

BY-LAWS OF HOLLISTER, GILROY, AND MORGAN HILL UNIT # 524

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

PREAMBLE

Unit # 524 functions within the Rules and Regulations of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL).

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

The objectives of the organization are:

A - To preserve and promote the best interests of, and to stimulate interest in, the art of playing competitive duplicate contract bridge and any modifications thereof;

B - To cooperate with and assist the ACBL in the promotion and conduct of contract bridge tournaments

C - To encourage the highest standards of conduct and ethics by its members and to enforce such standards:

D - To promote the development and organization of affiliated clubs within the Unit;

E - To cooperate in the ACBL's charity program, and to conduct charity events with the object of realizing funds to be devoted to worthy humanitarian causes;

F - To conduct such other activities as may be in keeping with its principal objectives.

ARTICLE I

UNIT JURISDICTION

The geographical area within which this Unit shall have jurisdiction shall be such area as is presently (or may be in the future) assigned to it by the Directors of the ACBL

Unit # 524, as established by ACBL in 1971, consists of all of San Benito County and the southern portion of Santa Clara County (described by drawing a straight line from Los Gatos on the western border, passing just north of the town of Coyote, and on to the eastern border; all south of this line is in Hollister Unit # 524; north of this line is in the Santa Clara Unit). (Note: Los Gatos and Coyote are considered to be in the Santa Clara Unit at this writing.)

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

A - Any person of good moral character and residing within the jurisdiction of the Unit shall become a member upon paying ACBL dues, and no person shall be denied membership because of race, creed, sex, or color

B - Such person shall remain a member unless:

- (1) He/she changes residence to a place outside the jurisdiction of the Unit. In the case of an address change, the member can request from the ACBL to remain in our Unit;
- (2) He/she has failed to pay dues in accordance with regulations of the ACBL;
- (3) He/she has been suspended or expelled from membership in accordance with regulations established by the ACBL.

ARTICLE III

DUES

A - Annual dues, in the amount fixed by ACBL, shall be paid to the ACBL

B - The Unit Board of Directors shall have no power to levy any special assessment.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

A - An annual meeting of the members shall be held in December

B - The Unit Board of Directors shall fix the time and place of the annual meeting and shall give appropriate notice of such meeting by mail or Unit publication.

C - Special meetings of the members may be called at any time to consider specific subject matters. Such a meeting may be called by the Board of Directors, by the Unit President, or by petition of the members. Notice of the time and place of any special meeting shall be given at least ten days before such meeting, and shall include an agenda of the matters to be considered at said meeting. No other matters may be acted upon at said meeting.

D - A quorum for the transaction of business at any annual or special meeting shall consist of 25 percent of the members.

E - No proxies shall be permitted.

ARTICLE V

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A- The affairs of the Unit shall be managed and conducted by the Unit Board of Directors which shall consist of a minimum of 4 persons, all of whom must be members of the Unit.
- B- Each director shall hold office for a period of one year (coinciding with calendar years). Directors shall be elected on an annual basis at the annual unit meeting in December.
- C- Candidates for Director shall be nominated and elected from and by the membership of the Unit. Candidates for Director should be nominated from certain geographic areas to represent the membership composition of the Unit.
 - 1. Each year the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of two persons, only one of whom shall be a member of the current Board of Directors. This committee shall nominate a slate of persons willing to serve on the Board of Directors. The committee shall make its report at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the nominee's permission.
 - 2. The election of directors shall be at the annual meeting. Those two (or three) with the highest number of votes shall be elected (i.e., a plurality. If the nominated slate equals the number of Directors to be elected, a motion to accept the slate may be made and voted.
- D- Any vacancy on the Unit Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors and the persons so appointed shall hold office during that unexpired term.
- E- The Unit Board of Directors shall hold a minimum of ~~six~~ five meetings a year, one of which shall be the annual meeting. The President shall normally call Board meetings, although the Secretary shall call a meeting of the Board upon written request from two Board members.
- F- A quorum of the Unit Board of Directors for the transaction of business shall consist of not less than a majority of the Board.
- G- In addition to the powers herein granted by other provisions and by the State of , . California the Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:
 - (1) The conduct, management, supervision, and control of the business of the Unit
 - (2) To acquire, hold, administer, maintain, and dispose of all property of the Unit
 - (3) To appropriate the funds of the Unit for the purposes set forth in these By-Laws;
 - (4) To hire and discharge employees, to supervise their conduct, and fix their compensation;
 - (5) To audit all receipts and disbursements of the Unit;
 - (6) To conduct tournaments, including, but not limited to, the selection of dates and locations, and the making of contracts in connection therewith;

- (7) To censure, suspend, expel, or otherwise discipline any member. (Note: Any disciplinary action must adhere to the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, and there should be a standing Unit Conduct and Ethics Committee to handle this function. If such a committee exists this power is delegated to that committee.) The rights of a member to play in sanctioned events while charges are pending, shall not be affected (Note: refer to ACBL Code).

ARTICLE VI
UNIT OFFICERS

A - The Officers of the Unit shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

B – The Board of Directors shall elect all officers at its first meeting following the annual meeting election, and the persons elected shall hold office for one year, or until their successors have been duly elected.

C- Vacancies due to death, resignation or other causes, shall be filled by the Unit Board of Directors.

D - The duties of the officers shall be as outlined in the ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE VII
IMPEACHMENT

A - Any officer or director may be removed for cause at any meeting of the Board of Directors provided two-thirds of those present constituting a quorum shall so vote. Any officer or director against who impeachment charges shall be brought shall be notified in writing, by registered mail, of the charge against him at least ten days prior to the meeting and shall be given an opportunity to be represented by counsel of his own choosing. The action of the Board of Directors shall be conclusive and final.

ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES

A - The President shall appoint such committees as may be necessary to perform the functions of the organization. Standing committees shall be appointed with the approval of the Unit Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

A - Amendment to the By-Laws may be made by the members of the Unit upon petition by at least ten members and submitted to the Secretary at least fifteen days in advance of the annual meeting or any special meeting called for the purpose; or upon petition signed by at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to incorporate the text of the proposed amendment in the notice of the meeting. The concurrence of two-thirds of all members present and voting shall be required to pass any amendment.

ARTICLE X
UNIT EQUIPMENT

A - The Unit may, but is not required to, loan Unit equipment to game directors in our playing area. Said game directors are then responsible for said equipment and must replace it if it should be lost, stolen, or damaged. Unit equipment may not be used

(1) other than at a regular ACBL sanctioned game, or

(2) outside of our Playing area without the specific approval of a quorum of the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall keep an inventory list of Unit equipment

ARTICLE XI
DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of Unit # 524, any assets remaining after payment or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities shall be distributed to a nonprofit organization which has an established tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and which is operated primarily to advance the game of bridge .