

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
EASTERN SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The Eastern Section is an affiliate of the American Bridge Association (ABA), Incorporated, and operates under its overall jurisdiction. No articles contained herein shall contravene those of the National body.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

The Eastern Section promotes the games of Duplicate Bridge and related approved contests, as well as sponsors and contributes to local and national endeavors for the benefit and enhancement of the community.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

There are three (3) types of memberships in the Eastern Section: 1. Charter Units, 2. Independent Clubs holding membership in the ABA, Inc. within the designated boundaries, and 3. member-at-large residing beyond the designated boundaries.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Officers shall be Section Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officials, together with the authorized representative of each unit (or independent club where there is no unit) constitute the Section Board. Authority is vested in the general membership with administrative affairs delegated to the Section Vice President and the Section Board.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1

The Section Vice President, as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Section, shall:

- A. Preside at the annual Section meeting, chair official meetings of the Section Board and represent the Section on the National Board.
- B. Appoint necessary committees in the Section business.
- C. Processes sanction requests.
- D. Authorize or make expenditures necessary to Section business.
- E. Be a signatory to the checks, drafts and contracts.
- F. Mediate differences that may arise between units, clubs or individuals.
- G. Perform such other tasks as necessary to the office.

SECTION 2

The Secretary shall:

- A. Record, reproduce and disseminate minutes of Section meetings.
- B. Maintain listings of chartered clubs, units, officers, committees, as well as Section membership roster.
- C. Handle Section correspondence, mail meeting notices, and answer official inquiries.
- D. Receive all monies, record receipts and turn over to the Section Treasurer.
- E. Be an authorized signatory to checks, drafts and contracts.
- F. Convene Section impeachment proceedings and handle the election of a chairperson.
- G. Minutes shall be distributed electronically to all members prior to the next meeting. Members who do not maintain email addresses must submit a request via mail to the Vice President for minutes to be received via U.S. Postal Service.

SECTION 3

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Be the official custodian of all Section funds.
- B. Maintain a record of all receipts and disbursements.
- C. Render periodic accountings in accordance with established accounting procedures.
- D. Be a signatory to checks issued by the Section.
- E. Chair the Section Budget and Finance Committee.

SECTION 4

The Section Board shall:

- A. Provide for necessary meetings, conventions, tournaments and membership activities.
- B. Ensure the collection, processing and maintenance of sanctions, fees, schedules and other such data as may be required or stipulated.

SECTION 5

Representation: Each Unit will be eligible to cast three (3) votes: Unit President, Vice President and Unit Representative. Each Independent Club will be eligible to cast one vote: President or the Unit Representative. A total of eleven (11) votes if all are present.

Section Representatives shall:

- A. Be the official liaison between the Section and their unit (or club where there is no unit).
- B. Attend all meetings of the Section Board.
- C. Approve Section budget and obligations.
- D. Assist the Vice President in formulating plans, procedures and in conducting affairs of the Section.

ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

All committee chairpersons will be appointed by the Section Vice President.

- A. Scholarship Committee: Receive and evaluate applications, recommend awards, work with the National Committee formulating policy and procedures.

- B. Convention and Travel Committee: Assist Section, units, and clubs with hotel and transportation arrangements in order to assure maximum attendance at all tournaments within the Section.
- C. Budget and Finance Committee: Shall prepare budgets, assist with cost control, conduct audit and recommend means to improve Section's financial position.
- D. Tournament Committee: Plan Section tournament, coordinate sectional games, draw up and distribute section-wide schedule.
- E. Public Affairs and Benefit Committee: Shall advise Vice President and Section Board on matters related to public domain, and to which the Section might lend support.
- F. Appeals Committee: The Appeals Committee will serve as a mediating body to consider and settle any disputes that may arise regarding the play of the cards and/or the improper conduct of any player or director.
- G. Nominating Committee: The Committee and chair of the committee will be appointed by the Vice President six (6) months prior to the election with a representative from each unit of the Eastern Section. The Committee will plan for the biennial election of officers, receive and announce nominations, secure and count absentee mail-in and on-site ballots.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS, VOTING, VACANCIES, IMPEACHMENT

SECTION 1

Elections: A ballot vote for election of officers shall take place biennially at the Section meeting.

