

IBFF MEMBERSHIP RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. IBFF: Indian Blind Football Federation ('IBFF') is a Federation registered under The Indian Trusts Act, 1882. The Federation shall comprise of the Governing Council, Managing Committee and Member Organizations.
- 1.2. Governing Council: Governing Council is a body of the IBFF comprising of seven ("7") members. The strength of the Governing Council shall be increased to nine ('9') members within a period of one year from the formation of these rules to include two elected representatives from the final affiliated Member Organizations. The two representatives shall thereafter be elected on an annual basis.
- 1.3. Managing Committee: The Managing Committee is a core Committee comprising of three ("3") members from the Governing Council who shall be elected on an annual basis. It is the main decision-making body of IBFF.
- 1.4. Member Organization: Any entity, educational institution, or other establishment registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a company registered under the Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 or Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, The Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or any other statutory modification thereof officially recognized by IBFF as a Member and recognized as an organization solely focused on promoting sports/blind football for the blind within a specific State vide its Constitution/Memorandum of Association/ Statement of Objects/ any other incorporation Document. The name of such a Member shall include the name of the State it represents. A State shall have only one recognized member organization.
- 1.5. Individual Member: An individual member is a person not below the age of 18 years who serves as a Committee Member within a Member Organization. IBFF reserves the right to take disciplinary action against the Individual Member and their respective Member Organization in case of any violations of the Membership Guidelines or for any gross misconduct.
- 1.6. State/Union Territory: State/Union Territory as referred to in Part I of the Constitution of India, 1950 unless specified otherwise.

2. TERM OF MEMBERSHIP:

- 2.1 A Member Organisation shall remain a member of IBFF unless the Membership is revoked or suspended or cancelled in accordance with the rules, guidelines and regulations.

3. ADMISSION, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

3.1. The Governing Council shall be the sole deciding body whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Organization.

4. ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP:

4.1. A legal entity registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a company registered under the Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 or Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, The Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or any other statutory modification thereof, which legitimately organizes and supervises Blind Football in its State is eligible to make an application to become a Member Organization of IBFF.

4.2. There shall not be more than one Member Organization for any State. In this context, the expression State shall refer to a State or Union territory as specified in the Constitution of India, 1950.

4.3. The Member Organization, as defined in section 1.4, shall have the sole authority within the State to promote the development of blind football recognized by the Government of that State. IBFF shall not grant membership to two organizations from the same State. The other organizations who are working for the development of blind football within the same State must collaborate with the recognized State Body to enhance and promote blind football in that specific State. The state organization has the requisite power to finalize the respective State team for participation in IBFF tournaments in accordance with the relevant rules and guidelines.

4.4. Member Organization must be affiliated to or recognized by the respective State Sports Department of the concerned State Government, State Paralympics Association or State Blind Sports Association (as recognized by PCI or IBSA).

4.5. A legal entity, wishing to become a Member Organization of IBFF, shall apply in writing to the IBFF in accordance with the prescribed procedure. (Kindly refer to Schedule I).

4.6. A legal entity, wishing to become a Member Organization should have organized and legitimately conducted a blind football tournament or necessary training session(s) or participated in any Zonal or National blind football tournament before applying for such membership.

4.7. The said legal entity's status shall be legally validated and approved by the Registrar of Societies/Registrar of Companies/ Registrar of Trusts or other appropriate statutory agency along with a valid and updated list of its members/constituents and affiliated units and the

same shall be enclosed with the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:

- 4.7.1 to always comply with the rules, regulations and decisions of IBSA (Indian Blind Sports Association) and IBFF;
 - 4.7.2 to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
 - 4.7.3 to comply with all necessary laws, rules, guidelines and regulations
- 4.8. The Governing Council may, at its discretion cancel/suspend/revoke the Membership of a Member Organization or extend the membership period of a Member Organization. Any such action as mentioned in 4.8 shall specifically record the reasons in writing.

5. MEMBER ORGANISATION:

- 5.1 A Member Organisation shall be a member as defined under 1.4 of the aforesaid guidelines.
- 5.2 A Member Organisation shall be a body headed by any individuals who are working for the development and promotion of blind football in the respective state.
- 5.3 Each Member Organisation must establish a committee comprising of three (“3”) to seven (“7”) members, and the organization should be a registered entity as specified in section 1.6.
- 5.4 The Member Organisation must be affiliated with the state Paralympic Committee/State Blind Sports Association/State Sports Council of the respective State Government.
- 5.5 A Member Organization that is not affiliated with or recognized as specified in section 4.4 and 5.4, shall be required to obtain such affiliation or recognition within a year of its affiliation with the IBFF. In the event of the failure of the Member organization to obtain such affiliation as per section 4.4 and 5.4 within the time prescribed, its affiliation with IBFF shall automatically stand cancelled.
- 5.6 The membership shall be granted to a single member from each State, who shall be recognized as the governing body for blind football development activities within their respective State. IBFF shall confer membership to only one entity, as specified in section 1.4.
- 5.7 Member Organisations shall possess voting rights in the IBFF Governing Council and also have the power to elect three members to the IBFF Managing Committee.
- 5.8 The man objectives and duties of all Member Organizations are as under:
 - 5.8.1. A Member Organization shall focus on advancing and promoting blind football in the State.
 - 5.8.2 A Member Organisation shall collaborate with the concerned State Government to secure recognitions, rewards, etc. for its players.
 - 5.8.3 A Member Organization shall be responsible for preparing the State team for the IBFF tournament and making arrangements for players selected for the national camp.

