



etbf

european tchoukball federation

statutes

march 2017 edition



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I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1. Name and headquarters

1. The European Tchoukball Federation (ETBF) is a non-profit association in accordance with art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, for an unlimited period of time. It was founded on 29 March 2014 in Neuchâtel.
2. ETBF headquarters are located at the domicile of its President.

Art. 2. Objectives

1. The objectives of the ETBF are:
 - a) to deal with all questions relating to European tchoukball;
 - b) to develop and promote tchoukball in Europe, as a means to contribute to the positive development of our society;
 - c) to promote the practice of tchoukball in the spirit of the educational and ethical values described in the Tchoukball Charter¹ and according to the principles established by its founder, Dr Hermann Brandt.
 - d) to monitor and control the development of every type of tchoukball in Europe;
 - e) to organise and conduct international tchoukball competitions and tournaments at European level for every type of tchoukball whilst respecting the players' health;
 - f) to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the regularity of matches or competitions or give rise to the abuse of tchoukball;
 - g) to ensure that sporting values always prevail over commercial interests;
 - h) to ensure the development of new national federations.
 - i) to promote unity among Members in matters relating to European and world tchoukball;
 - j) to safeguard the overall interests of Members;
 - k) to ensure that the needs of the different stakeholders in European tchoukball (leagues, clubs, players, supporters) are properly taken into account;
 - l) to act as a representative voice for the European tchoukball family as a whole;
 - m) to maintain good relations with and cooperate with the FITB and the other Federations recognized by the FITB;
 - n) to ensure that its representatives within the FITB loyally represent the views of the ETBF and act in the spirit of European solidarity;
 - o) to respect the interests of Members, settle disputes between Members and assist them in any matter upon request.
2. The ETBF shall seek to achieve its objectives by implementing any measures it deems appropriate, such as setting down rules, entering into agreements or conventions, taking decisions or adopting programmes.

¹ See Tchoukball Charter in the appendices.

3. With its activities, the ETBF shall contribute to the promotion and strengthening of friendship, mutual respect and understanding among tchoukball participants throughout Europe with the promotion of peace, the most important prerequisite for the existence of tchoukball.

Art. 3. Rights

1. The ETBF, in partnership with the event organizer, is entitled to utilize in any manner the ETBF events (tournament, festival, symposia, teaching events), in particular by marketing advertising and marketing rights, TV signal rights and other electronic, visual and printed media rights.

Art. 4. Duties

1. The ETBF shall:
 - a) follow and apply, regulations and FITB official rules of the game for all forms of tchoukball, regulation of international referees as well as the certification program and appointment of referee prescribed by the International Tchoukball Federation (FITB);
 - b) regulate relations between national federations in Europe, organize continental events to share and promote tchoukball competences among players, coaches, referees, and officials of its members;
 - c) organize coaches, referees, and player trainings in accordance with FITB standards;
 - d) communicate to the FITB any continental events, such as, tournament, symposia, festivals, trainings etc.

Art. 5. Non-Discrimination Policy

1. The ETBF tolerates no discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, political or sexual orientation.
2. Organizers of official ETBF events (tournaments, festivals, congresses, conventions, training seminars, symposia, etc) shall be compelled to make a declaration to that effect before the ETBF transfers the event.
3. Teams shall not boycott official ETBF events or refuse referees for reasons of race, gender, religious creed, political or sexual orientations. Violation of this article shall result in suspension of the national federations or teams concerned, by the Executive Committee (EC) and the next General Assembly (GA) shall decide on the final suspension.

Art. 6. Fairness in Sport

1. The ETBF shall be committed to fairness in sports and prohibit any attempts at unfair performance improvement. The prevention of any use of doping shall be a special concern.
2. Current World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code and IOC doping regulations shall form part of the ETBF Statutes and Regulation.
3. Regulations concerning doping shall be the subject of a special body of regulations, which shall include mention of the necessary sanctions.

