

ACBL DISTRICT 6 INC.

BYLAWS

August 25, 2023

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

- A. The name of the organization is ACBL District 6, Inc. (the District.) It is incorporated in the state of Virginia as a 501(c)(4) organization.
- B. The District is a subsidiary of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL); recognizes the ACBL as its parent organization having authority and control over Tournament Bridge in North America; and exists under its sanction and functions within its Constitution, Bylaws, and Regulations.
- C. The fiscal year of the District begins on September 1st and ends on August 31st.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

- A. To coordinate with and assist the ACBL in the promotion and conduct of bridge within the District.
- B. To organize and operate all Regional Tournaments allocated to the District.
- C. To schedule and conduct Grand National Teams (GNT), North American Pairs (NAP), Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC), and other such events as may be created and promoted by the ACBL.
- D. To coordinate with neighboring districts in scheduling and conducting events to our mutual benefit.
- E. To promote the highest standards of conduct and ethics for bridge players and to take any and all steps necessary for that purpose.
- F. To cooperate in the ACBL charity programs, and to sponsor and conduct charity events with the objective generating funds for worthy humanitarian causes.
- G. To promote the best interests of contract bridge.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. All ACBL Units which exist, or hereafter come into being within the geographical boundaries of the District, are automatically Member Units of the District so long as they remain within the District, without requirement of any petition or formal action on the part of the Unit.
- B. ACBL members who are members of any member Unit of the District shall be deemed members of the District.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The District Board of Directors shall be the governing body for all activities within the District subject to the regulations of the ACBL. Each member of the Board of Directors must be a member in good standing of the ACBL.
- B. The membership of the Board of Directors shall include:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Immediate Past President
 - One representative from each Unit
 - Three Representatives to the ACBL Advisory Council.
 - Regional Tournament Manager
 - Tournament Coordinator
 - Grass Roots Coordinator
 - ACBL Regional Director, as a non-voting member

- C. Each member, with the exception of the non-voting ACBL Regional Director, shall be entitled to one vote.
- D. Units shall notify the District Secretary, in writing, as to the name of their representative immediately following such selection. In the absence of the representative, Unit Presidents may appoint an alternate representative, either temporarily or permanently, but must submit, in writing, as promptly as possible, the name of such alternate to the District Secretary. Such alternative representative (1) shall not be a person who is already a member of the Board of Directors in another capacity, and (2) shall be a member of the Unit whose President is making the appointment.

ARTICLE V - POWERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall have the following powers:

- A. To review and approve proposed changes to the District 6 Policies and Procedures
- B. To advise the President in the appointment of committee chairs and other official representatives of the District and approve such appointments
- C. To provide oversight to all activities specified in these Bylaws or at the direction of the President
- D. To enter into agreements or contracts with persons or external organizations when necessary
- E. To authorize expenditure of funds
- F. Actions of the Board of Directors may be taken by the Directors participating at a physical meeting or remotely by telephonic or virtual electronic means or by written consent as permitted by the Nonstock Corporation Act of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Annual Meeting shall be held during the last Open Regional tournament in each fiscal year or at such other time as the Board of Directors shall designate.
- B. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be made in writing to each member of the Board of Directors at least thirty days prior to such meeting.
- C. Special meetings may be called on not less than fifteen days written notice by the District President or upon written request of not less than one-half of the Board Members or by the Presidents of more than one-half of the member Units. Notification of such meetings will be accompanied by an Agenda stating the items to be discussed. The meeting shall be limited to the Agenda.
- D. A quorum for the transaction of any business at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of the presence in person or by electronic means of Board Members having in the aggregate a majority of the votes on the District Board and representing at least fifty percent (50%) of the member Units.
- E. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (currently Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition) shall govern District 6 meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or the special rules of order of this District.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

- A. The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors for a term of one year or until their successors are elected commencing on the first day of the fiscal year. The elections shall take place at the Annual meeting closest to and before the start of the fiscal year.
- C. Nominations for each of the officers will be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President, or from the floor during the course of the meeting. Nominees must be a member of the District. A majority of votes is necessary for election and if no majority exists on a first ballot, the names of the two candidates, including ties, receiving the largest number of votes will be placed on a second ballot.

- D. The Offices of President and Vice President shall be limited to two consecutive terms. Any time served to fill out a vacancy in either office shall not count against this limit.
- E. Any officer may be removed from office, with or without cause, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein.
- F. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of President for any reason, the Vice President shall assume the position until the end of the term.
- G. If both the office of President and Vice President become vacant at any time, the Executive Committee shall appoint a person to fill the Office of President until the next scheduled election.
- H. In the event of a vacancy in the positions of Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the President, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next scheduled election.
- I. If the position of Immediate Past President becomes vacant the position shall remain vacant until the next President takes office. If a President resigns, he shall not be entitled to the position of Immediate Past President and the current holder shall remain on the Board of Directors until the next election.

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. President

The President shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the District Board. He shall supervise the management of the affairs of the District and perform all duties incidental to this office. He shall be a member ex officio of all committees. He shall appoint such special committees as he shall, from time to time, consider necessary.
- Negotiate with neighboring Districts agreements to their mutual benefit and present them to the Board of Directors for approval.
- Sign all contracts negotiated on behalf of the District or authorize a designee when appropriate.
- Appoint, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, and in conformance with the Bylaws of the ACBL Advisory Council, representatives to the Advisory Council.

B. Vice President

In the absence of the President or in his inability to act, the Vice President shall preside at the meetings and succeed him in the performance of his duties. If both are unable to act, then the Board of Directors shall choose a presiding officer from among their group.

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Keep the records of the District and the minutes of meetings, including the recording of all votes.
- Send notification of meetings and proposed changes to the Bylaws or Policies and Procedures to the Board of Directors.
- Keep a record of all Member Units and their officers and representatives.
- Conduct correspondence as authorized by the President (or designee) with the ACBL, the member Units, and all other persons and organizations having official business with the District.
- Perform other duties incidental to this office.

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Have the care, custody, and responsibility of all financial instruments of the District

- Follow standard accounting practices
- Deposit the funds of the District in such financial institutions as may be designated by the Board of Directors
- Keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements
- Submit reports at all district meetings at such other times as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors
- File all government required reports

ARTICLE IX - MEMBER UNITS

- A. All Member Units retain autonomy in the conduct of their affairs, as provided in the regulations and Bylaws of the ACBL. Each member unit shall:
- Submit the names, addresses, and email addresses of Officers and Members of their Unit Board of Directors to the District Secretary promptly after their election
 - Coordinate dates of its sectional tournaments with the District Tournament Coordinator to avoid conflicts whenever possible

ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

A. Executive Committee:

- An Executive Committee shall consist of the District President, Vice President, and any three Presidents of Member Units. At the beginning of the term of office, the President shall announce his Executive Committee appointments.
- A Member Unit President may continue to serve on the Executive Committee for one year from his appointment even after the expiration of his unit term of office ,or may be replaced by another appropriate member Unit President, at the discretion of the District President.
- The Executive Committee shall act on matters of urgency between meetings. At least three members of the Executive Committee must concur for any action to be taken by this Committee.
- The President shall report all Executive Committee actions in writing to the Board of Directors within two weeks of taking such action.

B. Other Committees:

Other Committees may be established and their members appointed by the President from time to time and as defined in the Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present provided that the notice of such meeting states the amendment to be considered and the notice is sent to each voting member of record of the Board of Directors at least thirty days in advance. A concurrence of two-thirds of the voters present, and in conformity with the quorum rule, at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be required for the passage of any amendment to these Bylaws.

Approved in Baltimore, August 25, 2023