AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE
Bylaws of International City Unit 159
Revised 2026*

DESIGNATION

Section 1 The name of the nonprofit organization shall be the International City, Unit No.159, El Paso, Texas, hereinafter called the "Unit," of the American Contract Bridge League, hereinafter called the "League."

Section 2 The Unit has a charter agreement with the League to operate sanctioned Bridge games and tournaments; recognizes the League as the organization having authority and control over tournament bridge in the United States; exists under the sanction of the League and functions within the constitution, Bylaws and regulations of the League.

ARTICLE II
UNIT FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 To promote and stimulate interest in competitive contract bridge.

Section 2 To expand and increase Unit membership by active efforts to interest new players and enroll new members.

Section 3 To establish and maintain contact with neighboring units in furtherance of cooperation on matters of mutual interest and activities.

Section 4 To cooperate with District 17 in the conduct of bridge activities within the Unit and the District.

Section 5 To cooperate with and assist the League in the promotion of bridge tournaments.

Section 6 To prescribe rules of eligibility for participation in tournaments conducted under Unit auspices.

Section 7 To exercise the Unit vote in the election of members to the National Board of Directors of the League, and in the election of a member at large to the District 17 Board of Directors.

Section 8 To promote the development and organization of affiliated clubs within the jurisdiction of the Unit.

Section 9 To exercise general supervision over each affiliated club operating within the jurisdiction of the Unit to ensure the observance and enforcement of the League regulations and policies.

Section 10 To fulfill its responsibilities as prescribed in League rules and regulations with regard to applications for affiliated club franchises or renewals of existing franchises.

Section 11 To conduct such other activities as may be in keeping with the accomplishment of these functions and objections.

ARTICLE III
UNIT JURISDICTION

Section 1 The geographical area in which the Unit may operate shall be that which is assigned in the Unit Charter by the Board of Directors of ACBL, to wit: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties in the State of Texas.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Any person of good moral character residing within the area of jurisdiction assigned to the Unit is eligible for membership and upon application favorably acted upon by the League shall become a member.

Section 2 The filing of an application shall bind the applicant to full compliance with these Bylaws and the Handbook of Rules and Regulations of the American Contract Bridge League.

Section 3 A member shall enjoy and possess all rights of membership equally with all other members.

Section 4 Unless otherwise approved by the League, an ACBL member must reside within the geographical jurisdiction of the Unit in order to be a member thereof.

Section 5 A member remains in good standing unless:

a. He has failed to pay his dues within the time prescribed by the League, or

b. His status is changed as a result of disciplinary action.

ARTICLE V
DUES

Section 1 Annual dues shall be prescribed by the League, payable at such times as specified by the League.

Section 2 The Board of Directors shall have no power to levy any special assessment.

ARTICLE VI
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1 The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of October.

Section 2 The Board of Directors shall fix the time and place of the annual meeting and shall give written or e-mail notice of such meeting to all members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3 Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President, with the consent of the Board of Directors, or upon petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members. The President shall provide written notice or email of such meeting to the membership within **t**hirty (30) days of such petition. The meeting shall be held no fewer than ten (10) days nor more than twenty (20) days from the announcement of a special meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall contain an agenda of the matters to be taken up at such meeting, and a brief description of the substantive matters to be presented. Only those matters specifically provided for in the agenda shall be considered at a special meeting of the members.

Section 4 A quorum for the transaction of business at any annual or special meeting shall consist of twenty (20) percent of the members. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

ARTICLE VII
UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 General

The affairs of the Unit shall be managed and conducted by the Board of Directors which shall consist of four (4) persons, all of whom must be members in good standing of the Unit.

Section 2 Term of Office

a. The normal term of office for directors shall be for two (2) years with two (2) directors being elected each year. No members shall be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

b. Directors shall take office at a meeting of the new Board to be held as early as possible in November, or no later than December, following the election and immediately following the final meeting of the old Board for completion of action on old business.

Section 3 Nominations.

a. The Board of Directors, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual membership meeting, shall select a Nominating Chair who shall not be a member of the current Board of Directors. Said Nominating Chair/Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees to be placed in nomination by the Chair of the Nominating Committee at the annual meeting of the members.

b. The Nominating Committee shall select for nomination to the board only those eligible members in good standing who are (1) willing and able to serve on the board and (2) willing and able to serve actively as chair of one or more of the standing committees set forth in Article XII of the Unit Bylaws**.**

c. Bridge Club Owners, owners' spouses or others receiving remuneration, either directly or beneficially, on a regular basis from the Bridge Club activity shall not be eligible to run for or serve on the Board of Directors.

d. The Nominating Committee shall use reasonable measures such as announcements at Unit and other franchised games, bulletin board notices, Unit website, etc., to ensure participation of the slate of candidates nominated for director by the Nominating Committee well in advance of the annual membership meeting.

e. At the annual meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor providing that prior permission has been obtained from the nominee. Any such nominee from the floor shall meet the criteria set forth in sub-paragraph "b" and "c" above.

