

ACBL District 8 Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is American Contract Bridge League District 8, Incorporated.

(American Contract Bridge League hereafter referred to as "ACBL." District 8 hereafter referred to as "the District.")

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

- A. To cooperate with and assist the ACBL in the promotion and conduct of Bridge Tournaments within the District.
- B. To coordinate tournament schedules within the District and adjacent Districts.
- C. To seek concerted action on all matters affecting the District by consultation with and recommendations to the District Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors.
- D. To act as a fact-finding body in connection with any matter arising within the District.
- E. To promote the highest standards of conduct and ethics for participants in bridge tournaments within the District and to take any and all steps necessary for this purpose.
- F. To recommend the election of specific individuals to represent the District on the ACBL Board of Directors, and First and Second Alternates for that office.
- G. To supervise the Gold and Red Point Sessions allocated to the District and determine where they shall be held.
- H. To perform such other functions as may be required by the ACBL for District organizations, including but not limited to supervision of all Grand National Events, District-wide games, Charity Programs, membership requirements, District Judiciary actions, North American Pair Events, and Teaching and Educational Programs.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

All ACBL Units, which are or hereafter come into being within the geographical boundaries of the District, are automatically members of the District Organization so long as they remain within the District, without any requirement of petition or formal action on the part of the Unit.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body.
- B. Each Unit Board of Directors shall select two of their resident members to be Unit representatives and members of the District Board of Directors in addition to the Unit President who is automatically a member of the District Board by virtue of his office. Should the Unit President elect not to serve on the District Board, he may appoint an alternate Director who will have full-voting privileges. The term of office for the two selected members shall be two (2) years, to coincide with the terms of Board of Directors President and Vice-President. They shall be elected in different years to begin their terms as representatives. The Unit President or his appointee shall serve for the duration of the Unit President's term.

- (1) Member Units shall notify the District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer in writing as to the names of those elected immediately following such election. In the event of vacancy, Unit Presidents, with approval of Unit Boards of Directors, shall appoint replacements for the balance of such representative's term, and shall submit in writing promptly the names of such replacements to the District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer.
- (2) Proxies shall not be permitted.
- (3) The ACBL Board Member of the District and First and Second Alternates shall be members of the District Board of Directors but they shall have no vote and shall hold no office unless elected pursuant to paragraph 1 (one) of this Section. They shall act as consultants to the Board with full privilege of addressing the Board and introducing items of business.

ARTICLE V: POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the District shall have the following powers:

- To determine the site and date of all Gold and Red Point Sessions allocated to the District by the ACBL, establish the schedule of events and arrange for adequate staff, playing accommodations, and hotel guest rooms, subject to ACBL approval.
- To acquire, hold, and dispose of any funds or property acquired by the District Organization.
- To employ personnel to serve the District at the discretion of the Board.
- To levy assessments on Member Units which are not prohibited by the ACBL.
- To determine eligibility of participation in tournaments held in the District and to bar any ACBL member from participation in any such tournament for cause, but such determination shall not contravene ACBL Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations.
- To promote the best interests of competitive bridge.
- To execute those duties and responsibilities as requested by the ACBL for District Organizations.
- To be the sole judge of its membership.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

- A. At least two (2) regular meetings shall be held each calendar year and these meetings shall be held in conjunction with Regional Tournaments sponsored by the District. The District President or his authorized representative shall designate the dates and times of such meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President, the Board, or upon written request of five (5) or more Directors. Members of the Board of Directors may participate in a special meeting of such Board by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be made in writing or printed, including an Agenda, and sent to the President and Secretary of each member Unit, and to each member of the Board of Directors at least fourteen (14) days but not more than sixty (60) days prior to each meeting date. Notice will be provided by electronic transmission.
- B. At least one (1) regular meeting shall be held between July 1 and December 31; in conjunction with a District sponsored Regional Tournament, and the first meeting in that period shall be the Annual Meeting.
- C. Any District Board Member desiring to place an item of business on the Agenda shall so advise the District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer in writing no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to such meeting.
- D. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of no less than one-half of the voting Board members; at least one half of the member Units must be represented.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION: APPOINTMENT OF A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

A. The officers shall be a President, a vice President and a chairman of the board.

B.

