



18 Aug 2025

To: National Bridge Organizations under the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)

Invitation to the Inaugural Asian Mind Sports Festival

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

The Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA), in collaboration with the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA), is pleased to invite your federation to participate in the **inaugural Asian Mind Sports Festival**, to be held in **Singapore from 13 to 15 November 2025**.

This landmark event is designed to elevate the profile of mind sports across Asia, foster inter-federation collaboration, and celebrate the shared values of **strategy, discipline, and mental excellence** that unite our diverse disciplines.

The Festival will convene leading mind sport federations under the OCA umbrella for a vibrant program that includes **friendly competitions with a total prize pool of S\$40,000**. It offers a unique platform to strengthen relationships, exchange ideas, and explore new opportunities for cooperation and growth.

We believe your federation's participation will significantly enrich the Festival and contribute to our shared mission of advancing mind sports across the region.

Detailed information on the program and registration will be provided in due course. Please **mark your calendars** and **indicate your preliminary interest** in joining us.

We look forward to welcoming you to Singapore for what promises to be an inspiring and impactful gathering.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Galastein Tan", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Galastein Tan
Director General
Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luwen Koh", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Luwen Koh
President
Singapore Contract Bridge
Association (SCBA)

Introduction to the Asian Mind Sports Festival and Context on the Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA)

An earlier version of this was presented at the 2025 APBF Delegates Meeting on 16 May 2025.

This has since been updated after discussion with APBF and with AMSA.

Purpose

The Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA), in collaboration with the Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA), will be co-hosting the inaugural Asian Mind Sports Festival this November in Singapore. Given the potential for this event to serve as a stepping stone for future regional and multi-sport mind sports competitions, I would like to take this opportunity to brief APBF delegates on the broader context in which this Festival is being held.

Background of Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA)

While SCBA is not part of the governance of AMSA, we understand that the Asian Mind Sports Association is a newly established regional body aimed at unifying and advancing the development of mind sports across Asia.

AMSA was officially launched at a meeting in Bangkok on 25 February 2025, attended by 29 National Olympic Committees. Its creation reflects growing interest in institutionalising mind sports—such as bridge, chess, go, draughts, and xiangqi—in a similar fashion to physical sports, particularly within the framework of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

AMSA is [recognised by OCA](#). In addition, the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) President has [pledged support for AMSA](#). (IMSA is indirectly linked to the International Olympic Committee).

Headquartered in Singapore, AMSA's objectives include:

- Promoting awareness and participation in mind sports across Asia;
- Coordinating regional events and fostering cross-discipline collaboration;
- Representing the interests of mind sports at the continental level; and
- Standardising rules and ethics for fair play across its member disciplines.
- Leading, planning and organising the 1st Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027 and future editions thereafter. The Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games will provide a regular and definite feature of mind sports in OCA's major games.

Although SCBA is not directly affiliated with AMSA's leadership, we recognise its establishment as a potentially significant development for the regional bridge community, particularly as mind sports gain visibility within the multi-sport ecosystem.

The 2025 Asian Mind Sports Festival – A Collaborative Initiative

To this end, SCBA is partnering with AMSA to organise the Asian Mind Sports Festival, to be held from 13–15 November 2025 at Suntec City, Singapore. The Festival will provide a good reference and benchmark for the 1st Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027.

Within the APBF ecosystem, this event remains one that is privately organised by the SCBA and receives no special treatment by APBF compared to other well-known events organised by individual NBOs around the region. However, that will change should this be “upgraded” to a Major Game by OCA and by extension each National Olympic Committees within Asia.

Bridge Component Overview

The Bridge segment of the Festival will include the following categories:

- Men’s – Teams event and Pairs event
- Women’s – Teams event and Pairs event

Each category will consist of:

- 6 teams of four to six members (for Team events) and 12 pairs (for Pair events), drawn from 5 invited NBOs, selected based on performance at recent regional BFAME and APBF championships, ensuring at least one NBO from each OCA Zone as much as possible.
- Singapore will participate as host but will not take a spot in the Southeast Asia (OCA Zone 5) quota.

