



CONSTITUTION
OF
BLACKBALL
INTERNATIONAL

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Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- a) Words indicating the male gender include the female gender and vice versa;
- b) Words indicating the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- c) Headings and the index are included for convenience only and do not form part of this Constitution.

ABBREVIATIONS:

BOARD	Blackball International Board of Directors
BI	Blackball International
EGA	Extra Ordinary General Assembly
AGM	Annual general meeting
GA	General Assembly
IOC	International Olympic Committee
MEMBER	All National Affiliated Bodies
WPA	World Pool Association
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency

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Article 1. Name, Legal Seat, Address and Language

1.1 Name

The name of this organisation shall be **BLACKBALL INTERNATIONAL** (*hereinafter referred to as BI*). **BI** will be formed on the 19th. of August 2008 At Mbabane Swaziland.

1.2 Legal Seat and Address

The legal seat of **BI** will be, where the President resides.

1.3 Address

The official address of **BI** is the residence of the President.

1.4 Official Language

The official and administrative language of **BI** shall be English.

1.5 Non-Profit.

BI is a non-profit organisation, which existence is not limited in time.

1.6 Limitation on Liabilities.

Nothing herein shall constitute Members of the **BI** as partners for any purpose. No Member, officer, agent, or employee of **BI** shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any other Member, officer, agent or employee of **BI**. Nor shall any Member, officer, agent or employee be liable for their acts or failure to act under this Constitution, except only acts or omissions to act arising out of their wilful misfeasance, except as in Article 8.4

Article 2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 Aims

While retaining and respecting the complete autonomy and independence of each Member in the administration and running of their organisations, the aims and objectives of **BI** are:

- i) To unite the “small ball table” Continental and national associations into one international association with only one set of rule play.
- ii) To cultivate mutual friendships with all other types of international and national pool organizations.
- iii) To encourage the development of the game of Blackball pool as a national, Continental and international sport.
- iv) To create and determine Rules and Regulations for the game of Blackball.
- v) To adopt a sports policy which is not in conflict with the Continental structures of, and the WPA, WCBS and IOC’s rules as set forth in the Olympic Charter.
- vi) **BI** recognizes the **WADA Anti-Doping Code of the WPA** and is determined to do its utmost in order to keep pool-billiards free from any and all performance-enhancing drugs. **BI** Anti-Doping Rules are in accordance with the WADA Anti-Doping Code.
- vii)

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- vii) **BI** recognises the WPA as the world governing body of POOL sports with regards to their association to the WCBS, IOC, GAISF, ARISF, ASOIF and multiple sports events.

2.2 Objectives

To further the aims of **BI**, the objectives of **BI** are:

- i) To promote the game of Blackball Pool as a world-wide international sport;
- ii) To co-ordinate world championships and other events annually for men, women and junior players and any other categories as might be determined from time to time..
- iii) To exercise control over the eligibility of players to participate in **BI** and **BI** sanctioned events.
- iv) To acknowledge and record statistical data of all **BI** and **BI** sanctioned events.
- v) To liaise with the Referees Association under each Member and maintain a register of qualified International Referees for deployment in **BI** and/or **BI** sanctioned events if required.
- vi) To promote proper education of Instructors and Coaches through recognized academies in order to enhance the skill levels of players.
- vii) To organise, promote and direct activities to accomplish the aims and objectives of **BI**.
- viii) To do all other things necessary that are incidental and conducive to the attainment and enhancement to the aims and objectives of the WPA.

2.3 Non-profit Organisation

BI will perform all of its functions on a non-profit basis with the highest ethical standards and fair treatment to all of its members and the entire billiard community.

2.4 Autonomy

BI is constituted democratically as a division of the **WPA** and refrains from involvement in the internal affairs of the continental and other organisations within **BI** membership. Similarly, other organisations will refrain from involvement in the internal affairs of **BI**. Only with just cause as determined by the **BI** Board or by a specific request will **BI** investigate with the intent to cure any problem.

2.5 General Statement

BI will not tolerate discrimination against a continent, organisation or individual for reason of race, colour, creed, religion, gender and is politically neutral

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Article3. Membership

3.1

- i) Voting members: .
- ii) Special Members: .
- iii) Affiliated Membership: .
- iv) Honorary Life Members:.

3.2 Types of Membership

i) Voting Members

The Continental structure shall have a National Membership. Continental membership to **BI** must be approved by a **GA** or **EGA** of **BI**.