Art. 7. Violations

1. All violations of the provisions of the ETBF legal instruments are subject to sanctions provided for in those Statutes and in the ETBF Regulations. Rights to proper defence are guaranteed by the ETBF Statutes.

Art. 8. Official languages

1. The official language of the ETBF shall be English. The working language shall be English as well.
2. Correspondence between the ETBF and its members shall be conducted in English.
3. In case of conflict of dispute in the interpretation of the Statutes, the English version shall prevail.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Art. 9. Composition

1. The ETBF is composed of the national tchoukball federations, on which it has bestowed recognition and which control tchoukball in their state or territories.
2. Only one federation per country shall be entitled to ETBF Membership.

Art. 10. Membership

1. A National Federation needs to be in the territory of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) definition of Europe to be able to join ETBF.
2. The ETBF recognized the following membership levels:
 - a) **Full Member (FM)**: are National Federations entitled to 1 (one) vote during the General Assembly;
 - b) **Associate Member (AM)**: are National Federations entitled to 0 (zero) vote during the General Assembly.
3. Full Members and Associate Members of the FITB that meet the requirement in Art. 10.1 are automatically Full Members and respectively Associate Members of the ETBF.

Art. 11. Loss of Membership

1. The ETBF membership shall be forfeited:
 - a) for the loss of the FITB membership;
 - b) for violation of the ETBF Statutes or ETBF regulations, and decisions, by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of votes validly cast at the General Assembly.
2. The Executive Committee may, by a majority decision, suspend, until the next General Assembly, a member who fails to comply with a provision of the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions of the FITB or ETBF.
3. A final decision shall be made by the next General Assembly, according to Art. 11.1 providing that the suspension is still in force at that time.
4. Full Member (FM) and Associate Member (AM) wishing to resign their ETBF membership shall inform the ETBF Presidency, by registered letter.
5. The resignation shall become effective 3 (three) months after the ETBF has received the letter of resignation.

6. The ETBF shall communicate to the FITB within 1 (one month) of the date of a loss of Membership.

Art. 12. In Case of Loss of Membership

1. The former ETBF member shall make no reference whatsoever to the ETBF, in particular the ETBF's name, logo, and brand.
2. The outgoing Member loses its member rights after the expiration of membership. It is not entitled to any participation or advantage from the ETBF, or to any financial compensation following its resignation or exclusion.

Art. 13. Membership Duties

1. The Member shall respect and apply the FITB Bylaws and ETBF Statutes, Regulations, and FITB Official Rules of the Game. Their own Statutes shall reflect the provisions of the FITB Bylaws and ETBF Statutes and Regulations, which are considered an integral part of their Statutes. In case of contradiction, the FITB Bylaws and Regulations shall prevail.
2. Every Full Member (FM) and Associate Member (AM), shall inform the ETBF of the names and precise addresses of those persons in charge of official correspondence between the ETBF and the Members.

Art. 14. Honorary Membership

1. The General Assembly may grant or remove the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member to any individual person who has rendered meritorious or despicable services to the ETBF. The Executive Committee shall submit the name of any such person to the General Assembly for approval.
2. Honorary Members shall be invited to the General Assembly.
3. An honorary status does not confer voting rights.

III. ORGANISATION

Art. 15. Bodies

1. The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body.
3. Standing committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their primary duties and their composition are defined in these Statutes.

A. General Assembly

Art. 16. Definition, organisation

1. The General Assembly is the meeting of all ETBF Members. It is the supreme organ of the ETBF.
2. Only a General Assembly regularly convened has the authority to exercise its power.
3. The General Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.
4. The Executive Committee convenes the Ordinary General Assembly every two years.

