THE WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIT 195
OF THE
AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE, INC
August 2025

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. THE UNIT

a. The name of the Organization shall be **THE WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIT 195 OF THE AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE, INC.**
b. In these Bylaws, the short title of The Western Michigan Unit 195 is "the Unit" and the short title of The American Contract Bridge League is "the League."
c. The Unit is a subsidiary of the League, and recognizes the League as the Parent Organization having authority and control over Tournament Bridge in the United States.
d. The Unit functions within the Bylaws and Regulations of the League and its hierarchical division, District 12.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIT

a. To preserve and promote the best interests of competitive contract bridge and any modifications thereof;
b. To cooperate with and assist the League in the promotion of contract bridge tournaments;
c. To encourage the highest standards of conduct and ethics by its members and to enforce such standards;
d. To prescribe rules and eligibility criteria for participation in tournaments conducted under its auspices;
e. To consider and pass upon reports of dishonest, unethical, or improper conduct of participants in tournaments, or to bar or suspend persons guilty of such conduct from further participation in accordance with relevant sections of the Bylaws of the League;
f. To cooperate in the League's charity program, and to sponsor and conduct charity events to realize funds to be devoted to worthy humanitarian causes;
g. To promote the development and organization of affiliated clubs within the Unit;
h. To conduct such other activities as may be in keeping with its principal objectives.

ARTICLE III. UNIT GEOGRAPHY

a. The geographical area within which the Unit shall have jurisdiction shall be such area as is presently or may in the future be assigned to it by the League.
b. On the basis of the geographical area currently assigned to the Unit, the Unit shall be divided into four geographical precincts for voting and representational purposes.
c. Precinct 1 shall include the counties of Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, and Montcalm.
d. Precinct 2 shall include the counties of Ottawa, Kent, and Muskegon plus the northern portions of Allegan and Barry counties.
e. Precinct 3 shall include the counties of Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee plus the eastern portions of Calhoun county (including greater Battle Creek).
f. Precinct 4 shall include the counties of Berrien, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch plus the southern portions of Allegan and Barry counties and the western portion of Calhoun county.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

a. Any person of good moral character and residing within the geographical area assigned to the Unit by the League, subject to District 12 regulations, is eligible for membership in the Unit.
b. No person shall be denied membership because of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, height, weight, political beliefs or affiliation or marital status.
c. All qualified persons may become members of the Unit upon payment of annual dues to the League or by virtue of life membership status in the League.
d. Annual dues shall be in the amount fixed by and payable to the League. No separate dues are payable to the Unit.
e. A member who has failed to pay dues according to regulations of the League shall be deemed thereby to have terminated membership in the Unit.

f. A person who changes his place of residence to a place outside the geographical area within the Unit's jurisdiction shall, upon processing by the League of a membership transfer to the unit which has jurisdiction over such new residence, thereby be deemed to have terminated membership in the Unit.
g. A member who has been expelled by the League pursuant to League regulations shall be deemed thereby to have been expelled from membership in the Unit.

h. A member who has been placed on suspension or probation by the League or by any subsidiary or affiliated organization of the League shall continue to enjoy membership in the Unit subject to the terms and conditions of such suspension or probation.
i. For persons residing within the geographical area assigned to the Unit by the League, membership in the League constitutes membership in the Unit.

j. Acceptance of membership binds the member to full compliance with and adherence to these By-Laws, the Unit's Charter, the charter and by-laws of the League and all regulations adopted there under.

ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIT

a. The Unit shall be administered by a Board of Directors ("the Board").
b. The Board shall consist of elected representatives from each voting precinct.
c. Each precinct shall be entitled to elect two (2) representatives to the Board.
d. In addition, each precinct may elect: a third representative if the precinct's combined, in-person, ACBL bridge club table count exceeds 1,300 tables for the prior calendar year AND a fourth representative if the precinct's combined, in-person, ACBL bridge club table count exceeds 2,600 tables for the prior calendar year.
e. The Board shall elect a President and a Vice President from amongst its members and shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, who may be any member of the Unit including a Board Member.
f. Officers shall serve terms of approximately two years -- coinciding with the bi-annual elections.
g. Elections and appointment of officers shall be conducted at the first Board Meeting following the bi-annual election of Board Members.
h. The President shall retain his/her precinct seat but shall forfeit his/her voting privileges on simple majority votes except when breaking an otherwise tied vote. The President shall retain full voting rights on matters that require higher thresholds beyond a simple majority.
i. The President shall preside at membership meetings and Board meetings, shall be a member of all standing and special committees, and shall have such other duties as the Board may prescribe and/or as are incidental to the office. The President shall handle, or direct the handling, of all reports to the League.
j. In case of the absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the President and shall otherwise perform such duties as the President or Board may prescribe. In the event that the Vice President has temporarily assumed the duties of the President, the Vice President shall be subject to voting restrictions as if the President.
k. The Secretary-Treasurer shall attend membership and Board meetings and shall maintain lists of members, minutes of meetings, books of account, and such other records and correspondence as are incidental to the fiscal functions of the Board, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.
l. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Unit, keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Unit, and deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Unit in such depositories as may be designated by the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Unit as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers, and render to the Board whenever they, or any of them, may require it, an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the Unit. The Secretary-Treasurer shall give the Unit a bond in such sum and surety as shall be satisfactory conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the office and for the restoration to the Unit in case of the Secretary-Treasurer's death, resignation, retirement or removal from office of all books, papers, vouchers, money and other property belonging to the Unit which may be in the possession or under the control of the Secretary-Treasurer.

m. The Board shall hold at least two meetings each year.
n. There shall be at least one annual membership meeting, with adequate advance notice, at which each member present may be heard and may vote.

o. Special meetings of the Board or of the membership may be called by the President and/or upon the petition in writing/email signed and subscribed by more than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Board.
p. A quorum at any Board meeting shall consist of more than fifty percent (50%) of the Board members.
q. A quorum of the Membership Meeting is the number of members present and attending the Membership meeting.
r. At any time between scheduled Board meetings, the President may, on his./her own initiative, submit to the Board for decision or other appropriate action any proposal, question, or issue for a vote by email. A simple majority vote of the full Board is required to validly resolve any such proposal, question, or issue thus submitted.. Similarly, any three or more Board members may submit an emailed petition to compel the President to submit to the Board an item to be similarly resolved by an email vote.
s. In addition to the specific powers conferred upon the Board by these Bylaws, the Board shall have the authority to discuss and decide upon the general policies of the Unit.
t. The Board shall arrange a schedule of tournament activities for the maximum enjoyment of its members, and apply to the League for appropriate sanctions therefore.

ARTICLE VI. RULES AND REGULATIONS

a. The Unit may adopt rules and regulation relating to matters of discipline, deportment and ethics.
b. All such rules and regulations shall conform to the principles of due process applicable to membership corporations.
c. All rules and regulations shall be subject to and not in conflict with the rules and regulations of the League.

d. The Board, or designated subcommittee thereof, shall function as the Unit Disciplinary committee, pursuant to League regulations. The Board or Committee may impose disciplinary sanctions, provided a quorum is present, by the following votes of those present and voting:

1. For a reprimand, a two-thirds vote;
2. For a suspension or probation, a two-thirds vote;
3. For expulsion, a four-fifths vote.

e. The Board shall have the power to adopt, amend, modify or repeal all such rules and regulations, subject to the authority of the League.
f. The procedures thus established by the Unit and the League, and by organizations subsidiary to or affiliated with the League, shall be deemed the exclusive remedy of all persons to whom such procedures apply.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VACANCIES

a. Each precinct shall elect its own representatives to the Board.
b. Elections shall be held in-person in even numbered years at the the annual Membership meeting.
c. Directors shall be elected to serve terms of approximately four (4) years [except as affected by Article VII.h]; the term shall commence at the next Board meeting.
d. Each precinct shall have representatives on the Board whose terms do not simultaneously expire [except as affected by Article VII.h].
e. The Board shall provide election procedures that assure the fairness and integrity of the ballots, election, and tallying.

