MALTA BLACKBALL

POOL FEDERATION

Established on 30th September 2012

STATUTE

As approved at the MBPF Clubs Meeting

on 24 August 2026

Valid for season 2026-27

1- NAME

1.1 The name of the organization shall be 'MALTA BLACKBALL POOL FEDERATION', hereinafter referred to as 'The Federation' or the 'MBPF'.

1A- LEGAL STATUS & REPRESENTATION

1A.1 The Federation is an autonomous and non-profit voluntary organisation of an associative nature established in compliance with the laws of Malta. It shall be non-profit making as defined in the Voluntary Organizations Act (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta), and any excess of funds received or generated from its activities must always be reinvested in the same Federation.

1A.2 Legal representation of the Federation shall be vested in the General Secretary of the Executive Committee

1B- ADDRESS

1B.1 The official address of the Federation is "Malta Blackball Pool Federation, Juventus Club Vero Amore, Madre Theresa Spinelli Street, Birkirkara" or such other address as may be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time,

2- OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

2.1 Objectives and aims of the federation shall be that of promoting the Game of blackball pool amongst all playing members within the Maltese Islands. It has been established to develop the game of pool in Malta, based on human rights, democratic principles, and social values, through local and international competitions, irrespective of race, religion, gender, or politics.

3- MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Any Club, Organization or Circle who accepts the objectives and aims of the Federation may become a member of the M.B.F. and shall be entitled to two (2) votes at the Annual General Meeting.

3.2 Any individual who is registered with or seconded by members mentioned in section 3.1 may become a member of the MBPF. Individual Members are not entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, except for those sitting on the Executive Committee of the MBPF who shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

3.3 Any member who fails to pay monies due to the Federation within a reasonable time of being asked by the MBPF, shall cease to be a member in good standing and shall continue to be liable to the Federation for the amounts due.

3.4 The Malta Blackball Pool Federation shall have the power to refuse any application for membership by any member Club/Bar or player mentioned in 3.1 and 3.2, on reasonable grounds.

3.5 Any member who in the opinion of the Executive Committee misbehaves at the Federation's premises and during the Federation's functions and or brings the good name of the MBPF into disrepute and acts against the objectives of the Federation, may have his/her membership suspended or terminated by simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

4- **STRUCTURE OF DUES**

4.1 The following shall be the dues payable at the beginning of every MBPF season.

4.1.a Team – Participation for all 5-a-side Club Tournaments announced by the Executive Committee at the beginning of the respective season including affiliation of Club/Bar and registration of Ten (10) players €200.

4.1.b Individual Affiliation – €20.

4.1.c Each team shall deposit €50 with the MBPF against a receipt for the purpose of deducting fines (multi) or charges registered against the team during the season which have remained unpaid. The deposit mentioned shall be retained by the MBPF until the start of the following season.

5- **OFFICERS**

5.1 The Officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

5.2 Each Officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

5.3 An Officer may be removed from office by two-thirds majority vote at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

5.4 No Officer shall make any expenditure or enter into any contracts of any nature that may become a financial obligation to the Federation, unless the Executive Committee has approved the said expenditure or contract.

5.5 The officers shall apply on yearly basis for individual affiliation/membership as per Article 3.2 of this document.

6- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen (15) and not less than three (3) members who shall occupy the position of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.2 More than one member from the same club may sit on the Executive Committee but cannot vote in case where there may be conflict of interest.

6.3 Executive Committee members cannot vote on issues that they are personally involved in.

6.4 Each member of the Executive Committee, except the President, has one vote each. The President shall only have the casting vote.

6.5 Any member of the Executive Committee who absents himself for five (5) meetings without justifiable cause may be expelled from the Executive Committee by a simple majority vote of Executive Committee.

6.6 In cases of necessity the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt new members as part of the Executive Committee.

6-7 Prospective members and officers of the Executive Committee shall not be official members and have any form of relationship with organizations, promoters or any kind of entities that organize pool events in Malta. If a prospective member or officer is an official member or have any form of relationship with organizations, promoters or any kind of entity that organizes pool events in Malta, his nomination will be automatically disqualified.

7- DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

7.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Federation.

7.2 The President shall convene meetings of the Executive Committee at least once every month and on other occasions when he deems necessary.

7.3 The President shall be one of the three (3) co-signers of administrative documents including bank cheques bearing the MBPF account.

