



# Africa Bridge Federation

---

## CONSTITUTION AND BYE LAWS

---

### 1. NAME

The name of the organization hereby constituted shall be Africa Bridge Federation, herein also called the ABF.

### 2. ADDRESS

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

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTS

3.1 - To affiliate to World Bridge Federation and be the sole zonal organization for the continent of Africa;

3.2 - To promote, foster and encourage the game of Contract Bridge throughout the Continent of Africa;

3.3 - To organise, manage and control Contract Bridge matches, contests, tournaments, congresses or any other form of competition or trials related to Contract Bridge.

3.4 - To fix the dates, sites, eligibility requirements and conditions for competitions held under the sanction and supervision of ABF and/or the World Bridge Federation.

3.5 - To establish appropriate rules and regulations governing competitions organised by the ABF or an affiliated NBO.

3.6 - To be the Umbrella Bridge Organisation (as this term is understood by the World Bridge Federation) of the Continent of Africa;

3.7 - To participate in and support the Olympic movement in conformity with requirements of the goals set out in the Olympic charter.

3.8 - To associate or affiliate with any other bodies as the Management Council (MC) may decide;

3.9 - To unite in a Zonal Conference (ZC) with all other National Contract Bridge Organisations (NCBO) in the zone which is

allocated to the Africa Bridge Federation by the World Bridge Federation;

3.10 - To maintain a Master Point Register;

3.11 - To publish a Magazine or use other means of disseminating items of bridge interest;

3.12 - 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 companies and organizations not for profit worldwide;

3.13 - 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 ABF shall be open to the National Bridge bodies or organizations recognised by the ABF as the sole Bridge body or Bridge organization in their respective countries in Africa.

4.2 - Member organisations shall have the following exclusive rights:

4.2.1 - To play in events organised by the ABF;

4.2.2 - To have their members enrolled on the Master Point Register.

4.2.3 - Only a NBO (and its members) duly recognised by the ABF or any Zone of WBF may play in events organised by the WBF or its Zones.

4.3 - Member organisations have the right to vote at meetings.

#### 5. GOVERNMENT

Government of the ABF shall be vested in a Management Council (MC) and when the MC is not meeting, shall be vested in the Officers elected and holding office in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the ABF.

#### 6. REGIONS

For purposes of administration, there shall be one region, that is the Continent of Africa as defined by WBF.

## **7. OFFICERS**

7.1 - The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, Two Joint-Secretaries and a Treasurer and such officers as the Management Council may elect;

7.2 - The President, once elected the President must resign if he/she is NBO delegate.

7.3 - The officers shall be elected for a term of four years and shall be re eligible to serve as officers;

7.4 - Only persons who are members of a NBO duly recognised by the ABF shall be entitled to hold office;

7.5 - In between meetings of the MC, the officers shall exercise all the powers vested in the MC except the power to terminate membership.

## **8. MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND ITS MEETINGS**

8.1 - The MC shall consist of delegates nominated by a member NBO and who are in good standing of the ABF;

8.2 - The MC shall hold meetings at the time of the All Africa Championships which is held once every two years;

8.3 - A special meeting of the MC shall be held if called by the President, Vice-President or the Secretary upon one calendar month's written notice to each NBO. Such written notice shall set forth the time, and purpose of the meeting and the mode in which it will be held.

8.4 - The Management Council shall have the following powers: -

8.4.1 - to elect officers and define their powers;

8.4.2 - to fix dues and fees;

8.4.3 - to apply the funds of the ABF for its lawful purpose;

8.4.4 - to adopt a set of Bye-Laws and to cause the same to be amended as appropriate;

8.4.5 - to recognise NBO's

8.4.6 - to resolve disputes between NBO's;

8.4.7 - to elect honorary officers and members;

8.4.8 - to implement, administer and control the affairs of the ABF;

8.4.9 - to terminate or suspend the membership of any NBO provided that such NBO shall have been given the opportunity to make representations against such action (legal representation is specifically excluded).

8.4.10 - Generally such other powers as may be necessary to carrying out the objects of the ABF.

8.5 - A quorum at an MC meeting shall consist of such number of delegates as is equal to or greater than half the number of NBO's. 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 by the next MC meeting.

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

## **9. SUB-COMMITTEES**

The MC may appoint Sub-Committees, not necessarily delegates, with such powers, duties and responsibilities as the MC 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 ABF (which shall be a non-profit organization) shall be the property of the ABF and under its control.

10.2 - A banking account shall be opened in the name of ABF and operated upon by the signature of the President and / or the signature of the Treasurer. The account shall be opened in the city where the President or Treasurer resides.

## **11. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total votes present at a duly constituted meeting of the MC, provided that two month's written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the NBO's.

## **12. RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS**

12.1 - No member shall have any right, title or interest in or to the property of and/or the funds of the ABF.

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

## **13. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any dispute between an NBO and ABF shall be determined by arbitration, and shall be a condition precedent to reference to a Court of Law,

# BYE LAWS

---

## **1. MEMBERSHIP**

1.1 - Only a National body or organization recognised by the ABF as the sole body or organisation in the country being a country within Africa is entitled to membership of ABF.

1.2 - Any such body or organisation which wishes to be a member is required to furnish the ABF annually with its name, address and such fee as may be laid down by the MC. Until altered by the Management Council, the annual fee shall be sum of \$100 payable by the affiliated NBO.

1.3 - The annual fee is intended to cover a calendar year.

1.4 - A member may resign by written notice to the Secretary at least three months before dues become payable, otherwise shall remain liable for dues for the ensuing year.

1.5 - A member may be removed for good cause by affirmative vote of two thirds of the membership but may be reinstated on the recommendation of the Executive confirmed by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the membership.

1.6 - If a member fails to renew membership by 31st March of the following year, that membership shall lapse but it may be revived with retrospective effect at the discretion of the MC.

1.7 - A member shall undertake to comply and shall be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of ABF.

## **2. MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

2.1 - The M.C. shall meet at such intervals as the M.C. shall decide.

2.2 - Each NBO shall be entitled to send one delegate to any meeting of the MC. Each delegate shall be a member who resides within the jurisdiction of that specific NBO.

2.3 - An NBO may in addition send upto a maximum of 3 members who may accompany the delegate to the meetings of the MC but shall not be entitled to vote.

## **3. VOTING AT MANAGEMENT MEETINGS**

3.1 - Each delegate shall have one vote.

3.2 - If an NBO is unable to send a delegate to a meeting, it may appoint a proxy (who need not reside within its area of jurisdiction) to exercise a vote on its behalf.

3.3 - If there is any equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote whether or not he has a deliberative vote.

3.4 - Officers referred to in Article 7.1 shall each have one vote on all matters except the election of officers.

#### **4. OFFICERS**

4.1 - The President shall be the Chief Management Officer of the ABF. He shall preside at all meetings of the MC and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the ABF.

4.2 - The Vice-President shall exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.

4.3 - The Joint-Secretaries shall perform the duties normally carried out by a Secretary.

4.4 - The Treasurer shall have the custody of all money and other assets of the ABF 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 meeting of the MC.

4.5 - Other officers elected by the MC shall have such powers and perform such duties as the MC shall determine.

#### **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

5.1 - At the Meeting of the MC, nominations duly proposed and seconded 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 NBO's not less than 21 days before the meeting and circulated; or nominations can be made at the 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. DEFINITIONS**

Words in the singular shall include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular; words importing the masculine gender shall include females and words importing natural persons shall include juristic persons.