Proposed format for Pairs will be 10 rounds, 7 boards per round, scissors movement (no playoffs). Pairs from the same country will not be facing each other.

Proposed format for Teams will be double round robin, 10 rounds, 8 boards per round, scored by IMPs converted to VPs (no playoffs). Teams can consist of up to 6 athletes, but if so, this means two players will not be playing in the Pairs event.

There will be a game for Locals on Friday night and Saturday morning. The format has not yet been determined.

Four sets of gold, silver, and bronze medals will be provided in total, and the total prize pool is S\$7,000. To make the Festival more appealing, each participating NBO from overseas will receive a small subsidy per participating team.

Schedule Summary:

- 10–12 Nov: Venue setup (not all days have to be utilised)
- 13–14 Nov: Pairs competition
- 14–15 Nov: Teams competition and prize giving

Appendix A: Event Details

(Note that everything is TBC pending admin approval from AMSA.)

1. Objective

To demonstrate a proof of concept for a combined mind sports festival that will lead to the 1st Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027 and future editions thereafter, eventually evolving into a recurring Major Games event for Asia.

2. Organisers

The Festival is jointly organised by the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA) and the Asian Mind Sports Association (AMSA).

SCBA and AMSA will oversee bridge operations and playing logistics. Discussions are ongoing with APBF and BFAME to ensure alignment, as future editions of the Festival may involve broader regional participation.

3. Venue and Dates

- Location: Suntec City, Singapore
- Event Dates: 13–15 November 2025
- Setup Dates: 10–12 November 2025 (not all days will be fully utilised)

4. Competition Format

a) Events:

- Men's Pairs
- Women's Pairs
- Men's Teams
- Women's Teams

Due to venue constraints and concurrent scheduling with other mind sports, these four events are the only categories included.

Each event will feature:

- 6 Teams (1 per NBO)
- 12 Pairs (2 per NBO)

An NBO may be invited for either the men's or women's events – or both – based on performance.

b) Pairs Format

- 2 pairs per NBO per category
- Scissors movement (pairs from the same NBO will not play each other)

- 10 rounds, 7 boards per round
- No playoffs (in line with other mind sports at the Festival)

c) Teams Format

- 1 team (4–6 players) per NBO per category
- Double round-robin, 10 rounds
- 8 boards per round, scored by IMPs converted to VPs
- No playoffs (in line with other mind sports at the Festival)

5. Awards

Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded for each of the four events. A combined medal tally across all events (including those from other mind sports competed in the Festival) may be maintained.

6. Participation and Subsidy:

There is no entry fee.

To assist with travel and accommodation costs, participating NBOs will receive a subsidy of S\$600 per category (e.g. S\$600 to the NBO for men's participation, S\$1,200 if both men's and women's from the same NBO participate).

NBOs are to arrange their own flights and accommodation.

7. NBO Invitation Criteria

a) General Principle:

SCBA will decide on the teams to invite using the recent APBF and BFAME results.

To reflect Major Games conventions, there is no "Open" category – only distinct Men's and Women's categories. The Open category results will be used as a proxy for the Men's category.

Each OCA Zone will be represented as far as possible. If an NBO declines, the invitation will pass to the next best-performing NBO from the same zone in their regional championships (playoff results will be counted). If no teams from a zone can attend, the spot will be reallocated to the next best NBO from the relevant regional championship (e.g. BFAME or APBF), and thereafter to the other WBF Zone if necessary.

b) Zone-Specific Allocation:

For OCA Zones 1 and 3, the results are confirmed based on their recent BFAME Trials:

OCA Zone	Men's Selection	Women's Selection
Zone 1 – West Asia	Jordan > UAE > Syria > Kuwait	UAE > Jordan > Palestine
Zone 2 – Central Asia	No NBOs under WBF jurisdiction. A second NBO from Zone 4 will be selected given that the Zone has more participating countries in their Zonal Championships.	No NBOs under WBF jurisdiction. A second NBO from Zone 4 will be selected given that the Zone has more participating countries in their Zonal Championships.
Zone 3 – South Asia	India > Bangladesh > Pakistan > Sri Lanka	India > Pakistan > Sri Lanka

