

BLACKBALL INTERNATIONAL

(AFFILIATED TO THE WORLD POOL-BILLIARD ASSOCIATION)



CONSTITUTION

(REVISED: EGA 2021)

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DEFINITION OF TERMS:

BI:	Blackball International.
WPA:	World Pool Association.
WCBS:	World Confederation of Billiard Sports.
IOC:	International Olympic Committee
BOARD:	Blackball International Board of Directors.
MEMBERS:	All Affiliated Organisations.
AGM:	Annual General Meeting.
GA:	General Assembly.
EGA:	Extra Ordinary General Assembly.
WADA:	World Anti-Doping Agency

REMARKS:

- Unless specifically denoted, the male gender shall include the female gender and vice versa.
- Unless grammatically unsound, the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular.

ARTICLE 1

PARTICULARS OF THE ORGANISATION

1.1 NAME:

The name of this organisation shall be "BLACKBALL INTERNATIONAL" hereinafter referred to as "BI", which was inaugurated on 19th August 2008 in Mbabane, Swaziland.

1.2 EMBLEM:

BI adopts as its insignia the following emblem and its colours Black, Blue, Yellow and Red.



1.3 LEGAL SEAT:

The National Domicile Citandi et Executandi of BI shall be the physical address of the President of BI or the physical address of the BI head office.

1.4 ADDRESS:

The official address of BI shall be the physical/postal address of the President of BI or the physical/postal address of BI head office.

1.5 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

The official language of BI shall be ENGLISH.

1.6 STATUS:

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

ARTICLE 2

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

While recognising and respecting the complete autonomy and independence of each Member in the administration of its respective organisation, the aims and objectives of BI are:

2.1 AIMS:

- i) To unite all Continental and National “small-ball pool table” Associations or Federations under one International body with only one set of rules of play.
- ii) To create and determine Rules and Regulations for the cue sport discipline of Blackball-pool.
- iii) To promote the development of Blackball-pool as a National, Continental and International sport.
- iv) To adopt a sports policy in conformity with the WPA, WCBS and IOC rules, as defined in the Olympic Charter.
- v) To cultivate and promote social cohesion and mutual respect among all other National, Continental and International Pool disciplines and Pool organisations.
- vi) To recognise and abide by the WADA Anti-Doping Code and adopt Anti- Doping Rules to keep Blackball-pool free of any and all performance enhancing drugs.
- vii) To recognise the WPA as the World Governing Organisation for the cue sport discipline of Pool and its affiliation to all relevant organisations (WCBS, IOC etc.).

2.2 OBJECTIVES:

- i) To ensure that the Pool discipline of Blackball is promoted world-wide as an international Sport.
- ii) To host, manage, organise, stage or coordinate World Blackball Championships, on an annual/biennial basis as the requirement might dictate, for Men, Women, Juniors and any other category as might be determined from time to time.
- iii) To exercise control over the eligibility of players, who participate in BI or BI sanctioned events.
- iv) To acknowledge and maintain a record of all statistical data of all BI and BI sanctioned events.

v) To liaise with the Referees Association under each member and to maintain a register of qualified International Referees for deployment to BI and BI sanctioned events.

vi) To encourage and promote proper education of Instructors and Coaches, through recognised academies, in order to enhance the skill levels of players.

vii) To do all other things necessary that are incidental and conducive to the attainment and enhancement of the aims and objectives of the WPA.

2.3 NON-PROFIT STATUS:

BI will perform all its functions on a non-profit basis with the highest ethical standards and ensure impartiality to all its members and the entire cue sport community.

2.4 AUTONOMY:

BI is constituted democratically as a division of the WPA and refrains from interfering in the internal affairs of its members. Similarly, member organisations and other organisations must refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of BI. Only with just cause, as determined by the BI Board or through a specific request, will BI investigate an issue with the intent of finding a resolution to a problem.

2.5 GENERAL STATEMENT:

Blackball International is a non-sexist, non-racist sporting body, based on human rights, democratic principles and ethical and accountable social values, established to manage, administrate and promote its aims and objectives in the best interest of all its members, irrespective of race, religion, gender and/or politics. BI will not tolerate any discrimination, whatsoever, and shall be politically neutral.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

3.1 BI Membership is made up of Continental Members, National Federations, Special Members and Honorary and Life Members.

