International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

WBF Eligibility Code

1. General Principles

1.1. The WBF Eligibility Code applies to all those who wish to participate in any WBF Championship or Competition (collectively referred to as "WBF Events"). The WBF organises Events that are either representative in nature or open to all NBO Registered Members ("Transnational"). WBF Representative Events are restricted to participants representing their NBO/Country. WBF Representative Events include Zonal Competitions that lead to qualification for a WBF Representative Event.

1.2. To be eligible for participation in WBF Events a player, non-playing captain, coach, trainer and/or other team official, must sign the WBF Participants Commitment Declaration confirming that they accept and will abide by all WBF Rules & Regulations and applicable laws. No captain, coach, trainer and/or other team official shall act for more than one Federation in any WBF Event.

1.3. Any player and non-playing captain must be a National or a Bona Fide Resident (as set forth in Section 3 below) of the Country of the NBO that he will represent.

1.4. No player may represent another Country in a WBF Representative Event, until at least two subsequent calendar years (January 1st to December 31st) have passed without a specific proposal from the WBF Credentials Committee based on an extraordinary situation and subject to approval by the WBF Executive Council.

1.5. All matters relating to the determination of the Country that a participant may represent in the above-mentioned events shall be resolved by the WBF Credentials Committee, in accordance with article 48.3 of the WBF By-Laws.

1.6. For the avoidance of doubt, the participation and accreditation to any WBF Events is by strict personal invitation and may be denied for such reason as the Credentials Committee in its absolute discretion may determine.

1.7. No player with pending ethical violation charges, in respect of bridge matters, is eligible for invitation to play in a WBF Event.

1.8. No player who has been convicted of collusive cheating is eligible to play as the partner or team-mate of another player who has been convicted of collusive cheating.

2. Multiple Nationality

2.1. A player who is a National of two or more countries at the same time may represent one of them, as he may elect; such election is deemed to have occurred by his representation of a Country either as a National or as a Bona Fide Resident ("BFR"). Having represented one Country in a WBF Representative Event, he may not represent another Country unless he meets the conditions set forth in section 1.4 and where relevant sections 3.1 to 3.4.

3. Bona Fide Residents

3.1. To be considered a BFR, a non-National is required to submit appropriate documentation via his NBO to prove to the satisfaction of the WBF Credentials Committee that he is a BFR. Failing to so establish that fact will result in a denial of an invitation by the WBF Credentials Committee.

3.2. The requirements to prove that a player is a BFR of the Country he wishes to represent are an integral part of this Code.

3.3. The choice to represent a Country as a BFR may be made only once in any 10-year period except as approved by the WBF Executive Council on the proposal of the WBF Credentials Committee and is subject to the limitations of section 1.4 above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 10-year period commences from the date of approval of BFR status by the WBF Credentials Committee.

3.4. A player who seeks to re-establish his primary affiliation to the NBO of his first Nationality, may do so at will; however, he is still subject to the limitations of section 1.4 above.

4. Age Restrictions

4.1. There is no age limit for players participating in the WBF Representative Events in the Open, Women and Mixed categories.

4.2. Players participating in Youth Events are subject to the relevant Age Restrictions contained within the General and/or Supplemental Conditions of Contest published from time to time by the WBF on its website.

4.3. Players participating in Seniors events are subject to a minimum age requirement specified in the schedule below:

4.4. From 1st January 2018, a Senior player must have achieved the age of 61 in the year of the Championship in which he is going to play

- From 1st January 2020 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 62
- From 1st January 2022 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 63
- From1st January 2024 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 64
- From 1st January 2026 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 65

5. Invitations and Entries

5.1. Invitations to WBF Events shall be extended only by the WBF.

5.2. Only NBOs recognized by the WBF and in good standing may submit entries for competitors in WBF Representative Events.

5.3. NBOs are responsible for ensuring that all players registered by them for participation in WBF Representative Events are compliant with this Eligibility Code.

5.4. For participants in Transnational Events, NBOs are responsible for notifying the WBF if those participants are not in good standing with the NBO; a player who is subject to pending ethical violation charges is deemed not to be in good standing.

6. Youth & Transnational Events

6.1. The definitions of Youth Events and Transnational Events are stated in the latest General Conditions of Contest published on the WBF website.

6.2. Those players nominated for participation in Youth Events or Transnational Events are not subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in articles 1.4, 2 and 3 above.

7. Violations

7.1. Violations of this Eligibility Code are subject to the WBF Disciplinary Code. If one or more members of a team are deemed to have been ineligible as provided for in this Code (including any qualifying event), the entire team shall be disqualified by the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

8. Interpretation

8.1. Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural, or vice versa. The headings are solely for organisation, convenience and clarity. They do not define, limit or describe the scope of this Eligibility Code or the intent in any of the provisions.

9. Effective Date

1.1. The WBF Eligibility Code as amended becomes effective on 3rd December 2019.

Approved by the WBF Management Committee at its meeting in San Francisco, California on 2nd December 2019