

Affiliation for Bridge Clubs in Victoria

Thank you for your interest in affiliating with the Victorian Bridge Association. Affiliation provides clubs with a number of benefits, and whilst primary support for clubs is provided by Bridge Victoria, at a national level, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) currently provides affiliated clubs with:

- Insurance policies which cover affiliated clubs and State Associations for Directors & Officers Insurance (partly funded by State Associations on a proportional basis), Voluntary Workers Insurance, and Public Liability Insurance;
- Access to offers from National Sponsors;
- Access to Teacher Training Programs;
- Access to National Marketing support programs;
- Free bi-monthly ABF Newsletter.

Bridge Victoria as the state association provides affiliated clubs with:

- Promotion of Bridge within Victoria
- Advice and support to affiliated clubs
- Directing and Teaching seminars
- Mentoring and recruiting for new directors and teachers

Below is some information that will be helpful in establishing your club if you have not already done so, and in applying for affiliation with Bridge Victoria.

1. CLUB STRUCTURE

Clubs seeking to affiliate with Bridge Victoria should be:

- A Company limited by guarantee (if they are a not-for-profit club); or
- A Company with a guarantor (if they are a private club or other type of club); or
- An incorporated Association
- A Natural Person

Clubs should not be a limited liability company, unless supported by directors' and/or shareholders' guarantees.

A copy of the documentation supporting the structure should be provided to the state association with the application.

2. CLUBS SEEKING AFFILIATION WITH BRIDGE VICTORIA AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- To comply with the Laws of Bridge;
- To support the objectives of the ABF and Bridge Victoria in fostering bridge
- To pay the ABF's annual capitation fee and any State fees for each of the club's 'home' members by the due date;
- To pay any fees invoiced for Masterpoints by the due date;
- To actively encourage people who play at the club to become members;¹
- To issue Masterpoints in accordance with the ABF Masterpoint Scheme at all club sessions including Supervised Play;
- To notify the ABF Masterpoint Centre of new members, and new member details as set out on the ABF Masterpoint Centre, and to pay a capitation fee as set by the ABF for each new member or reactivated member;
- To submit to the ABF Masterpoint Centre in a timely manner the details of Masterpoints issued, in accord with the timings required by ABF Tournament Regulations, State Association requirements, and/or the ABF Masterpoint Centre;
- To promptly notify changes to the following information to the ABF Masterpoint Centre and the State Association:
 - Name of the Club
 - Club Address
 - Email
 - Phone number
 - President – Name, Address, Email and Phone number
 - Secretary – Name, Address, Email and Phone number
 - Masterpoint Secretary – Name, Address, Email and Phone number
 - Website (if applicable)
 - Manager (in the case of a limited liability company)

3. APPLYING FOR AFFILIATION

A club should seek affiliation with Bridge Victoria by completing the attached form.

Applications for affiliation will typically be approved when the club meets the following criteria:

- the club intends to run regular playing sessions;
- all the necessary information (as listed above) is supplied with the application;
- the club agrees to pay Bridge Victoria/ABF capitation fees for its members as and when they fall due.

Applications from clubs not intending to run regular playing sessions must include a rationale for affiliation with their application which will be considered by council. All applications are normally considered for approval at the next available BVOC Meeting.

¹ The people enrolled for beginner's lessons are excluded from the application of this proposition. Unregistered players may play as visitors to the club for a limited number of sessions. This applies equally to citizens of Australia and elsewhere.

4. DISAFFECTED OR SUSPENDED CLUBS SEEKING RE-AFFILIATION

Any club which has been disaffiliated or which has gone into suspension, for whatever reason, must pay any outstanding debts to the VBA and /or ABF before re-affiliation will be considered for approval by the council.

5. ANNUAL FEES

The annual BV capitation fee is \$16.50 (inclusive of GST) per home club member as at March 31, with a minimum total annual fee equivalent to 5 home club members. In addition, the Australian Bridge Federation will also invoice the club an annual capitation fee which for 2024 is \$20 per home club member. These fees are normally due and payable annually in April. 6.

6. ABF MASTERPOINT SCHEME

On affiliation, member clubs automatically participate in the above scheme. The ABF Masterpoint Scheme is intended to stimulate interest in Contract Bridge, provide a means of measuring player achievements and assists with the financing of the ABF's national and international commitments.

Masterpoints are awarded to all players who finish in the top half of the field in any pairs event, or in any session within a pairs event. In teams' events of 8 or more boards, awards are made for each match won or drawn. For teams' events with fewer than eight boards, sessional awards are made to the top third of the field for outright places.

The number and type of masterpoints available depends on the size of the event and on the grade of the event.

Green masterpoints are won at all sessions run by the clubs.

Red masterpoints are won at

- (i) Club B4 events - available only for club members. The number of sessions each club is entitled to per year is determined by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.
- (ii) Open Congresses and State Championships.

Gold Masterpoints are won at National Titles run by the ABF and some special events approved by the ABF e.g. the GNOT heats which may be run by every club and the Victor Champion Cup held in June.

The ABF records all masterpoint totals on a central computer. Each player is issued with a personal masterpoint card showing the appropriate masterpoint number and the home club number. Regular printouts are issued to all participating clubs showing the masterpoint standing of their registered members. Each State has a State Masterpoint Secretary who coordinates all the masterpoint activity for that state.

The ABF deals directly with clubs regarding masterpoint levies and, upon affiliation, the club will receive more detailed information from the ABF regarding the working of the masterpoint scheme. The ABF Masterpoint Centre website has extensive information on the masterpoint scheme and any specific inquiries regarding Masterpoints should be directed to the Masterpoint Secretary, Mr David Beckett.

7. TEACHING AND DIRECTING SUPPORT

The Bridge Victoria State Director is generally available to answer queries relating to the Laws of Bridge or to provide support with directing issues at your club. Bridge Victoria also runs subsidised directing and teaching seminars from time-to-time which clubs may attend.

8. STATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Affiliated clubs may apply to conduct Congresses. Applications for dates are called in August of each year for the subsequent year, although clubs may apply earlier if they choose. Copies of the VBA Calendar are forwarded to all clubs, and the calendar is also available on our website. The VBA also provides affiliated clubs with a comprehensive Congress Guide which provides clubs with information on running congress events.

9. CONCLUSION

We welcome all new clubs to our association and will try and help with any preliminary work. If possible, a member of the Bridge Victoria Operating Committee will try to attend one of your playing sessions to personally welcome you to the Association. Any inquiry regarding joining our association (or even a general inquiry) should be directed to the Bridge Victoria Chair in the first instance (chair@bridgevictoria.au).

Thank you for your inquiry.