

Gainesville Bridge Club By-Laws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Gainesville Bridge Club (GBC).

Article II – Objective/Goals

The objective of this club shall be to promote duplicate bridge, conduct rating point games, championship and special games, sponsor other tournaments in accordance with the rules and regulations of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and affiliate with the charitable activities of the league.

Article III – Membership and Dues

Section 1

The GBC is deemed an open Club in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. No restrictions for membership can be made that are not in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. Therefore, any person may make application to the Treasurer for membership in the GBC will become a member upon payment of the annual dues established by the GBC. Membership in the GBC may be revoked on in accordance with the rules given in the following sections: 2 and 3.

Section 2

Any person deemed guilty of unethical or obnoxious behavior during a duplicate game by the Weekly Game Director and/or Club Manager may be suspended by the Weekly Game Director and/or Club Manager for a period of not more than 30 days. The Weekly Game Director and/or Club Manager shall, within three (3) days following the alleged objectionable behavior, make a written report of the reasons for any suspension to the President, whose duty it shall be to present the matter to the Board of Directors as promptly as possible and prior to the termination of the suspension. In all cases, the Board of Directors of the club may approve or disapprove the suspension or take any other action deemed appropriate. Any person suspended shall have the opportunity to appeal the suspension before the Board of Directors of the club.

Section 3

Any person deemed guilty of conduct detrimental to the welfare of the club (e.g. felonies) may be suspended for not more than one (1) year by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article IV – Dues and Playing Fees

Section 1

Annual Dues shall be recommended by the Officers and Board of Directors. Changes in the Annual Dues must be approved by a simple majority of the Club membership at a regular meeting of the GBC.

Section 2

Payment of the playing fee shall be required of every participant in the regular rating point games conducted by the GBC, except as noted in Section 4 below. The playing fees shall be recommended by the Officers and Board of Directors. Changes in these fees must be approved by simple majority of Club membership at a regular meeting of the GBC.

Section 3

The playing fees to be charged for participation in all events conducted by the GBC, other than the regular rating point games, shall be established by the Tournament Committee and approved by the Officers and Board of Directors of the GBC.

Section 4

Exceptions from the playing fee for the regular rating point game and/or any other events conducted by the GBC can only be made by a recommendation of the Board of Directors followed by a majority of the voters at a regular or special meeting of the GBC. The current exceptions to the payment of the playing fees are given in Section 5.

Section 5

If the Director is required to play, then the fee shall be waived. If there is an Official Standby player and the Official Standby player participates in the regular game, then the fee shall be waived.

Article V – Officers

Section 1

The officers of the club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2

The terms of all the officers shall be one (1) year with the privilege of re-election.

Section 3

The newly elected officers shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section 4

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- a) **The President** shall be the official representative of the club. The President shall preside at all meetings of the GBC and the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian.
- b) **The Vice-President** shall assume the duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice-President shall assist the President in his/her activities.
- c) **The Secretary** shall keep full and accurate minutes of each meeting of the GBC and the Board of Directors. The secretary shall maintain an accurate record of the by-laws, membership, and committees.

- d) **The Treasurer** shall be the custodian of all funds of the club, collect all dues, fees, and receive all monies. The Treasurer shall make disbursements upon the receipt of invoices and shall insure that funds from the club's treasury shall be used only to secure items or services which will be available to each active member. The Treasurer shall accept all applications for membership. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement at the end of June and the end of December which will be presented at the next weekly meeting of the GBC.

The Officers of the GBC will receive no compensation for their services without the approval by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the GBC conducted as described below.

Article VI – Meetings

Section 1

There shall be regular meetings of the club during April and October. If no other time is set by the Board of Directors, said meetings shall be held on the last Monday of the month. A notice of the regular meeting, which includes the agenda for the same, shall be announced at least fourteen (14) days prior to said meetings. Matters not included in the announced agenda may not be resolved at a meeting. Twenty-five (25) percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Only members in good standing who are physically present shall be counted towards said quorum and will be allowed to vote.

Section 2

The nomination and election of officers and five (5) elected members of the Board of Directors shall be held in October.

Section 3

Special meetings of the club may be called by the President, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by a petition given of twelve (12) or more members of the GBC given to the Secretary. Written notice of a special meeting must be mailed to all members at least seven (7) days prior to such meetings.

Section 4

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Article VII – Board of Directors

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall consist of Officers and five (5) members elected by the GBC. The Club Manager shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The immediate Past President and Tournament Chairperson shall serve as ex-officio members without voting power. The term of the Board of Directors shall be two (2) years, with no more than 3 director seats up to election in any given year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms that the five (5) elected Board of Directors or the Club Manager may serve.

