

Singapore Contract Bridge Association

Constitution

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1 **NAME**

- 1.1 The association shall be known as Singapore Contract Bridge Association hereinafter referred to as SCBA.

2 **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 In this Constitution words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing any gender include the other genders.
- 2.2 In this Constitution unless the context requires otherwise:
- 2.2.1 “Advisor” means an advisor to SCBA appointed in accordance with Article 31.
 - 2.2.2 “Affiliate Member” means Individual, Corporate and Junior Members admitted to SCBA in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 respectively.
 - 2.2.3 “AGM” means the Annual General Meeting of SCBA members required to be held by SCBA in each calendar year.
 - 2.2.4 “Appointed Board Member” means an SCBA Board Member appointed under Article 23.
 - 2.2.5 “Authorised Delegate” means a person authorised by a Corporate Member to attend a General Meeting of SCBA and to speak and vote on its behalf at such meetings.
 - 2.2.6 “Authorised Representative” means a person appointed by an Affiliate Member to attend a General Meeting of SCBA
 - 2.2.7 “Board” means the body consisting of Elected and Appointed Board Members that governs SCBA.
 - 2.2.8 “Board Committee” means a committee established under Article 29.
 - 2.2.9 “Board Member” means a member of the SCBA Board and includes Elected Board Members and Appointed Board Members.
 - 2.2.10 “By-law” means a by-law made under Article 34.
 - 2.2.11 “CEO” means a person appointed as Chief Executive Officer or their equivalent by the Board according to the powers conferred on them by Article 32.
 - 2.2.12 “Constitution” means this constitution as amended from time to time, and a reference to an article is a reference to an article of this Constitution.
 - 2.2.13 “Contract Bridge” means the sport of Contract Bridge, including all the disciplines.
 - 2.2.14 “Contract Bridge Events” means competitions, championships, demonstrations, exhibitions and any other events relating to Contract Bridge.
 - 2.2.15 “Corporate Member” means an entity admitted as a Member of SCBA in accordance with Article 10.

- 2.2.16 “Discipline” means a Contract Bridge sport programme defined by World Bridge Federation (hereinafter referred to as “WBF”) and accepted by SCBA as a program under its jurisdiction.
- 2.2.17 “Elected Board Member” means an SCBA Board Member elected under Article 22.
- 2.2.18 “EGM” means an Extraordinary General Meeting of SCBA members called in accordance with Article 15.
- 2.2.19 “Family Members” means a person’s child, sibling, parent, spouse, spouse’s parent, spouse’s sibling, grandparent, or grandchildren.
- 2.2.20 “General Meeting” means a general meeting of SCBA Members and includes the AGM and EGM.
- 2.2.21 “IHLs” means Institutions of Higher Learning such as Institutes of Technical Education, Polytechnics and Universities that are under the purview of the Ministry of Education of Singapore.
- 2.2.22 “Independent Member” means an Appointed Board Member who is defined as being independent under Article 23.3.
- 2.2.23 “Individual Member” means an individual admitted as a Member of SCBA in accordance with Article 9.
- 2.2.24 “Junior Member” means a person admitted as a Member of SCBA in accordance with Article 11.
- 2.2.25 “Key Office Bearer” means a person who holds the position of President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Treasurer or any other key appointment in the SCBA Board.
- 2.2.26 “Member” means a member of SCBA in accordance with Article 8.
- 2.2.27 “Objects” means the objects of SCBA set out in Article 7.
- 2.2.28 “Patron” means a patron of SCBA appointed in accordance with Article 31.
- 2.2.29 “Policy” means a policy made under Article 34.
- 2.2.30 “Special Resolution” means a resolution that must be passed by two-thirds of the members present at a General Meeting who are entitled to vote in accordance with this Constitution.
- 2.2.31 “Trustee” means a Trustee of SCBA appointed in accordance with Article 40.
- 2.2.32 “Voting Members” means all Affiliate Member who are eligible to vote at a General Meeting.

3 PLACE OF BUSINESS

- 3.1 The place of business of SCBA shall be at 51, Bishan Street 13, #01-01, Singapore 579799 or such other place as may from time to time be decided by the Board, subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies. SCBA shall carry out its activities only in places and premises which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

4 AFFILIATION

- 4.1 SCBA shall be affiliated to WBF, the Singapore National Olympic Council (hereinafter referred to as "SNOC"), and such other recognised bodies as the Board may deem necessary.

