



International Karate Union



STATUTES

Art. 1 – Constitution, name, legal seat

- 1) The name of the association is International Karate Union, hereafter referred to as “IKU”
- 2) IKU is a non-profit association, composed of autonomous and independent national federations, associations and other national organizations contributing to the sport of Karate and its various styles.
- 3) IKU is an association constituted according to art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. The duration of the association is for an unlimited period of time.
- 4) In adopting these rules IKU demonstrates its commitment to good governance, accountability, that it has the means to take just action, all meeting the strictest criteria in terms of transparency, democracy, and financial responsibility.
- 5) The legal seat of IKU is in Ligornetto (near Zurich), Switzerland, and may only be transferred to another location following a resolution by the General Assembly.
- 6) The IKU performs its activity on an amateur basis

Art. 2 – Objectives

The objectives of IKU are:

- 1) to promote Karate at all levels, as a means to contribute to the positive development of society;
- 2) to contribute to the development of friendly relationships and closer links amongst the member national federations; associations and other national organizations
- 3) to assist its Members in strengthening their position as national leaders in Karate;
- 4) to develop specific services for its Members and provide them with assistance, training and support to improve the quality of karate training and instruction;
- 5) to increase the level of recognition of IKU and its Members.
- 6) to organize international championships, tournaments, contests between Countries and large sporting events (world championships, continental championships, world cups, continental cups, seminars and any type of international event, etc.), relating to Karate;
- 7) to coordinate and protect the common interest of its Members;
- 8) to collect and circulate information to and amongst its Members regarding Karate;
- 9) to establish regulation and rules applicable to International competitions organised or recognised by IKU.
- 10) to resist and take action to prevent and / or hinder and/or discourage all behaviours or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of Karate;



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- 11) To create, promote and implement a mechanism whereby disputes within Karate are to be resolved by mutual voluntary submission of disputing parties to fair arbitration or mediation, and whereby the arbitration / mediation decisions reached as a result of such processes are to be recognised, accepted and treated by disputing parties as binding and enforceable.
- 12) To provide a mechanism for international recognition of "dan grades" amongst its members.

Art. 3 – Non-discrimination, representation of Women

- 1) IKU and its Members reject all forms and means of arbitrary and/or unlawful discrimination between and/or against individuals, groups of individuals, organizations, peoples or countries, based on ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other grounds. Any such discrimination is prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion pursuant to these statutes.
- 2) IKU specifically supports the fair representation of women in all its activities and events relating to Karate.

Art. 4 – Official Language

- 1) The official language of IKU is English.
- 2) The representatives of the federations or associations which are Members of IKU may use their own language during meetings, provided they have a qualified English interpreter.
- 3) All official IKU publications must be written & published in English.

Art. 5 – Rights for: Trademarks, Copyrights, Film, Advertising, Merchandising, Tv and Film rights, Sanctioning and Intellectual Property

- 1) All intellectual and industrial property rights ("IP Rights") relating to IKU, including – without limitation – its copyright and trademark "IKU", shall be deemed the exclusive and full property of IKU and shall remain within IKU.
- 2) These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
- 3) The Board of Directors shall in their sole collective discretion decide whether and how these rights are to be exploited, whether exclusively, jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party, if at all.
- 4) Any sponsorship to IKU is and shall remain the property of IKU.



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Art. 6 – Characteristics of Membership; Affiliations

- 1) Each country has an absolute right to representation within IKU.
- 2) Each country is to be represented in IKU by one, and only one, NF. If two or more Federations within a country aspire to this representation, the application or applications will be set before the Arbitration Committee for extensive efforts of mediation to achieve one unified representation for that country
- 3) It is an ongoing condition of Membership that NFs support the objectives and aims set out in Article 2 of these Statutes. Continued Membership of IKU by an NF shall be taken as affirmation of commitment by that NF to support the objectives and aims set out in that Article.
- 4) National Federations (NFs) shall be affiliated as Members to IKU individually. So long as an NF remains a Member of IKU, it must also be a Member of one of the Continental Unions recognised by IKU.
- 5) IKU is inclusive in spirit and in its approach to karate; IKU imposes no restrictions whatsoever on its Members regarding other affiliations they may wish to hold, whatever the nature thereof, provided only that such affiliations do not conflict with and/or are not inconsistent with the wider objectives and aims set out in Article 2 of these Statutes.
- 6) NFs shall be Multistyle (be open to all styles), the board of directors may approve exemptions

Art. 7 – Categories of Members

The members of IKU are subdivided as follows:

a) OFFICIAL VOTING MEMBER

A member who has satisfied all obligations provided for by these Statutes including the payment of the affiliation fees. Each Official Voting Member is entitled to participate in the Ordinary General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly and has the right to cast 1 vote.

Only 1 (one) National Federation or Association per country shall be accepted as the Official Voting Member of any given country.

For the sake of clarity, in this document the designation 'Official Voting Member' is also at times referred to as 'NF Member' - these terms have the same meaning.



