

Rules of The Hamilton Contract Bridge Club Incorporated

1. **Name**

The name of the Club is Hamilton Contract Bridge Club Incorporated (“the Club”).

2. **Registration**

The Club is registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

3. **Objects**

The objects of the Club are those charitable objects and purposes which are recognised by the Courts of New Zealand, and including:

- a. Teaching and providing amenities, facilities and equipment for playing the game of contract bridge and for any other like purpose that its members may decide.
- b. Promoting contract bridge tournaments, competitions and matches and providing for the control, administration and management of bridge sessions and events, and
- c. The provision and maintenance of premises considered necessary desirable or convenient for the advancement of such objects.

4. **Affiliation**

The Club is affiliated as a member of New Zealand Bridge Incorporated (“NZ Bridge”), being the governing organisation responsible for the management, control, administration and regulations of Contract Bridge in New Zealand.

- a. The Club shall seek to comply with any requirements imposed from time to time for membership of that organisation so as to continuously maintain such affiliation and the benefits of such membership.
- b. All members of the Club are, by virtue of that affiliation, also bound by the provisions of the Rules of NZ Bridge to the extent the same apply to members of affiliated Clubs participating in the game of Contract Bridge.

5. **Notices**

These rules, the by-laws and any notices required to be given to the members shall be displayed on the noticeboard at the Club rooms and may be available on the Club website. Copies will be provided on written application to the Secretary.

6. **Membership**

The members of the Club shall be:

- i. Life members
 - ii. Ordinary members
 - iii. Youth members
 - iv. Country members
 - v. Honorary members
- a. Life members shall be persons the Club desires to honour and shall be elected in accordance with rule 7. A life member is not liable to pay any Club subscription and is entitled to all privileges of the Club.
 - b. Ordinary and Youth members shall be elected to membership under rule 8.
 - c. Youth members shall have the playing rights of ordinary members while under the age of 25 years and not in full-time employment. They shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Club or hold office unless they become Ordinary members.
 - d. Country members being persons who live more than 35 kilometres from the premises of the Club shall be eligible to play up to 10 sessions per year. They shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Club or hold office.
 - e. An Honorary member shall be a previous Ordinary member who may apply to become an Honorary member. Such members may play at the Club 5 times during the year. They may attend General Meetings of the Club, but are not entitled to vote or hold office.

7. **Election of life members**

Recommendations for election to life membership can be made only by the Committee and shall require the approval of three-quarters of the votes cast in a secret ballot at a general meeting, due notice of the recommendation having been given in accordance with rules 23 (b) or 24 (b).

8. **Election of ordinary and Youth members**

- a. Every candidate for membership shall sign the membership application form prescribed by the Committee. If the candidate is approved by the Committee the application or a copy shall be posted on the noticeboard at the Club's premises for at least fourteen days.
- b. At its first meeting after the conditions in rule 8(a) are satisfied, the Committee shall consider the election of the candidate, and if approved, the candidate shall become a member of the Club.
- c. Every new member shall be notified by the Secretary, and shall then be bound by the rules and by-laws of the Club.

9. **Resignation of members**

Notice of resignation from membership shall be given to the Secretary in writing. A member who has not resigned before the end of the financial year is liable for the subscription for the ensuing year.

10. **Discipline and/or suspension of members**

- a. The Committee has the power to censure, suspend from membership for a period, or expel any member, but the member shall be given full opportunity to offer an explanation and otherwise treated in a manner consistent with the requirements of natural justice.
- b. Any member expelled under rule 10 (a) has the right to appeal, by delivering a notice in writing to the Secretary to that effect within 3 months from the date of expulsion, to a special general meeting to be convened within 30 days of the date of the delivery of such notice at which a majority of two-thirds of those present may reverse the committee's decision and/or in the alternative censure or suspend the member from the membership for a period.
- c. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid for three months shall be deemed to be suspended from membership and shall not be entitled to the privileges of the Club until the subscription has been paid. Should a subscription remain unpaid at the end of the Club's financial year the person concerned shall cease to be a member of the Club, but shall still be liable to pay the outstanding subscription.
- d. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clauses (a) and (b), the Committee also has the power to refer any matter, allegations, or complaint of conduct, discipline or dispute that it considers sufficiently significant, concerning or important to the Board of Management of NZ Bridge for enquiry, investigation and/or determination by the Board's appropriate Standing Committee, and in the event any such referral is accepted by the Board for that purpose, the Committee shall abide any consequent verdict, decision or determination as the case may be.

