

World Karate Federation

Statutes

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

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STATUTES

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WORLD KARATE FEDERATION
STATUTES

ART. 1- CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

1.1 The World Karate Federation, hereafter referred to as "WKF", is a permanent organisation governing all styles of karate with a legal status founded on the 16th of June 1970 (with the name of World Union of Karate Do Organisations / WUKO) and is composed by the National Karate Federations affiliated at worldwide level.

1.2. The seat and legal domicile of the WKF shall be based in the country of residence of the elected President, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee.

1.3 The WKF does not engage in matters pertaining to politics, religion, or race, and is a non-profit organisation.

1.4 The WKF performs its activity on an amateur basis in compliance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter.

1.5 The WKF has sole proprietorship of the logo of WKF and its use. All rights for the use of the WKF logo and name for purposes of fabrication or sale of articles bearing the name or logo of WKF (such as flags, medals, diplomas, badges, shields, ties, gadgets, and similar objects) rests exclusively with the WKF.

1.6 The official languages of the WKF shall be English and French. All official WKF publications must be edited in English, French and Spanish. At Congresses simultaneous translation shall be provided in these 3 (three) languages. In the event of disputes, the decision shall be based on the English text.

1.7 The WKF has the aim of promoting, organising, regulating and popularising the sport of karate all over the world, of protecting the physical and mental health of the athletes, of contributing to the development of friendly relationships among the National Federations and of defending the interests of karate through out the world.

1.8 The WKF will organise the World Karate Championships in collaboration with the member Federations. The right to organise World Championships and other official WKF events shall be only granted to such countries that are able to receive all the eligible participants and delegates on their territory.

1.9 The WKF will make all efforts possible to get karate accepted in the Olympic Games and in all other Games of the Olympic cycle.

1.10 The WKF aims to adopt and implement the World Anti Doping Code.

ART. 2- STRUCTURE

2.1 The National Federations may be members of Regional or Continental Federations or Associations of National Federations in order to participate in, or supervise the organisation of Regional or Continental karate competitions, including Regional or Continental Games. The WKF may recognise such Regional or Continental Federations or Associations. Such recognition shall in no way affect the right of the WKF to deal directly with each National Federation and vice versa.

The right of recognition, suspension or recognition withdrawal of Federations or Associations rests with the Executive Committee of the WKF. Appeal can be presented before the Disciplinary and Legal Commission within 21 (twenty one) days following the notification of decision. The recognition will be decided after the examination of the Statutes and their compatibility with those of the WKF. In case of changes in the affiliate or member organisation's Statutes, in case of violation, or for any other cause affecting the democracy of the sporting processes, the Executive Committee, after due examination, may reconsider such recognition. The Continental Federations can only admit as members National Federations already recognised by the WKF.

2.2 The WKF recognises in principle 5 (five) Continental Federations (Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania) .

The above mentioned shall collaborate with the WKF within their areas of jurisdiction to the best of their ability.

They shall moreover work in close collaboration with the general directives of the WKF, whose supreme authority they shall recognise in everything concerning the sport of karate.

They shall also forward to the WKF a full annual report on the competitive, organisational and promotional activities undertaken.

2.3 The Statutes of the Continental Federations shall conform to the principles of the WKF Statutes.

ART. 3- ECONOMICAL RESOURCES

3.1 The WKF shall pursue its institutional goals by means of revenues deriving from the membership and other yearly fees, competition entry fees, courses and exams, the organisation of official competitions, the issue of licences and diplomas, fines, bequests and donations, sponsorship, radio, television, video, Internet and photographic rights, royalties and any other form of income providing it has been approved by the Executive Committee. All the radio, television, video, Internet and photographic rights of the WKF championships and other international events organised by the WKF shall be the exclusive property of the WKF. These rights may not be sold or negotiated without agreement of the Executive Committee, which may delegate its authority to negotiate the sale or use of these rights, but which shall support the sole responsibility for the final decision and for the use of the income from the sale of the rights.

3.2 The budget, adjustments to the budget, and the final balance-sheet, approved by the Executive Committee, and the reports of the WKF President, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and the appointed Auditors must be approved by the Congress.

ART. 4- ASSETS

4.1 All existing WKF assets must be included in an inventory ledger kept by the General Treasurer and certified by an Auditor.

ART. 5- RECOGNITION AND AFFILIATION

5.1 The recognition of a National Federation by the WKF will be done following the regulations contained in these Statutes. For the official recognition of a National Federation in its country, and following Rule 29 and Bye-Laws to Rules 28 & 29 of the Olympic Charter, the WKF will inform the National Olympic Committee and the Highest Sports Authority of the country in question. Rule 30 of the Olympic Charter will apply for the recognition of an NF by an NOC. (References to the Olympic Charter are based on the 11 February 2010 version).

5.2 The approval of an applicant National Federation's Statutes by the WKF Executive Committee is required for recognition. The same applies to any subsequent change or amendment to the Statutes of a National Federation that will also have to be approved by the WKF Executive Committee. Such Statutes shall, at all times, conform to the principles of the WKF Statutes and make explicit reference to the affiliation to WKF and to the acceptance and subordination to the WKF Statutes. If there is any doubt as to the meaning or interpretation of the Statutes of a National Federation or if there is a

contradiction between such Statutes and WKF Statutes, the latter take precedence.