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b) PROVISIONAL MEMBER

Each initial applicant who has satisfied the initial membership obligations including the payment of the affiliation fees, upon decision of the Board of Directors approving Provisional Member status. Provisional Members may attend the proceedings of the Ordinary General Assembly or the Extraordinary General Assembly but do not have any voting rights or any right to speak and be heard; they may be permitted to speak upon invitation of the President or his/her designated substitute. A provisional Member has the same right to be informed about the activities of IKU as Official Voting Members.

c) HONORARY MEMBER

1) The General Assembly may, upon approving by way of Resolution a proposal by the Board of Directors, grant the title of Honorary Member to individuals in recognition of outstanding services rendered by them to IKU.

2) Honorary Members may attend proceedings of the General Assembly and may speak, but do not have any right to vote.

Art. 8 Application for Provisional Membership of IKU

- 1) Membership is available to any Karate federation and/or association in a given Nation ("Country") which in fact groups together the majority of the State/Provincial federations (or organizations) throughout such Country and practices karate sport by holding regular national competitions. If an application for membership collides with an existing member from the applicants country, the new applicant shall be referred to the existing member. IKU will offer to help to find a solution for a unified representation. If no solution can be found the application of the new applicant shall fail.
- 2) Any federation and/or association wishing to become an IKU Member may make application to IKU by sending a written request for membership to the General Secretary of IKU. The application shall include a full dossier of information including: full details of all karate sport activities and other relevant events organised by the applicant in the previous two years in the applicant's country and anywhere else; copies of the statutes, regulations and byelaws of the applicant; a comprehensive list of the applicant's own membership; details of the applicant's organisational structure; details of any governing body function the applicant may exercise, together with an explanation of how it as an organisation operates in conjunction with its own membership in the effective exercise of any governing body function; and information as to any recognition it may have from any national governmental sport authority.
- 3) In addition to the above, the Board of Directors may from time to time determine such other rules or guidelines as it may see fit, setting out transparent and



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objective criteria and requirements in connection with applications for admission into membership of IKU.

- 4) Provisional Membership shall be decided by way of Resolution of the Board of Directors.
- 5) A Provisional Member shall become an Official Voting Member upon the resolution of the General Assembly which shall be within the expiry of two calendar years maximum

Art. 9 – Official Voting Members' Rights

- 1) Members have the right: (ordered adjusted but all sections still included with d covering both c & f in the original statutes)
 - a) to be called to any General Assembly within the prescribed time;
 - b) to propose items for inclusion on the agenda of any General Assembly;
 - c) to receive in advance the agenda of any General Assembly;
 - d) to participate in the proceedings of and exercise its voting rights in any General Assembly;
 - e) to call for an Extraordinary General Assembly;
 - f) to nominate candidates for election to the Presidency of IKU;
 - g) to nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors of IKU;
 - h) to be fully informed of the activities of IKU and of any events it organises;
 - i) to participate in any IKU event;
 - j) to exercise any other right arising from these Statutes.
- 2) The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and any other applicable regulations.

Art.10 – Members Obligations

- 1) All Members, including Provisional Members, have the obligation:
 - a) to comply with these Statutes as well as any and all other subsisting valid regulations, directives and decisions of IKU organs at any time, and to comply with any decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS);
 - b) to ensure that their own members comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of IKU organs;
 - c) to have their executive bodies democratically elected by their own respective general assembly;
 - d) to pay their IKU membership affiliation fee as per their membership status, as shall be determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the General Assembly;
 - e) to pay their affiliation fees annually no later than 30th of March. Members who have not paid their annual affiliation fees are automatically suspended from eligibility to participate in any IKU event, and from voting participating



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in and attending any General Assembly, until such time as affiliation fees have been paid up;

- f) to fully comply with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other subsisting valid regulations.
- g) will have the obligation to IKU to give best efforts and a minimum of one participation at World or Continental Championships in 2 (two) years.

Art.11 – Resignation

- 1) A Member may resign at any time from IKU, provided that at the time of resignation they have no outstanding liabilities towards IKU.
- 2) Such resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt by IKU of a notice of resignation signed by the legal representative of the relevant Member.
- 3) Any Member intending to relinquish membership must send the notice of resignation to the General Secretary of IKU by registered mail or other provable trackable hard-copy means. Any outstanding affiliation fees must be paid by the resigning Member. Any affiliation fees already paid will not be refunded.

Art.12 – Suspension

- 1) The Board of Directors may suspend a Member who significantly violates any of its obligations.
- 2) The suspension decision of the Board of Directors shall be communicated to the relevant Member by the President by registered mail or other provable trackable hard copy means which can evidence receipt.
- 3) All other IKU Members shall be promptly and fully informed of the suspension of the relevant Member and the reasons why the suspension has occurred.
- 4) Upon suspension, all membership rights are automatically suspended.
- 5) The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

Art.13 – Expulsion, provisional and absolute

- 1) The provisional expulsion of a Member shall be decided by simple majority Resolution of the Board of the Directors, and may be for any one or more of the following reasons:
 - a) refusal by the relevant Member to fulfil its financial obligations towards IKU;
 - b) significant violation or disregard of the statutes, subsisting valid regulations or decisions of IKU or its organs;
 - c) behaviour detrimental to IKU and/or any of its Members



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- d) behaviour inconsistent with Article 2 of these Statutes.
- 2) The provisional expulsion decision of the Board of Directors shall be communicated to the Member by the President by registered mail or other provable trackable hard copy means which can evidence receipt.
- 3) All other IKU Members shall be promptly and fully informed of the provisional expulsion of the relevant Member and the reasons why the provisional expulsion has occurred.
- 4) Once a Member has been provisionally expelled, absolute expulsion of a member occurs upon the Resolution of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of Official Voting Members in General Assembly.

