

Constitution of The British Othello Federation

Adopted by the AGM: Saturday 10th December 2016

1. Title.

The name of the Federation shall be *The British Othello Federation*.

2. Objects.

The objects of the Federation shall be to promote the playing and understanding of the game of Othello in the United Kingdom. The activities of the Federation shall include the organisation of tournaments, including an annual British Othello Championship, and the distribution of a newsletter to its members.

3. Membership.

The members of the Federation shall be those persons who pay subscriptions to the Federation. The Federation retains the right to refuse membership, or to expel a member of the Federation, subject to the appeal procedures laid out in paragraph 7. A person shall not have any additional rights to compensation from the Federation by virtue of being a Member of the Federation.

4. Officers and Committee.

(a) The management of the Federation shall be in the hands of a committee numbering between five and ten persons inclusive, including a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and any other officers deemed advisable by the committee.

(b) The committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation and shall continue in office until the following Annual General Meeting. All shall be eligible for re-election. The committee may co-opt up to two additional members.

(c) A quorum for the valid transaction of business at meetings of the committee shall be four.

(d) The officers shall be elected by the committee from among its members, this election to take place not later than the first full committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

(e) The functions of the committee shall be:

(i) to make all arrangements for tournaments and other activities of the Federation, subject to decisions made at General Meetings concerning the matters set out in paragraph 6(d).

(ii) to control the finances of the Federation.

(iii) to submit to General Meetings such proposals in regard to the general policy and conduct of the Federation as it may think desirable.

5. Finance.

(a) The financial year shall end on 31st May each year.

(b) Such banking accounts as may be decided upon by the committee shall be maintained in the name of the Federation and cheques shall be signed by an officer of the Federation.

(c) The Federation may receive donations, money received as subscription to the Federation or to its newsletter, money raised by the sale of Othello-related goods, and money raised by charging admission to its tournaments.

(d) The income and property of the Federation shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Federation as set forth above; no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Federation except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Federation.

6. General Meetings.

- (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held within two months of the end of the financial year, at a convenient time and place to be determined by the committee. All Federation members shall be invited by at least two weeks' notice in writing, to attend this meeting.
- (b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the committee at any time, by giving to every Federation member at least two weeks' notice in writing. If a petition calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting, signed by at least ten members of the Federation, is received by the Chairman, then the committee shall call such a meeting to be held within six weeks of the receipt of the petition.
- (c) A quorum for the valid transaction of business at General Meetings shall be eight members of the Federation.
- (d) The function of General Meetings shall be:
 - (i) to receive reports from the officers of the Federation,
 - (ii) to receive an audited statement of account,
 - (iii) to elect a committee of the Federation,
 - (iv) to elect the Honorary Auditor,
 - (v) to amend the Constitution, provided that such amendment may only be agreed by a two-thirds majority of members present at a General Meeting, and that at least two weeks' written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members,
 - (vi) to make any changes that are deemed necessary in the following affairs of the Federation: the format of the British Othello Championship, the rules for qualification for the British Othello Championship, the rules for qualification for the British team at the World Championships, and the rates of subscription to the Federation.
- (e) A member unable to attend a General Meeting may vote on any item of business before the General Meeting by writing to any committee member. Such a postal vote shall be registered at the General Meeting equally with the votes of those present.

7. Expulsion from the Federation.

- (a) The Committee may, in extreme circumstances, suspend the membership of a member of the Federation. If this should occur, the next General Meeting of the Federation shall decide whether to lift the suspension or to expel the member. The person affected shall be entitled to be present at the General Meeting for the discussion of their case and to address the Meeting. If a member is expelled from the Federation, any money paid by them as a subscription to the Federation for a period after the date of the original suspension shall be repaid in full. A member who is suspended shall be informed, by at least two weeks' notice in writing, of the date and location of the General Meeting at which their case is to be discussed and of their rights as set out above.
- (b) The Committee may, in extreme circumstances, refuse membership to an individual applying to join the Federation. If this should occur, the person affected shall have the right to appeal against the decision to the next General Meeting. Any person appealing against such a decision shall have the right to be present at the General Meeting for the discussion of their case and to address the meeting. A person refused membership shall be informed of this right in writing and, should they decide to appeal, shall be informed of the date and location of the General Meeting at which their case is to be discussed.

8. The British Othello Championship.

(a) A British Othello Championship Tournament shall be held each year. The procedure to determine those qualified to play in the Championship shall be decided at a General Meeting and shall be administered by the committee. All those who are qualified to play in the event shall be given at least two weeks' notice in writing of the time and place of the Championship.

(b) The committee shall appoint a Local Organiser who shall be responsible for all matters connected with the British Othello Championship, including the choice of a convenient time and place for the tournament.

(c) The Local Organiser shall, as far as possible, organise the tournament according to the format decided upon by the previous General Meeting at which the matter was discussed. If this should prove impossible, the Local Organiser (in consultation with the officers of the Federation) should organise the tournament in a manner differing from the agreed format as little as possible.

(d) The Local Organiser shall appoint a Tournament Director (possibly themselves) to oversee the smooth running of the Championship.

(e) The winner of the British Othello Championship shall be declared the British Othello Champion and shall be entitled to represent the United Kingdom at the next World Othello Championships.

9. Tournaments.

(a) The Federation may organise other Othello tournaments from time to time.

(b) For any tournament organised by the Federation, a Local Organiser shall be appointed who will be responsible for the choice of a time and place for the tournament and for the smooth running of the tournament.

(c) Any Federation member shall be entitled, upon payment of an entrance fee to the Federation, to play in any tournament organised by the Federation, with the possible exception of the British Othello Championship. However, the Local Organiser or their appointed representative shall have the power to expel a player from a tournament in extreme circumstances.

(d) The entrance fee for a tournament shall be decided by the committee, in consultation with the Local Organiser. Any reasonable expenses incurred by the Local Organiser or their assistants in the running of a tournament shall be repaid by the Federation.

10. Newsletter.

From time to time, the Federation shall distribute free to its members a newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to inform readers of activities in Britain and elsewhere connected with the game of Othello and to provide advice and instruction concerning the strategy and tactics of the game.

11. Dissolution.

The Federation may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose, of which one month's written notice shall have been given to all members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held in the name of the Federation, provided that, if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, then such properties shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Federation but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having, as far as is possible, objectives similar to some or all of the objectives of the Federation.