11. **Annual subscriptions**

- a. Annual subscriptions which shall be approved at the Annual General Meeting shall be determined by the Committee in office prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall include provision for the NZ Bridge levy payable in respect of each member unless the member has a current membership with another Bridge Club affiliated with NZ Bridge and has nominated that Club as their "home club" as provided under the NZ Bridge constitution.
- b. Subscriptions are due by the 31st day of March each year.
- c. The annual subscription is payable on or within 30 days of election to membership of the Club. If not paid, the membership may be cancelled at the discretion of the Committee. A member elected after 31 March in any year shall pay a first subscription calculated on a pro rata basis.

12. **Officers**

- a. The officers of the Club shall be the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President who shall be members of the Committee ex officio.

- b. No person shall hold the office of President for more than two (2) consecutive years, but this shall not prevent any ex-President from being re-elected after that person has been out of office for at least two (2) years.
- c. All general meetings of the Club and all Committee meetings shall be chaired by the President or in the President's absence, by the Vice-President. In the absence of both of them, the meeting shall elect one of their number to fill the chair.

13. **Election of Officers and Committee**

- a. Only financial members of the Club are eligible for election as an officer and/or Committee member.
- b. The Annual General Meeting shall elect the President and Vice President and six (6) other members all of whom with anyone appointed under rule 13 (e) or co-opted under rule 14 (e) shall be the Committee.
- c. Written nominations for election on the approved form, signed by two financial members and including the written consent of the nominee, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting.
- d. At least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall post on the noticeboard a list of nominees together with such information (not exceeding one side of an A4 sheet of paper) as may be supplied in support of each nomination.
- e. In the absence of sufficient valid nominations being received and remaining current at the date of the Annual General Meeting, nominations for any vacancies remaining may be made from the floor.
- f. The Committee shall appoint a Treasurer at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer may be an elected Committee member or a person co-opted by the Committee to fulfil this role.

14. **Management by the Committee**

- a. From the end of each Annual General Meeting until the beginning of the next, the Club shall be administered, managed and controlled by the Committee, which shall be accountable to the members for the implementation of the policies of the Club as approved by any general meeting and having regard to the best interests of the Club.
- b. The Committee may engage employees on such terms and with such powers as it thinks desirable.
- c. Other than matters required by law or by these rules to be decided by the Club in general meeting, the Committee shall do all things in the exercise of the Club's powers and management.
- d. The Committee shall meet at such times and places as it may determine and otherwise where and as convened by the President.

- e. The Committee may co-opt any member to the Committee for a specific purpose for a limited period.
- f. The quorum for Committee meetings is five (5).
- g. Only Committee members elected under rule 13 (b) or co-opted under rule 14 (e) who are present in person shall be counted in the quorum and be entitled to vote.
- h. The Committee may appoint sub-committees consisting of such members as it thinks fit and with or without power to co-opt. The President shall ex officio be a member of all sub-committees.
- i. The Committee may act by resolution approved by more than half the members present. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a deliberative and casting vote.
- j. The Committee shall make by-laws consistent with these rules for any matter affecting members and the management of the Club.
- k. These rules, any by-laws, the resolutions of general meetings, the decisions of the Committee on the interpretation of these rules, and all actions taken by the Committee in accordance with these rules, and on matters not provided for in these rules, shall be final and binding on all members.
- l. Each officer or Committee member shall immediately on resigning or ceasing to hold office deliver to the Secretary all books, papers and other property of the Club.

15. **Secretary**

The Committee shall appoint as Secretary, a person to be responsible to the Committee for secretarial functions and may employ that person on terms determined by the Committee.

- a. If a Secretary is employed, the position will include responsibility to act at all times in accordance with the decisions of the Committee in administration of the affairs of the Club.
- b. The Secretary shall attend meetings of the Committee.

16. **Records**

- a. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all general meetings and Committee meetings, and all minutes when confirmed by a subsequent meeting and signed by the Chairperson of that meeting, shall prima facie be evidence that that meeting was duly called and that the minutes are a true and correct record of what occurred at the meeting.
- b. The Committee shall hold the Club's records, documents and books at the Club's premises.