Art.14 Organs of IKU.

The organs of IKU are the following:

- 1) the General Assembly, which is the supreme body;
- 2) the Board of Directors, which is the executive body;
- 3) standing and ad hoc Committees, which shall advise and assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its tasks;
- 4) the Sport Technical Committee, which oversees and coordinates all standing and ad hoc committees that advise the Board of Directors
- 5) the Referees Committee, which shall implement the international competition rules and regulations of IKU
- 6) the Disciplinary Committee, which is the disciplinary body;
- 7) the Arbitration Committee, which is the internal independent dispute resolution body;
- 8) the Audit Committee, which is in charge of audit;
- 9) the Continental Divisions.

Art.15 – General Assembly

- 1) The General Assembly:
 - a) approves and/or adopts and/or amends these Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of IKU;
 - b) elects the President, the other members of the Board of Directors, and the members of the Arbitration Committee;
 - c) elects the members of the Audit Committee independent from the Board of Directors;
 - d) appoints the scrutineers;
 - e) sets the amount of the affiliation fees on the recommendation of the Board of Directors;



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- f) bestows, on a proposal by the Board of Directors, the title of Honorary Member to individuals who have rendered outstanding services to IKU;
 - g) approves financial statements;
 - h) approves the President's activity report;
 - i) dissolves IKU;
 - j) discusses proposals submitted by a Member or the Board of Directors in accordance with these Statutes;
 - k) exercises any other competence specifically attributed to it by these Statutes.
- 2) The General Assembly is the meeting open to all Delegates of the NF Members of IKU. It is the supreme body of IKU.
 - 3) Only a General Assembly properly convened, has the authority to exercise its power.
 - 4) The General Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.

Art.16 – Delegates

- 1) Each NF Member according to its membership status is entitled to attend and participate in the General Assembly and may appoint one individual Delegate as its representative.
- 2) Members of the Board of Directors cannot appoint Delegates to participate to the meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 3) A Delegate may speak on behalf of another NF Member only if specially requested and properly authorized to do so by the relevant NF Member.
- 4) Confirmation of Delegate status for each individual Delegate must be communicated to the General Secretary before each and every meeting of the General Assembly which that Delegate is to attend and participate in. The confirmation is to be set out in a valid power of attorney/mandate/Proxy or equivalent document confirming the Delegate status executed by the delegating NF Member or its duly authorized legal representative, and it is to be lodged with the General Secretary not more than 15 (fifteen) days before and not later than 24 hours before, the date and time scheduled for the relevant meeting. Delegates must carry a copy of the confirmation with them on the day of the General Assembly.

Art.17 – Quorum at meetings of the General Assembly (Ordinary and Extraordinary)

- 1) Meetings of the General Assembly shall be deemed duly convened at the first call with the presence, directly or by proxy, of at least half (50%) of the Official Voting Members.
- 2) If the quorum under paragraph 1 is not reached at the appointed hour at the first call for the General Assembly, a second call shall be made 3 hours later, with the same agenda.



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Art.18 – Voting

1) Validity of votes

- a) An Official Voting Member may only participate in and vote (whether directly or through its Delegate or otherwise by proxy) at a meeting of the General Assembly if it has satisfied all its financial obligations towards IKU (including in particular payment of affiliation fees) prior to the meeting in question. If it is established at the time of a meeting that an Official Voting Member has not satisfied all its outstanding financial obligations towards IKU then that Official Voting Member shall be barred from speaking at and voting on any matter in the meeting.
- b) Illegible, void, blank or improper ballot votes and abstentions shall be disregarded for the purposes of calculating voting results and majorities.
- c) The President has no casting vote in meetings of the General Assembly.

2) Voting majorities

a) Ordinary General Assembly

i) Unless otherwise provided in these Statutes, resolutions of the Ordinary General Assembly shall be deemed valid and duly passed with the favourable vote of a simple majority (more than 50% (fifty per cent)) of the Members in attendance at the Ordinary General Assembly in question (regardless of the actual percentage of current Members of IKU this might be), to be calculated with respect to the votes in fact cast by Official Voting Members only. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of coloured cards or some other equivalent process, unless a secret ballot is required. Any Official Voting Member may require that any individual Resolution be voted upon by secret ballot.

ii) Resolutions of the Ordinary General Assembly that would have the effect of making changes to the Statutes or a resolution which would result in the dissolution of IKU, shall be deemed duly passed with the favourable vote of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the Members in attendance, to be calculated with respect to the votes in fact cast by the Official Voting Members only.

iii) A Resolution passed at a meeting of the General Assembly shall come into effect for Members immediately upon the close of the General Assembly, unless the content of the Resolution itself provides otherwise.