Section 4 Elections

a. Election of Directors will be held at the annual membership meeting and new Directors shall take office at a joint Board meeting in November, or no later than December.

b**.** The election of the Board of Directors, if not affirmed by acclamation at the Membership Meeting, shall be conducted by a vote of the members present at the meeting.

c. Every qualified member present shall be entitled to one vote (non-cumulative) for each director vacancy. All ballots shall be secret. The Nominating Committee (or designee) shall conduct the counting of votes at the meeting. Any candidate may have a witness present during the count.

d. Candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall stand elected to the board. In the event of a tie vote for the last position on the board, the election thereon shall be decided by lot.

Section 5 Vacancies

Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a member at large elected by the Board of Directors, and the person so appointed shall hold office during the unexpired term.

Section 6 Meetings

a. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President. The President shall convene special meetings upon the request of at least a majority of the members of the Board. The President or Secretary shall notify each board member by our website, mail, phone, or email prior to the proposed meeting, except in the case of special meetings of an emergency nature for which telephone notice will suffice. There shall be a minimum of six meetings per year with a maximum of two (2) months between meetings.

b. If a member of the Board of Directors misses two (2) meetings in succession, he shall be asked by the President to explain the reasons for his absences. If the reasons are considered insufficient by the Board of Directors, he may be removed from membership on the board by action consistent with provisions of Article IX Impeachment.

c. Issues or problems arising between board meetings that the President feels require action before the next scheduled meeting but which do not warrant calling a special meeting shall be handled as follows:

1. The President shall formulate a proposed solution and poll board members by telephone or mail until the approval of at least three (3) board members has been obtained.
2. The board will be formally advised at its next meeting of any such action taken.

Section 7 Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors is needed for the transaction of business. A quorum is reached when a majority of active Board members are present. Voting by proxy is prohibited. The President votes only to break a tie but is counted among the Board members to make a quorum.

Section 8 Powers and Duties

a. To acquire, hold, administer, maintain and dispose of all property of the association; PROVIDED THAT, acquisition or disposition of real property (land or buildings) of an appraised value of $10,000 or more must be approved by vote of sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 2/3 %) of the total membership of the board and by a majority of the total Unit membership in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the membership;

b. To appropriate the funds of the Unit for the purpose set forth in these Bylaws;

c. To hire and discharge any employees that the Unit may require and to supervise their conduct and fix their compensation;

d. To ensure an audit of the records of the Treasurer at the end of each calendar year;

e. To conduct, manage, supervise and control all of the business of the Unit to include the conduct of tournaments, the selection of all dates and locations for holding such tournaments, and the making of all contracts in connection therewith.

ARTICLE VIII
UNIT OFFICERS

Section 1 Designation

The officers of the Unit shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary willing to serve as officers on the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Election

The Board of Directors shall elect the President, the Vice-President, and the Treasurer from its own membership at its first meeting following the election of the Board of Directors, and the persons elected shall hold office for one year or until their successors have been duly elected, provided that, no member shall be eligible to be elected to any particular one of these positions for no more than three (3) consecutive years. The Secretary may be elected by the Board of Directors from its own membership or from the membership-at-large. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors from its own membership; however, the duties of the Treasurer may be delegated to a person in membership at large, or contracted to a qualified bookkeeper/accountant. If elected from the membership-at-large the Secretary and/or Treasurer shall not have a vote in actions by the Board of Directors. With the exception of the position of President, the Board position of Treasurer may be combined with another officer position.

Section 3 Vacancies

Vacancies due to death, resignation or other causes shall be filled by action of the Board of Directors. (See Article VII, Section 5 above.)

Section 4 Duties

The duties of the officers shall be as set forth in subparagraphs a through d below:

a. **President**
1. Shall preside at all membership and Board meetings;

2. Consistent with the provisions of Article XII, shall appoint such committees as are considered necessary or desirable by the Board of Directors and shall define their duties consistent with the Board's intent. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Election Committee.

3. Shall exercise general supervision over the activities of the Unit and perform such other duties as are conferred by the Board:

4. Shall arrange for an impartial audit of Unit financial records at the end of each fiscal year;

5. Shall establish procedures to maintain custody of Unit property;

6. Shall be empowered to make expenditures from Unit funds, in the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer.

7. The "Immediate Past President," if not currently a member of the Board of Directors, shall be an "Ex-officio" member of the Board of Directors but shall not have a vote in actions of the board.

