

Notice of Resolution for Annual General Meeting

Objective: The International Committee wishes to see the CBAI's membership rules aligned with the eligibility rules of the international bodies to whose competitions we send pairs and teams

The following resolution has been proposed for the AGM, as follows:

1. From the International Committee (proposed Martin Brady; seconded Derek O'Gorman):

That clause 4.1 of the Constitution of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland be amended to read: *“Any person who agrees to be bound by this Constitution and all Rules made thereunder is eligible for membership of the Association. To represent Ireland in international competition, or to enter trials for such competition, a person must be eligible to represent Ireland under the regulations of the relevant competition organising body.”*

The current clause 4.1 reads: *“Any person born in or residing in Ireland who agrees to be bound by this Constitution and all Rules made thereunder is eligible for membership of the Association.”*

The International Committee believes this amendment is necessary primarily to eliminate the situation in which the CBAI's, and by extension, the IBU's regulations on international eligibility are not in accordance with those of the international bridge bodies in whose competitions we play, which is currently the case. The wording is chosen to ensure that these regulations will continue to be aligned in the event that those bodies should amend theirs in the future. It also corrects a significant current anomaly whereby a bona fide Irish player who happens not to have been born in Ireland (of whom there are presumably many) cannot be a member of an Irish club, or represent Ireland, if they move overseas at any point, even temporarily.

This resolution was approved by the CBAI's Governing Council at its meeting of 1 June 2023, and will therefore be presented to the AGM for consideration.

Information on BGB & EBL/WBF Eligibility Regulations

Players and NPCs representing Ireland will be bound by one of two sets of eligibility regulations, depending on whether they are representing the CBAI in home internationals (Bridge Great Britain regulations) or the IBU in European Bridge League or World Bridge Federation events.

BGB's eligibility regulations require that a player or NPC must be a member of the bridge body of the relevant country and must satisfy one of the following criteria:

1. They were born in the relevant country;
2. They have a parent or grandparent born in the relevant country (parents by legal adoption count, but parents by marriage do not);
3. They have been a bona fide resident of the relevant country for at least two years;
4. They have previously represented the relevant country and have since moved away but have not subsequently represented any other country.

The EBL/WBF eligibility regulations are that a player or NPC must be either a National or a Bona Fide Resident of the relevant country. National is not specifically defined by the WBF, so takes its standard legal meaning. In the case of Ireland, a person is an Irish national if:

1. They, or their parent, were born on the island of Ireland before 2005;
2. They, or their parent, were born on the island of Ireland after 1/1/2005, and certain other criteria are met;
3. Their grandparent was born on the island of Ireland and they apply for Irish citizenship by descent, via the Foreign Birth Registration process;
4. They acquire Irish citizenship via the naturalization process.

Persons with multiple nationality may elect to represent one country, and, having done so, cannot represent another country without meeting certain stipulated conditions.

Bona Fide Residency is a matter of fact to be determined by the EBL/WBF on the basis of information supplied by the relevant player or NPC. (This aspect of the regulations has been tightened up considerably as a result of the increasing mobility within Europe of some top-level professionals in recent years.)