5 AUTHORITY

- 5.1 SCBA shall strive for government and public recognition as the national governing body and authority for the sport of Contract Bridge in Singapore by virtue of SCBA's affiliation to WBF and SNOC, and through endeavours that further the Objects of SCBA.

6 INCLUSIVITY

- 6.1 SCBA shall be inclusive and shall integrate into SCBA's activities any adaptive form of Contract Bridge for people with disabilities that has been approved by WBF or the International Paralympics Committee.

7 OBJECTS

- 7.1 The objects of SCBA shall be as follows:
- 7.1.1 Promote, develop and increase participation for the sport of Contract Bridge in Singapore.
 - 7.1.2 Promote health and wellness, foster community engagement and bonding for social inclusiveness and integration, and inspire the Singapore Spirit through the sport of Contract Bridge.
 - 7.1.3 To engage communities and provide access to Contract Bridge courses and games to vulnerable segments of the community such as youth at risk and the less privileged.
 - 7.1.4 Unify, co-ordinate, sanction and organise Contract Bridge activities in Singapore, including national and international Contract Bridge tournaments and events.
 - 7.1.5 Raise the competitive standards of Contract Bridge athletes in Singapore for sustainable elite level performance at international competitions and multi-sport major games.
 - 7.1.6 Provide sport pathways and opportunities for the progression and advancement of Contract Bridge athletes, coaches and technical officials in Singapore.
 - 7.1.7 Raise the technical capability of Contract Bridge coaches and technical officials in Singapore.

7.1.8 Do all things complementary or incidental to attain the aforesaid objects in Articles 7.1.1 to 7.1.7.

8 **MEMBERSHIP**

8.1 SCBA's membership shall consist of Individual, Corporate and Junior Members, who will collectively be referred to as SCBA Affiliates.

8.2 The list of the approved and most current SCBA Member shall be posted on SCBA's official website.

9 **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

9.1 Individual Members shall be individuals who are willing to observe the rules and regulations of SCBA but are not eligible for Corporate Membership. There shall be the following categories of Individual Members: Honorary Members, Ordinary Members and Life Members.

9.2 Honorary Members are members who have made significant contributions to SCBA. Honorary members may be elected at a General Meeting and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Ordinary Members, save the right to hold office, vote at Meetings or count towards quorum. Honorary Members will not have to pay any entrance fee or annual subscriptions for their Honorary Membership unless otherwise decided at a General Meeting.

9.3 Ordinary Membership shall be open to all persons over 12 years of age. Applicants who are below eighteen (18) years of age must have the written consent of their parent or guardian. The entrance fee and annual subscription payable shall be as decided by the board. Ordinary Members who are aged twenty-one and above shall have the right to hold office, vote at Meetings and count towards quorum.

9.4 Life Membership application shall be open to Ordinary Members who have held their Ordinary Membership for a continuous period of not less than ten years. A one-time payment of a sum to be decided at a General Meeting shall be made by applicant Ordinary Members for the purchase of a Life Membership. Life Members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of Ordinary Members. Life Members will not have to pay any entrance fee or annual subscription for their Life Membership. Like all other categories of Members, a Life Member shall be subject to the provisions of Article 9.3 in every respect.

9.5 Individual Members shall have full voting rights at SCBA's General Meetings. Each individual member is entitled to one (1) vote.

9.6 Individual Members shall have participated in competitions, programs, courses and activities organised by SCBA within the last twenty-four (24) months.

10 **CORPORATE MEMBERS**

10.1 Corporate Members shall be legal entities registered in Singapore with the Registry of Societies (ROS) or the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA), Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) and Government Ministries and Statutory Boards that are willing to observe the rules and regulations of SCBA. The entrance fee and annual subscription payable shall be as decided by the board.

- 10.2 Corporate Members shall have at least thirty (30) registered and paying members and who are not members of another Corporate Member.
- 10.3 At least half of the Corporate Member management teams should be made up of Singaporeans with effect from April 2021.
- 10.4 Corporate Members shall be approved by the Board and may only exercise their voting rights after receiving the approval from the Board.
- 10.5 Corporate Members shall have voting rights at SCBA's General Meetings. Each Corporate Members is entitled to one (1) vote.
- 10.6 Corporate Members may only be removed as a member of SCBA by a special resolution at an AGM unless for the reason stated in Article 13.3.
- 10.7 Corporate Members shall have representatives participated in competitions, programs, courses and activities organised by SCBA within the last twenty-four (24) months.
- 10.8 Corporate Members shall be involved in the promotion, training and / or development of Contract Bridge in Singapore.