8. Shall vote at meetings of the Board of Directors only to break a tie vote of a legally constituted quorum of the board.

b. **Vice-President**

1. Shall perform, with the consent of the Board of Directors, those duties in lieu of the President;

2. In the absence or incapacity of the President, shall assume the duties of the President.

c. Treasurer

1. There shall be a Board member designated as Treasurer whether the duties are contracted out or not. If the duties are contracted out, the designated Treasurer shall be responsible for oversight of the designated bookkeeper/accountant and to ensure the contracted duties are clearly defined. The duties of the Treasure/accountant are as follows:

2. Shall be custodian of the funds and securities of the Unit, shall deposit the funds in banks designated by the Board of Directors, and shall make authorized expenditures from Unit funds;

3. Shall submit a financial report at each general membership meeting and at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors;

4. Shall, in the absence or incapacity of both the President and Vice-President, assume the duties of the President.

d. Secretary

1. Shall be the custodian of the official files of the Unit. All other officers acting under authority set forth in these Bylaws are charged with responsibility for filing records of official action with the Secretary;

2. Is responsible for notification of members and directors of all general membership and board meetings;

3. Shall record the minutes of all board and general membership meetings;

e. **Representative at Large to District 17 Board of Directors**

1. Shall become a non-voting member of Unit 159 Board of Directors.

2. Is responsible for notifying the Unit 159 Board of Directors of matters discussed at the District 17 meetings that are directly related to, or of interest to, the Unit.

3. Is responsible for presenting ideas to the District Board that are directly or indirectly related to Unit 159, and those specifically designated by the Board of Directors of Unit 159 as matters that should be brought before the District 17 Board.

ARTICLE IX
IMPEACHMENT

Any officer or director may be removed for cause at any meeting of the Board of Directors provided eighty percent (80%) of the Board is present, and eighty percent (80%) of those present vote affirmatively for removal. Any officer or director against whom impeachment charges have been made shall be notified in writing, by registered mail, of the charges against him, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be given an opportunity to be heard before the Board of Directors and to be represented by counsel of his own choosing. The action taken by the Board of Directors shall be conclusive and final.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance at any annual or special meeting held in pursuance of and in accordance with the provisions of Article VI hereof.

ARTICLE XI
TOURNAMENTS

The Unit shall have complete authority over all tournaments conducted by it, subject to the regulations of the American Contract Bridge League.

ARTICLE XII
COMMITTEES

Section 1 Committees, as follows, shall have jurisdiction within the areas enumerated, and shall operate under the laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines provided by the League, District, and Unit Board of Directors. Reports of their activities and accomplishments shall be submitted to the Unit Board of Directors as directed by the board.

a. The following committees may be formed as needed and have a continuing function in the operation of the Unit

1. Bridge Center Management Committee:
Responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Unit bridge center and the providing of supplies and equipment needed for the center or needed for the operation of games and events held at the center.

2. Special Events Committee
Responsible for the scheduling, membership participation, and operation of special Unit games and events other than sectional and higher-rated tournaments, but including Continent-wide, Charity Pairs, North American Open Pairs and Teams, or similar events.

3. Tournament Committee:
Responsible for the scheduling, membership participation, and operation of all Sectional and Regional tournaments within the Unit area.

4. Membership Committee:
Cooperate closely with the Unit Secretary in maintaining an up-to-date roster of all Unit members. Shall make available to the club managers information as to changes in membership and master point holding of members.

b. **Special Committees**:
1. As need arises to carry out a specified task not falling within the jurisdiction of the above Committee**s**, the President, with advice and consent of the board, shall create a special Committee for performance of the specified task. Upon completion thereof and making an appropriate report to the board, the committee automatically ceases to exist.

2. The Nominating Committee, referred to in the Article VII hereof, shall be established at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting and shall cease to exist after formal notice of final result of the annual election of the Board of Directors has been made to the board.

c. Composition of Committees:
1. The President, with advice and consent of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the chairman of all committees. The chairman of the committee, with advice and consent of the President, shall appoint the members of all committees.

2. The chairman and members of the standing committees shall serve until replaced by the same or a succeeding administration, or terminated through resignation or other cause.

3. The chairman and members of special committees shall serve until the assigned task has been completed and report rendered, or until terminated by the administration or through resignation or other cause.

4. All decisions of a committee shall be by majority vote. A vacancy in any committee shall be filled forthwith by the appointing authority.

ARTICLE XIII
CONTINUITY

Matters of procedure and policy which may be established from time to time by the Board of Directors shall be set forth in writing and filed by the Secretary for ready reference. They shall remain in effect until canceled or superseded by subsequent action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern all meetings in matters covered by this set of Bylaws.

***Membership approved revisions to Article VIII of the Bylaws on October 31, 2026.**