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b) Extraordinary General Assembly

i) Unless otherwise provided in these Statutes, resolutions at meetings of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be deemed valid and duly passed with the favourable vote of at least 2/3rd (two thirds) of the Members in attendance at the Extraordinary General Assembly in question (regardless of the actual percentage of current Members if IKU this might be), to be calculated with respect to the votes in fact cast by Official Voting Members only. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of coloured cards or some other equivalent process, unless a secret ballot is required. Any Official Voting Member may require that any individual Resolution be voted upon by secret ballot.

ii) A Resolution passed at a meeting of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall come into effect for Members immediately upon the close of the Extraordinary General Assembly, unless the content of the Resolution itself provides otherwise.

Art.19 – Elections

- 1) Voting for elections shall, except in the case of 2) immediately below, always be carried out by means of a show of hands of the Official Voting Members in attendance.
- 2) Voting for elections may be carried out by means of secret ballot whenever there is more than 1 (one) candidate for the office up for election and it is so requested by at least 1/3rd (one third) of the Official Voting Members in attendance.
- 3) In the event that there is only one candidate for the election, the appointment shall be confirmed by acclamation.
- 4) Where there is more than one candidate for the election, for a person to be elected in a first ballot, an absolute overall simple majority (more than 50% (fifty per cent)) of all the votes in fact cast by Official Voting Members is required. If a first ballot does not result in a decisive absolute simple majority vote, then in a second and/or any other subsequent ballot, a simple relative majority of the votes in fact cast (meaning here more votes than for any other candidate) is sufficient.

Art.20 – Election of the President

- 1) Any NF Member may propose an individual to stand as candidate to the presidency of IKU provided that:
 - a) the NF Member proposing the candidate must have been an Official Voting Member of IKU for the last 2 (two) years;
 - b) the candidate must never have incurred any personal IKU sanction, or disqualification and/or criminal conviction (other than minor traffic offences).



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- 2) During the election of the President, the out-going President shall, if seeking re-election, surrender the chair to a “chairman pro-tempore” elected by the General Assembly.
- 3) If re-elected, the out-going President resumes his position after the election and continues to chair the General Assembly.
- 4) The newly elected President takes office immediately upon election.
(5. has been removed from the original therefore number has changed)
- 5) The President is in no sense a representative of any NF Member or any other body with whom they may personally be affiliated: they are required to be above individual NF Member loyalties and must always act in the best interests of the NF membership generally; they are to remain completely independent in the performance of their duties. In the performance of these duties, they are to neither seek nor take instructions from any NF Member or from any other body and they are to refrain from any action incompatible with their duties. Each NF Member undertakes to respect this principle and not to seek to influence the President of the Board in the performance of their task.

Art.21 – Ordinary General Assembly

- 1) A meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Board of Directors every 2 year. Meetings of the Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened anywhere in the World upon proposal of the President and the decision of the Board of Directors.
- 2) At least 3 (three) months before the date scheduled for a meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly, the administration of IKU under the direction of the General Secretary shall issue a formal notice calling the meeting to all Members to be sent by registered letter or some other provable trackable means.
- 3) The notice of call shall specify the place, date and time when the meeting is to be held and a draft agenda.

Art.22 – Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

- 1) The notice of call for a meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly shall specify the agenda of the meeting.
- 2) The Ordinary General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
 - a) an address by the President;
 - b) appointment of scrutineers to record votes taken and to oversee any other matters as may be thought fit during the meeting in question;
 - c) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly (if required);
 - d) President’s activity report (containing the activities since the last Ordinary General Assembly);
 - e) Presentation and approval of financial statements;
 - f) Presentation and approval of the budget;



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- g) Approval and appointment of independent auditors upon the proposal of the Board of Directors;
 - h) any Elections of President, Vice-Presidents and members of the Board of Directors;
 - i) any applications and admissions for membership;
 - j) proposals for amendments to the statutes;
 - k) proposals submitted by the Members and the Board of Directors;
 - l) Any further items proposed by the Members or the Board of Directors.
- 3) Any Member wishing to add a new item to the agenda must submit it to the General Secretary no later than 2 (two) months prior to the meeting.
 - 4) At least 1 (one) month prior to the meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly, the General Secretary shall circulate the final agenda as prepared by the Board of Directors.
 - 5) The Board of Directors may add at any time any urgent matter to the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly.

Art.23 – Extraordinary General Assembly

- 1) An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened when requested by the Board of Directors, or upon receipt by the Board of a written request from at least 1/5th (one/fifth) of Official Voting Members. In the latter instance the Extraordinary General Assembly is to take place no later than 2 (two) months after the written request has been received.
- 2) The notice of call of a meeting of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be sent by the IKU President to all Members at least 30 (thirty) days in advance of the date set for the meeting by means of registered letter or other provable trackable means.
- 3) The notice of call of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall specify the place, date and time when the meeting is to be held and the items on the agenda, as well as an explanation of the reasons for convening an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- 4) No items other than those specified in the notice of call may be added to the agenda for the meeting nor shall be discussed at such Extraordinary General Assembly.