11 JUNIOR MEMBERS

- 11.1 Junior Members are individuals who is willing to observe the rules and regulations of SCBA. Junior Membership shall be open to all individuals who are bona fide students pursuing studies at undergraduate level or below, or individuals who are serving national service. Applicants who are below eighteen (18) years of age must have the written consent of their parent or guardian.
- 11.2 Junior Members shall have no voting rights at SCBA's General Meetings.
- 11.3 All Junior Memberships shall be approved by the Board or by the Secretary General or CEO if delegated by the Board.
- 11.4 Junior Members shall have participated in competitions, programs, courses and activities organised by SCBA within the last twenty-four (24) months.

12 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 12.1 All membership applications shall be submitted to the Secretary General as prescribed by SCBA.
- 12.2 Application for membership may be rejected on any of the following grounds:
 - 12.2.1 The applicant does not satisfy all the relevant membership criteria set out in the relevant membership category in this Constitution;
 - 12.2.2 The applicant has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, declared a bankrupt, wound up or dissolved.
 - 12.2.3 Where accepting the applicant would in the Board's absolute discretion be deemed prejudicial to the interest of SCBA as a whole.

13 MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 13.1 Members shall pay a one-time membership entrance fee and an annual membership renewal fee as determined by the Board from time to time. Membership renewal fees shall be paid by 1st April of each year.
- 13.2 The Board may suspend members who have membership renewal fee arrears of one (1) month or more. Suspended members shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of membership including voting rights at General Meetings.
- 13.3 The Board shall terminate members who have membership renewal fee arrears of more than one (1) year. Terminated members may only apply to be reinstated as a member after a lapse of one (1) year.
- 13.4 The list of suspended and terminated Members shall be posted on SCBA's official website along with the effective date of their suspension or termination.
- 13.5 The income and property of SCBA whensoever derived shall be applied towards the promotion of the objects of SCBA as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend or bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the persons who at any time are or have been members of SCBA or to any of them or to any person claiming through any of them.

14 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 14.1 The supreme authority of SCBA is vested in a General Meeting of the members. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than 30 September each year.
- 14.2 If there are any unavoidable reasons for delay in holding the AGM by 30 September, the members shall be notified of the reason by 30 August through email or on SCBA's official website. The AGM may be postponed to a later date if no more than one-third (1/3) of Affiliate Member raise any objections in writing to SCBA within seven days from the date of this notification.
- 14.3 At least twenty-one (21) days' notice shall be provided to Affiliate Members, through email and SCBA's official website, specifying the place, date and time of the AGM.
- 14.4 Affiliate Members who wish to table a resolution for the General Meeting's approval must notify the Secretary General in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the AGM.
- 14.5 The agenda for the AGM, the Board's annual report and the audited financial statements for the preceding financial year, shall be forwarded to the members at least seven (7) days before the date of the AGM.
- 14.6 The business to be transacted at the AGM shall be:
 - 14.6.1 To approve the annual report and the previous financial year's audited financial statements.
 - 14.6.2 To approve any resolutions tabled by Affiliate Members in accordance with Article 14.4 or by the Board.

- 14.6.3 Where applicable, to appoint auditors for the ensuing term.
 - 14.6.4 Where applicable, to approve or remove Affiliate Members.
 - 14.6.5 Where applicable, to approve the list of nominations received and to hold the election for Board Members.
- 14.7 No business other than that stated in the notice and agenda for the AGM shall be transacted at the General Meeting.
- 14.8 General Meetings (i.e. AGM and EGM) may be conducted, wholly or partly, by electronic means. Members must at least be allowed to contemporaneously observe the proceedings of such meetings by audio and video means (e.g. “live” webcast) and to cast their vote electronically where required. Details on the arrangements for meetings to be conducted by electronic means shall be provided to members in the notice of the meeting.

