

SABINE NECHES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
UNIT #201
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.

NAME

- Section 1. The name of the organization shall be Sabine Neches Bridge Association, Unit #201 of the American Contract Bridge League.
- Section 2. The short title of the Sabine Neches Bridge Assn., Unit #201, as used in these By-laws, is the Unit, and the short title of The American Contract Bridge League is the League.
- Section 3. The Unit
- (A) Is subsidiary of the League;
 - (B) Recognizes the League as the parent organization having authority and control over Tournament Bridge in the United States;
 - (C) Exists under the sanction of the League, and functions within the constitution, by-laws, and regulations of the League.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. The objects of the organization shall be:
- (A) To preserve and promote the best interests of competitive contract bridge, or any modification thereof;
 - (B) To cooperate with and assist the League in the promotion and conduct of contract bridge tournaments;
 - (C) To prescribe rules of eligibility for participation in tournaments under its auspices;
 - (D) To consider and pass upon reports of dishonest, unethical, or improper conduct of participants in sanctioned games and in tournaments, and to bar or suspend persons guilty of such conduct from further participation;
 - (E) To conduct such other activities as may be in keeping with its principal objectives.

ARTICLE III.

ADMINISTRATION OF UNIT AFFAIRS

- Section 1. The affairs of the Unit shall be administered by the Board of Directors. The short name of the Board of Directors is the Board.
- Section 2. The Board shall be made up of members of the Unit duly elected in accordance with the provisions contained in the By-laws and the appointed Executive Secretary.
- Section 3. The members of the Board for the ensuing year shall be elected by the members at an annual meeting to be held between June 1 and July 10 of each year.
- Section 4. The Board shall elect a president and a vice president from the members of the Board at a meeting held as soon as practical after the annual Board election. This meeting shall be called by the president who is in office prior to the election meeting.
- Section 5. The Board may elect a secretary and a treasurer from the members of the Board at the meeting referred to in Section 4, Article III of these By-Laws.
- Section 6. The Board shall appoint an Executive Secretary for the Unit and shall set the salary of such person in accordance with the financial capabilities of the Unit and with the extent of responsibilities held by the Executive Secretary.
- Section 7. Should the Board choose not to elect either a secretary or a treasurer, the Executive Secretary shall fulfill the duties and responsibilities of these officers.
- Section 8. The duties of the officers of the Unit are as follows:
- (A) The President shall
- Conduct all meetings and preside to the best of his/her ability in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*;
- See that all officers, committees, game directors and others who may be actively engaged in the affairs of the Unit act in the best interest of the membership in the fulfillment of their duties and responsibilities;
- Seek the replacement of any person who willfully shuns the responsibilities of his/her office or position;
- Be authorized to co-sign checks in carrying out the affairs of the Unit.

(B) The Vice-President shall

Call meetings required during the absence of the President;

Assume the position of the President should the President, for whatever reason, be unable to serve for the duration of his/her term of office.

Be authorized to co-sign checks in carrying out the affairs of the Unit.

(C) The Secretary shall write the minutes of each board meeting. These minutes shall be posted in a timely fashion at a place where they are readily available for the membership to read.

(D) The Treasurer shall

Direct and cooperate with the Executive Secretary in the method of collection of fees for games;

See that all funds are deposited in a local bank of reputable standing;

Submit, with the help of the Executive Secretary, written financial reports at Board meetings;

Be at all times familiar with the Unit's financial standing;

Be authorized to co-sign checks in carrying out the affairs of the Unit.

See that the financial records as kept by the Executive Secretary are of such quality that they may be fully understood by the Board or by anyone who may replace the Executive Secretary at such time as he/her resigns or leaves his position.

(E) The Executive Secretary shall

Fulfill the duties and responsibilities of either or both the positions of Secretary and/or Treasurer should the Board choose not to elect someone to these offices;

Carry out the business of the Unit as directed by the Board;

Maintain financial and membership records in accordance with the requirements of the League and the Unit;

Maintain a calendar of events for the Unit which will register all

games sanctioned by the Unit; the Unit and all ACBL sanctioned clubs must clear all sanctions through the office of the Executive Secretary as a means of preventing conflict in play dates;

Report conflicts in play dates to the President and the Board;

Maintain and post in a prominent place a calendar of upcoming special games, including, but not limited to, all games other than club masterpoint games;

Apply to the League for suitable sanctions and tournament dates;

Be authorized to co-sign checks in carrying out the affairs of the Unit;

Be paid a salary in accordance with Section 6, Article III of these By-Laws.

Section 9. Each check drawn on the bank account of the Unit in payment of its financial obligations shall be signed by two authorized Board members.

ARTICLE IV.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors, known as the Board, shall consist of ten (10) members of the Unit who reside in the Beaumont playing area; two (2) members from each playing area within the territorial limits of the Unit's authority, providing that at least one ACBL franchise is active in such area. The members in the respective playing areas shall elect their own representatives to the Board.

Section 2. Members of the Board serve a two year term of office;

Section 3. Should a vacancy occur on the Board, the President shall appoint a member from the Unit to fill the unexpired term of the member whose place is vacant.

Section 4. The Board's duties include, but are not limited to

- (A) Discussing and deciding on the general policies of the Unit;
- (B) Electing the Unit's officers;
- (C) Arranging a schedule of tournament and duplicate activities.