Only members approved by **BI** will have voting powers.

Membership of **BI** is made up of the continents of the world as stipulated by the **WPA**

Members will be entitled to nominate one Board representative.

ii) Affiliated National Federation Members

National pool-billiard organisations that play Blackball pool as their sports, and comply with the **WCBS** autonomy clause, who are on a continent not affiliated to the **WPA** can become an Affiliated National Federation Member. They have no seat on the Board. They have the right of proposal but no right to vote. They will be allowed to participate at **BI** and/or **BI** sanctioned events.

iii) Special Membership

At the discretion of the Board and the acceptance at a GA or EGA, any individual, trade organisation, business house or others associated with Blackball may be granted special membership if it is deemed that this membership would be beneficial to the sport and/or **BI**. Approved special members will have no board position and no voting rights.

iv) Honorary and Life Membership

BI may bestow from time to time the title of Honorary or Life Member on a person in recognition of their meritorious contribution to the enhancement and betterment of **BI** and/or the sport of pool. Nominations for this title must be approved by a GA. Such members will be entitled to attend GA's but will hold no voting rights or be eligible to hold office within **BI**.

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3.3 Territories

Voting Member's territories shall be made up of the Continental structures of the **WPA**.

3.3 Applications for New Membership

Member applications should be addressed to **BI** Secretary General and contain in writing the following information together with all the appropriate documentation:

- i) Name, business address, telephone/fax numbers and email address of the organisation.
- ii) Names addresses, telephone/fax numbers of the officers and directors of the organisation.
- iii) The number of affiliated player groups; the total number of member players in each group; and the total number of players in the applicant's organisation.
- iv) A copy of the organisation's constitution.
- v) A copy of the minutes of the meeting that decided to make application for **BI** membership.
- vi) A statement must be signed agreeing to the principles, aims and objectives of **BI**, and to uphold the constitution of **BI** and that the organisation recognises and acknowledges the **WPA** as the only world governing body for pool-billiards.
- vii) Any other information the Board or applicant deem pertinent.
- viii) Payment for the first year's dues.

3.4 One Member per Territory

There shall be one voting member to one **BI** voting territory.

3.5 Membership Obligations

- i) All **BI** members and affiliates must recognise all Voting Members as the sole authority over the sport of pool-billiards in their territory.
- ii) All Voting Members must provide an annual written report to the GA including the total number of their playing members.

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Article 4. Duties of the Members

Members are obliged to:

- i) Abide by the statutes, orders, decisions and resolutions of **BI**, which are binding for them.
- ii) Submit any disagreements which accrued from **BI** membership to **BI** or relative committee within **BI** for final conclusion.
- iii) Conduct their affairs in order not to harm the reputation of **BI**.

Article 5. General Assembly

5.1 General

- i) The GA is the highest institution of **BI**. It takes place every year at a date fixed by the Board and should for economical reasons be at the time of the annual Blackball World Championships.
- ii) The GA will be presided by the **BI** President or by his representative. It is at the discretion of the President to substitute himself should the next point on the agenda be his election.
- iii) Delegate(s) is (are) the responsible representative(s) of the Voting Members.
- iv) **BI** Board members shall not represent their National membership as delegates at any **BI** GA.

5.2 Quorum

Any GA requires a quorum to be present by the advertised start time of the GA, of not less than one half plus one of the votes entitled to vote.

5.3 Invitation

- i) At a minimum of ten weeks prior to the proposed date of the GA, the members will be informed in writing about the place and exact time of the meeting. This invitation shall include a notice that further points to be included in the agenda can be submitted by the membership. Any points to be submitted must be lodged with the **BI** Secretary General no later than four weeks prior to the advertised date of the GA.
- ii) Any correspondence received after the four week deadline can only be included in the agenda if so decided upon by the GA by simple majority.
- iii) Any correspondence received within seven days of the advertised date of the GA, can only be included in the agenda if so decided upon by the GA by a two-thirds majority.
- iv) The final invitation is to be sent to the members no later than three weeks prior to the commencement of the GA. This invitation will include the final agenda and minutes of the previous GA.