15 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

- 15.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened at any time by order of the Board or on receipt of a written requisition by at least one-third (1/3) of the Affiliate Member on SCBA’s membership register. Such requisition shall state the business that is to be transacted at the requested EGM.
- 15.2 The Board shall convene the EGM within one (1) month of receiving the requisition. Affiliate Member who requisitioned the EGM may proceed to convene the EGM if one is not convened by the Board and shall provide the relevant notice and agenda for the meeting to the Affiliate Members.
- 15.3 At least fourteen (14) days’ notice shall be provided to Affiliate Member, through email and SCBA’s official website, specifying the place, date and time of the EGM along with the resolutions to be passed at the meeting.

16 ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

- 16.1 All members of SCBA’s shall be eligible to attend General Meetings. Each Affiliate Member is entitled to have one (1) authorised delegate to attend a General Meeting and to speak and vote on its behalf at such meetings.
- 16.2 The names of the authorised delegates and the authorised representatives of Corporate Members who will be attending the General Meeting shall be notified to the Secretary General at least three (3) days before the date specified for the General Meeting.
- 16.3 The Board may also invite various others including SCBA’s auditors, legal advisers and observers from SCBA’s stakeholders for General Meetings. Such invitees shall not participate in the proceedings of the General Meetings and may only address the meeting if deemed necessary by the Chairman or with the consent of the authorised delegates present at the meeting.
- 16.4 At least a quarter (1/4) of the voting members (i.e. Individual and Corporate Members) or thirty (30) voting members, whichever is the lesser, present at a General Meeting shall form a quorum.

16.5 In the event of there being no quorum at the commencement of a General Meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for half-an-hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to amend or make addition to the existing Constitution.

17 VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

17.1 Only authorised delegates of Corporate Members and Individual Members who are above the age of twenty-one (21) shall be eligible to vote at General Meetings and for the election of Board Members.

17.2 Each authorised delegate of Corporate Members shall have one (1) vote and each individual member shall have one (1) vote. Individual members are not allowed to exercise their own vote if they are voting on behalf of Corporate Members. Board Members shall have no voting rights at General Meetings unless he is an authorised delegate of a Corporate Member or an Individual Member.

17.3 Voting should preferably be by secret ballot and no proxy votes should be allowed.

17.4 All resolutions, with the exception of special resolutions, shall be approved by a simple majority (i.e. more than half of the member present and entitled to vote). All special resolutions shall be approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and entitled to vote.

17.5 Electronic voting is allowed for general meetings conducted by electronic means. Electronic voting can be by a physical or digital show of hands or by an online poll.

17.6 Any tie in votes that remains after a subsequent round(s) of voting may be resolved through any random methods or by a casting vote. However, the casting vote should not be exercised in favour of the very person who has the right to execute it.

18 GOVERNING BOARD

18.1 SCBA shall be governed by a Board between Annual General Meetings. The Board shall have all the powers necessary to manage the affairs of SCBA other than those matters reserved for the Annual General Meeting's approval.

18.2 The Board shall have seven (7) elected Board Members, an Athlete Commission Chairman, and between one (1) to three (3) appointed Board Members.

18.3 More than half of the Board shall be comprised of Singapore citizens.

19 NOMINATION AND ELECTION

19.1 All nominations for the Board election must reach the SCBA office at least seven (7) days before the AGM, and any nominations received thereafter shall be invalid.

19.2 All nominations shall be submitted in writing via prescribed forms and along with the required supporting documents as may be determined by the Board.

- 19.3 All nominations must be proposed by an Affiliate Member and seconded by another Affiliate Member.
- 19.4 Nomination forms shall include a declaration by the nominee of any personal or business interest that may be of concern to SCBA or its members.
- 19.5 Nominated candidates must fulfil all the eligibility conditions in the sub-articles of Articles 21 (Board Members) and 22 (Elected Board Members) respectively.
- 19.6 The voting eligibility of Affiliate Members, their authorized delegates and the nominated candidates for the Board election shall be verified and confirmed by a panel comprising two (2) or more independent members from the Board.
- 19.7 The list of eligible nominees shall be published in SCBA's official website and emailed to all Members at least five (5) days before the AGM where the election is to be held.
- 19.8 The election shall be conducted by an independent member of the Board.
- 19.9 Election will be by secret ballot and the result shall be based on a simple majority of the votes cast.
- 19.10 Any tie in votes that affects the outcome of the election shall be resolved through a subsequent round(s) of voting. If the tie involves more than two (2) candidates, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated after each round.
- 19.11 If a tie persists after two (2) successive rounds of voting involving the same candidates, the Chairman who is presiding over the election shall decide to either exercise a casting vote, where the Chairman had been so empowered by the members, or draw lots to resolve the tie.
- 19.12 In any event, the Chairman shall not exercise the casting vote option if he has any conflict of interest in the choice of candidate.
- 19.13 The counting of the votes shall be overseen and verified by two (2) or more scrutineers from the members present at the AGM who are not contesting the election and/or the representatives from SCBA's auditors and/or legal advisers who are present at the AGM.