- A. The term of office for each officer shall be two (2) years. An officer shall not remain in any given office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- B. Officers will take office in January of the following year.

SECTION 2

Voting:

- A. Each member shall have one (1) vote. A majority vote shall be required for the election of an officer. A majority vote shall be required on all business pertaining to the Section not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.
- B. Members will be allowed absentee voting. Members must notify the Nominating Committee at least twenty (20) days before the meeting to obtain a ballot. Ballot must be received back to the Committee Chair five (5) days before the Section meeting.

SECTION 3

Vacancies:

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the Vice President, it will be filled according to the American Bridge Association Constitution. The National President shall appoint an acting Section Vice President, pending a special election of the Section membership.
- B. Should a vacancy occur in the offices of the Secretary or Treasurer, a replacement shall be named by the Eastern Section Vice President pending a Sectional election.

SECTION 4

Impeachment:

- A. Impeachment proceedings will be instituted against any elected officer for reason of misfeasance or malfeasance in the operation of his or her office.

- B. An officer may be impeached by two-thirds (2/3) of the number of authorized members of the Section Board at any regular meeting held twenty (20) or more days after service of written charges by certified mail; and may then be removed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of members present at any annual meeting; or any special called membership meeting held for that purpose on 30 days' notice from the Section Secretary by certified letter to the president of each chartered club.
- C. The Section Secretary calls the meeting and the Section Board elects a chairperson.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

- A. Meetings of the Section Board shall be open to the general membership, but only official representatives are entitled to vote.
- B. A Section Board call meeting requires a minimum of ten (10) days prior notification.
- C. Twenty-five (25) members of the Section membership present at the tournament constitute a quorum at the annual meeting.
- D. Meetings of the Section Board are deemed official where three (3) of the Units or Independent clubs are represented.

ARTICLE IX – BYLAWS MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Except as otherwise contraindicated, each group or individual member of the Eastern Section shall have all the rights and obligations authorized in this document and by the statutes and orders of the American Bridge Association.

SECTION 1

- A. May compete in American Bridge Association sponsored contests in accordance with the bridge laws and announced conditions of play.
- B. May do whatever possible to recruit, train and encourage other players, while improving upon one's own knowledge and skills.
- C. May attend local, sectional and national meetings, exercise voting rights, participate in the operations and programs of the Association and vote by absentee mail-in ballot for the election of Section Officers.
- D. Shall maintain one's financial obligations.
- E. Shall conduct oneself at all times in such a manner that reflects favorably on the American Bridge Association.

SECTION 2

Units or Independent Clubs, where there are no units, shall:

- A. Announce program, fees and playing sites in enough time to assure maximum attendance.
- B. Require that the director-in-charge file accurate game results, together with required fees, promptly, according to the American Bridge Association Constitution.
- C. Submit rosters, schedules and information required.
- D. Designate an authorized representative to Section Board.
- E. Establish recruitment and training programs, as well as the best possible competitive conditions for all players.

- F. Abide by all legitimate decisions of the majority and support approved policies, procedures and programs.
- G. Submit copies of the unit minutes to the Eastern Section Vice President each time a meeting is held. If there is no unit, then minutes of the Independent Club should be sent.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In all matters not provided for in the Section Bylaws, the Section shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Bridge Association, Inc. and Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDING THE BYLAWS

SECTION 1

These Bylaws may be amended at the annual sectional meeting of the Section by a two-third (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing by an individual or committee to the Bylaws Committee no later than two months before the Annual Section meeting and provided that the proposed amendments shall have been:

1. Read at a regular meeting;
2. Circulated to all members absent from the regular meeting;
3. Clarified, if necessary, during a question and answer session at the regular meeting; and
4. Voted upon at the Section meeting.

SECTION 2

The effective date of amendments to these Bylaws shall be immediately upon adjournment of the meeting in which they are adopted.

Dated: May 22, 2019