7.4 The President shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie on a matter to be voted upon.

7.5 Subject to appeal to General Meetings, the President or whoever is acting in his stead at the time, shall have the authority to interpret these statutes and his interpretation shall be conclusive and in full force.

8- DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

8.1 The Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence, reports, and notices except those pertaining to the financial activities of the MBPF.

8.2 The Secretary shall regularly update the online membership site containing all players photos and personal details, and match scoring. The Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date list of members and supply the same to the President or Treasurer if so requested.

8.3 Membership lists and the information contained within shall be the property of the Federation and shall be used for the sole purpose of the MBPF.

8.4 The Secretary shall record all minutes of the Executive Committee and General Meetings.

9- DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

9.1 The Treasurer shall receive all money for the Federation from all sources and keep an account of same. He shall be prepared to give financial statements when asked by the President and/or the Executive Committee.

9.2 A quarterly financial statement must be prepared by the Treasurer and duly signed by the President.

9.3 The Treasurer shall obtain a warrant from the President before paying out any bills or accounts more than €50 at any one time.

9.3A The financial year of the Malta Blackball Federation shall commence on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December of each calendar year. The Annual Financial Statements presented to the Annual General Meeting shall relate exclusively to that financial year. Where necessary, the Executive Committee may prepare a one-time transitional accounting period to facilitate the change to the new reporting cycle.

9.4 The Treasurer shall deposit all the Federation's money in a Commercial Bank under the Malta Blackball Pool Federation and shall be the co-signer with one (1) of two (2) other signatures.

10- DUTIES OF THE VICE SECRETARY

10.1 The Vice-Secretary shall work for and assist the secretary in the performance of his duties.

10.2 It shall be the duty of the Vice Secretary, in the absence of the Secretary, to preside and to perform all duties pertaining to the office of the Secretary. In a case of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the Vice-Secretary shall assume the duties of the Secretary until the vacancy is filled or a by-election is held in accordance with the provisions of these statutes.

11- DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

11.1 It shall be the responsibility of those members at large of the Executive Committee to help in any way or manner possible or as delegated by the Executive Committee in meeting and furthering the objectives and aims of the Federation.

11A – DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

11A1 The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for all correspondence with local and international media. He shall also be responsible for Social Media Announcements by the Federation, as delegated to him by the Secretary, by virtue of Article 8.1.

12- NOMINATIONS

12.1 In order to be eligible as a candidate for election to the Executive Committee, the nominee must have been a member in good standing, of the Federation for a consecutive period of twelve (12) months immediately prior to the date of the nomination.

12.2 Nominations for the election of officers, and for executive members must reach the Secretary of the Federation, in writing fourteen (14)

days prior to the General Meeting. Nominations will be seconded at the General Meeting.

12.3 The term of office shall be of two (2) years.

12.4 The acceptance of nominations for election to office must be received either in person or in writing at the time of nomination.

13- <u>ELECTIONS</u>

13.1 When an election is held at the Annual General Meeting, an Election Committee consisting of three (3) members, who have not been nominated for any, office shall be nominated and elected from among the members present.

13.2 The Election Committee will immediately elect a chairperson from among them and report the name of the chairperson to the General Meeting.

13.3 The duties of the Election Committee regarding the conduct of the ballot shall be:

13.3.a Preparing and handing ballots.
13.3.b Receiving of ballots.
13.3.c Counting of ballots.
13.3.d Issuing the Results.

13.4 The Election Committee shall supply each voting member who have been a member in good standing for six (6) months immediately preceding the election with a ballot paper.

13.5 The Election Committee shall disband immediately after the election is held.

13.6 Election officers shall be held at the General Meeting. In the event of more than two (2) nomination for executive members are received, an election will be held at the same General Meeting to elect two executive members, In the event of a tie vote, for any officer or member, there shall be a recount and if necessary, a further election.

14- MEETINGS

14.1 A General Meeting of the Federation shall be held at the end of a season. The meeting shall be held on the premises of the Federation or any other place deemed necessary for the occasion.

14.2 The Secretary shall send at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, a notice providing full details of the time, date and place, along with such further information as is available of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

14.4 Four (4) persons in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

14.5 The General Meeting held at the end of the season shall be considered as one of the two Annual Meetings and shall:

14.5.a Consider and approve annual reports by Officers of the Federation.

14.5.b Consider and approve financial statements of the Federation.

14.5.c Elect the Executive Committee of the Federation bi-annually.