17. **Treasurer**

The functions of the Treasurer shall include:

- a. Keeping such books of account as may be necessary to provide a true record of the Club's financial position;

- b. Preparing budgets and reporting on the Club's financial position to each Committee meeting;
- c. Presenting an annual statement of accounts (statement of financial performance and statement of financial position) to the Annual General Meeting.
- d. Chairing the finance sub-committee; and
- e. Supervising all the financial affairs of the Club.

18. **Club Captain**

The Committee may appoint a member of the Club to be the Club Captain to act as a liaison between the Committee and the members and to carry out such functions as the Committee may decide.

19. **Financial year**

The financial year of the Club begins on the 1st day of November in each year, and ends on the 31 October.

20. **Major transactions**

The officers of the Club, without any restriction whatsoever, may decide if any proposed transaction is a major transaction and this decision shall be final in every respect. Major transactions shall be referred to a general meeting of members. In all other matters, the Committee may purchase, take on lease or otherwise acquire real and personal property of every description and generally act in all matters which may be thought necessary or expedient for the attainment of any of the objects of the Club, and may sell, exchange, lease, let, hire out, sub-let, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or deal with the same or any part thereof and may build on any land and may repair, alter, improve, or otherwise deal with any building.

21. **Finance and accounts**

- a. The Committee shall set playing fees from time to time and may impose additional fees for visitors to the Club and other charges as it may decide.
- b. Moneys belonging to the Club shall be deposited in bank accounts under such conditions as the Committee decides. The Committee shall also give such directions as it may consider desirable for the payment of accounts. Authorities for payment shall be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary, or alternatively, by one of them and a Committee member appointed by the Committee for that purpose. The Committee shall ensure that proper books of account are kept.

At the Annual General Meeting the Committee shall submit a statement of accounts of the Club and balance sheet for the preceding financial year.

- c. The Committee shall not be required to have the accounts of the Club audited.

- d. Any financial transaction involving a Committee member must be fully disclosed and the member must not vote on the issue.

22. **Payment to members**

Except as provided for in this clause, no member shall derive any personal pecuniary benefit from membership of the Club, however, should income be paid to any member, then such income shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in any arm's length transaction (being open market value).

23. **Annual General Meeting**

- a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November each year on a date fixed by the Committee.
- b. At least fourteen (14) days' notice of this meeting shall be given to members.
- c. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
 - i. To receive the President's report and statement of accounts and balance sheet for the preceding financial year.
 - ii. To elect the Committee;
 - iii. To fix subscriptions;
 - iv. To award prizes;
 - v. To consider any business of which fourteen (14) days prior written notice has been given to the Secretary
 - vi. To discuss any general business

24. **Special General Meeting**

- a. The committee shall call a Special General Meeting:
 - i. Whenever it considers it in the interests of the Club to do so; or
 - ii. Upon receipt of a requisition to do so signed by more than 30 members and stating the business of the meeting.
- b. Notice of any business to be considered at any Special General Meeting must be given at least ten days before the meeting and in the case of a meeting called under rule 24(a) (ii), the meeting must be held within 30 days of the receipt of the requisition.
- c. At any Special General Meeting no business shall be transacted other than that stated in the notice convening the meeting.

25. **Voting**

- a. At all general meetings, voting shall be on a show of hands or a ballot shall be conducted in such a manner as the Chairperson shall determine. In the event of any vote being tied, the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.
- b. Two members appointed by the meeting shall act as scrutineers for the counting of votes and destruction of any voting papers.
- c. All members present (other than Youth, Country and Honorary members) will be entitled to one vote.

26. **Quorum**

At all general meetings 30 members of the Club's current members shall form a quorum. If there is not a quorum present 15 minutes after the time set down for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned and immediately reconvened. At the reconvened meeting if there is no quorum within 15 minutes, the members present shall either adjourn the meeting or the meeting can then transact its business if three-quarters of those present agree.

27. **Alterations to rules**

No alterations, additions or deletion shall be made to these rules except at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Particulars of any proposed changes must be given in the notice conveying the meeting. The votes of two-thirds of those members present on that occasion are required to effect any change.

28. **Dissolution**

In accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, or any law in substitution for that act, members present at a general meeting of the Club may resolve that the Club be dissolved as from a date specified in that resolution. Any such resolution must be confirmed at a subsequent Special General Meeting called for that purpose, and held not earlier, than thirty (30) days after the passing of the resolution. Members shall direct after all debts of the Club have been paid the method of disposition of the funds and property of the Club after dissolution to any similar charitable society in New Zealand.