Art. 24 – General Assembly – President to preside

- 1) The President presides over every meeting of the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly and over meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 2) If the President is absent, the President shall nominate a Vice President to take his role in the meeting, and in any other case the longest serving Vice-President present shall deputize.



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Art.25 – General Assembly - Minutes

- 1) Minutes of meetings are to be recorded in English by the secretary of the meeting, appointed amongst members present at the meeting by the President of that meeting, and submitted for approval by the Board of Directors of IKU within 1 (one) month of the meeting.
- 2) No correction of or alteration to the minutes will be accepted without written notification to the General Secretary, duly received and acknowledge, within 1 (one) month of the date of circulation of the minutes to the Members.

Art. 26 – General Assembly – Written Resolutions

- 1) The Board of Directors may decide that any decision to be taken by the General Assembly shall be made by means of written resolution.
- 2) The Members shall be notified by the General Secretary by registered mail or other provable trackable means of communication which can evidence receipt about the Board decision together with the full draft text of the proposed resolution or resolutions to be decided on at least 3 (three) calendar months before a date designated for the taking of the planned decision.
- 3) Any Member wishing to propose a new alternative resolution or an amended version of, or make observations upon, a resolution proposed by the Board must submit its proposal(s) and/or observations to the Board of Directors no later than 2 (two) calendar months prior to the date designated for the taking of the planned decision for due consideration by the Board.
- 4) At least 1 (one) calendar month prior to the date designated for the taking of the planned decision, the General Secretary shall send to the Members all documents and/or materials necessary to enable the Members to vote on the proposed written resolution, including in particular the full final text of the proposed resolution as settled by the Board of Directors, together with an invitation to cast their vote at any time during a specified voting period, this voting period running from the date designated for the taking of the planned decision and expiring upon a specified deadline for cut-off of voting; the voting period must be not less than 2 (two) weeks in duration. The General Secretary shall also simultaneously with the invitation to vote circulate any document concerning the proposed resolution submitted by a Member which that Member has requested be circulated.
- 5) Official Voting Members may cast their vote by registered letter, fax, e-mail or any other means that can provide evidence of receipt within the voting period set by the Board of Directors.
- 6) For a decision by way of written resolution to be valid at least half (50%) of Official Voting Members must submit their votes. The nature of a proposed resolution will attract the requisite the majority stipulated in other articles of these statutes. Calculation of voting majority will be made upon the number of votes in fact cast.
- 7) The General Secretary shall notify Members about the result of voting on a proposed written resolution without delay.



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Art. 27 – Board of Directors

i) Composition

- 1) The Board of Directors is the executive body of IKU. It consists of a minimum of 5 individual Board Director members as follows:
 - a) the President of IKU - who is elected by the General Assembly;
 - b) up to 2 Vice-Presidents of IKU - who are elected by the General Assembly; Vice Presidents have no ranking order;
 - c) 5 continental Directors – each one representing one of each of the five continents, such Directors being the presidents for the time being of each Continental Division. In the event a continental Director loses the office of president of a Continental Division while in office in IKU, the newly appointed president of the relevant Continental Division shall automatically become a continental Director of IKU, and the former continental Director shall have no further right to sit on the Board of Directors (unless they are also concurrently serving as a Director having been elected into office by virtue of a) or b) above);
 - d) A maximum of 4 (four) other Directors elected by the General Assembly. If another Director (not being a continental Director) during their term of office with IKU, either loses their position within or the backing of the NF Member which they represent, or retires for whatever reason, they shall no longer be entitled to sit on the Board of Directors of IKU and their position on the Board will be considered vacant until the next General Assembly.
- 2) A director under c) or d) may concurrently either be or become President or a Vice-President of IKU
- 3) Any Director other than the President or Vice-President(s) may be appointed as Treasurer of IKU

ii) Eligibility, Term of Office

- 1) An NF Member may nominate any representative as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors of IKU provided that:
 - a) the relevant NF Member has been an Official Voting Member of IKU for the period of at least 1 (one) calendar year;
 - b) the individual concerned has never incurred any IKU sanction, or disqualification and/or criminal conviction (other than minor motoring offences);
 - c) the individual concerned must have reached the age of majority and have full capacity as an adult in his own country, and be in full possession of the civil rights.



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- 2) No more than 2 (two) members of the Board of Directors may be officially affiliated to or connected with any one NF Member
- 3) The Board of Directors may propose to the General Assembly the appointment of one or more Honorary Members of the Board of Directors. Honorary Members of the Board of Directors, who are appointed by the General Assembly, have no voting right within the Board of Directors but have the right to speak and be heard.
- 4) The office of President and that of member of the Board of Directors has a duration of 4 (four) years. The President and the members of the Board of Directors may be re-appointed by the General Assembly at the Senior World Championships
- 5) In the event that number of Directors falls below the minimum number of 5 individuals, an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be promptly called for the appointment of a new management body pursuant to these Statutes.

iii) Removal of Directors

The President, a Vice-President, and any other Director may be removed from office either by resolution of the General Assembly with a positive vote of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the Members in attendance, to be calculated with respect to the votes cast by Official Voting Members; or by written resolution with a positive vote of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of all Official Voting Members.

