

BYE-LAWS

1 INTERPRETATIONS – DEFINITIONS

1.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions shall have the same meanings as in the Articles of Association of the EBU and the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings when used in these Bye Laws:

“Association Subscription” means a subscription payable by an Ordinary Player Member to the Association of which they are a member in accordance with paragraph 3.8.

"Conduct Committee" means the Committee of that name as described in the Articles of Association.

"Constituent Membership" means affiliation to the EBU, and the rights thereby enjoyed, by Associations complying with the requirements of paragraph 2.5 and the other requirements of these Bye Laws.

"Disciplinary Rules" means those rules contained in Appendix A to these Bye Laws.

"Duplicate Contract Bridge" means the game known by such name on the date of adoption of these Bye Laws and any other form of competition contract bridge and such other game or games closely akin thereto as may from time to time hereafter be devised or invented.

“EBU” means English Bridge Union Limited (CRN: 00358588).

"Open Competition" shall mean any Duplicate Contract Bridge competition (including online games) other than one held at the premises of a club or other organisation for its members or employees and their bona fide guests only.

"Selection Committee" means the Committee of that name as described in the Articles of Association.

“Subscription” means any dues payable by a Player Member or Affiliated Club to the EBU for its own benefit (rather than as agent for an Association) in accordance with Section 3, including but not exclusively annual subscriptions and Universal Membership subscriptions.

"Subscription Year" means the period commencing on 1 April in each year and ending on the following 31 March.

"Tournament Manager" means a person appointed by the organiser of any Open Competition to control and be responsible for the organisation and management of such Open Competition.

"Treasurer" means the person appointed by the Board of Directors to perform the functions to be determined in accordance with paragraph 4.4 of these Bye Laws.

1.2 Unless the context otherwise requires, in these Bye Laws:

- (a) words denoting the singular include the plural and vice versa; and
- (b) paragraph headings are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Bye Laws, and any reference to a Section or paragraph is to the relevant Section or paragraph of these Bye Laws.
- (c) Any other defined terms not defined in the above shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the EBU Articles of Association.

1.3 For the purposes of section 5 (Licences) and the definition of "Open Competition", the decision of the Board of Directors (upon such evidence as it shall require) as to whether or not a person is to be deemed a member, employee or bona fide guest for the purposes of section 5 (Licences) and the definition of "Open Competition", shall be a final and binding decision.

1.4 The decision of the Board of Directors (upon such evidence as it shall require) as to whether or not a person is to be deemed a member, employee or bona fide guest for the purposes of section 5 (Licences) and the definition of "Open Competition", shall be a final and binding decision.

2 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Affiliated Clubs:

- (a) shall comply with such conditions, rules and regulations as the Board of Directors shall from time to time impose, which conditions the Board of Directors, may vary, add to or revoke; and
- (b) shall be entitled to receive all publications and services provided by the EBU upon payment of the charge, if any; and
- (c) may, without express permission or licence from the EBU, hold competitions in the club premises, online or elsewhere for its members and their bona-fide guests.

2.2 The Board:

- (a) shall refuse to accept any person as a Player Member:
 - (i) pursuant to Bye Law 3.5 for non-payment of subscription, or
 - (ii) if the person has been expelled from Player Membership under Rule 11.1(i) of the Disciplinary Rules, or suspended from Player Membership under Rule 11.1(ii) of the Disciplinary Rules.
- (b) The Board may at its discretion additionally expel a Player Member or refuse to accept any person as a Player Member where the Board considers that the person's behaviour is incompatible with Player Membership. Appeal against such expulsion or refusal may be made to a committee constituted from the members of the EBU Disciplinary Panel.

2.3 Player Members shall:

(a) Comply with such conditions and regulations as the Board of Directors shall from time to time impose, vary, add to or revoke; and

(b) be entitled to receive all publications and services provided by the EBU upon payment of the charge if any. However, the Board may, in certain cases, set minimum contribution requirements to receive these publications and services; and

(c) be entitled to the benefits of membership set out on paragraph 3.7, and to enjoy the other rights of Player Membership as may be decided by the Board of Directors from time to time.

3 SUBSCRIPTION AND COMPETITION ENTRIES

3.1 The level of Subscription (or levels, should it be determined that different levels shall apply to different categories of membership for Player Members, or that different levels shall apply to different types of game) shall be fixed by the EBU by Ordinary Resolution at each Annual General Meeting and shall take effect on the commencement of the next following Subscription Year.

3.2 The Secretary shall notify any changes to the level of Subscriptions made in accordance with paragraph 3.1 as soon as is practicable after the Annual General Meeting to all Associations, Affiliated Clubs and Direct Player Members.

3.3 Annual Subscriptions for each Subscription Year shall be due and payable to the EBU by the commencement of such Subscription Year.

3.4 A person becoming a Direct Player Member during the course of any Subscription Year may, if the Board so determines, pay such amount of the applicable annual subscription as is proportionate to the amount of the current Subscription Year then remaining (rather than a full annual subscription).