5.8.4 A Member Organization shall also engage with other stakeholders including but not limited to NGOs, blind schools, colleges, or any other organizations dedicated to blind football in the state.

5.8.5 A Member Organization shall provide affiliation to local organizations and involve players and individuals working on blind football development in various regions within the state.

6. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS:

6.1 An Organization shall be admitted by the Governing Council as a Member upon a recommendation of the Managing Committee.

6.2 The applicant Organization shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted as a Member Organization. Its delegates are eligible to vote and to be elected with immediate effect on confirmation by the Managing Committee.

6.3 The applicant Organization shall be required to submit a declaration along with the form of application. Such a declaration shall contain the following mandatory provisions:

6.4 A declaration that the Head Office of the Organisation is in the State/Union Territory which it represents with the form of admission.

6.5 A declaration to the effect that all the official matches organized by this Organisation will be played in the State/Union Territory which it represents unless otherwise authorized by IBFF.

6.6 A declaration to the effect that the legal structure/composition of the applicant guarantees that it makes decisions independently, as required by a member, without any influence, directly or indirectly, of any external entity.

6.7 A declaration that the applicant organization is compliant with all necessary laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and that it shall abide by the same.

7. MEMBERS' RIGHTS:

7.1 Member organization shall have the following rights:

7.2 To take part in the Governing Council Meeting.

7.3 To draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Governing Council Meetings.

7.4 To nominate two members from amongst all members to the Governing Council.

7.5 To take part in competitions owned/organized/sanctioned by IBFF.

7.6 To take part in IBFF's assistance and development programs.

7.7 To exercise all other rights arising from these rules, guidelines and other regulations.

8 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS:

General obligations of Member Organizations are as follows:

8.1 To comply with the rules, regulations, directives and decisions of IBFF and their bodies.

- 8.2 To ensure that the tenure of the members of the Executive Body does not exceed four (“4”) years.
- 8.3 To take part in lawfully held and recognized competitions;
- 8.4 To ensure that their Affiliated Units comply with the rules, regulations, codes, directives and decisions of IBFF and their bodies;
- 8.5 To play association football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by International Blind Sports Association (“IBSA”). Only IBSA may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game;
- 8.6 To play blind football in accordance with the Blind Football Laws of the Game as issued by IBSA;
- 8.7 To play any other type of blind football in accordance with the relevant Laws of the Game for that type of football issued by the competent IBFF body;
- 8.8 To comply fully with all other obligations arising from these rules and other regulations;
- 8.9 To compulsorily conduct competitions (for both men and women) among its Affiliated Units at District and State level;
- 8.10 To align events which do not disrupt or attempt to disrupt the IBFF calendar of events and/or by scheduling competitions and events clashing with the IBFF events;
- 8.11 To ensure the release of players affiliated to the Member Organisation and their Affiliated Units as per the stipulations of the IBFF Regulations on the status and transfer of players;
- 8.12 To submit to IBFF for resolution as per these rules, all disputes, *inter se*, Member Organisation, their Affiliated Units and IBFF, without resorting first to any adverse action as amongst each other affecting the integrity of blind football and IBFF.
- 8.13 To abstain from any action contrary to or detrimental to the interest of IBFF;
- 8.14 To fulfill such criteria laid down by the Managing Committee in relation to development and promotion of blind Football in the respective State/Union Territory;
- 8.15 To communicate in writing to IBFF any amendment to the Member Organisations rules and regulations and/or its officials or persons who are authorized signatories, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties, within thirty (“30”) days of such amendment;
- 8.16 An obligation to elect the members of its Executive Body;
- 8.17 Not to maintain any relations of sporting nature with entities that are not recognized by IBFF or with Members and/or their Affiliated Units that face disciplinary action and/or have been suspended or expelled;