A meeting of the Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened for the purpose at the request of Members under the regular provision of Art. 23.(1).

iv) Proceedings of the Board of Directors

- a) The Board shall have considerable freedom to fix its own procedures with regard to its proceedings, subject to the principles of natural justice and fairness fully including all Board members in proceedings and in particular allowing all Board members proper opportunity to contribute and be heard.
- b) The Board of Directors shall make its decisions on a simple majority vote basis of Directors present at a Board meeting.
- c) In the event of a tied vote in a Board meeting the President shall have a casting vote.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors are to be communicated to the Members of IKU through E-mail by the General Secretary.
- e) The Board of Directors may establish special committees of individuals with special expertise in a particular field in order to take care of specific matters (i.e. Organizing Committee, Referee Committees, Sport Technical Committee, IKU Development Committee, Health and Anti-Doping Committee, Marketing Media and PR Committee, Women Committee, Athlete Committee, Disciplinary Committee etc). The Board of Directors may rename and/or



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revoke the special committees from time to time. The Board of Directors will set the remit and reporting obligations of any special committee.

- f) The Board of Directors may delegate to any of its own members any specific tasks and/or activities.

Art.28 – Meetings, Quorums, Written Resolutions

- 1) The Board of Directors shall be convened at least once a year anywhere in the world and on the occasion of a world championship.
- 2) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President, or by a Vice-President designated by the President in case of incapacity, by way of registered letter or other provable trackable means which can evidence receipt, to be sent (i) at least 2 (two) months in advance of the meeting, or (ii) in case of urgency, at least 1 (one) month in advance of the meeting in which case the nature of such circumstances shall be set out in the notice of meeting, to each member of the Board of Directors, including Honorary Members and the members of the Audit Committee.
- 3) The notice of call shall specify the place where the meeting is to be held, as well as the places, if any, connected thereto via audio/teleconference, the date and time the meeting is to be held, and the items on the agenda.
- 4) Meetings of the Board of Directors are validly established with the presence of a majority (over 50%) of the directors in office and the resolutions of the Board of Directors – save for those provided for in paragraph 5 below - shall be validly adopted with the favourable vote of the absolute simple majority of the attendees present.
- 5) The Board of Directors is however duly established and able to adopt resolutions even in the absence of a formal call, provided that all members of the Board of Directors are in attendance and the members of the Audit Committee have been informed in writing.
- 6) Meetings of the Board of Directors may also be held by way of teleconference or videoconference or web cast or similar means, provided that the President and the secretary of the meeting, who is appointed by the President among the other members of the Board, are present in the same place and that all the attendees can be identified, and they can follow and take part in the discussion of the items on the agenda in real time. Such requirements having been fulfilled, the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have met in the place where the President and the secretary are in attendance.
- 7) Board resolutions may also be passed as Written Board Resolutions (circular resolutions), whose content may be communicated by Board Members by letter/other physical document, by facsimile or by a signed copy sent by e-mail or any other hard-copy verifiable means, provided that no Board member requests deliberation in a meeting, within 5 (five) calendar days after hearing of the proposed written resolution. In order to be passed, Written Board Resolutions require the majorities set out in paragraph 4 above.



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Art. 29 – Powers of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has all powers in connection with the management of IKU and, in particular:

- a) is responsible in all matters that are not reserved to other bodies of IKU by these Statutes or any other subsisting regulations, directives and decisions of IKU;
- b) prepares and convenes the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies;
- c) investigates and approves membership applications and officially recognizes applicants as IKU Members pursuant to the provisions of these Statutes.
- d) appoints any committee it deems necessary at any time;
- e) is responsible to ensure that each Board member is accountable for fulfilling the tasks and assignments as directed by these Statutes, General Assembly, decisions of the Board of Directors or the President;
- f) provides sanctioning in connection with IKU events;
- g) appoints the Arbitration Committee of IKU;
- h) appoints the Treasurer of IKU;
- i) determines and proposes to the General Assembly the sanctioning fees as well as the affiliation fees;
- j) prepares and approves the regulations and byelaws of IKU which contain rules and regulations for the functioning of IKU;
- k) approves the statutes and byelaws relevant to each Continental Division;
- l) approves the annual financial statements of IKU each year which are then submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Art. 30 – Presidential Election

- 1) Any NF Official Voting Member intending to propose a candidate for the office of President shall submit the relevant proposal in writing (by means of registered letter or some other provable trackable hard copy means which can evidence receipt) to the General Secretary of IKU at the latest 2 (two) weeks (14 days) before a meeting of the General Assembly at which the election of a President is to take place.
- 2) Proposals of candidates for the office of President which are not submitted at least 2 (two) weeks (14 days) before the date of the meeting shall not be taken into consideration.
- 3) A complete list of the candidates for the office of President shall be circulated by the General Secretary to all Members before the meeting of the General Assembly takes place.
- 4) The General Assembly elects the President pursuant to the provisions of these Statutes.



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Art.31 – Powers of the President

- 1) The President of the Board of Directors:
 - a) represents and commits IKU toward third parties and before any Court;
 - b) presides over meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors
 - c) is generally responsible for and manages the activities of IKU;
 - d) oversees the day to day running of IKU;
 - e) is authorized to incur expenditure pursuant to these statutes;
 - f) may delegate certain powers to one or more of the Vice Presidents at the President's own sole discretion. In the absence or incapacity of the President, IKU may be represented by a Vice-President.