3.2 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

i) VOTING MEMBERS:

Membership of BI is made up of the continents of the world, each continent will have its own recognised Blackball governing body. In the event of only one country from a continent then that country will hold the membership until such times as a continental body can be formed with 2 or more countries from that continent.

ii) NATIONAL FEDERATIONS:

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

iii) SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP:

At the discretion of the Board and by 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 not hold a position on the Board and will not have voting rights.

iv) HONORARY OR LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

BI may bestow, from time to time, the title of Honorary or Life Member on a person in recognition of an outstanding life time contribution to the enhancement and betterment of BI and/or the Sport of Pool in general. Nominations for this title must be approved by a GA. Such members will be entitled to attend GA's on an observer basis only and will not hold voting rights or be eligible to hold office in BI.

3.3 TERRITORIES:

The territories of the voting members shall be made up by the continents of the world. There shall be one voting member per territory.

3.4 APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP:

An application for membership must be duly completed and submitted to the BI Secretary-General and must contain the following information, together with all the appropriate documentation:

- i) Name, business address, telephone number/s and email address of the organisation.
- ii) Names, addresses, telephone numbers of the officers/directors of the organisation.
- iii) The total membership of the organisation.
- iv) A copy of the constitution of the organisation.
- 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 abide by the principles, aims and objectives of BI, to uphold the constitution of BI and to acknowledge and recognise the WPA as the only World Governing Body for cue sport discipline of Pool-billiards.
- vii) Any other information the Board or applicant may deem pertinent.
- viii) Payment of BI Affiliation Fee the first year.

3.5 MEMBERSHIP DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS:

- i) Abide by the statutes, orders, decisions and resolutions of BI, which are binding for them.
- ii) Conduct their affairs in order not to harm the reputation of BI.
- iii) Submit any disagreements which accrued from BI membership to BI final conclusion.
- iv) All BI members and affiliates must recognise the Voting Members in their respective territories as the sole authority of the Sport of Pool-billiards.
- v) All Voting Members must submit an annual written report to the GA and declare their total membership.

ARTICLE 4

GOVERNANCE

4.1 BI COUNCIL:

1. A Council hereinafter referred to, as “BI Council” shall be the supreme governing and decision-making body of BI and shall govern BI and reserves its rights in terms of this constitution to change, amend or repeal any decision taken by any member or sub- committee of BI.

2. The BI Council will be made up of the Continental Presidents or an Elected Representative from a Member Continent.

4.2 BI BOARD

BI shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which will be responsible for implementing, executing and supervising the decisions of the BI Council.

4.3 COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD:

- i) The Board of Directors shall be the Executive Committee of BI.
- ii) The Board shall comprise at least ONE member per Continental Member.
- iii) The Members of the Board shall fill the following Executive positions:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - c) Secretary-General
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Additional Board Members
- iv) A Candidate running for membership on the Board must be nominated by the Continent (Voting Member) from which the candidate hails, preferably on the recommendation of his/her National Federation.
- v) This nomination must be seconded by another Member Continent.

4.4 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day operations of the Association and will meet as and when required.

4.4.1 PRESIDENT:

The President has overall day-to-day responsibility for the proper and efficient management, administration and performance of the federation whose duties will include but not be limited to the following:

- i. To manage the day-to-day affairs of the federation and liaise with the Board/Executive on a regular basis in order to ensure a smooth running of the organisation.
- ii. To manage and oversee the various aspects of operation of the organisation and achieve specific goals and delivery within certain target dates.
- iii. To ensure that the overall strategy, planning and analysis of existing targets are done within the framework of the Constitution of BI.
- iv. To oversee the implementation of proper fiscal management.
- v. To uphold, defend and achieve the dictates of the Constitution of BI.
- vi. To be familiar with the current mood of the members and be well versed on current external issues effecting the sport of Blackball-pool.
- vii. To chair and manage all BI meetings.
- viii. To report to the BI Council.

4.4.2 VICE PRESIDENT:

In addition to all the duties of a President and in acting in the place of the President when he/she is absent, shall have duties that will include but not be limited to the following:

- i. To develop, record and amend BI policy on an on-going basis, in addition to maintaining BI Constitution and Bye-laws.
- ii. To author all BI contracts and negotiate outside contracts on behalf of the BI.
- iii. To research and ensure that BI stays abreast of the latest world standards and trends in operation and management and to advise the President/Board of these changes.
- iv. To report to the President and in his/her absence to the Council of BI.