3.5 A Direct Player Member who either has not paid their annual subscription before the end of the Subscription Year (if required to do so), or who submits their resignation in writing to the EBU, shall cease to be a Player Member forthwith or on the later date (if any) specified in their resignation as the case may be.

3.6 Any such person who ceases to be a Player Member shall remain liable to pay their appropriate annual subscription in respect of the whole or part of the Subscription Year during which they ceased to be a Player Member, and shall not be permitted to become a Player Member at any time at which and such liability remains outstanding.

3.7 Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3.5, a Player Member who has not paid their annual subscription for a particular Subscription Year (if required to do so) by 30 June in that Subscription Year shall forfeit all rights afforded by the EBU and any Association to Player Members until they have done so, but shall remain subject to the obligations imposed on Player Members as set out in these Bye-Laws.

3.8 A Player Member who has paid their annual subscription in respect of any Subscription Year (or who is not required to do so pursuant to paragraph 2.3):

(a) shall be entitled to participate in any Open Competition which is organised by the EBU and which commences in that Subscription Year, subject to such Player Member complying in all respects with the conditions of entry to such competition and subject further to any limitation placed on the numbers and qualifications for entrance and to any circumstances beyond the control of the EBU; and

(b) shall be entitled to participate in any competition which is organised by any other organisation, which is sanctioned by the EBU and which commences in that Subscription Year or which the organiser of the competition deems to appertain to that Subscription Year, even though it may occur wholly or in part in the Subscription Year(s) immediately preceding or following the Subscription Year in question.

3.9 Each Association shall at all times keep the EBU informed of the applicable level or levels of the Association Subscription levied by it on its members from time to time. In particular, every County Association must, by 31 January, advise the EBU of its subscription rates for the next Subscription Year.

3.10 The EBU, Associations and Clubs may, where appropriate, collect subscriptions as agents for each other. The payments shall be passed to the relevant entity as soon as practicable.

3.11 No person may become a member of an Association or enjoy any benefits of such membership during any Subscription Year unless their appropriate Subscription to the EBU in relation to such Subscription Year has been paid.

3.12 Subject to any terms imposed by an Association, a Player Member may be a member of any number of Associations in any Subscription Year PROVIDED THAT they have paid to the EBU a Subscription (if any) appropriate to their kind of membership in relation to that Subscription Year.

3.13 A Player Member shall promptly:

(a) pay to the EBU any entry fees payable by them for entry to competitions organised by the EBU,

(b) pay to the EBU any charges they may incur for the supply of materials, equipment or services by the EBU, and

(c) reimburse the EBU for any sums which the EBU may reasonably have disbursed on their behalf.

4 LICENCES

4.1 All Open events require a Licence from the EBU except where exempted by the EBU. General exemptions are detailed in the Masterpoint and Licensing Handbook. Other applications for exemption should be made to the EBU office.

4.2 It shall be a required condition of entry to any competition organised, sanctioned or licensed by the EBU that each participant submits themselves to these Bye Laws

of the EBU, and in particular to the Disciplinary Rules (whether or not they are a paid-up Player Member of the EBU).

4.3 The EBU shall be entitled at its discretion to grant or refuse a licence for an Open Competition pursuant to paragraph 4.1 and to charge or not charge a fee for any licence it may grant.

4.4 Licences for Open Competitions issued by the EBU shall be in writing and it shall be a duty of the Tournament Manager or other persons having control of any Open Competition requiring a licence to exhibit such licence in a prominent place on the premises where the Open Competition is being held and to certify on the entry form, if any, and on other literature relating to the Open Competition, that a licence has been obtained.

4.5 Any Tournament Manager of any Open Competition for which a licence is required submits themselves to these Bye Laws of the EBU, and in particular to the Disciplinary Rules (whether or not they are a paid up Player Member of the EBU) and, if such a licence has not been obtained, shall be guilty of an offence under the provisions of the Disciplinary Rules which shall apply to such person.

5 CONDUCT

5.1 The conduct of Player Members, persons submitting themselves to the Bye Laws of the EBU under paragraphs 4.2 and 4.5, and other persons and organisations directly or indirectly affiliated to the EBU, shall be regulated in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules (and, for the avoidance of doubt, such Disciplinary Rules form part of these Bye Laws for the purposes of paragraph 6 below).

5.2 Appeals to the EBU from the disciplinary decisions of an Association shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Appendix B to these Bye Laws (and, for the avoidance of doubt, Appendix B forms part of the Disciplinary Rules and therefore part of the Bye Laws for the purposes of paragraph 6 below).

5.3 These Disciplinary Rules shall apply to all disciplinary matters.

6 ALTERATION OF BYE LAWS

These Bye Laws may be amended, or new Bye Laws adopted, by Ordinary Resolution of the Shareholders provided that notice of such proposed amendment or new Bye Law has been duly given in accordance with the Articles of Association of the EBU.