5. The dates and the place of the next General Assembly must be announced to the ETBF Members at the latest 3 (three) months in advance.
6. The following documents have to be sent 1 (one) month before the General Assembly to the ETBF Members:
 - a) the agenda;
 - b) the last General Assembly minutes;
 - c) the activity reports;
 - d) the balance sheet and the profit and loss statements;
 - e) election candidates as required;
 - f) the amendments to the Statutes as required;
 - g) the propositions of ETBF regulations, and/or motions proposed by the Executive Committee, standing committees, Member, as required;
 - h) the budget.

Art. 17. Composition and Competences

1. The General Assembly is composed of all the affiliated Members up to date in their obligations and financial commitments (being in good standing at the time of the meeting). Each Member may be represented by a maximum of 2 (two) delegates, duly accredited for that purpose, who shall be members of the national federation (NF). All delegates other than the President/Chairperson, Secretary General, Treasurer, of the Member shall present at the meeting a power of Attorney document signed by one of the above-mentioned Officers. No one shall represent more than one Member.
2. Associate Member (AM) shall have the right to raise issues and participate in all discussions at the General Assembly, but shall not have the right of vote.
3. Those Statutes entitle some observers to attend the General Assembly. The President may also entitle some observers. The observers have no right of vote.
4. The Chair person of the General Assembly shall be proposed by the Executive Committee and named in the invitation sent to the Members and Associate Members 1 (one) month before the General Assembly.
5. The inalienable prerogatives of the General Assembly are:
 - a) to amend the Statutes;
 - b) to accept the budget;
 - c) to decide on the expelling of a Member;
 - d) to approve the President's report, and the financial reports;
 - e) to decide of the use of any profits, and to approve the actions, regulations, directives, decisions, of the Executive Committee and its program for the following years;
 - f) to elect the President, the Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Committee members;
 - g) to attribute the title of Honorary President or Honorary member to persons who have rendered remarkable services to the ETBF, or revoke the title if the person deserves it;
 - h) to decide on the dissolution and the liquidation of the ETBF;
 - i) to decide on the delegation of power by the Executive Committee or Power of Attorney.

Art. 18. Motions

1. ETBF Members, the Executive Committee, and Chairperson of the committees may submit motions to the General Assembly. They shall be made in writing together with rationales to the Presidency:
 - a) no later than 2 (two) months prior to the General Assembly in the case of ordinary General Assembly;
 - b) no later than 2 (two) month prior to an Extraordinary General Assembly.
2. Motion submitted past the deadline or as late as while the General Assembly is in progress, shall be presented at the time of the approval of the agenda, and requires a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority votes validly cast of the General Assembly to be heard. Excluded from this provision shall be Statutes amendment, which cannot be submitted past the deadline.

Art. 19. Quorum and Decisions

1. Only the Full Member (FM) in good standing (i.e. has satisfied all its financial obligations to the ETBF at the time of the meeting) and are present, are counted to determine if the quorum is reached. They are entitled to attend with the right to vote. The delegates of a Full Member (FM) under suspension, by the Executive Committee, and ratified by the General Assembly, for any reason whatsoever, may attend the General Assembly as observers, but the Full Member (FM) cannot be counted for the purpose of the quorum.
2. Illegible, void, or blank votes, and abstentions shall not be included in the count of validly cast votes.
3. The General Assembly may make a decision if at least 3/5 (three/fifth) of the Members with the right to vote, as established by II.Art. 10.2, are present. If the quorum is not formed a new General Assembly may be organized.
4. Except where otherwise provided for in these Statutes the decision shall be made by open ballot. Voting by secret ballot shall be subject of 2 (two) Full Members' requests (FM).
5. Except where otherwise provided for in those Statutes or the ETBF Regulations, the decisions of the General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of the Members (FM) votes validly cast, however:
 - a) an amendment to the Statutes required a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of votes validly cast;
 - b) in the case of equal numbers of votes the voting process shall be repeated. If a motion fails to reach a majority in a repeat vote, it shall be rejected.
6. Except where otherwise provided for in those Statutes, or in specific decisions of the General Assembly, which may fix a later date for the enforcement of its decisions, such decisions shall enter into force immediately following the General Assembly.