14.5.d Appoint an Auditor from among the present delegates to internally audit the Annual Financials presented by the Treasurer.

14.5.e Discuss amendments and alter these statutes and general team competition rules.

14.5.f Cease absent members from submitting motions for amendments or vote during the Annual Clubs Meeting.

14.5.g Impose a 3-point deduction on absent clubs. This applies to all its teams participating in the national leagues during the upcoming season.

14.6 The Annual Clubs Meeting held one month after The General Meeting shall be considered as one of the two Annual Meetings and shall:

14.6.a Determine the structure of the team leagues format and play.

14.6.b Discuss amendments and alter these statutes and general team competition rules.

14.7 Motions for amendment of the statutes or regulations must reach the Secretary of the Federation, in writing, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Clubs Meeting.

14.8 Motions for amendment and regulations will be sent by the Secretary of the Federation to all affiliated members, not less than seven (7) Days prior to the Annual Clubs Meeting. Only paid-up members (clubs) shall vote or send motions for amendments and regulations. Should a motion be sent by club that does not pay its membership by the beginning of the meeting, the motion will be nullified.

14.9 Only motions for amendments of these statutes and general team competitions rules will be accepted and discussed during the Annual Clubs Meeting. Other individual competitions' rules, ranking systems and national teams' set ups shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

14.10 Extraordinary Meeting may be called by the President at his discretion or by a written request of eleven (11) members (Clubs) who must submit such request over their signatures. Nine (9) of the signatures to such a petition must be present before such meeting can be convened.

14.11 No business shall be transacted at such an Extraordinary Meeting other than the business for which such Extraordinary Meeting has been called.

14.12 The Secretary shall send not less than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting a notice containing details of its time, date, place, along with the details of the business to be dealt with at the Extraordinary Meeting.

14.13 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every month.

14.14 An Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee may be held either on the call of the President, or on the written request of any three (3) members of the Executive Committee.

14.15 Three (3) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

15- PROTEST/APPEALS COMMITTEE

15.1 The Protest Committee shall consist of five (5) Persons chosen amongst the delegates or alternatives nominated or any other such persons as may be necessary from outside the Federation.

15.2 Such persons shall be from a different section, group or division from the teams originating and/or defending the protest.

15.3 After receiving a properly submitted protest, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairperson within five (5) working days.

15.4 A copy of the protest must be sent to defendant club, by registered post.

15.5 A copy of the protest must be submitted to the appointed Chairperson of the Protest Committee.

15.6 The Chairperson shall as soon as possible thereafter fix a date and place and call together the members of the Protest Committee.

15.7 Quorum for the Protest Committee shall not be less than four (4) person, including the Chairperson.

15.8 Delegates from the appellant, defendant or suspended team or club shall be excluded from taking part in the protest before the committee except as a witness.

15.9 Delegates who fail to attend committee meeting without justifiable cause shall be liable to a fine (multa) of not less than €20.

15.10 The Chairperson shall, in the case of a tie, has a vote.

15.11 The procedure of hearing a protest shall be as follows:

15.11.a The protest/appeal committee shall first hear the party filling the protest/appeal behind closed doors and afterwards shall hear all evidence from its witnesses.

15.11.b After having heard all evidence from the protesting/appealing party the committee shall hear the defendant party and evidence from its witnesses behind closed doors.

15.11.c The protest/appeal committee shall be empowered to face all parties and witnesses during all hearings.

15.12 The Protest Committee shall be empowered to regulate its own procedure and is empowered to hear not only evidence, which is produced by the parties to the protest, but also other evidence which it may deem relevant.

15.13 The parties to the protest shall take care to produce all evidence at the hearing. The Protest Committee shall only allow postponements for the hearing of evidence in exceptional circumstances and provided that a postponement would not interfere with the running of competitions of the MBPF.

15.14 The Chairperson shall ensure that the parties to the protest are given a fair hearing.

15.15 It shall be the duty of any person regulated by the Malta Blackball Pool Federation, who has been requested to appear before the Protest Committee to advise the Chairperson, of his/her inability to attend. Failure to notify within thirty (30) minutes of the appointed time may result in a fine (multa) or suspension or both.

15.16 Hearing shall be conducted behind closed doors and a decision reached as soon as possible after the closing of the case by the parties to the protest but not later than twenty-four (24) hours unless the protest Committee needs to conduct further investigation. The decision shall be in writing and signed by not less than three (3) committee members including the Chairperson.