20 **KEY OFFICE BEARERS**

- 20.1 The Board shall elect from among themselves key office bearers, who will minimally be the President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer following an AGM where an election is held or whenever a vacancy arises.
- 20.2 The President, Deputy President and Secretary General shall be Elected Board Members who are Singapore citizens, and shall be elected by the Elected Board Members at the first Board Meeting following an AGM.
- 20.3 The Treasurer should preferably have a recognized accounting qualification and / or appropriate practical experience.

20.4 The President should have served and made positive contributions to the sport of Contract Bridge and/or SCBA as an ex-athlete, official or elected Board member, or should be a prominent individual of good standing within the sport and / or business community.

21 BOARD MEMBERS

21.1 Only a member of the NSA or an authorised delegate of a member of the NSA who has attained 21 years of age, and is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore, should be allowed to contest the Board elections.

21.2 Board members shall not be Individuals who are disqualified from serving on the Board of charities or companies pursuant to the Charities Act and Companies Act or have past convictions for offences for which criminal record cannot be spent pursuant to the Registration of Criminals Act (Third Schedule).

21.3 Board members shall not be serving a suspension or ban from WBF or other regulatory authority.

21.4 Board members shall be persons of good character with the relevant experience and credentials.

21.5 Board members shall neither be a paid employee of SCBA nor have a family member (i.e. child, sibling, parent, spouse, spouse's parent, spouse's sibling, grandparent, or grandchildren) who is a paid employee of SCBA.

21.6 No more than three (3) of the Board members shall be family members, and such relationships must be declared upfront in the nomination and before the Board election.

21.7 Any change of Board members shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.

22 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

22.1 An Elected Board Member shall be an authorised delegate or representative of an Affiliate Member or an Individual Member of SCBA who is duly elected by the voting members at an AGM.

22.2 Elected Board Members shall act in the best interest of SCBA and not do anything to bring the SCBA into disrepute.

22.3 The Board may at any time appoint a suitable person to fill a position vacated by an Elected Board Member for the remaining term of office for the vacated position.

22.4 Where more than half of the Elected Board Member positions become vacant, the Board shall convene a General Meeting (EGM or AGM), within two months from the positions becoming vacant, in order to elect the replacements for the remaining period of office.

23 APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

23.1 The Elected Board Members will appoint between one (1) to three (3) other Board members to ensure an appropriate balance and diversity of skills, experience and gender within the Board.

- 23.2 Appointed Board Members shall preferably be from the legal, accounting or medical profession or shall be experts in other relevant fields including marketing, event management or coach education.
- 23.3 The majority of the Appointed Board Members shall be independent members who are not registered members of the Affiliate Member and who do not have any vested interest in the affairs or business of SCBA.
- 23.4 The Board may at any time appoint a suitable person to fill a position vacated by an Appointed Board Member for the remaining term of office for the vacated position.
- 23.5 The Board shall have the power to remove an Appointed Board member before the expiration of his term of office and may appoint another person in his stead for the remaining term of his office.

24 **BOARD TENURE**

- 24.1 The term of office of Elected Board members shall be four (4) years. However, at the first election following the adoption of this Constitution, four (4) of the Elected Board Members will be elected for a four (4) year term and three (3) of the Elected Board Members with the lowest votes will be elected for a two (2) year term of office to allow for staggered terms of office for Elected Board Members.
- 24.2 The term of office of Appointed Board Members shall be up to two (2) years.
- 24.3 Counting from the year 2019, Board Members may serve a maximum tenure of eight (8) consecutive years on the Board and, upon reaching this tenure limit, shall only be eligible for re-election or re-appointment to the Board after a lapse of at least two (2) years.
- 24.4 A Board Member may only hold the appointment of Treasurer for a maximum of four (4) consecutive years and may only be considered for re-appointment as a Treasurer after a lapse of at least two (2) years.

