



HMBR BADMINTON SCHOLARSHIP

Governance Council & Selection Charter

Establishing the bodies that govern, fund, and recommend recipients for the HmBr Badminton Scholarship Fund on Bold.org

Enterprise Solutions Lab Inc. (HmBr Sports)

Raleigh / Morrisville, North Carolina, USA

hmbrimpact.org · hmbrsports.com · contact@hmbrsports.com

Charter Version 1.0 (Draft) · Adopted: _____

PREAMBLE

Purpose of this Charter

This Charter establishes two standing bodies that together govern the **HmBr Badminton Scholarship** (the “Scholarship”), funded through the HmBr Badminton Scholarship Fund hosted on Bold.org and operated by Enterprise Solutions Lab Inc., doing business as HmBr Sports (“HmBr” or the “Funder”).

It defines two bodies. The **Scholarship Council** sets the Scholarship’s mission, raises funds, and approves the criteria each cycle. The **Selection Forum** reviews applications against those criteria and produces the recommendation of recipients that HmBr submits to the Bold Foundation. The Funder appoints every seat on both bodies; the design nonetheless preserves an independent majority on the Selection Forum, which both protects the Scholarship’s tax-exempt standing and lets recipient decisions stand as merit decisions rather than the Funder’s personal choices.

ARTICLE I

Definitions

1.1 “Funder” means Enterprise Solutions Lab Inc. (HmBr Sports), the originator and principal contributor of the Scholarship.

1.2 “Founder” means Hari Gunupudi, founder of HmBr Sports, in his personal governance capacity under this Charter.

1.3 “Bold Foundation” means the 501(c)(3) public charity operating the Bold.org platform that hosts the Fund and makes the final, legally controlling award decision.

1.4 “Related Party” means the Founder, relatives of the Founder, employees and officers of the Funder, and independent contractors engaged by the Funder.

1.5 “Independent Member” means a member of either body who is not a Related Party.

ARTICLE II

The HmBr Scholarship Council

2.1 Role

The Scholarship Council is the governance and stewardship body of the Scholarship. It owns the mission, the fundraising strategy toward the Fund’s stated goal, and the annual selection criteria. It does not select individual recipients; that function belongs to the Selection Forum (Article III).

2.2 Composition

The Council consists of five to seven seats, structured as follows:

Seat	Held by / sourced from
Founder & Permanent Chair	Hari Gunupudi. Reserved, non-removable seat. Holds appointment authority and casting vote (see Article VI).

Seat	Held by / sourced from
Athletic / Coaching seat	An experienced coach or BWF-certified official — independent of HmBr.
Education seat	An educator, academic, or admissions professional — independent of HmBr.
Community / Parent seat	A parent or community organizer from the badminton community — independent of HmBr.
Sustainability / Impact seat	A voice on environmental or social-impact matters — independent of HmBr.
Operations seat (optional)	An HmBr-designated administrator for finance, records, and Bold.org liaison.

A majority of Council seats, excluding the Founder, should be held by Independent Members.

2.3 Appointment and removal

2.3.1 The Founder, as Permanent Chair, appoints and may remove every Council member at his sole discretion, by written notice.

2.3.2 Council members other than the Founder serve renewable two-year terms, staggered so that roughly half rotate each year to preserve continuity.

2.3.3 The Founder’s seat is permanent and may not be vacated, removed, or diluted except by the Founder’s own written resignation, which must also name a successor process.

2.4 Responsibilities

- Adopt and revise the Scholarship’s mission and values.
- Approve the selection criteria and scoring rubric for each award cycle before applications open (see Article V).
- Set the annual award amount, number of recipients, and fundraising targets, consistent with Bold.org’s minimum award size.
- Appoint the members of the Selection Forum and confirm its independent majority.
- Oversee fundraising, donor relations, and the integrity of public claims made about the Scholarship.

2.5 Meetings and quorum

2.5.1 The Council meets at least twice per year, and otherwise at the Chair’s call. Meetings may be held by video conference.

2.5.2 A quorum is a majority of seated members, which must include the Chair. The Chair holds a casting vote in the event of a tie.

ARTICLE III

The Selection Forum

3.1 Role

The Selection Forum is the body that reviews applications and produces the recommendation of recipients. Its recommendation is the decision HmBr forwards to the Bold Foundation for ratification and disbursement.

3.2 Composition

The Forum has an odd number of voting members — five is recommended — to avoid deadlock:

Seat	Composition rule
Chair (Founder)	Hari Gunupudi, with a casting vote only in the event of a tie.
Independent reviewers (majority)	A coach, an educator, and a community representative — none of whom are employees of, or related parties to, HmBr / Enterprise Solutions Lab Inc.
HmBr-affiliated reviewers (minority)	At most a minority of seats may be held by HmBr personnel or related parties, so the Forum is never controlled by HmBr insiders.

Independent Members must at all times constitute a majority of the Forum. This is the safeguard that keeps recipient recommendations objective, keeps the Scholarship compliant with the rules governing tax-exempt scholarship grants, and lets the Bold Foundation ratify the Forum's recommendation.