4.4.3 SECRETARY:

In addition to the Secretary being responsible for the secretarial, administration and communication of BI, this portfolio will include but not be limited to:

- i. Function as the facilitator and communications directorate between the Executive/Board and members of BI and to facilitate the flow of email and telephonic communication from various sectors.
- ii. Manage the BI calendar of events and ensure that all materials and logistics for upcoming meetings and events are in place and that all role players are clear on BI expectation and that their due deliveries are on track. In addition, handle and put in place all logistical aspects of meetings in conjunction with the President and Treasurer.

- iii. Maintain a well organised electronic and/or hardcopy filing systems.
- iv. Provide all general and specific administrative support (typing, preparing agendas, notice of meetings etc.).
- v. Keeping accurate records of all meetings of BI and make such records of minutes available to the delegates of that meeting within 14 days after the conclusion of that meeting..
- vi. Keep an accurate, complete and updated list of all the members of BI and have such information available on request to any member of BI.
- vii. Keep in chronological format a record of all resolutions made by the BI Council, as well as those made by the BI Board/Executive.

4.4.4 TREASURER:

In addition to the Treasurer being responsible for the finance and accounting operations of BI, including financial reporting, and compliance with accepted finance and accounting standards and regulatory requirements, the Treasurer's portfolio will include but not be limited to:

- i. To manage any and all of the assets of BI.
- ii. To ensure that the organisation's reported financial statements, and financial well-being are accurate, free from error and misrepresentations, and are in compliance with all applicable standards and regulatory requirements.
- iii. To participate in the organisation's strategic and financial planning processes and setting financial goals in support of operations and strategic directions.
- iv. Producing an annual budget and cash flow projection analysis for the year.
- v. Producing periodic trial balances.
- vi. Reporting, on a regular basis, the financial well-being of the federation to the President and providing assurance that financial reporting is accurate, error-free, and free from misrepresentation.
- vii. Assuring compliance with accepted financial accounting standards.
- viii. To discharge all the financial policies of BI.

4.4.5 ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

The Additional Board Members are required to perform any task of BI that has been assigned to them by the President.

4.5 TERM OF OFFICE:

- i) The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the GA for a four year term.
- ii) The BI Board/Executive is elected by the GA.
- iii) At the end of the term, a Board Member 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 in a temporarily capacity until the next GA, when a replacement will be confirmed.

v) Any Board Member may terminate his/her membership at any time by submitting a written resignation to the President of BI. Before taking acceptance of such resignation, the Board may ask for reason/s for the resignation.

vi) Nominations for elections onto the BI Board/Executive must be made on the prescribed Nomination Form. Prior to the election, the following details need to be declared: Name, age, profession/occupation, status/position within the National/Continental Federation, special qualifications etc.

vii) Re-election of a Board of Member is decided upon by the GA from the nominations submitted by the Board or the Continental Member.

4.6 AUTHORITY TO SIGN:

The President or his/her representative, together with one other Board member, shall sign legally binding document/s on behalf of BI.

4.7 DUTIES AND COMPETENCE:

i) Members of the Board are obliged to safeguard the interests of BI.

ii) The Board deals with any business of the Association, which is not reserved for other authorities by the statutes.

iii) The Board implements/executes and supervises all decisions taken at a GA.

iv) The Board is entitled to set up committees for special tasks.

v) The Board is entitled to order sanctions against members of BI and/or licensed players and officials.

vi) Acting in the best interest of BI, the Board is entitled to cut individual items in the budget and increase other items, as long as the total amount of the budget is not increased by more than ten percent.

4.8 BOARD MEETINGS:

i) The Board shall meet whenever it deems it necessary.

ii) Each meeting shall be presided by the President and, in his/her absence, the Vice-President or a nominated Board Member.

iii) The Secretary-General shall send out notice of the date, time and place of such meetings, including an agenda, at least seven (7) days before the said meeting, to all Board Members.

iv) For urgent matters and for practical reasons, the Board Meeting may be conducted by telephone conference, skype, e-mail etc.

v) Decisions are taken by a simple majority vote. The President has a casting vote.