Art. 20. Election of the President

1. The President is elected by the General Assembly for a 4 (four) year term. Re-election is possible for 1 (one) more term.
2. The candidates shall have reach the age of 18 year at the time of the election, and be in full possession of their civil rights. Only a (FM) Full Member representative shall be proposed as a candidate.

3. Candidacy for the Presidency shall be submitted to the ETBF only by fully paid-up Full Members (FM), no later than 2 (two) months prior to the opening of the General Assembly.
4. Before the elections, the candidates must present their program and the main results that they want the ETBF to achieve before the next ordinary General Assembly.
5. The election for President requires a simple majority. If more than one candidate is presented, voting shall be by secret ballot. In the event there is only one candidate for the position being filled, the election will be carried out by acclamation, unless an election by secret ballot is requested by at least 2 (two) Full Members (FM).
6. If no candidate obtains a simple majority of votes validly cast, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates who obtained most votes in the first ballot. In the second ballot, a simple majority and the most votes shall decide. In the case of a tie, the voting process shall be repeated.
7. If no candidate has been nominated within the deadline or if the nominee is no longer a candidate on the day of the General Assembly, candidates may be nominated at the General Assembly.
8. If no candidate has been nominated and the acting president has rendered good services to the ETBF during his/her two terms, a third term shall be possible by a two-third of votes validly cast during the General Assembly.
9. Newly elected ETBF President shall take office 1 (one) month after the close of the General Assembly.

Art. 21. Election of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is elected for a 4 (four) year term.
2. The candidates shall have reached the age of 18 at the time of the elections, and be in full possession of their civil rights.
3. The election of members of the Executive Committee is done by a multinomial vote (all names proposed by the President, are on the same ballot), and requires a simple majority of votes validly cast.
4. Newly elected Executive Committee members shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly or, when filling vacancies during a period of office, according to the Executive Committee directive to that effect.

Art. 22. Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

1. The Executive Committee prepares the agenda for the General Assembly. In all cases, this agenda shall include, among others, the following items:
 - a) Opening of the General Assembly
 - b) Roll Call
 - c) Appointment of scrutineers
 - d) Approval of the agenda
 - e) Election of two examiners of the minutes
 - f) Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
 - g) Expelling of a Member
 - h) Modification of the Membership application, and fee process as required
 - i) Activity reports (President and committees)
 - j) Approval of the activity reports

- k) Auditing report
 - l) Presentation of the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement
 - m) Approval of the financial statements
 - n) Appointment and election of financial auditors
 - o) Amendments to the Statutes as required
 - p) Propositions of ETBF regulations, and/or motions proposed by the Executive Committee, standing committees, Member, as required
 - q) Appointment or removal of honorary members
 - r) Presentation of the ETBF Executive Committee program
 - s) Election of the President of the ETBF as required
 - t) Election of the ETBF Executive Committee Members as required
 - u) Proposition on the delegation of power by the Executive Committee or Power of Attorney as required
 - v) Approval of the budget.
2. At a General Assembly, only items on the agenda may be discussed. In case of emergency and/or on the recommendation of the Executive Committee or on a delegate's request, items not on the agenda may be debated, provided that the General Assembly agrees by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of vote validly cast. See also Art. 18.2 for the exclusion.
 3. The Agenda of the General Assembly without elections shall be adjusted accordingly.
 4. Once the agenda has been approved the General Assembly (Extraordinary General Assembly) shall be conducted accordingly, whatever any objections would be made after the approval.

Art. 23. Extraordinary General Assembly

1. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be held any time the Executive Committee deems it necessary.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if 1/5 (one fifth) of the Full Members (FM) in good standing make such a request in writing to the ETBF with a detailed explanation of the grounds of this request. The Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within 6 (six) months from the reception of the request.
3. The procedure shall be equal to the one of the Ordinary General Assembly.

