

## FOREWORD

This new, 2017 edition of The Official ABA Handbook is provided to the American Bridge Association community to provide pertinent information for maintaining a successful and thriving organization. This edition of the Handbook brings together the product of over 84 years of existence, and the changes in policies and procedures since our last Handbook. This is not a governing document, but is an informational document to be used in conjunction with the Constitution and By-laws of the organization, as well as with the regulations, policies and procedures put forth by the ABA Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, members, and other administrative bodies at the Section, Unit, and Club/Independent Club level. This Handbook is to be used as a convenient reference and resource serving the needs, interests, and concerns of ABA members.

In order for the Handbook to continue as a handy, one-volume reference, the format is designed to permit changes, deletions, or additions readily. Every effort has been made to categorize and clarify the information so that it is easy to locate, understand and use by the reader. If information contained in this Handbook is not in agreement with the directives and policies of the Association as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws, those reflected in the Constitution and By-Laws will prevail. Statements in this book are in accord with policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the membership of the Association.

This Handbook is organized into six parts:

- Part I      Organization**
- Part II     Administration**
- Part III    Tournament Planning**
- Part IV    Tournament Guidelines**
- Part V     Master Point Awards and Tables**
- Part VI    Constitution/By-Laws**  
**Code of Conduct**  
**Historical Excerpts**

Forms are placed on the ABA website ([ababridge.org](http://ababridge.org)) for the convenience of clubs, and for the membership to download and print as needed. Providing easy access for members to necessary forms and documents is a primary goal of the organization.

Again, the primary purpose of this Handbook is to serve as a source of information as we strive for a more excellent way to strengthen and promote the organization. This Handbook is but one of many tools available to the membership to expand on organizational success.

Thanks to the many persons who helped with the update of this document, with special thanks to Madeline Miller, Worth Christler, Shirley Williams, Margaret P. Johnson, our graphic designer, and printer, Gertrude Guffie.

**Willetta Phipps**  
**ABA National Secretary**  
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