Section 2

The newly elected officials shall take office on January 1st.

Section 3

The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the club, fix the hour and place of meetings, and perform such duties as specified below:

- a) **Appoint** the Club Manager.
- b) **Elect** three (3) members for the nominating committee for the October elections.
- c) **Approve** committee chairperson appointments.
- d) **Recommend** playing fees.
- e) **Recommend** annual dues.
- f) **Recommend** whether the GBC shall sponsor a Sectional or other Tournament.

Section 4

The Board of Directors shall meet within the last two (2) weeks prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the club and may hold additional meetings as the President or a majority of the Board of Directors shall deem necessary.

Section 5

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, but all decisions shall be made by affirmative vote of the majority of its full membership.

Section 6

The Board of Directors shall recommend and approve any expenditures required to run the GBC such as tables, cards, rental fees for the facilities, social events, etc. However, the purchasing of capital equipment, defined as costing more than \$500, or committing the GBC to any financial obligation extending over a period of eleven (11) months or more shall require a majority vote at a regular club meeting.

Section 7

The use of any equipment or items belonging to the GBC shall be prohibited without the approval of the Board of Directors at a scheduled Board meeting. The use of any capital equipment as defined in Section 6 above, belonging to the GBC shall be prohibited without the approval of a majority of the Board and subsequent approval vote by the club membership.

Article VIII – Nominations and Elections

Section 1

A Nominating Committee of three (3) members, elected by the Board of Directors, shall prepare a ballot of nominees for the officers of the GBC and each member of the Board of Directors up for election for the upcoming club year. This ballot shall contain no more than two (2) names for each position. The nominating committee shall obtain the consent of each nominee before placing his/her name on the ballot.

Section 2

The report of the Nominating Committee shall be received at the annual meeting in October for the election of Officers and Board members. Nominations from the floor shall be received at this meeting provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

Section 3

The election will be conducted by the Nominating Committee. The voting will take place by a ballot prepared by the Committee.

Section 4

A plurality vote shall elect the Officers and Board of Directors.

Section 5

Should a vacancy occur in any office other than that of the President, the President shall appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

Article IX – Committees

Section 1

In January, the current President shall appoint, with prior approval of those elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors during the ensuing year, Chairpersons of the following committees: Audit, By-Laws, Membership, Publicity, Social and Tournament.

Section 2

Each committee chairperson shall select members of his/her committee without restriction to number and shall immediately file a list of such members with the Secretary. Each committee chairperson shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and to the membership at large for the proper performance of the duties as follows:

- a) The Audit Committee shall audit all accounts of the club and make a report to the membership at the regular business meeting in January and at other times when requested by the Board of Directors or by any five (5) members.
- b) The By-Laws Committee shall receive and evaluate suggestions for changes in the By-Laws and make recommendations concerning such changes.
- c) The Social Committee shall extend hospitality to new members and guests. The Social Committee shall also make proper arrangements for all social functions prescribed by the Board of Directors.
- d) The Membership Committee shall seek to enlist new members, encourage regular play by members and assist members and guests in arranging partnerships.
- e) The Publicity Committee shall work to promote attendance at all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club and to inform members of the results of play by reporting the activities of the club through appropriate news media. The Publicity Committee shall also prepare and distribute appropriate notices of all special games and Sectional Tournaments conducted or sponsored by the GBC.

- f) The Tournament Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the scheduling and proper conduct of an annual tournament with a sectional or higher rating by the ACBL, provided the club has voted to sponsor such as a tournament in any given year. The Tournament Committee shall stipulate and procure all prizes to be awarded to winners in all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club.

A Protest Committee, appointed by the Weekly Game Director, shall hear all protests made by any player concerning a Weekly Game Director's ruling and shall be composed of experienced bridge players who were present at the game.

Article X – Weekly Game Directors

Section 1

The Weekly Game Director (or Directors) shall be appointed by the President.

Section 2

The Weekly Game Director shall be a certified director or qualified director.

Section 3

The Weekly Game Director shall be paid a fee for directing subject to the constraints in Article IV, Section 5 of these by-laws. The fee for each session shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of voters at a GBC meeting.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in "Roberts Rules of Order Revised" shall govern the GB in all cases to which they are applicable and in which the club is not inconsistent with these by-laws.

Article XII – Amendments to By-Laws

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous regular business meeting or copies of it distributed to the membership at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting at which it is to be presented.

Article XIII - Dissolution

In the event of the Dissolution of the GBC, the total assets shall be liquidated and allocated for charitable purposes. No portion of the funds shall be distributed among individual members. Dissolution shall take place only after a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership.