person shall have a legal right to claim membership, continuance of membership or reinstatement as a member. No person shall be denied membership because of race, colour or creed.

4.2 Members shall have the following exclusive rights :

(a) to play in events organised by the SABF.

(b) to play in events organised by the subordinate bodies hereinafter defined:
To have their names enrolled on the Master Points Register.

4.3 Members shall have no right to vote.

5 GOVERNMENT

Government of the SABF shall be vested in an Executive Council and when that Council is not meeting, the Officers elected and holding office in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the SABF.

6 REGIONS

For purposes of administration, the Republic shall be divided into regions as set out in the schedule hereto. Bridge in each region shall be controlled by the respective body named in the schedule hereinafter called a subordinate body.

7 OFFICERS

7.1 The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such officers as the Executive Council may elect; At all times there shall be not less than 3 Officers

7.2 The officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Executive Council and shall hold office until the following Annual Meeting;

7.3 Only persons who are members of the SABF shall be entitled to hold office;

7.4 In between meetings of the Executive Council, the officers shall exercise the powers numbered 3, 6, 8 and 9 (except the power to terminate membership) listed in Paragraph 8.4 herein.

8 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ITS MEETINGS

8.1 The Executive Council shall consist of delegates nominated by the subordinate bodies referred to in the schedule and as provided in the By-Laws;

8.2 The Executive Council shall hold an annual meeting at the time of the National Congress which is held about the middle of each calendar year, and another at the time of the Interclub Teams event or the Pioneer/Settlers event.

8.3 A special meeting of the Executive Council shall be held if called by the President, the Vice-President or the Secretary upon 21 days written notice shall set forth the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

8.4 The Executive Council shall have the following powers:

- 8.4.1 to elect officers and define their powers to fix dues and fees;
- 8.4.2 to apply the funds of the SABF for its lawful purpose;
- 8.4.3 to adopt a set of By-laws and to cause the same to be amended;
- 8.4.4 to fix regional boundaries and to recognise subordinate bodies;
- 8.4.5 to resolve disputes between subordinate bodies;
- 8.4.6 to elect honorary officers and members;
- 8.4.7 to implement, administer and control the affairs of the SABF;
- 8.4.8 to terminate or suspend the membership of any member provided that such member shall have been given the opportunity to make representations against such action (legal representation is specifically excluded).

8.5 A quorum at an Executive Council meeting shall consist of such number of delegates as is equal to or greater than two-thirds the number of subordinate bodies. If no quorum is present at the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be adjourned for a period of one hour at which time the delegates present shall constitute a quorum. All such decisions shall be ratified at the next Executive Council meeting.

8.6 No meeting shall be invalidated by the fact that one or more subordinate bodies has not received notice of such meeting or of any resolution to be moved thereat.

9 SUB-COMMITTEES

The Executive Council may appoint Sub-Committees, not necessarily delegates, with such powers, duties and responsibilities, as the Executive Council may determine. Upon conclusion of the business for which a Sub-Committee was appointed it shall ipso facto be dissolved.

10 FUNDS

10.1 All monies received by the SABF (which shall be a non-profit organisation) shall be the property of the SABF and under its control.

10.2 A banking account shall be opened in the name of SABF and operated upon by the signature of the President plus one other officer or the signature of the Treasurer plus one other officer.

11 AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total votes present at the duly constituted meeting of the Executive Council, provided that two months' written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the subordinate bodies

11.1 Any Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Commissioner for Inland Revenue in terms of Section 30(b)(3)(vi) of the Income Tax Act

12 RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

12.1 No member shall have the right, title or interest in or to the property or funds of the SABF.

12.2 Upon the dissolution of the SABF or otherwise, the liability of each member shall be limited to the amount of any fees or subscriptions which are unpaid by such member.

13 DISPUTES

Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the enforceability of this Constitution or the By-laws or the application and the interpretation of the provisions hereof, or any dispute between a member and the SABF, or any dispute between subordinate bodies which the **Executive Council fails** to resolve, shall be referred to the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa for resolutions through mediation or expedited arbitration in terms of the Rules and Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes in Sport prevailing at the time. In the event of such arbitration, such resolution shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute

14 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

14.1 The South African Bridge Federation in terms of Section 30(3) of the Income Tax Act

14.1.1 Be prohibited from directly or indirectly distributing any of its funds to any person otherwise than in the course of undertaking any public benefit activity) and is required to utilize its funds solely for the object for which it has been established.