- (1) The President and Vice President shall be elected from the Board membership at the Annual Meeting held between July 1 and December 31. They shall serve for one (1) year or until their successors are duly elected. Their service will begin on January 1 of the year following their election. The President and the Vice-President shall not be members of the same Unit.
- (2) The President is limited to a tenure of two (2) successive terms.
- (3) In the event that the President is not re-elected to serve on the Board of Directors, he shall continue to serve as President until the completion of his one (1) year term, but without a vote.
- (4) The retiring President shall, without further election, serve as Chairman of the Board for one (1) year or until his successor shall take office. He shall be a non-voting member unless selected pursuant to Article IV, Section B.
- (5) A vacancy created in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by a majority vote of members of the Board, and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section B (1) of this article.
- (6) Nominations for each elected officer shall be made by a Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting held for the purpose of electing officers. Further nominations may be made from the floor. A majority vote is necessary for election and if no majority exists on the first ballot, the names of those two candidates, including ties, receiving the largest number of votes shall be placed on the second ballot

C. The District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer shall be a resident member of District 8 but need not be a member of the Board of Directors. With approval of the Board of Directors, the President-Elect shall appoint a District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer to serve during his term of office as President. The District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer shall have no vote unless elected pursuant to Article IV, Section B. The District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer may be paid such annual compensation as shall be determined by the Board of Directors at each Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. 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 except the Nominating Committee. He shall appoint such Special Committees, as he may, from time to time, consider necessary.
- B. The Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the Board in the absence of the President. He shall assume the duties of the President whenever the President is, for any cause, unable to perform such duties.
- C. The Chairman of the board shall perform the duties of the President or Vice- President in the event either or both of those officers are unable to fulfill their duties. He shall act as an advisor to the Board on District Operation.
- D. The District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer shall have the care, custody, and responsibility of all funds, securities, and properties of the District. He shall deposit funds in such bank as shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

- (1) He shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall submit a report at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as may be requested by the President or Board of Directors.
- (2) He shall prepare an Annual Budget for each upcoming fiscal year and submit it to the Finance Chairman for review prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (3) He shall keep a record of the District and Minutes of its meetings and shall perform such other duties incidental to his office and as requested by the Board of Directors.
- (4) He shall keep a record of all Member Units and their officers and representatives on the District Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: MEMBER UNITS

- A. All member Units shall retain autonomy in the conduct of their affairs according to the Charter issued to them by the ACBL
- B. They shall assume their responsibilities to the District Organization according the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the ACBL.
- C. Each Member Unit shall:
 - (1) Submit names and addresses of officers and members of its Unit Board of Directors to the District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer promptly after each Unit election or appointment.
 - (2) Submit names and addresses of representatives to the District Board of Directors.
 - (3) Submit dates and locations of its Sectional Tournaments to the District Tournament Coordinator for District coordination prior to ACBL sanctioning.
 - (4) Receive reports from Unit Representatives of all official District actions.

ARTICLE X: AMENDING THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended in the following manner:

- (1) Any Board Member may propose an amendment by notifying the District Administrative Secretary-Treasurer in writing to place such proposed amendment for consideration on the Agenda of the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (2) Such proposed amendment shall then be considered by the Board of Directors provided that two-thirds of those present representing more than one-half of the Member Units approve its consideration.
- (3) If the proposed amendment is approved by the Board of Directors after the first reading it shall then be placed on the Agenda for the next regular meeting, along with further amendments, for a final vote.
- (4) The proposed amendment shall then become a Bylaw upon concurrence of two-thirds of those present representing more than one-half of the Member Units.