- 8.18 An obligation to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play;
- 8.19 All other obligations arising out of these rules or out of the regulations, directives and decisions of IBFF;
- 8.20 To convene a general meeting at least once every year with its affiliated members;
- 8.21 To be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their clubs/affiliated unit towards IBFF;
- 8.22 To notify IBFF promptly of any change in its membership, address and/or in the name of principal office bearers and authorized signatories;
- 8.23 To manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties, even if such third-party influence was not the fault of the Member Organization concerned;
- 8.24 To conduct yearly independent audit of accounts and submit the annual report, financial Statements, auditors' reports, activity report etc as mandated by law.;
- 8.25 To administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- 8.26 To recognize each of the other Member Organisations as the sole controlling body of blind football in their respective territories;
- 8.27 To maintain discipline and integrity by not forming themselves into regional associations or federations without the prior approval of IBFF;
- 8.28 To regulate all competitions and Affiliated Units which exist within their State geographical territory;
- 8.29 To prepare the annual reports and submit to IBFF within a period of three months following the end of each year.

PROVIDED THAT the violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Organization may lead to sanctions/action provided for in these Rules and Regulations.

9 SUSPENSIONS:

- 9.1 The Governing Council has the authority to suspend any Individual member or Member Organization upon a recommendation of the Managing Committee.
- 9.2 Individual member or Member Organization may be suspended if there is gross misconduct or conduct of an individual member or Member Organization has been found averse to the best interests of Blind Football or IBFF, or is in detriment or has violated its obligations as an individual member or Member Organization. Gross misconduct shall result in immediate suspension and if found warranted revocation/cancellation shall also be initiated.

- 9.3 Such a suspension shall take place with immediate effect after serving a notice to an individual member or Member Organization. Such suspension shall be in effect until the following Governing Council Meeting, unless the suspension is suggested to be revoked by Managing Committee before the next meeting.
- 9.4 A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Governing Council by a two-third majority of the votes taken. If the majority vote is not received, the suspension is automatically lifted.
- 9.5 A suspended individual member or Member Organization shall lose its membership rights. Other individual member or Member Organizations shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended individual member or Member Organization.
- 9.6 In addition to the sanctions imposed by the Governing Council, the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee may impose sanctions in all matters coming under their purview. Such Sanctions refer to actions including but not limited to temporary or permanent suspension or cancellation/revocation of the Individual member or Member organization.
- 9.7 Member Organizations which do not participate in at least one Competition owned/organized by IBFF within two years shall be automatically suspended from voting at the Governing Council until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.
- 9.8 IBFF has the authority to suspend Individual Member who are part of the committee of member Organisations if they violate the rules and regulations set by IBFF. The suspended Individual Member will receive a notice of suspension from IBFF. Furthermore, if the member Organisations fails to remove the suspended individual from the state committee within 45 days, IBFF reserves the right to suspend the entire Member Organisation

10 **EXPULSIONS:**

- 10.1 The Governing Council may expel an Individual Member or Member Organisation:
- 10.2 If it fails to fulfill its obligations under these rules and regulations including financial obligations; or
- 10.3 If it violates its own rules, regulations, decisions, codes, and/or those of IBFF;
- 10.4 In case of a Member Organisation, if it loses the status of an association representing blind football in its State.
- 10.5 On any other exigent ground such as which warrants such expulsion as may be deemed reasonable
- 10.6 If it commits any action which is not in accordance with the law.
- 10.7 In case of gross misconduct, fraud, forgery, misrepresentation et al.
- 10.8 The decision of the Governing Council shall be final and not subject to challenge.
- 10.9 All state body affiliations will be reviewed periodically. IBFF reserves the right to withdraw the affiliation if any unfair practice detrimental to the players or the game is observed from the state body

Schedule I
IBFF AFFILIATION FORM

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION:

STATE:

REGISTERED ADDRESS:

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

REGISTRATION DATE:

OFFICIAL PHONE NUMEBR 1:

OFFICIAL PHONE NUMBER 2:

OFFICIAL MAIL ID 1:

OFFICIAL MAIL ID 2:

Declaration: I hereby confirm that I have read, understood, accepted and agree to abide by the “IBFF Membership Rules”, a copy of which was shared by IBFF on their official website/Mail communication. I further declare that the above information provided along with the submissions are true. In the event of any fudging, falsification or misrepresentation of the same, I claim sole responsibility and, in such circumstances, I explicitly consent and agree that Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) can take any measure or action under its jurisdiction against the entity in such an event. I also accept that the results of the membership are final and binding. Any clarification to be sought in regard to the membership rules and results are to be through IBFF only. I also hereby authorize IBFF to make relevant details including but not limited to results, association’s name, registered address and contact details public, as necessary.

Authorized Signatory of the Organization: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Seal/Stamp of the Organization:

*Please ensure that you attach the document provided below with this form.

- Registration certificates
- Trust deed/MOA
- Affiliation certificates (with the State Sports Department, State Paralympic Association, State Blind Sports Association etc)
- A brief description of the association
- List of committee members with their designations and contact details, including full address.