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5.4 Power of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme body of **BI**, which exercises the highest authority within the same. Its responsibilities include:

- i) Discussion and decisions on all points of the agenda.
- ii) Discharge of the Board of Directors and the Auditors.
- iii) Election of the **BI** President.
- iv) Election of Board of Directors.
- v) Election of Auditors.
- vi) Fixing membership fees, tournament fees as well as any other fees and taxes.
- vii) Approval of the budget for the next two financial years.
- viii) Approval of any changes to Rules or Specifications.
- ix) Approval of any changes to the constitution.
- x) Discussion and decisions on proposals from the Board and Members.
- xi) Recognition of honours awarded by **BI**.
- xii) Ratifying membership applications for affiliation to **BI**

Entering upon a proposal which has been submitted late or at the GA can only be decided upon by a two-thirds majority by those entitled to vote.

The GA may delegate its powers wholly or in part to the **BI** Board of Directors.

Changes of the statutes or their total revision have to appear on the agenda within the period specified, and require a majority of two-thirds by those eligible to vote.

5.5 Right to Vote, Eligibility and Proxies

- i) All votes will be given personally or by proxy, but no member will hold more than three proxies.
- ii) A Voting Member must be represented in person at the GA to validate any proxy votes their representative may be holding.
- iii) Any representative carrying a proxy vote(s) must declare so to the Secretary General prior to the commencement of the GA.
- iv) The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form as set out in Appendix 2 to these rules.
- v) Each Voting Member shall be represented by a minimum of one and a maximum of four delegates. All delegates have to be announced in writing to the General Secretary before the meeting, giving their names as well as the name of the federation they are representing.
- vi) Each member has one vote.
- vii) The Board officers are not entitled to vote at the GA, with the exception of the President in the case of a decision required by a tied result.
- viii) As a general rule, votes and elections will be conducted openly. However, if there is any request for a secret ballot, the vote or election must be conducted secretly.

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- ix) Decisions taken by the GA shall become effective immediately unless otherwise instructed.
- x) Any member more than six months in arrears with any payments to the Association, shall forfeit all voting rights.

5.6 Minutes

Minutes will be taken of the GA and all decisions made will be recorded.

5.7 Extraordinary General Assembly

- i) The Board of **BI** are entitled to call an EGA at any time. It is obliged to do so if at least half of the members require it in writing, giving the point to be discussed.
- ii) The Board are obliged to give notice of an EGA within one month after receiving the bona fide request. The delay between the invitation and the EGA shall be not less than thirty days and not more than ninety days.
- iii) Furthermore, the paragraphs regarding a GA shall be applied.

Article6. Board of Directors

6.1 Functions and Compositions

- i) The Board of Directors is the Executive body of **BI**.
- ii) The body consists of one Voting member per territory.
- iii) The members of the Board shall fulfil the following offices:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - c) Secretary General
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) And 2 executives
 - f) Board Members
- iv) Representatives of a Voting Member who are running for membership on the Board must be nominated by their national federation.
- v) The representative of the Continental membership will be board members.

6.2 Executive Committee

The President will appoint members from the Board to form the Executive Committee. This committee is responsible for the day to day operations of the Association and will meet when required.

6.3 Subject-specific Committees

The President can assign Board members to committees to deal with specific tasks of **BI**.

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6.4 Term of Office and Re-election

- i) The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the GA to a four year term.
- ii) The President is elected by the GA directly into his office.
- iii) At the end of their term, they may be re-elected.
- iv) In the case of death, resignation or removal of a Board member, another representative nominated from the continent concerned will fill the vacancy temporarily until the next GA, at which a replacement will be confirmed.
- v) Any member of the Board may terminate his membership at any time by delivering his written resignation to the President of **BI**. Before taking acceptance of such resignation, the Board may ask to hear from the resigning member.
- vi) Nominations for elections into the Board of Directors have to be made within the set period to the **BI** Secretary General, who shall enclose them with the invitation to the GA. They have to include the following details: Full name, date of birth, profession, status within the national federation, any special qualifications.
- vii) Re-election of a Board of Directors member is decided upon by the GA from nominations submitted by the Board or the continental member.
- viii) Admittance of nominations which have been received late, have to be voted on by the GA and need a two-thirds majority.

6.5 Authority to Sign

The President or his representative together with one other Board member shall sign legally binding documentation for **BI**.

6.6 Duties and Competence

- i) Members of the Board are obliged to safeguard the interests of **BI** only.
- ii) The Board deals with all business of the association which is not reserved for other authorities by the statutes.
- iii) The Board executes and supervises decisions taken by the GA.
- iv) Within the limits of the statutes and decisions taken by the GA, the Board complies decrees, regulations and changes of the statutes.
- v) The Board is entitled to set up committees for special tasks.
- vi) The Board is entitled to order sanctions against members of the **BI**, and/or licensed players and officials, as long as the statutes do not apply this right to other authorities.
- vii) In the interests of **BI**, the Board is entitled to cut individual items in the budget and increase others as long as the total amount of the budget is not increased by more than ten per cent.