1. At least thirty (30) days prior to each Membership meeting that is also a bi-annual election, the Secretary-Treasurer shall submit via Pianola (or similar ACBL email method): a list of Board seats by Precinct that are up for election that cycle AND a call for nominations.
2. Precinct-specific Board seats are open to Unit members whose local bridge club corresponds to the same precinct.
3. Nominations shall be made via self-nomination via e-mail to the President and Secretary-Treasurer and must be received at least seven (7) days prior to the Membership meeting.

f. If the number of candidates within a precinct is less than or equal to the number of vacant Board seats for that precinct, those precinct ballots shall not be distributed and those precintc candidates will be declared as elected.
g. If a precinct with three (3) or more representatives on the Board is slated to lose one or more seats [based on Article V.d], the following applies:

1. If a single Director's term is expiring, a new Director shall not be elected. Then, at the next election, Directors shall be elected for two-year and/or four-year terms [to satisfy Article V.d and Article VII.d];
2. If multiple Directors' terms are expiring, at most one (1) Director shall be elected [or none if satisfying Article V.d] Then, at the next election, Directors shall be elected for two-year and/or four-year terms [to satisfy Article V.d and Article VII.d];;

h. Whenever a Director will be absent from a Board meeting, that Director may appoint a member of his/her precinct in good standing to attend the meeting and vote in the absent Director's behalf (as a substitute). If any member of the Board shall fail to attend two consecutive Board Meetings AND the absent Director also fails to appoint a substitute to attend in his/her place, THEN that Board Member's seat shall be declared vacant immediately prior to adjournment of the second meeting from which the Director was absent.
i. Whenever a Director's seat is vacated prematurely, the remaining Board members from that precinct may recommend a replacement on which the full Board shall vote to determine if the recommended replacement is approved to complete the term of the vacated seat. If no Directors from that precinct remain on the Board, any Director may recommend a replacement.
j. If a Board Member is ACBL suspended for thirty (30) days or more, that member's Board seat is vacated.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

a. Proposals to alter, amend, add to or revoke these Bylaws, or any part thereof, may be initiated by the Board or by a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of the Unit, which must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty (30) days prior to an annual membership meeting.
b. Member-submitted ammendment proposals may be accompanied by a statement of the reasons and grounds favoring the amendment -- said statement shall be no longer than one hundred (100) words. The Board may issue a dissenting statement of the reasons and grounds why the proposal should not be adopted -- also no longer than one hundred (100) words. The Board may also submit to an alternative proposal, in which event, if both proposals pass, the proposal receiving the most votes shall be deemed adopted, and the proposal receiving fewer votes shall be deemed not adopted.

c. To execute the adoption of proposed amendments, a quorum, and the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of all members present and voting shall be required for passage.

ARTICLE IX. MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

a. Members in good standing are eligible for all rights and privileges enjoyed by members of the Unit.
b. Members have the right to vote for the election of Board representatives from their respective precincts.
c. Members have the right to receive all notices sent by the Unit and all publications of the League.
d. Members have the right to be elected to the Board and/or to be appointed as members of any committees.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

a. The Board may establish such committees as it deems necessary or appropriate.
b. The membership of all committees shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board.
c. Committee members may be, but need not be, members of the Board.
d. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF THE UNIT

a. In the event of dissolution, none of the assets of the Unit shall be distributed to members.
b. All assets, upon dissolution, shall be transferred or distributed to a corporation, association, community chest, fund, or foundation organized and operated solely for charitable, literary, educational, scientific, public safety testing, or humane (prevention of cruelty to children or animals) purposes, or other benevolent or recreational, social, or similar purposes.
c. No funds or other assets shall be distributed upon dissolution to any such organization unless the distributee or transferee organization has been granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.
d. Other exempt contract bridge related organizations shall be favored as potential distributees or transferees in the event of dissolution.