



BRIDGE FEDERATION OF INDIA

Affiliated to

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION:

- BFI is recognized by Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs under Govt. of INDIA Under **“PRIORITY CATEGORY”** since last 15 years
- India has **28 states and 8 Union territories** of which 24 states are currently affiliate with our federation
- BFI has over 4000 + registered players and over 10000 social bridge players across the country
- BFI has the maximum player strength in ZONE IV and has been the highest medal grosser in the Zonal trials in all categories
- BFI conducts HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE Championship each year, one of the highest prize money events which attracts over 1000 players including top foreign participants across the world. In addition, BFI has in past conducted BFAME and Asia Cup Championships + 3 National Championships yearly.
- Asian Games recognition has been a big boost to the Indian Bridge playing fraternity and has enhanced interest in masses. With the assistance of Sports Ministry, several training national camps are held along with online coaching. Moreover, BFI sends 1 team each for International Exposure (APBF or NBO invitational event)

INCLUSION OF BRIDGE IN ASIAN GAMES, 2026

- The game of bridge has been included as a regular sport in Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia and in the year 2023 in China. India were Winner of Gold Medal in 2018 and Silver medal in 2023. The next Asian Games 2026 will be held in Japan but we are informed that bridge will not be considered in the upcoming Asian Games though the host country Japan was a medal winner in the last edition. We are afraid that with the exclusion of Bridge from Asian Games 2026 will be a big deterrent for the 25 Asian Bridge playing nations.
- We request WBF and APBF Council to help the Asian NBO's to kindly include the sport in the upcoming Asian Games 2026 cycle. In this regard, we have already approached the good offices of WBF to take personalize interest for the induction of bridge. We do recollect that due efforts were made in the 2018 edition by yourselves bridge got a breakthrough as part of the Asian Games.
- Bridge Sport has got a big boost among other mind games since the inception of Asian Games, hence it will be very eminent for our nations to include Asian Games

INCEPTION OF BRIDGE IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES, 2026

- Bridge has been part of Commonwealth Bridge Championships since 2002 as a separate parallel event along with Commonwealth Games
- The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships are held every four year. *However, the medals achieved are not part of the original Commonwealth Games.*
- Last edition was held at Australia in 2018. There are 28 bridge nations affiliated to WBF as part of this championship.
- BFI requests WBF to coordinate with the major members like Australia ,Canada, England, India, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, SriLanka, Wales & Bangladesh so that Bridge can be part of upcoming Commonwealth Games as an official sport.
- The next edition of this championship will be held at Australia, 2026.
- Indian Sports Ministry has been quite interested towards this initiative as it has been accepted as a global sport.

FUNCTIONING OF BFI

- Bridge Federation of India has been one of the leading NBO's in terms of its members and bridge activities. It has hosted several international events including the 42nd World Bridge Teams Championship at Chennai in 2015, Asia Cup in 2018 and several BFAME Championships
- The newly elected BFI Executive Committee came into force from 1st April, 2024 under the leadership of Mr. Prasad Keni (President), Mr. Debasish Ray (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Keshav Samant (Vice President), Mr. KP Mathur (Vice President) and Mr. Satish Kumar (Treasurer). BFI functions through recommendations from many sub committees as constituted.
- We have been undertaking several bridge online and offline programs under the banner "Bridge Pathshala(in Hindi, Pathshala means school, an academy of Bridge learning)
- With respect to promotion of the game, the following sub committees are in force for which we would seek information from WBF and other Zones on ways to improve the Bridge education and promotion activities in India and ZONE IV.

SUB COMMITTEES

- **Bridge Education & Promotion**
- **Junior Training & Development**
- **Women Development**

BRIDGE EDUCATION & PROMOTION

- BFI has been a major force in supporting Junior and Senior Programs across all states through its specialized training centre in name of “Bridge Pathshala”
- Several Courses are conducted round the year from Beginner to Expert levels through live and online sessions under the guidance of professional bridge teachers appointed by BFI
- We have also outreached to school and college students in rural India.
- We have well designed programs for training school teachers based on which they will be able to run the curriculum in their respective schools and colleges.
- We have conducted “Bridge teaching” in many schools in various affiliated states

JUNIOR/SUB JUNIOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- BFI undertakes Junior and Sub Junior National Bridge Championships each year.
- Shortlisted talented Juniors and Sub Juniors followed by coaching them through online and physical training camps
- Preparing them for participation at World Youth Teams Championships by WBF each year.
- India has been only NBO from ZONE IV who has regularly sent atleast 2-3 teams each year in various categories to support the WBF Youth program.



WOMEN/GIRLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- With the inception of bridge sport at Asian Games, 2018 we have seen a tremendous growth in the women and girls participation.
- Also, as mixed category was introduced by WBF at 2019, there has been a gradual increase in participation of mixed pairs at our national events.
- To promote the girls and women, BFI organizes 5 national competitions in Women category and 5 national competition in Mixed category.
- We are thankful to WBF for the online Women Training events and competitions which are regularly attended by our women players

SUMMARY:

BFI is highly positive towards all the initiatives of WBF and requests them to support India for:

- a) Inclusion at Asian Games 2026
- b) Commonwealth Games 2026
- c) WBF to conduct International Training Programs for Coaches as well Junior Tournament Directors
- d) Exposure to Indian Directors/Technical Staff at WBF events

We would be happy to assist WBF in its programs

Thank You