

This is to advise you that the WBF Executive Council, at its meetings in São Paulo, Brazil in September 2009, adopted amendments to the WBF By-Laws as set forth below. The document can also be downloaded from the website by [clicking here](#), or you can email Anna Gudge ([anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)) and she will send you a copy by email.

Under the WBF Constitution these amendments will take effect three months from the date of this mailing unless, prior to the effective date, a majority of all NBOs make written objection to the amendment to the WBF President, c/o Carol von Linstow ([carolwbf1@aol.com](mailto:carolwbf1@aol.com)).

Yours sincerely,  
**José Damiani**  
**President**

Article 4.1 of the By-Laws is amended as follows :

#### **ARTICLE 4 – ZONES**

##### **4.1 Zones**

For purposes of administration and furtherance of the objectives of the WBF and to comply with the International Olympic Committee's principles of the five IOC rings, the world shall be divided by the Executive into five geographical Continental Conferences identical to the IOC's five rings. The Executive may establish zones within any of the five Continents which, although part of a Continent, shall be entitled to have at least one member on the Executive and berths in WBF tournaments set forth in Article 9 of the By-Laws. A zone may have its own zonal conference of the NBOs situated within the said zone and may conduct its own zonal competitions for representation in WBF tournaments.

Article 4.4 of the By-Laws is amended as follows:

##### **4.4 Zonal Representation on Executive**

The Executive shall consist of not less than eight nor more than twenty-three (23) members, plus the President of the WBF. Zones 1 and 2 shall each be entitled to elect or appoint five members to the Executive, Zone 6 two members and each other zone one member. **Each zone which is allocated two or more representatives shall elect or appoint at least one representative of each sex.** The Executive shall have the authority, based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, to increase the entitlement of any zone so that any such zone may elect or appoint an additional member to the Executive, subject always to the maximum of twenty-three members of the Executive, plus the President of the WBF. The Executive shall also have the authority to eliminate a zone's entitlement to any voting member of the Executive under such conditions and based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, provided that in any such case a zone with no voting members on the Executive shall be entitled to an official observer on the Executive. Each ZC shall be responsible for appointment or election of its voting member or members to the Executive and for the notification, in writing, to the Secretary of the WBF of the name and address of each such member. Such notification to be given annually not later than June 30. Such member or members shall continue in office until the appointment or election thereof is cancelled, revoked or substituted by the ZC empowered to appoint or elect the same, unless at any time a zone's entitlement regarding the number of voting members is reduced, the Executive shall have the authority to require the ZC to remove any such appointment or election so that the zone has only the number of voting members on the Executive to which it is then entitled.

#### **4.4.1 Player Representation**

There shall be one player representative on the Executive, who shall be a WBF Grand Master or Life Master and who, along with an alternate, shall be elected by WBF Grand Masters and Life Masters including Women. The election shall be at the World Bridge Series Championships (WBSC) with the first such election being held at the WBSC in 2010. Players must be present to vote: no proxies or mailed ballots will be allowed. The term shall be for four years and shall begin January 1 of the year following the election.

The representative or alternate must attend some of the WBF Executive sessions. The player representative or alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of the members of the Executive.

Article 6.4 of the By-Laws is amended as follows:

#### **6.4 Special Voting Requirements**

If action is proposed to be taken by the Executive Council in respect of a) election of a new WBF President, b) change in zonal boundaries or recognition of new zones, c) change in the WBF Constitution or By-Laws, d) approval of the members of the WBF Management Committee, or e) changes to the number of voting members on the Executive allocated to any zone, then in each such event, notwithstanding any other By-Laws provision to the contrary, the proposed action shall require the affirmative vote of 75% of the whole Executive.

Article 9.1 of the By-Laws is amended as follows:

#### **9.1 WBF Tournaments**

WBF Tournaments conducted under the sanction and control of the WBF are by invitation only and will include, but not be limited to:

- The World Bridge Games to be held in each leap year;
- The World Bridge Series Championships to be held in even numbered years, two years from the previous World Bridge Games;
- The World Bridge Teams Championships which include, but are not limited to, Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, the D'Orsi Senior Bowl and Transnational Teams to be held in each odd numbered year.
- The World Youth Bridge Teams Championships for the Patiño Trophy for players up to 25 years of age (Juniors) and the Damiani Cup for players up to 20 years of age (Youngsters) to be held at times established by the Executive, but preferably in the even years; \* and
- The World Youth Bridge Congress to be held at times established by the Executive, but preferably in the odd years.

\*To be eligible to play in a Youngsters Championship, the player must not have achieved his/her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 31 of the year prior to the year of the Championship.

To be eligible to play in a Juniors Championship, the player must not have achieved his/her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 31 of the year prior to the year of the Championship.