Art. 24. Minutes

1. The minutes shall be sent to the ETBF Members within 1 (one) month after the General Assembly has been held. The minutes shall be adopted at the next General Assembly.

B. Executive Committee

Art. 25. Composition

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a) President, Vice-President, Treasurer, General Secretary;
 - b) other members.
2. The Executive Committee members shall be a representation of the global European tchoukball community, however, only 1 (one) Associate Members (AM) can be elected as member of the Executive Committee.

3. In the performance of his executive duties, the President shall assign specific responsibilities to the Executive Committee members who are elected by the General Assembly.
4. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee is met when the President plus 3 (three) other members are present. The simple voting majority shall decide in Executive Committee vote.
5. Vacancies during the term of office may be co-opted by the Executive Committee members, or new member nominated, and accepted by the majority of the Executive committee, pending ratification by the General Assembly with elections.
6. The Executive Committee meetings may take place in either a “face-to-face” environment such as at an ETBF event or in a “virtual” environment using an internet-based audio or video link. In the case of a virtual meeting, transcripts of the meeting shall be recorded and used as the basis for the minutes of the meeting.
7. Should the President be provisionally unable to carry out his functions, the Vice-President shall take over the President’s functions while remaining Vice-President.
8. Should the President be definitely unable to hold office, the Vice-President shall take over the President’s functions while remaining Vice-President until the next General Assembly at which new election shall be organized.

Art. 26. Competences and duties

1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the administration and management of the ETBF and shall make decisions on all matters that do not require a General Assembly decision. The Executive Committee may delegate some of its powers. A delegation of power shall be adopted by the General Assembly and required a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of votes validly cast.
2. The EC shall represent the ETBF with all legal powers.
3. The decisions of the Executive Committee, derived from the competence entrusted to it by the Statutes and the ETBF regulations, are binding on all the ETBF Members (FM, AM) covered by such decisions.
4. The Executive Committee may grant awards to persons who have rendered great services to the ETBF.
5. The Executive Committee shall keep minutes of its meeting. The minutes shall be presented upon a Member delegate’s request.
6. Retiring ETBF President, Executive Committee members or committee members shall hand-over all necessary documents no later than 1 (one) month after their resignation, or following an election.

Art. 27. Competences and duties of the President

1. The President shall be responsible for the on-going administration and management of the ETBF. He shall be the only person authorized to sign all contracts and committing documents. The President may delegate power of attorney on behalf of the ETBF, this provision shall be approved by the General Assembly with a majority of votes validly cast. He manages the ETBF and takes all the actions deemed appropriate for the good of the ETBF. He shall make decisions on all matters that do not require a General Assembly or a Executive Committee decision.
2. The President chairs the meetings of the Executive Committee.
3. The President has the particular responsibility to
 - a) present at the General Assembly, a ETBF activity report of the last two years, his/her program and the objectives that the Executive Committee wants to achieve until the next General Assembly;
 - b) take the specific actions during his mandate to notably achieve those results with the Executive Committee.
4. In his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee meetings, the President has the casting vote.

Art. 28. Working groups

1. The Executive Committee can convene working groups if it deems them necessary to deal with specific matters for a limited period.
2. The Executive Committee shall establish and propose the responsibilities and functions of the working groups through regulations.

C. Standing committees

Art. 29. Composition

1. A standing committee shall consist of the chairperson and members, who are appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. If a standing committee chairperson should retire before his period of office, the Executive Committee appoints a new chairperson until the next General Assembly who shall possess the same rights as his predecessor.
3. The Executive Committee shall appoint the standing committee's members for a period of 4 (four) years. The appointment is based on the representative chosen and proposed by the Full Member (FM), the Executive Committee, and recommendations from the respective standing committee chairperson.
4. New standing committee members shall be appointed only with the written approval of their Member. Each standing committee shall include a maximum of 2 (two) representatives from any member (FM, AM).