Art.32 – Continental Divisions of IKU

- 1) In addition to the IKU organs and structures previously described in these Statutes, IKU shall maintain Continental Divisions for AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, OCEANIA, and the PANAMERICAS.
- 2) The Continental Divisions shall report directly to the IKU Board of Directors through their presidents who hold office simultaneously as continental Directors on the IKU Board of Directors.
- 3) Each Continental Division shall have its own general assembly and its own board of directors and shall implement its own structure according to its own statutes.
- 4) The organisation of Continental Divisions is to mirror as far as is practicable the structure of IKU as provided for in these Statutes, and framework rules and requirements for the character behaviour and reporting of business of the Continental Divisions shall be prescribed in Regulations to be settled by the Board of Directors of IKU and approved by the General Assembly. The individual structure and constitution of each Continental Division must be specifically approved by the Board of Directors of IKU, and no amendment to any such structure or constitution will be valid unless and until approved by the Board of Directors of IKU.

Art.33 – Administration

- 1) The General Secretary may appoint administrative staff in order to undertake the efficient running of the day to day activities of IKU ('Administration').
- 2) The Administration of IKU carries out all administrative duties of IKU, under the supervision in the first instance of the General Secretary and ultimately the President. Upon the direction of the President, the Administration implements decisions made by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- 3) Administrative staff are appointed by the General Secretary on such contractual terms as may be thought fit, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- 4) Members of the Administration do not have voting rights.



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Art.34 – Finances, Liability

- 1) The President is authorized to incur expenditure up to a limit agreed upon by the Board of Directors within the framework of an approved Presidential budget; the format of the Presidential budget shall be set out in IKU byelaws and the maximum permitted Presidential expenditure shall be specified annually in advance.
- 2) In the event that the President concludes expenditure needs to be or should be incurred in excess of the sum set out in the Presidential budget agreed upon by the Board of Directors under 1) above, the President shall inform the full membership of the Board of Directors and request the Board's consent. No formality need be observed in obtaining the Board's consent other than that consent must be given in writing or confirmed in some other provable trackable hard-copy means.
- 3) Members shall only be legally and financially liable toward IKU and any third parties up to the value of their annual affiliation fee to IKU; this is unless a Member has acted with negligence, wilful misconduct or fraud and has caused damage to IKU or any third party in which last case they shall be deemed liable without limit.
- 4) The financial year of IKU shall run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.

Art.35 – Economic Resources

- 1) The IKU shall pursue its institutional goals by means of revenues derived from yearly membership fees, competition fees, course and exam fees, the issue of licences and diplomas, sponsorship, bequests and donations, and any other form of income providing it has been approved by the Board of Directors.
- 2) The budget and the final balance-sheet, approved by the Board of Directors, and the report of the Auditors, must be put before and approved by the General Assembly.

Art.36 – Financial Business Practices – Treasurer

- 1) The President and Treasurer of IKU are to follow standard international financial business practices in all matters and record-keeping / documentation.
- 2) All banking and financial transactions pertaining to IKU are to be carried out transparently and duly supported by adequate documentary evidence.
- 3) The Treasurer of IKU is appointed by the Board of Directors from among the Board members. The Treasurer is responsible for the accounts and financial record-keeping of IKU. The Treasurer may be assisted by the Administration.
- 4) The office of Treasurer has a duration of 4 (four) years. The Treasurer may be re-appointed by the Board of Directors.



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Art. 37 – Audit Committee

- 1) The Audit Committee is appointed by the General Assembly for a period of 4 (four) years. The Audit Committee may be re-appointed.
- 2) The Audit Committee is composed of 3 (three) persons totally independent from IKU board of directors.
- 3) The Audit Committee shall carry out an audit at least once per year, and may carry out additional audits at any time if the Audit Committee thinks it necessary, in which case it shall report to the Board and the next General Assembly its reasons as to why it thinks/thought such additional audit is/was necessary.
- 4) All administrative and financial matters of and touching IKU shall be subject to audit by the Audit Committee.
- 5) All financial documentation (including expenses, financial statements, balance sheets, receipts, banking information, evidence of financial transactions etc) shall be submitted by the Board, other officers, staff and committees and other organs of IKU to the Treasurer of IKU who shall organise store and maintain these in readiness for inspection at any time by the Audit Committee.
- 6) The Audit Committee may attend, participate and be heard in meetings of the Board of Directors, but has no voting rights in such meetings.
- 7) In the cases where it is required by applicable laws, the General Assembly shall appoint a further external independent auditor of IKU. The external auditor shall be chosen among accredited firms at international level and shall be appointed in charge of the audit of the financial statements and accounts of IKU for a period of 4 (four) years. The Audit Committee shall co-operate fully at all times with any such external independent auditor. The external independent auditor may be re-appointed for no longer than 2 mandates.