25 **BOARD ROLE AND POWERS**

- 25.1 The role and powers of the Board shall be as follows:
 - 25.1.1 Provide stewardship and trusteeship on behalf of members and be responsible for ensuring that SCBA remains viable and effective in the present and for the future.
 - 25.1.2 Provide strategic leadership, set objectives, and ensure that the necessary plans, policies, programs and resources are in place for SCBA to meet its objectives.
 - 25.1.3 Ensure all legal and statutory obligations are met and all constitutional and governance requirements are complied with.
 - 25.1.4 Establish a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risk to be assessed and managed, including safeguarding of SCBA's assets and the public funds it receives.

- 25.1.5 Set SCBA's values and standards and ensure that obligations to members and other stakeholders are understood and met, and address all disciplinary issues that arise.
- 25.1.6 Be responsible for the appointment of the CEO and other senior management employees of SCBA and provide them with clearly documented roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
- 25.1.7 Review management and Board performance periodically.
- 25.1.8 Manage conflict of interest and take appropriate measures to ensure that SCBA is protected against any personal or business interests of Board members and employees of SCBA.
- 25.1.9 Identify and sufficiently engage the key stakeholder groups of SCBA and sought their views and feedback on SCBA's strategies and policies.
- 25.1.10 Consider financial sustainability, social issues and environmental factors as part of its strategy and policy formulation
- 25.1.11 Raise funds for SCBA and approve any expenditure from the funds and / or reserves of SCBA for SCBA's activities, subject to clause 25.1.12.
- 25.1.12 Decisions that involve the acquisition and disposal of immovable properties/assets, and expenditures of significant value that draws on the NSA's financial reserves (i.e. more than 10% of reserves or \$0.25M whichever is higher) should be approved at a General Meeting by a special resolution.

26 **DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS**

- 26.1 The President shall chair all General and Board meetings. The President shall also represent SCBA in all matters with outside persons.
- 26.2 The Deputy President shall assist the President and deputise for him in his absence.
- 26.3 The Secretary General shall ensure that all records of SCBA, except financial, are kept safely and shall be responsible for their correctness. He shall ensure that the minutes of all General and Board meetings are recorded correctly. He shall also ensure that an up-to-date Register of Members is maintained at all times.
- 26.4 The Treasurer shall:
 - 26.4.1 Be responsible for the funds of SCBA
 - 26.4.2 Keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness.
 - 26.4.3 Report on the financial status of SCBA at Board meetings and present audited financial reports at AGMs.
 - 26.4.4 Not hold office in the Audit Committee.

- 26.5 The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and shall deputise for the Treasurer in his absence, and shall not hold office in the Audit Committee.
- 26.6 All cheques, electronic or online payments for withdrawals from the bank shall be co-signed by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, and either the President or the Deputy President.
- 26.7 All other Board Members shall assist in the management of SCBA and perform duties assigned by the Board from time to time.

27 **BOARD MEETINGS**

- 27.1 A Board Meeting shall be held at least once every two (2) months after giving at least seven (7) days' notice to Board Members.
- 27.2 A Board Member who is absent for three (3) consecutive Board meetings without any reasonable excuse accepted by the Board shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Board.
- 27.3 At least half of the Board members must be present to form a quorum and for the meeting proceedings to be valid. This will include Board members who participate in the meeting via telephone or video conferencing.
- 27.4 Voting at Board meetings shall be by show of hands unless the meeting decides otherwise by a majority vote for a secret ballot. All Board members including the Appointed Board Members shall have one (1) vote each at Board Meetings.
- 27.5 Board Members who are not present at a meeting may write in prior to the meeting or call in during the meeting to vote on resolutions or required decisions circulated prior to the meeting.
- 27.6 The Chairman of the Board meeting shall have a casting vote (i.e. second vote) in the event of a tie in the votes.