14.1.2 Be prohibited from accepting any donation which is reversible at the instance of the donor for reasons other than a material failure to conform to the designated purposes and conditions of such donation, including any misrepresentation with regard to the Tax Deductibility thereof in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act: provided that a donor (other than a donor which is an approved public benefit organization or an institution, board or body which is exempt from Tax in terms of Section 10(1)(cA)(i) of the Income Tax Act which has its sole principal object the carrying on of any public benefit activity may not impose conditions which could enable such donor or any connected person in relation to such donor to derive some direct or indirect benefit from the application of such donation.

14.1.3 Not pay any remuneration as defined in the Fourth Schedule of the Income Tax Act, to any employee, office bearer, member or other person which is excessive having regard to what is generally considered reasonable in the sector and in relation to the service rendered and has not and will not economically benefit any person in a manner which is not consistent with its objects and for which it has been established.

BY - LAWS

1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Any person who wishes to be a member is required to furnish the SABF annually, with his/her name, residential address and an annual fee. This annual fee, per member, per region, set by the Executive and confirmed by a General Meeting shall be the affiliated region having that member on its list.

2 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 2.1 After 31 March in each year, the number of paid-up members in each region, at that date shall be determined by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall, before 20 April, determine the number of delegates to be nominated by the subordinate body in control of the region in accordance with the following formula:

Up to 200	1 delegate
201 to 400	2 delegates
401 to 600	3 delegates
more than 600	4 delegates plus an additional delegate for each complete 300 members in excess of 600.

- 2.2 As soon as the number of delegates has been ascertained and before 30 April. the Secretary shall advise the subordinate bodies of the various numbers.
- 2.3 Each subordinate body shall then be entitled to send its appropriate number of delegates to any meeting of the Executive Council. Each delegate shall be a member who resides within the jurisdiction of the subordinate body.
- 2.4 The number of delegates ascertained as set out above shall remain in force until the next ascertainment has taken place.
- 2.5 The Executive Committee shall comprise of official delegates as nominated by their various Unions

3 VOTING AT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

- 3.1 Each delegate shall have one vote but a delegate may exercise additional votes if
- he has been nominated by a subordinate body which is entitled to more delegates than are representing it and
 - produces a document signed by the Chairman or President of that subordinate body authorising him to exercise votes in such a way that the total number of votes is equal to the number of delegates to which that subordinate body is entitled.
- 3.2 If a subordinate body is unable to send any delegates to a meeting, it may appoint a proxy (who need not reside within its area of jurisdiction) to exercise votes on its behalf.
- 3.3 If there is an equality of votes. the person presiding at the Executive Meeting shall have a casting vote whether or not he has a deliberative vote.
- 3.4 The officers referred to in the By-Laws 4.1, 4.2. 4.3 and 4A shall each have one vote on all matters except the election of officers.

4 OFFICERS

- 4.1 The President shall be the chief executive officer of the SABF. He shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Council and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the SABF.
- 4.2 The Vice-President shall exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.
- 4.3 The Secretary shall perform the duties normally carried out by a Secretary.
- 4.4 The Treasurer shall have the custody of the money and other assets of the SABF and shall see that proper books of account are kept. He shall further cause audited accounts to be prepared by an auditor for presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council.
- 4.5 Other officers elected by the Executive Council shall have such powers and perform such duties as the Executive Council shall determine.

5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 5.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council, nominations for the various officers shall be called for. If a nomination is not seconded, it shall be void. Nominations duly proposed may be submitted in writing by subordinate bodies not less than 21 days before the meeting and circulated; or nominations can be made at the Annual Meeting and then seconded.
- 5.2 Nominees need not be delegates.
- 5.3 If a nominee does not confirm his willingness to hold office at the meeting, his nominator shall produce his written consent to hold office, failing which the nomination shall be void.
- 5.4 If more than one person is nominated for any office, a ballot shall be held.

6 REGIONS

The following are the nominated subordinate bodies:

East Cape Bridge Union	Free State Bridge Union
Gauteng Bridge Union	Kwa Zulu-Natal Bridge Union
Northern Gauteng Bridge Union	Northern Gauteng Bridge Union
Southern Cape Bridge Union	Western Province Bridge Union
Border Bridge Union	

October 2009