15.17 The Protest Committee may make recommendations to the Executive Committee to take further action on any matter that comes to the cognizance of the Protest Committee during the hearing of a protest.

15.18 The Secretary of the Federation shall send the decision to the appellant and defendant by post not later than five (5) working days after the Executive Committee receives the decision.

15.19 The decisions of the Protest Committee are final and binding on all Parties.

15.20 One (1) appeal may be lodged against the decision of the Protest Committee.

15.21 Such appeal must be lodged within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the original decision of the Protest Committee.

15.22 Under no circumstances shall the committee, except the Chairperson, be composed of the same persons having heard the original protest.

16- APPEALS BOARD AGAINST EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

16.1 The Appeals Board against Executive decisions shall consist of three (3) persons.

16.2 The Chairperson of the board shall be a lawyer having a minimum of seven (7) years practice, while the other two members shall be persons of good conduct.

16.3 The Executive Committee shall, within seven (7) days on receipt of an appeal, decide on a date of not more than thirty (30) days from the date of the Executive Committee meeting and inform the appointed members of the Appeals Board, the appellant and defense.

16.4 The appealing club and the Executive Committee shall make available all evidence in their possession. Under no circumstance shall there be a postponement of the Appeals Board.

16.5 The decision of the Appeals Board must be in writing and signed by all Board members.

16.6 Within five (5) days on receipt of the decision, the Secretary of the Federation must send, by post the decision to the appellant.

16.7 The decision of the Appeals Board against Executive decisions is final.

17- RESIGNATIONS

17.1 If an Officer desires to resign, he shall first write a letter a letter of intent to the Secretary who will inform the Executive Committee.

17.2 Such resignations shall be studied by the Executive Committee as soon as possible and thereby the Secretary will inform the Officer by letter of the decision reached by the Executive Committee.

17.3 Any such resignation shall be filled from runners-up at the Annual General Meeting. Should this fail to fill any such vacancy, the Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting for the purpose or fill in the vacancy by appointment until the next General Meeting.

17.4 Such resignation shall be studied by the Executive Committee as soon as possible and thereby the Secretary will inform the Officer by letter of the decision reached by the Executive Committee.

18- ADMINISTRATION

18.1 No affiliated member as previously described may:

18.1.a Take part in any competition, exhibition, radio or television broadcast related to blackball without the consent of the Executive Committee.

18.1.b Take part in any activities organized by a non-affiliated club or body.

18.1.c Organize pool-related activities for non-affiliated clubs or bodies, unless sanctioned by the Malta Blackball Pool Federation.

18.2 No 'Open Tournaments' may be held without the sanction of the MBPF and all competitors and club participants in such tournaments must be affiliated to the Federation.

18.3 The Executive Committee, by a simple majority vote at a regular meeting of the Executive, may allow non-member individuals to participate in any MBPF sanctioned competitions, tournaments or activities provided that:

18.3.a Invitations are first sent to affiliated clubs, individuals, and bodies.

18.3.b The individuals sign an acceptance of the provisions of the statutes, law and regulations of the Federation throughout the competitions.

18.3.c Payments of dues provided for elsewhere in these statutes or the Federation's Competition Rules.

19- AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

19.1 These Statutes shall not be altered or amended except at the General and Extraordinary Meeting of the Federation.

19.2 The Motion to amend or alter these Statutes shall require two-thirds majority vote of the members present to become effective while motions to amend General team rules require a simple majority vote of members present.

19.3 Considerations of a Motion to amend or alter may not be deferred from being dealt with at the General or Extraordinary Meeting at which it is being dealt with. The absence of the mover of the Motion shall not be deemed as sufficient reason to defer considerations and disposition of a Motion to Amend.

19.4 Unless expressly provided otherwise within the motion being approved, all amendments to the MBF Statute and the General Team Competition Regulations shall come into force immediately upon their approval at the General Meeting or Annual Clubs' Meeting, as applicable. Where an approved amendment materially affects the structure of competitions, player eligibility, promotion and relegation, or team composition, the meeting approving the amendment may determine, by simple majority, that such amendment shall come into force at the commencement of the following season.

20- DISSOLUTION

20.1 In the event of dissolution of the Federation, any remaining funds and/or property shall be donated to either, a voluntary non-profit

making organization, a non-profit charitable institution or the Voluntary Organizations Fund chosen by the outgoing Executive Committee.