Art. 30. Minutes

1. The standing committees shall keep minutes of their meetings and send them to the Executive Committee.
2. The minutes shall be presented upon a Member delegate's request.

IV. FINANCES

Art. 31. Financial Reports

1. The financial period of the ETBF is 1 (one) years and starts on the January 1st in the year in which an ordinary General Assembly is held. An Intermediate report is due the year between the GA by March 1st of the following year.

Art. 32. Auditors

1. 2 (Two) financial auditors and 1 (one) substitute auditor are elected at the ordinary General Assembly for 2 (two) years. They are not necessarily ETBF members. Corporate body is eligible. They report in writing on the accounts and on their conclusions to the General Assembly.
2. The auditors have access to all accounting documents for the purpose of their duties.
3. The General Assembly shall approve the profit and loss statements and balance sheet of the last biennial accounts for its approval and final discharge of the Executive Committee.

Art. 33. Revenues

1. The revenues of the ETBF consist of:
 - a) ETBF Events registration fees;
 - b) revenue from marketing agreements;
 - c) subventions, donations;
 - d) refunds from FITB of 50% of events, coaches, referees, membership fees of European Federations;
 - e) any other sources of funding approved by the Presidency, the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.

Art. 34. Budget

1. On the proposal of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly shall adopt the biennial budgets.
2. The Executive Committee may adapt the budgets to newly arising needs; it shall justify it to the General Assembly. Nevertheless, except exceptional circumstances, all expenditure not written in the budget should be able to be financed by a new receipt.

V. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Art. 35. International events rights and duties

1. The ETBF shall have the exclusive right to hold, Official Continental Tournament for men, women, mixed, junior, Beach Tchoukball, Wheelchair Tchoukball.
2. The ETBF shall be responsible for holding Continental symposia, courses and training courses.
3. The ETBF shall entrust each ETBF event to a Full Member (FM) or Associate Member (AM) that has applied to hold it.
4. ETBF events may be awarded to one applicant only, which fulfills the following conditions:
 - a) presentation of a proper budget countersigned by the Member's executives, including participation fee;
 - b) written agreement to fulfill all organizers duties as laid down on the ETBF regulations;

- c) and any other requirement stipulated in the Regulations for ETBF Events.
- 5. The applicant may include a number of members in the organization of the event.

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 36. Dissolution

1. Only 3/4 (three-quarter) majority of votes validly cast of the Member (FM) entitled to vote and present at the General Assembly may dissolve the ETBF. The motion to dissolve the ETBF shall have been sent together with the agenda for the General Assembly to all ETBF Member.
2. In the event that the ETBF shall be dissolved, the General Assembly shall decide on the use of its assets and settle any financial obligations, the assets may be used only for the purpose of non-profit- making sport.

Art. 37. Liability

1. The ETBF is liable for its engagements exclusively and only with its own assets. Personal liability of ETBF members is expressly excluded.

Art. 38. Conflict of interest and Ethical practices

1. If any office, or any officers of the Executive Committee, any ETBF officers or their direct relatives, or any other Commission, working group, has a financial interest in any contract or transaction involving the ETBF, such individual shall absent himself from the ETBF's evaluation or approval of such contract of transaction. The officer or member shall disclose such conflict to the ETBF and to the ETBF Members. Upon such disclosure being made, the contract or transaction shall not be void if the General Assembly in good faith authorized the contract or transaction by the affirmative vote of the majority of the disinterested ETBF members and the contract or transaction is fair to the ETBF at the time it is authorized.

Art. 39. Application law, Entry into force and Dispute Resolution

1. Any dispute arising from, or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the ETBF, and for which there is no competent internal body, will be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) located in Lausanne, Switzerland, applying its own procedural rules. Its decisions are final.
2. Should be a dispute between national federations or between a national federation and the ETBF, or between the FITB and ETBF, an amicable settlement will be sought within the ETBF. If agreement cannot be reached, the dispute will be brought to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in Lausanne, Switzerland, for conciliation, and as the case may be, for judgment.
3. Any appeal against a final and binding decision from any ETBF body shall exclusively be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), to the exclusion of any ordinary court of any country.