ARTICLE 5

MEETINGS

5.1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA):

i) The GA is the highest institution of BI. It takes place every year or alternate year, at a date fixed by the Board and should for economic reasons be at the time of the World Blackball Championships.

ii) The GA will be presided by the BI President or by his/her representative. It is at the discretion of the President to be recused should the next point on the agenda concern his election.

iii) Delegates are the representatives of the Voting Members (Continents).

iv) A simple majority is required for a decision to be carried.

v) BI Board members shall not represent their Continental membership as delegates at any BI GA.

5.1.1 QUORUM:

The quorum for a GA is 50 % (percent) + one (1) of the Voting Members.

5.1.2 NOTICE AND AGENDA:

I) A Notice and Proposed Agenda of the GA must be sent by the Secretary- General to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

II) This notice will be accompanied by the Minutes of the Previous GA.

III) The Voting Members may add items onto the agenda at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

IV) A final Agenda will be sent out to the members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

V) This Agenda will be accompanied by the Audited Financial Statements and all relevant Reports (Presidential, Secretarial and Auditor's Reports).

5.1.3 POWER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

i) The General Assembly is the supreme body of BI, which exercises the highest authority within the same.

ii) Its responsibilities include:

- a) Discussion and decisions on all points of the agenda.
 - b) Discharge of the Board of Directors and the Auditors.
 - c) Election of the BI President.
 - d) Election of Board of Directors.
 - e) Election of Auditors.
 - f) Fixing membership fees, tournament fees as well as any other fees and taxes.
 - g) Approval of any changes to Rules or Specifications.
 - h) Approval of any amendments to the constitution.
 - i) Discussion and decisions on proposals from the Board and Members.
 - j) Recognition of honours awarded by BI.
 - k) Ratifying membership applications for affiliation to BI.
- iii) 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.
 - iv) The GA may delegate its powers wholly or in part to the BI Board of Directors.
 - vi) Amendments to the BI Constitution or a total revision of the statutes have to appear on the agenda and require a two-thirds majority by those eligible to vote.

5.1.4 ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AND PROXIES:

- i) All votes will be cast personally or by proxy, but no member will hold more than two 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 such to the Secretary-General prior to the commencement of the GA.
- iv) The notice appointing the proxy shall be given in writing.
- v) Each Voting Member shall be represented by a minimum of one and a maximum of four delegates.

vi) All delegates have to be announced in writing to the General Secretary before the meeting, giving their credentials.

vii) Each member has one vote.

viii) The Board Members are not entitled to vote at the GA, with the exception of the President, who is entitled to vote in order to break a tie.

ix) 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.

x) Decisions taken by the GA shall become effective immediately unless otherwise instructed.

xi) Any member that is in arrears for a period of six (6) months or more with any payments to the Association, shall forfeit all voting rights.

xii) The Minutes of the GA shall be recorded, compiled and circulated to the membership within thirty (30) days of the said GA.

5.2 EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGA):

i) The Board of BI is entitled to call an EGA at any time.

ii) It is obliged to do so if at least half (50 %) of the members request it in writing, submitting the point to be discussed.

iii) The Board is obliged to give notice of the EGA within 30 days of receiving the bona-fide request.

iv) There will be only ONE item for discussion

vii) All requirements of the GA must be followed.

viii) A two-thirds majority is required for a decision to be carried.

ARTICLE 6

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

6.1 FINANCIAL YEAR:

The financial year of BI will be from 01 January to 31 December.

6.2 CURRENCY:

The official currency of BI is the EURO.

6.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF A BANK ACCOUNT:

i) A bank account in the name of the BI will be maintained with a registered banking institution.

ii) Signatories to the bank account will be amongst the Treasurer, President and/ or Vice President of the BI.

6.4 ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCES:

i) The treasurer must at all times be able to reconcile all deposits into the bank account of BI and allocate funds into different budget accounts.

ii) Any withdrawal from the BI Bank Account must be conducted by the Treasurer, subject to a requisition signed by the President.

iii) The BI Board must approve any single withdrawal above 1 000 Euros.

iv) All withdrawals from the BI Bank Account must be done as an electronic funds transfer into a bank account number. At no time will cash be withdrawn from the BI Bank Account.