Art.38 – Final Provisions

- 1) All Members are responsible for and are required to obtain and keep in place insurance for their associations and/or federations and the individual athletes they ultimately represent, including coverage for sports accidents in national and international competitions.
- 2) IKU will not take responsibility for any Member liability in this regard.
- 3) IKU and its organs accept no liability whatsoever towards Member associations.

Art.39 – Dispute resolution

- 1) Any dispute arising from, or related to these Statutes or any regulation or directive, or the operations and/or decisions of IKU's bodies which cannot be resolved through the standard operational procedures of IKU may, by any party involved, be brought forward to an Arbitration Committee which is the independent dispute resolution procedure of IKU.
- 2) The Board will make Regulations providing for a) a non-refundable



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arbitration administration fee to be paid upon submission, in writing, of the dispute to an Arbitration Committee; and b) a basis for meeting further hearing costs that may be involved in the arbitration.

- 3) An Arbitration Committee is composed of 3 (three) arbitrators appointed by the Board of Directors. Members of an Arbitration Committee shall be independent professionals who do not sit on the Board of Directors of IKU or on any other committee, organ or body of IKU.
- 4) An Arbitration Committee considers and renders decisions on the subjects referred to it. The Arbitration Committee shall take its decisions by simple majority when all three arbitrators are present. In taking its decision the Arbitration Committee shall take into account all applicable rules, regulations and internal codes and directives of IKU. The Arbitration Committee's decision shall be considered binding vis-à-vis the IKU and its organs and bodies, any NF Member and/or any individual who may be involved in the process.
- 5) IKU recognizes the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland as being competent to resolve disputes between Members, clubs, athletes and officials.
- 6) Appeals to CAS against final decisions given by an Arbitration Committee shall be lodged with CAS within 30 days of notification of the decision in question.
- 7) The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. CAS shall primarily apply the various regulations of IKU and, additionally, Swiss law.
- 8) Recourse may only be made to CAS after the internal IKU Arbitration Committee procedure has been exhausted.
- 9) CAS, however, does not deal with appeals arising from decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognized under the rules of a Member may be made.
- 10) The lodging or preparation of an appeal shall not of itself have any suspensive effect, however, the appropriate IKU body or alternatively CAS may order otherwise.
- 11) NF Members shall agree to recognize CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated clubs, athletes and officials comply with the decisions given by CAS.
- 12) Unless specifically provided for in IKU regulations, recourse to ordinary courts of law in respect of any dispute on any matter involving the IKU and/or its members, organs or bodies and/or involving IKU rules regulations and/or statutes, is prohibited unless and until the Arbitration Committee process and the subsequent appeal to CAS process have both first been exhausted.
- 13) NF Members shall ensure that this stipulation is mirrored and implemented in their own rules, regulations and statutes, in which they shall provide that recourse to ordinary courts of law in respect of any dispute on any matter involving that NF Member is prohibited unless and until the matter has been submitted in a first instance, and in a second appeal instance, to an appropriate arbitration process.



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- 14) Each NF Member shall further ensure that this stipulation is mirrored and implemented in the rules, regulations and statutes of each of its own members, in which it shall be provided that recourse to ordinary courts of law in respect of any dispute on any matter involving that member is prohibited unless and until the matter has been submitted in a first instance, and in a second appeal instance, to an appropriate arbitration process.

Art.40 – Interpretation

- 1) The authority for settling any dispute arising out of the interpretation of these Statutes shall reside with the Board of Directors for the time being, who shall seek the advice of the General Assembly before taking any final decision.

Art.41 – Modification of the Statutes

- 1) These Statutes may only be modified by the Ordinary General Assembly or by an Extraordinary General Assembly convened especially for that purpose pursuant to the provisions of these Statutes.

Art.42 – Dissolution

- 1) Upon resolution of the General Assembly with the requisite majority as provided for in these Statutes, the IKU shall be dissolved.
- 2) Any assets remaining after the dissolution of IKU, shall, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, be applied to the furtherance of any objectives of IKU as determined by the General Assembly at, or before, the time of dissolution.
- 3) If effect cannot be given to the foregoing provisions for whatever reason, all assets shall be given to a charitable organization. Under no circumstances shall they be paid to, or distributed among the Members of IKU or individuals connected with IKU.

Art.43 – Independence of Members

- 1) Each Member shall manage its affairs independently, in good faith, and with no influence from third parties.
- 2) Provided that each Member complies with the provisions of these Statutes as well as with subsisting regulations, directives and decisions of IKU's competent organs and bodies, IKU recognizes the independence of any Member in connection with the organization of its activities at its own national level.



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Art.44 – Anti-doping and fair play

- 1) Regarding the measures of control and prevention of the use of forbidden substances and methods for artificially increasing the physical capacities of sportsmen and sportswomen, IKU and its organs shall respect all the international regulations concerning:
 - a) anti-doping control;
 - b) promoting fair-play; and
 - c) non-violence.

Art.45 – Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

- 1) The Board of Directors shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in the statutes or in cases of force majeure.

Art.46 – Enforcement

- 1) These Statutes have been adopted during the Extra-Ordinary General Assembly held in Caorle (Italy) on October 10, 2013. They come into force immediately.
- 2) These Statutes shall be distributed to all members by e-mail and posted on IKU website.