

Gainesville Bridge Club By-Laws as of November, 2020

Article I – Name

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

Article II – Nature of Business

The purpose of the business of the Gainesville Bridge Club shall be:

a) Education:

- i. providing bridge lessons to members and non-members;
- ii. providing educational material such as hand records and web analysis about bridge hands that members experience at the club;
- iii. providing an atmosphere where members of the Gainesville Bridge Club can discuss hands, conventions, and other parts of the game of bridge to increase their learning about bridge and stimulate their intellectual engagement with the game; and
- iv. sponsoring outreach programs to elementary, middle, and high schools to start bridge education at a young age.

b) Health:

- i. stimulating memory, visualization, and sequencing as members learn and play bridge;
- ii. providing a social network for members

c) Providing bridge services:

- i. holding duplicate bridge games, including rating point games, championship games, and special games in accordance with the rules and regulations of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL);
- ii. sponsoring bridge tournaments as members are interested.
- iii. promoting casual bridge games among members and in the community.

Article III – Membership

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 who applies to the Treasurer for membership in the GBC will become a member upon payment of the annual dues established by the GBC.

Members agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the ACBL. The Zero Tolerance Policy established by ACBL in 1998 is described on the GBC website. Procedures for handling violations of ZT or other issues occurring at the bridge table will be handled by the Game Director. Further issues can be addressed through use of the Player Memo.

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 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.

Article VI – Meetings and Business Procedures

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 and posted on the Club Website.

Section 2

Voting on matters discussed at meetings will be conducted electronically. Within seven (7) days after the meeting, a link to a ballot will be provided to all members. Any member unable to vote electronically will be able to vote in person or by paper ballot. Ballots must be returned within seven (7) days after they are received. For any vote of the membership to be considered binding, at least half of the members of the club must vote. For any measure to pass, a plurality of the cast votes must vote yes for the measure.

Section 3

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

Section 4

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 by twelve (12) or more members of the GBC given to the Secretary. Petitions must be acted upon within thirty (30) days of receipt. Written notice of a special meeting must be sent to all members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and describe the matters to be considered at the meeting.

Section 5

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 Officers on the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year. The term of the remaining board members shall be two (2) years with no more than three (3) of these seats up for election in any given year.

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 who will fulfill his/her ACBL specified duties.
- b) Select 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 fourteen (14) days 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, any expenditure of 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 of the membership.

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 GBC equipment which cost \$500 or more 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, selected 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. 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 as directed by the Nominating Committee. Election of board members and officers will be conducted electronically in accordance with Article VI, Section 2.

Section 4

A majority vote shall elect the Officers and Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors will break ties.

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, ByLaws, Social, Membership, Publicity, Tournament, Education, and Development.

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 first regular business meeting of each calendar year 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 club tournaments and games and GBC in general in appropriate news media.
- 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 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.
- g) The Education Committee will coordinate the club's offerings of bridge lessons, bridge educational material, bridge educational discussions, and bridge educational lectures. It will engage in outreach to provide information about these educational services beyond the membership, and make sure that the membership is also adequately informed about the club's educational programming.
- h) The Development Committee is charged with development (strategic planning and fundraising) for the Gainesville Bridge Club, responsive to members' interests, including but not limited to, work on the charitable organization status of the club, work on finding and fundraising for a permanent home for the club, and providing members with information about the long-term implications of decisions in front of the GBC.

An ad hoc Appeals Committee, appointed by the Game Director of the game in question, shall hear all appeals made by any player concerning a Game Director's ruling and shall be composed of experienced bridge players who were present at the game. Further issues can be addressed through use of the Player Memo.

Article X – Game Directors

Section 1

Each Game Director shall be appointed by the President with input from the Club Manager.

Section 2

Each Game Director shall be a certified director.

Section 3

Each Game Director shall be paid a fee for directing. The fee for each session shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of voters.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th edition, ISBN1541736699, 2020, or later edition as approved by the Board of Directors) shall govern the GBC in all cases to which they are applicable.

Article XII – Amendments to By-Laws

Notification for by-law amendments must be submitted by the Board of Directors to the full membership by e-mail or for those without e-mail addresses by regular mail, at least seven days before the voting process begins. The exact wording of the revised and original by-laws must be included.

Voting on by-law amendments will be conducted electronically in accordance with Article VI, Section 2.

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.