28 **CIRCULAR RESOLUTIONS**

- 28.1 The Board may by a circular resolution decide on any matters of SCBA as stated within its powers under this Constitution. Such circular resolutions shall be as effective as a resolution passed at a Board meeting duly convened and held.
- 28.2 The Secretary General or CEO shall circulate such resolutions for the Board Members' approval upon the request by any of the Board Member who shall have a seconder for the same.
- 28.3 The circulation of such resolution(s) shall be relayed to Board Members by any acceptable means of communication adopted by the Board, including via email.
- 28.4 A circular resolution shall be carried upon acceptance by a simple majority of members from the Board and shall be tabled and ratified at the following Board meeting.

29 **BOARD COMMITTEES**

- 29.1 The Board may appoint Board Committees comprised of SCBA members and/or independent experts to assist the Board in the management and administration of SCBA.

- 29.2 The Board may delegate to such Board Committees such powers as it deems necessary.
- 29.3 The Board shall minimally appoint the following Board Committees with the appropriate terms of reference:
- 29.3.1 Audit Committee
 - 29.3.2 Selections Committee
 - 29.3.3 Appeals Committee
 - 29.3.4 Disciplinary Committee
- 29.4 The Audit Committee, Selections Committee, Appeals Committee and Disciplinary Committee shall comprise of at least three (3) persons appointed by the Board. Each of these four (4) Board Committees shall be headed preferably by an independent Board member and shall have no more than two-thirds (2/3) of its members from the Board.

30 **ATHLETES COMMISSION**

- 30.1 SCBA shall establish an Athletes Commission (AC) with the view to providing a process to promote open communication with the athletes.
- 30.2 The AC shall comprise of no more than five (5) elected members, who are either past or present national Contract Bridge athletes, including the Chairman who must be a former National Contract Bridge athlete.
- 30.3 The Chairman and members of the AC shall be elected by National athletes who have represented Singapore in international Contract Bridge competitions within the past twenty-four (24) months.
- 30.4 The term of office of the AC members and their term limits, if any, shall follow that of the Board.
- 30.5 The Chairman of the AC shall be appointed as a Board member with voting rights and shall represent the AC in the Board until the expiry of his term as Chairman of the AC.

31 **ADVISORS AND PATRONS**

- 31.1 The Board may appoint Advisors and/or Patrons who may or may not be a Member of SCBA to advise the Board in such matters as and when the Board deems necessary.
- 31.2 The Advisors and Patrons so appointed shall have no voting rights in the Board.
- 31.3 Patrons may be invited by the President and/or the Board to chair a General Meeting of SCBA in which case the Patron shall have no voting rights.

32 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- 32.1 The Board may appoint a CEO or an equivalent to lead the SCBA management and secretariat staff.
- 32.2 The CEO shall hold office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, determined by the Board.

- 32.3 The exercise of the CEO's powers and authorities, and the performance of the CEO's duties, shall always be subject to the control of the Board.
- 32.4 The role of the CEO will be to implement the strategies, plans and policies approved by the Board and to be responsible for the management and direction of SCBA and its finances.
- 32.5 The CEO shall attend all SCBA meetings including General Meetings and Board meetings, subject to a determination otherwise by the Board. The CEO shall not have a vote at these meetings but may speak on any matters where required.
- 32.6 Subject to the terms and conditions of the appointment, the Board may suspend or remove the CEO from that office.

33 AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR

- 33.1 A firm of Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants shall be appointed as auditors at each AGM for the next financial year and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 33.2 The auditor shall be changed at least once every five (5) years, whether to another auditor from the same auditing firm or company or to another auditor from a different auditing firm or company.
- 33.3 The auditors may be required by the President to audit SCBA's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Board.
- 33.4 The auditors will be required to audit each financial year's accounts and present a report upon them to the AGM.
- 33.5 SCBA's financial year shall be from 1st April of each year to 31st March the following year.

34 POLICIES AND BY-LAWS

- 34.1 The Board shall have the power to approve, create, alter or revoke by-laws, policies, regulations, procedures and practices in relation to the management and administration of SCBA as it deems fit
- 34.2 Such by-laws, policies, regulations, procedures and practices from time to time in force shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 34.3 If there is inconsistency, the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail, and that by-law, policy, regulation, procedure or practice shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.
- 34.4 When in force, such by-laws, policies, regulations, procedures and practices shall be binding on all Members and has the same effect as a provision in this Constitution.

35 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 35.1 Board members shall act in the best interests of SCBA, and the Board shall set clear policies, procedures and take appropriate measures to declare, prevent and address any conflict of interest that may arise.