6.5 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

i) The annual membership fee is currently 50 Euros per annum.

ii) Any amendment will be made at a BI GA.

6.6 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

The BI GA will be responsible for the appointment of an auditor.

6.7 CHANGE/CLOSURE OF BANK ACCOUNT:

The BI bank account may only be closed or transferred to another bank by a resolution passed specifically for that purpose at a BI EGA.

6.8 BI REPRESENTATION AND BOARD EXPENSES:.

- i) All costs incurred, such as travel, accommodation and per diem, are to be covered by BI, whenever one or more Board/Executive members are requested to represent BI in meetings with other organization, promoters, sponsors, or at major events, etc.

- ii) The BI Board/Executive shall not be financially liable for any BI business. The financial liability of BI will not exceed its resources.

ARTICLE 7

RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION and EXPULSION

7.1 TERMINATION:

A Member may be suspended or BI membership may be terminated at the Board's discretion.

- i) Resignation: A member may withdraw from membership of BI upon a resolution passed by the appropriate authority of the member withdrawing, provided that at the time of resignation the member has no outstanding liabilities to BI.
- ii) Suspension or Expulsion: 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.
- iii) Right to vote: Only members not being considered for suspension or expulsion shall be allowed to vote.
- iv) Automatic Termination: Any membership will automatically terminate if that member is in arrears with their dues or any other financial obligation to BI for a period of eighteen months or more.

7.2 NOTIFICATION:

- i) 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.
- ii) This statement shall contain a notification of the time and place of the hearing at which the charges shall be considered.
- iii) The member shall have the opportunity to appear in person or by his/her representative and present any defence to such charges before action is taken thereon.

7.3 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).

ARTICLE 8

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

8.1 SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

A special resolution may be passed by a two-third majority of the voting delegates of BI at an EGA, assenting to conduct any of the following:

- i. To change the name of the BI.
- ii. To change the rules of Blackball-pool.
- iii. To change any part of the BI Constitution.
- iv. To amalgamate BI with another Association or Federation.
- v. To dissolve BI and distribute its assets.

8.2 PROCESS:

A special resolution will only be passed and come into effect in the following manner:

- i. A notice must be sent to all Voting Council Members or representatives of its affiliates, advising that a meeting is to be held to consider a special resolution at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
- ii. The notice of the meeting must provide complete details of the nature and definition of the special resolution.
- iii) The meeting must have a quorum of more than 50% of its members.
- iv) A two-third majority of the members present must vote in favour of the resolution in order to pass such a resolution.

ARTICLE 9

INDEMNITY, LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND DISSOLUTION

9.1 INDEMNITY AND LIABILITY:

- i) So far as may be permitted by law, every member of BI, its Council and Board/Executive, shall be indemnified by BI against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred in the execution or discharge of duties or the exercise of powers or otherwise, in relation to or in connection with their duties.
- ii) This indemnity extends to any liability incurred in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, which relates to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted in which judgement has been given.
- iii) So far as may be permitted by law, BI may purchase and maintain for any member of the BI Council or BI Board/Executive insurance cover against any liability which by virtue of any rule of law may attach to him/her in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which he may be guilty in relation to BI and against all costs, charges, losses and expenses and liabilities incurred for which he/she is entitled to be indemnified by BI.

9.2 DISSOLUTION:

- i) In the event of BI being dissolved, its assets shall be divided equally between the remaining paid up members.
- ii) 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.
- iii) In the event that this cannot be done, then the assets of BI must be held in trust by its parent body.

ARTICLE 10

GENERAL

10.1 BI CONSTITUTION:

i) This BI Constitution forms the sole authority and governing structure for Blackball-pool and all members bind themselves in complete adherence hereto.

ii) All matters not provided for under this constitution or in any matters arising from force majeure, then these matters shall be settled by the Board/Executive, whose decision shall be final and binding on all members of BI.

iii) This constitution will come into effect immediately on approval of the GA and will replace all other previous constitutions and any revisions thereto.

10.2 MEMBERS:

All affiliates of BI shall hold their own identity and abide by their own respective constitutions where such constitution recognises as its parent constitution this here constitution and does not do or cause to be done any act or motion that would be in conflict to this constitution.

PRESIDENT

DATE

SECRETARY