Section 5. The Board shall be responsible for arranging a comprehensive schedule of duplicate activities to maintain maximum interest and enjoyment of the members. It has jurisdiction over all League sanctioned duplicate games

conducted in the Unit territory, whether directly sponsored by the Unit or not. It is responsible for stimulating attendance at Unit sponsored games and tournaments.

Section 6. The Board members shall actively participate in the running of all sectional and regional tournaments as tournament chairpersons and/or as subsidiary chairpersons.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person of good moral character is eligible to membership. The acceptance of a new member requires his or her payment of annual dues as established by the League, provided that such acceptance is not denied by petition to the Board by at least 5% of the members.

Section 2. Membership may be denied, suspended, or canceled by action of the Board as a result of:

- (A) Unbecoming conduct at any established game or tournament under the jurisdiction of the Unit;
- (B) Consistent unethical practices in the play of bridge;
- (C) A recommendation of the members or franchised club board of any playing area within the territorial limits of the Unit;
- (D) A recommendation of the officers or the Board of any other ACBL Unit, when such recommendation is the result of misconduct on the part of a member or member applicant while playing within the territorial limits of the Unit making such recommendation.

ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership dues shall be in accordance with ACBL rules and regulations.

Section 2. The privileges of members in good standing are:

- (A) To vote in person at the annual meeting for the election of members to the Board;
- (B) To receive all notices of the Unit and all publications of the American Contract Bridge League;
- (C) To be eligible for election as a member of the Board of the Unit, or for appointment as a member of any of its committees.

ARTICLE VII.

ELECTIONS

Section 1. Procedure for electing members to the Board is as follows:

- (A) The Unit president shall name a three (3) member nominating committee;
- (B) The nominating committee shall be approved by the Board at the Unit Board meeting held four (4) to six (6) weeks before the annual open meeting and election;
- (C) The appointed nominating committee shall meet as soon as convenient and select the nominees (normally five);
- (D) A listing of the nominees shall be prominently posted at the place of play (Beaumont Bridge Studio) at least three weeks before the scheduled annual meeting;
- (E) Additional nominees may be selected by the Unit 201 membership by petition. An acceptable petition must contain the signatures of 25 current Unit 201 members and be presented to the unit executive secretary for validation no later than ten days preceding the annual Unit meeting. A single petition may contain the name of only one nominee. But an unlimited number of petitions may be accepted.
- (F) Additional nominations to the Board may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting;
- (G) In the event additional nominees are selected by petition a ballot will be prepared which lists all nominees, leaving additional space for nominations from the floor. Members at the annual Unit meeting will vote by secret ballot for (normally) five persons listed on the ballot. The (normally) five persons receiving the most votes will assume two year positions of the Unit Board of Directors.
- (H) The Unit executive secretary and president are responsible for counting and certifying the votes;
- (I) Persons not attending the annual open Unit meeting will not be eligible to vote.

Section 2. The term of office of a board member shall be for two (2) consecutive years. However, at the expiration of any two-year term, any person is eligible for re-election to an additional two-year term on the Board.

Section 3. The retiring president of the Board shall serve in an ex-officio capacity on the Board for one year from the date of such retirement. If such person is

re-elected to the Board, then there shall be no ex-officio members.

- Section 4. The annual meeting of the membership shall be called by the president, or, in his absence, the vice-president. The date and time of such meeting shall be posted and announced at the place of play at least two weeks in advance. The meeting shall be held at the Unit's place of play on a date which is most convenient for the membership at large.
- Section 5. At the discretion of the presiding officer, the annual election shall be held by an open floor vote or by secret ballot, whichever is deemed appropriate in the instance.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS

- Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of the Unit shall be held between June 1 and July 10 of each year, the time and place to be specified by the president.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called
- (A) by the president
 - (B) upon written request to the president by the majority of the Board
 - (C) upon written request of 20% of the membership.
- Section 3. Notice of special meetings of the membership shall be posted and announced at the regular place of play at least two weeks in advance of such meeting. In an emergency situation, the advance notice may be waived by the president. No emergency meeting may consider a revision of the by-laws.
- Section 4. The regular meeting of the Board shall be held the second week of the even months of the year (February, April, June, August, October, December). Notice of the meeting shall be posted on the Unit's bulletin board at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date.
- Section 5. Additional meetings of the Board may be called, as required, by notice to the Board members, made reasonably in advance. Such meetings may be called by the president, or in his absence, by the vice-president, or by at least three (3) members of the Board.

ARTICLE IX.

COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The Nominating Committee: This committee consists of three (3) members appointed by the president with approval of the Board. It shall select a slate of candidates as nominees to the Board, post this slate at the playing area (Beaumont Bridge Studio), and present these nominees at the annual meeting of the members. Having performed this function, this committee is automatically dissolved.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee: This committee consists of the officers of the Unit. It shall advise the president on matters of immediate urgency in order that quick decisions may be made when necessary. The president may call an emergency meeting of this committee at any time, and any number of members present may constitute a quorum.
- Section 3. The Tournament Committee: The president shall, with the approval of the Board, appoint a tournament chairman for each tournament sponsored by the Unit during any given year. The tournament chairman shall select committee heads for the various functions required for a successful tournament. All expenditures and committee chairmen shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X.

AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. Amendments to the by-laws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the members, provided that the proposed amendment(s) is (are) posted at the Unit's place of play, and announcements of such meeting are made at the place of Unit game play, at least two weeks in advance of such meeting.
- Section 2. The concurrence of two-thirds of all members present and voting shall be required to pass any amendment.