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6.7 Board of Director's Meetings

- i) The Board meets when necessary.
- ii) The Secretary distributes invitations according to instructions from the President.
- iii) As a general rule, invitations and requests for agenda items should be in the possession of the Board members a minimum of six weeks ahead of the scheduled meeting. Final agenda should be in the possession of the Board members a minimum of three weeks ahead of the scheduled meeting.
- iv) In urgent cases, this delay may be reduced to two weeks.
- v) For extremely urgent matters, telephone conference or internet communications are permissible.
- vi) Decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. The President may vote only to tie a vote or break a tie.
- vii) Minutes shall be taken on the decisions of the Board and sent to all Board members within six weeks after the meeting.
- viii) All positions are honorary.

Article 7. Finances

7.1 Financial Year

The financial year of **BI** will be the calendar year, 1st January to 31st December.

7.2 Currency

The official currency of **BI** is the EURO.

7.3 Auditors

The Supervisory Committee consists of an auditor elected by the GA. They may not be members of the Board of Directors. The GA may take the decision to engage an independent certified public accounting (CPA) firm to render an opinion in a report on the accounting of **BI** each fiscal year. This report shall be forwarded to the Board within sixty days of the close of the year.

7.4 Accounts

The Treasurer, under an operating account(s) so approved by the Board, shall deposit all monies received by **BI**. The signatories to **BI** accounts shall be the President, Treasurer and one other as nominated by the Board from time to time. Any two of the three signatories are required to sign cheques or withdrawals for amounts over five thousand EURO.

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7.5 Annual Membership Fees

To be decided by the **AGM**

7.6 Administration of Finances

The Board administers the finances of **BI**. It is responsible for the expenditures being in relation to the income. All Board members are to be reimbursed their travel and accommodation costs whilst undertaking **BI** business such as attending **BI** meetings. Board members are also entitled to a per diem allowance amount as so decided by the Board when attending official meetings.

7.7 Liability

The members shall not be financially liable for any **BI** business. The financial liability of **BI** shall not exceed its resources, except as in Article 8.4

Article 8. Resignation, Suspension and Expulsion

8.1 Termination

Membership of **BI** may be terminated or suspended at the board's discretion.

- i) A Voting Member not abiding to Article 2
- ii) **Resignation:** A member may withdraw from membership of **BI** upon a resolution passed by the appropriate authority of the member withdrawing, provided at the time of resignation the member has no outstanding liabilities to **BI**.
- iii) **Suspension or Expulsion:** Any membership may be suspended or terminated. Sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion of membership shall be violation of the statutes or any lawful rule or practice duly adopted by **BI**; by bringing the sport of Blackball into disrepute; or failing to meet its financial obligations towards **BI**. Suspension or expulsion shall be by a unanimous vote of a GA or EGA.
- iv) **Right to vote:** Only members not being considered for suspension or expulsion shall be allowed to vote.
- v) **Automatic Termination:** Any membership will automatically terminate if that member is eighteen months or more in arrears with their dues or any other financial obligation to **BI**.

8.2 Notification

Any membership that may be suspended or terminated shall be provided with a statement of the charges which shall be delivered by registered post, or its equivalent, to the last known address of that member at least sixty days before final action is taken thereon. This statement shall contain a notification of the

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time and place of the hearing at which the charges shall be considered. The member shall have the opportunity to appear in person or by his representative and present any defence to such charges before action is taken thereon.

8.3 Right of Appeal

Any decision made to suspend or terminate membership of **BI** will be effective immediately but subject to the guidelines for appeal as laid out by the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

8.4 Dissolution

Should BI wind up or be dissolved any assets of the Association remaining at the time shall be divided equally between the remaining paid up members. Should debts remain at the winding up or dissolution of BI each member's liability shall be limited to a maximum of 250.00 Euro

8.5 Remaining Assets

If upon the dissolution of the **BI** there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any asset whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to, or distributed among the Members, or its members. Such net asset shall be applied to the furtherance of any object, or objects, as may be determined by a GA before or at the time of dissolution, and if, insofar an effect cannot be given to the foregoing provisions, then to some charitable object.