Art. 40. Enforcement

1. Those Statutes shall enter into force immediately after its approval by the General Assembly.
2. Those Statutes shall supersede the previous Statutes and all amendments thereto, which are hereby abrogated.

3. This version of the Statutes has been adopted at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Erfurt, Germany, on 24th March 2017.

For the ETBF Executive Committee

Chiara Volonté
President

Philip Moore
Vice-President

APPENDICES

The Tchoukball Charter

1. Tchoukball excludes any striving for prestige, whether individually or as a team; rather it is a sport in which players pursue excellence through personal training and collective effort.

Tchoukball is open to players of all degrees of ability (natural or acquired) and skill. Inevitably one will encounter players of every possible ability/skill level during play. Every player must adapt his own play and attitude (technical or tactical) to the circumstances of the moment because each player - teammate or opposing player - is due proper respect and consideration.

On an individual level: the attitude of a player is paramount for it implies respect for himself/herself, for his/her own teammates *and* for opposing team players regardless of whether any are stronger or weaker players than one's self.

On a team level: no outcome, whatever it might be, should never impact one's sense of importance, individually or as a team, and it should never lead to sectarian rivalry. From victory one can derive satisfaction and even joy, but never exaggerated pride. The joy of winning should provide encouragement. Arrogance in victory carries with it the struggle for prestige, which is a source of common conflict among humans and condemned within the sport of Tchoukball.

2. Tchoukball requires total dedication: one must keep constant watch on the movement of the ball and the other players - both objectively and with empathy. As one participates individually in the sport, one subjects oneself to the group's needs. The result is that in the course of a game, different personalities come together as one when they react collectively within the game.

Thus, in Tchoukball:

- a) there is a collective achievement within a team. This binds the players together, it teaches appreciation and esteem for the values of others, and it creates a feeling of oneness in the common effort of a small group.
- b) there is an acceptance of the attitudes of the opposing team with whom one must engage in opportunistic play while resisting any hostile undercurrents.
- c) each player's major concern is to strive for beauty of play. The universal experience of sport can be summed up by the expression: "elegant play begets elegant play."

This attitude is the basis for social interaction of Tchoukball: it encourages one to aim for perfection while always avoiding any negative conduct toward the adversary.

This basic premise is more than just the rule of a sport - it is a rule for conduct at all times, a psychological component of behaviour, the basis of an individual's personality.

The aim of Tchoukball is therefore the avoidance of conflict, with one main goal in mind: fair play that does not compromise the level of play but rather links the two teams together in common activity. The beauty of one team's play makes possible - and reinforces - the beauty of play by the other team.

3. Tchoukball provides social exercise through physical activity. By pooling the resources of all, everyone participates, with the more adept players accepting responsibility for teaching the less adept; therefore, there is no real individual champion, but rather a collective striving for perfection. When one says, "let the best man win," it should mean that a person achieves his/her best through adequate preparation. This being so, it is appropriate that the results reward the efforts which players have undertaken, individually and as a team.

Within these limits, a victory can and should bring satisfaction and meet with an adversary's respect. Victory should inspire in an adversary a desire to do as well, without any feeling of belittlement. Winners should not convey any feeling of arrogant domination. Rather, a sense of healthy satisfaction on the winner's side is like a handshake to encourage the adversary to continue to train properly.

For these reasons, the notion of "victor" should give way to the simpler more appropriate one of "winner". Play as a means of perfecting one's performance is a basic desire that every activity should include and develop. It is toward this goal that every Tchoukball team must work, whether it is in the smallest, friendliest match or the most important meeting "at the summit".