For OCA Zone 4 and 5, the results are confirmed based on the recent APBF Championships:

Zone 4 – East Asia	China > Korea > Chinese Tapiei > Japan > Hong Kong, China > Macau, China	China > Hong Kong, China > Chinese Tapiei > Japan > Korea
Zone 5 – Southeast Asia (excluding host Singapore)	Thailand > Indonesia > Philippines	Indonesia > Thailand

Singapore will participate as host but will not occupy a Southeast Asia (Zone 5) slot.

8. Prizes

Total Prize Pool: S\$7,000

Teams and Pairs (Men's & Women's)

Position	Prize
1st	\$750 + Medals
2nd	\$500 + Medals
3rd	\$300 + Medals
4th	\$200

9. TDs

Local directors will be used to control for costs – this director should be qualified at the APBF- or WBF-level.

Appendix B: Proposed Event Flow

Day 1 Thursday 13th November 2025	0830-0900	Briefing
	0900-1000	Pairs Round 1
	1015-1115	Pairs Round 2
	1130-1230	Pairs Round 3
	1230-1330	Break
	1330-1430	Pairs Round 4
	1445-1545	Pairs Round 5
	1600-1700	Pairs Round 6
	1715-1815	Pairs Round 7
	1830-1930	Pairs Round 8
Day 2 Friday 14th November 2025	0900-1000	Pairs Round 9
	1015-1115	Pairs Round 10
	1115-1130	Break before Teams
	1130-1240	Teams Round 1
	1240-1335	Break
	1335-1445	Teams Round 2
	1500-1610	Teams Round 3
	1625-1735	Teams Round 4
	1750-1900	Teams Round 5
	1930-2230	Event for Locals
Day 3 Saturday 15th November 2025	0915-1230	Event for Locals
	1300-1410	Teams Round 6
	1425-1535	Teams Round 7
	1550-1700	Teams Round 8
	1700-1800	Break
	1800-1910	Teams Round 9
	1925-2035	Teams Round 10
	2035-2100	Score ratification
	2100	Prize Giving

There may also be a welcome dinner for the main segment participants – this will be organised by AMSA and not included in the timeline yet.

Appendix C: List of OCA Zones and NBOs

OCA Zone	Country / Region	WBF Zone
Zone 1 West Asia	Bahrain	No NBO
	Iraq	No NBO
	Jordan	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Kuwait	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Lebanon	No NBO
	Oman	No NBO
	Palestine	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Qatar	No NBO
	Saudi Arabia	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Syria	Zone 4 - BFAME
	United Arab Emirates	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Yemen	No NBO
Zone 2 Central Asia	Afghanistan	No NBO
	Kazakhstan	No NBO
	Kyrgyzstan	No NBO
	Tajikistan	No NBO
	Turkmenistan	No NBO
	Uzbekistan	No NBO
	Iran	No NBO
Zone 3 South Asia	Bangladesh	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Bhutan	No NBO
	India	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Maldives	No NBO
	Nepal	No NBO
	Pakistan	Zone 4 - BFAME
	Sri Lanka	Zone 4 - BFAME
Zone 4 East Asia	China	Zone 6 - APBF
	Hong Kong, China	Zone 6 - APBF
	Macau, China	Zone 6 - APBF
	Japan	Zone 6 - APBF
	North Korea	No NBO
	South Korea	Zone 6 - APBF
	Chinese Taipei	Zone 6 - APBF
	Mongolia	No NBO
Zone 5 Southeast Asia	Brunei	No NBO
	Cambodia	No NBO
	Indonesia	Zone 6 - APBF
	Laos	No NBO
	Malaysia	Zone 6 - APBF
	Myanmar	No NBO
	Philippines	Zone 6 - APBF
	Singapore	Zone 6 - APBF
	Thailand	Zone 6 - APBF
	Timor-Leste	No NBO
	Vietnam	No NBO