35.2 Whenever a member of the Board is in any way, directly or indirectly, has an interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a meeting, the member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion on the matter begins. The Board Member concerned shall then offer to withdraw and leave the meeting and not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter. The Board shall decide if this should be accepted.

36 **ANTI-DOPING & PREVENTION OF COMPETITION MANIPULATION**

36.1 SCBA shall recognise the right of all its athletes to participate in clean sport and is committed to ensuring the sport is doping-free and is free of any manipulation of competitions.

36.2 All members, athletes, participants, staff and other individuals, who are subject to the jurisdiction of SCBA are bound by and agree to abide by all World Anti-Doping Code-compliant anti-doping rules applicable to the sport and to comply with the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.

37 **SAFE SPORT**

37.1 SCBA shall be committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Contract Bridge athletes and practitioners in Singapore and shall take all necessary measures to protect them from all forms of harassment and abuse.

38 **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

38.1 Any dispute arising amongst Members or between any Member and SCBA shall be resolved in accordance with the Framework for Alternative Dispute Resolution for Sports (ADR Sports) or other dispute resolution framework jointly administered for the time being by Sport Singapore, the Singapore Mediation Centre and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators.

39 **PRESS RELEASE**

39.1 Only the President or his/her delegate shall be entitled to give press releases relating to matters concerning SCBA.

40 **TRUSTEES**

40.1 If SCBA at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust.

40.2 The trustees of SCBA shall:

40.2.1 Not be more than four (4) and not less than two (2) in number.

40.2.2 Be elected by a General Meeting of members.

40.2.3 Not affect any sale or mortgage of property without the prior approval of the General Meeting of members.

40.3 The office of the trustee shall be vacated:

- 40.3.1 If the trustee dies or becomes of unsound mind.
 - 40.3.2 If he is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one (1) year.
 - 40.3.3 If he is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a trustee.
 - 40.3.4 If he submits notice of resignation from his trusteeship.
- 40.4 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by posting it on SCBA's notice board and / or on SCBA's website at least two (2) weeks before the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such General Meeting shall then be notified to the Commissioner of Charities.
- 40.5 The address of each immovable property, name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Commissioner of Charities.

41 VISITORS AND GUESTS

- 41.1 Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of SCBA but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of SCBA. All visitors and guests shall abide by SCBA's rules and regulations.

42 PROHIBITIONS

- 42.1 Gambling of any kind, excluding the promotion or conduct of a private lottery which has been permitted under the Private Lotteries Act Cap 250, is forbidden on SCBA's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 42.2 The funds of SCBA shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in court of law.
- 42.3 SCBA shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- 42.4 SCBA shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 42.5 SCBA shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to members or not, in the name of SCBA or of its office-bearers, Board or members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 42.6 SCBA shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Assistant Director Operations, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities, where necessary.

43 CESSATION OF CHARITY STATUS

- 43.1 In the event that SCBA ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act, all debts, liabilities legally incurred on behalf of SCBA shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be donated to charitable organization(s), or Institution(s) of a Public Character, when SCBA is an Institution of a Public Character, as the case may be, with similar objectives in Singapore which is (are) registered under the Charities Act as the members of SCBA may determine at the General Meeting.

44 DISSOLUTION

- 44.1 SCBA shall not be dissolved except with the consent of not less than three-fifths (3/5) of the members who are present and eligible to vote at the General Meeting.
- 44.2 In the event of SCBA being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of SCBA shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be donated to charitable organization(s), or Institution(s) of a Public Character, when SCBA is an Institution of a Public Character, as the case may be, with similar objectives in Singapore which is(are) registered under the Charities Act, as the members of SCBA may determine at the General Meeting.
- 44.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven (7) days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies and Commissioner of Charities.

45 AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- 45.1 No alterations, amendments or additions/deletions to this Constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting and by a special resolution.
- 45.2 Such alterations, amendments or additions/deletions shall only take effect after the approval from the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities has been received.
- 45.3 Any proposal to amend the Constitution shall be notified in writing to SCBA at least fourteen (14) days before the General Meeting together with a copy of the proposed amendments.

46 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 46.1 In all matters not provided for in this Constitution or doubts on the proper interpretation of the Articles in this Constitution, the decision of the Board shall be final unless it is reversed at a General Meeting of members.