3.3 Appointment

3.3.1 The Founder appoints all Forum members, drawing on candidates proposed by the Council. The Founder confirms, in writing for each cycle, that the independent-majority requirement of Section 3.2 is satisfied.

3.3.2 Forum membership may vary cycle to cycle. A person who has written a letter of recommendation, reference, or endorsement on the Founder's or HmBr's behalf in another matter should be seated only as an Independent reviewer where their independence is genuine, and should otherwise be excluded to avoid any appearance of reciprocity.

3.4 Process

3.4.1 After the application deadline, each Forum member independently scores eligible applications against the approved rubric (Article V).

3.4.2 The Forum convenes to reconcile scores, discuss finalists, and adopt a ranked recommendation of recipients by majority vote of those present.

3.4.3 The Chair (Founder) votes only to break a tie. The Founder does not score or rank individual applicants outside the Forum, and does not direct any award to a named individual.

3.4.4 The adopted recommendation, with rubric scores, is submitted to the Bold Foundation through the HmBr donor dashboard.

ARTICLE IV

Relationship with the Bold Foundation

- 4.1** The Scholarship is hosted on Bold.org. As a matter of law and platform terms, the **Bold Foundation holds ultimate, controlling authority over the final selection of recipients**. This Charter governs how HmBr forms the recommendation it submits; it does not, and cannot, override the Bold Foundation’s role.
- 4.2** In practice, where HmBr operates a properly constituted Selection Forum with an independent majority and applies the approved criteria, the Bold Foundation ordinarily ratifies HmBr’s recommendation. HmBr’s influence is therefore exercised upstream — through mission, criteria, the rubric, and the appointment of reviewers — rather than through a unilateral final pick.
- 4.3** No Related Party may constitute a controlling or majority vote of the body that recommends recipients. Where the Scholarship is treated as corporate-sponsored, HmBr employees shall not form a majority of the Forum, and the Scholarship shall not give preference to employees or their relatives.
- 4.4** The Operations seat serves as the standing liaison to HmBr’s Bold.org Donor Relations Manager, and is responsible for confirming each cycle what is required to launch an award from the Fund, including any balance threshold and timeline.

ARTICLE V

Selection Criteria & Scoring Rubric

The Council approves the criteria and rubric before each cycle. The following is the default framework; weights may be adjusted by Council resolution but should remain objective, published, and non-discriminatory.

Criterion	Weight	What the Forum scores
Financial need / cost barrier	30%	Degree to which equipment, travel, and participation costs limit the applicant’s ability to play or continue in education.
Commitment to badminton	20%	Demonstrated participation, training history, coach attestation, or competitive record.
Sustainability & community values	20%	Alignment with HmBr’s waste-reduction mission and contribution to their local badminton community.
Academic / educational goals	20%	Clarity and credibility of the applicant’s educational plan the award would support.
Personal essay & character	10%	Quality of the written application and evidence of resilience, leadership, or service.

Each criterion is scored on a fixed scale (e.g. 1–5) and weighted as above. The rubric is published with the application so that the basis of selection is transparent to applicants and reviewers alike.

ARTICLE VI

Founder Reserved Powers

To consolidate the control the Funder retains, the Founder, as Permanent Chair, holds the following reserved powers, exercisable in writing:

- Appoint and remove all members of both the Council and the Selection Forum.
- Hold a permanent, non-removable seat and the casting vote on both bodies.
- Approve or veto the annual selection criteria and scoring rubric.
- Approve the annual award amount, number of recipients, and fundraising plan.
- Approve amendments to this Charter (Article VIII).

These powers give the Funder decisive control over the design, funding, and people of the Scholarship. They deliberately stop short of controlling the final recipient vote, which Article IV reserves to the Selection Forum's independent majority and the Bold Foundation — the boundary that keeps the Scholarship legitimate and its tax-exempt treatment intact.

ARTICLE VII

Conflict of Interest

7.1 Every member of the Council and the Forum must disclose, in writing, any relationship to an applicant — family, coaching, financial, or close personal.

7.2 A member with a disclosed conflict regarding an applicant must recuse from scoring and discussing that applicant, and the recusal is recorded.

7.3 No member may solicit, accept, or offer any benefit in exchange for a recommendation. No award may be directed to a Related Party of any member.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments, Records & Adoption

8.1 Amendments. This Charter may be amended by the Council with the Founder's written approval. Amendments must remain consistent with the Bold Foundation's terms and applicable law.

8.2 Records. The Operations seat maintains minutes, appointment letters, conflict disclosures, rubric scores, and recommendations for at least the period required by the Bold Foundation, available for review in connection with the Scholarship's impact and award reporting.

8.3 Counsel & platform confirmation. This Charter is a governance framework, not legal advice. Before adoption it should be reviewed by qualified counsel and confirmed against the current Bold Foundation donor terms with HmBr's Donor Relations Manager.

Adopted on behalf of HmBr Sports (Enterprise Solutions Lab Inc.):

Hari Gunupudi — Founder & Permanent Chair, HmBr Scholarship Council

Date: _____