

BY-LAWS FOR AMISTAD UNIT 205 OF THE AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

Amistad Unit 205 is a democratic non-profit association of members of the "AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE", hereafter referred to as ACBL. It operates as a subsidiary of ACBL, recognizing ACBL as the parent organization and functioning within the constitution, By-Laws, and regulations of ACBL.

The FUNCTIONS and OBJECTIVES of the UNIT shall be:

1. To preserve and promote competitive duplicate bridge among its members and prospective members.
2. To provide a continuous and attractive program of bridge awards.
3. To cooperate with and assist the ACBL in the promotion and conduct of bridge tournaments.
4. To consider and report dishonest, unethical, or improper conduct of participants in tournaments; and to bar, suspend, or censure persons guilty of such conduct from further participation.
5. To promote the development and organization of affiliate bridge clubs within the UNIT.
6. To increase its membership by active efforts to interest new players and enroll them as members.
7. To conduct such other activities as may be in keeping with the principal objectives of the UNIT.
8. To cooperate in the ACBL 's Charity Program, and to sponsor and conduct charity events with the object of realizing funds to be donated to worthy humanitarian causes.

ARTICLE I — UNIT JURISDICTION :

- A. The geographical area within which this UNIT may operate is assigned by ACBL 's Board of Directors and may be modified from time to time.
- B. Currently it is designated as the Mexican States of Jalisco, Colima, Durango, Nayarit, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Sinaloa and Sonora.

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Any person of good moral character whose residence is within the geographical jurisdiction of the UNIT at least five (5) months of the year is eligible for membership.
- B. Such a person shall become a member of UNIT 205 upon payment of annual dues to ACBL.
- C. A member is in good standing unless:
 - a. He/she is delinquent in dues to ACBL.
 - b. He/she has been expelled or suspended from membership by the UNIT Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws and those of the ACBL.
- D. According to ACBL regulations, no one may be a member of more than one UNIT. Therefore, if a person is listed in an ACBL UNIT elsewhere, he/she cannot become a member of UNIT 205 until that person makes a written request to ACBL to change UNIT membership.

ARTICLE III — DUES:

- A. As a subsidiary of ACBL, the UNIT does not assess separate dues, nor does the Board of Directors have power to levy any special assessments.
- B. It is permissible for the Board of Directors to request voluntary subscription to a UNIT publication, or encourage participation in fund raising events.
- C. The Board of Directors shall have the power to set playing fees for UNIT games and special events.

ARTICLE IV — GAMES/TOURNAMENTS :

- A. UNIT games will normally be held a date that does not coincide with a regularly scheduled Club game, and that does not conflict with holidays, emergencies, or higher level local games such as Sectionals.
- B. The UNIT shall have complete authority over all tournaments conducted by it, subject to regulations of the ACBL .

ARTICLE V — MEETINGS :

- A. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held in January each year.
- B. The incumbent Board of Directors shall give notice of the time and place of the annual meeting to the membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. This may be done by announcements at UNIT games or any other convenient manner.
- C. Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by the President of the Board or by written petition of at least ten (10) UNIT members. Notice to all members must be given fifteen (15) days in advance of a special meeting.
- D. Each member in attendance at the annual or any special meeting shall have the right to speak on any matter properly brought before the assembly.

ARTICLE VI — BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

- A. The affairs of the UNIT shall be managed and conducted by the Board of Directors consisting of five (5) or more persons elected by the membership, and the immediate Past President. All board members must be current members of the UNIT and, if possible, from more than one bridge club.
- B. TERM OF OFFICE: The Board of Directors shall hold office until replaced by a successor either by election or appointment. Each Director will serve for a two year term with two (2) and three (3) persons elected on alternate years.
- C. NOMINATIONS : The Board of Directors, thirty (30) days or more prior to the annual membership meeting, shall:
 - a. Select a slate of nominees to the Board of Directors for election by UNIT members.
 - b. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.
- D. ELECTIONS : Every qualified member shall be entitled to one vote for each Director to be elected.
 - a. Voting may be by secret ballot (including electronic) or by a show of hands.

- b. If by secret ballots or electronic, a counting committee of two (2) UNIT members shall be selected to do so.
 - c. Candidates are entitled to have witnesses during the vote counting.
- E. VACANCIES: Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by other Directors or by a UNIT member appointed by the Board of Directors. The person appointed shall hold office for the balance of the vacant term.
- F. ADDITIONAL TERMS : Incumbent Directors are permitted additional terms of office through nomination and election by the UNIT members.
- G. MEETINGS : The Board of Directors shall hold a minimum of four (4) meetings each year, the first of which shall be prior to January 31st of the year and after the annual membership meeting. The Secretary, or an incumbent Board member, will duly notify all Directors of a proposed meeting.
- H. OFFICERS : The Board of Directors shall elect all officers at its first meeting. The officers shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a UNIT Games/Tournament Coordinator.
- I. QUOROM : A quorum of the Board of Directors for transaction of business shall consist of not less than a majority of the Board.
- J. POWERS AND DUTIES: In addition to the powers granted by the provisions of these By-Laws and by the Laws of Mexico, the Board of Directors shall have the powers and duties:
 - a. To conduct, manage, supervise and control all business of the UNIT, including, but not limited to, the conducting and selection of all dates and locations for holding tournaments, and the making of all contracts therewith.
 - b. To acquire, hold, administer, maintain, and properly dispose of all property of the UNIT.
 - c. To audit all receipts and disbursements of the UNIT.
 - d. To censure, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline any member. No member shall be disciplined until that member has been furnished with written charges and has been given a reasonable amount of time to reply. He or she may be represented by counsel and any disciplinary action by the UNIT may be appealed to ACBL'S Board of Directors.
- K. COMMITTEES: The President, with the approval of the Board, may appoint such committees as may be necessary to perform the functions of the organization. These committees may include but are not limited to: Tournament; Conduct and Ethics; Membership; Publicity; and Hospitality.
- L. IMPEACHMENT: Any officer of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause at any meeting of the Board provided a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors is present, and the voting is unanimous .
 - a. Any Director who has impeachment charges directed against him or her shall be:
 - i. Notified in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting;
 - ii. Given the opportunity to be heard before the Board of Directors; and
 - b. Any action taken by the Board of Directors shall be subject to ACBL ruling.
 - c. Absence from two (2) consecutive meetings may be cause for removal of a Director.

ARTICLE VII — AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the By-Laws may be made by the Board of Directors or by the members of the UNIT upon a petition signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing.

- A. The petition, if any, must be presented to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting or any special meeting called for this purpose.
- B. The petition, if any, must be signed by at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to incorporate the text of the proposed amendment(s) in the notice of the meeting.
- D. Two-thirds (2/3) of all members present and voting shall be required to pass any amendment.

These By-Laws Revised: January 2023