5.3 Also the Rules and Regulations of the National Federations members shall conform to the principles of the WKF Rules and Regulations. In particular, WKF Competition Rules shall be applied in its entirety in all official national competitions titles for national championships and pertaining national titles, including modalities and categories, and the National Federations members will not schedule or participate in any international activities which contravene the aforementioned competition rules or which fall on dates of celebration of official WKF events.

5.4 A country is defined as an independent State recognised by the International Community. The name of the National Federation must reflect the territorial extent and traditional name of its country and shall be subject to the approval of the WKF.

5.5 Only 1 (one) National Federation per country shall be allowed.

5.6 The area of jurisdiction of a National Federation must coincide with the limits of the country in which it is established and has its headquarters.

5.7 National Federations wishing to be recognised by and subsequently affiliated to the WKF must be an independent organisation in their own country. The President and the other members of the Executive Committee of a National Federation must be democratically elected and hold the citizenship of their own National Federation country. Governments or other public authorities shall not designate any members of a National Federation. However, a National Federation may decide, at its discretion, to elect as members representatives of such authorities.

5.8 The WKF Executive Committee may take any appropriate decisions for the protection of the sport of Karate in the country of an NF, including suspension of or withdrawal of recognition from such NF if the constitution, law or other regulations in force in the country concerned, or any act by any governmental or other body causes the activity of the NF or the making or expression of its will to be hampered

5.9 National Federations wishing to be affiliated to the WKF must send to the General Secretary, together with the relative application fee payment, which in the event of acceptance of the application will be applied to the first year's membership fee, a complete dossier of documents giving detailed information on the standing and capacity of the National Federation including a copy of the latest Audited Financial Statement. This dossier must include the Statutes and the Rules and Regulations of the applicant Federation and documentation of any recognition by the National Olympic Committee or the Highest Sport Authority of the country.

Such membership fee payment shall be in the form of a bank cheque or bank transfer and of such amount as specified by the WKF. This payment must be cleared at the WKF bank before membership may proceed.

5.10 Affiliation shall be deemed "provisional" when it has been accepted by the Executive Committee. Once accepted and only then, the Executive Committee will decide on submission of the application to the Ordinary Congress. Provisional affiliation will automatically expire 2 (two) years after the Executive Committee has granted it. Only the Executive Committee is empowered to award any extension to any provisional membership which has so expired. Provisionally affiliated National Federations shall enjoy all rights, excluding voting rights. Once ratified by the Ordinary Congress, the affiliation shall be considered "permanent" and shall confer the right to vote 2 (two) years after the Congress at which it were ratified.

ART. 6- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

6.1 Each member Federation must pay each year to the Treasurer before the 31st of March of the year an annual membership fee as fixed by the Executive Committee.

If the membership fee is not paid by the 31st of March but is paid subsequently in the current financial year then a surcharge as set by the Executive Committee is applicable. If the payment is not made in the current financial year a further surcharge as set by the Executive Committee is applicable.

Furthermore if a country has not paid their membership fees fully and wishes to be actively involved at a WKF Championships, then with the President's permission a commitment to payment form as specified by the President must be signed. It is the country's responsibility to ensure such form is duly signed by a responsible individual from their country and it is also the country's responsibility to ensure such payment is made by the date as specified on the form.

If such payment is not made by the date as specified on the form then this will remove the possibility of any future promissory notes being considered for the country in question. It will also result in the suspension of that country from all WKF activities until the required payment including the relative surcharges has been cleared.

6.2 The affiliated National Federations shall be entitled to:

a) Participate in Congresses in accordance with Statutory Norms and Rules;

b) Participate in official competitions in accordance with the specific Competition Rules;

c) Enjoy the advantages and benefits provided by the WKF;

ART. 7- INDIVIDUALS

7.1 The physical persons entitled to be WKF members through a National Federation are:

a) The Athletes;

b) The Coaches;

c) The Physicians;

d) The Referees;

e) The Officials;

f) All members of national delegations that take part in international official competitions;

g) Honorary President(s), Honorary Member(s) and former WKF President(s);

ART. 8- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUALS

8.1 The physical persons that are WKF members shall be entitled to:

a) Participate in the WKF activities via the respective National Federations;

b) Wear the official WKF uniform, complying with pertaining provisions about the matter;

c) Be put forward for elective offices and appointments providing they possess the minimal requirements;

ART. 9- ACCEPTANCE AND OBLIGATIONS

9.1 National Federations and individual persons affiliated to the WKF shall undertake to comply with statutory Norms, Rules and Regulations and all provisions issued by the Executive Committee.

9.2 Members shall undertake to work in complete compliance with the rules governing the sport, maintaining a demeanour commensurate with the activity performed.

9.3 Any member in breach of the conditions as per points 9.1 and 9.2 above shall be liable to disciplinary action as set forth herein.

ART. 10- ELIGIBILITY - CANDIDATURES – INCOMPATIBILITY

10.1 First time election to any WKF office is only open to persons officially put forward as candidates by the National Federation of their own country, and then only when the National Federation has been effective full rights member of the WKF for the last 2 (two) years and the National Federation is up to date with all payments due to the WKF at the time of opening of the Congress. The Executive Committee members can individually put forward their candidatures to the Executive Committee.

10.2 The following persons cannot be elected members of the WKF Executive Committee:

a) The employees of the National Federation members of the WKF, for the duration of their work contract plus 2 (two) years after the termination of their contract.

b) Those who are hired to perform a specific work for the WKF, either individually or as active partners or board members of a company, for the duration of the contract plus 2 (two) years after its fulfillment or the delivery of the work.

c) Merchants or producers of sports items and their shareholders, partners, administrators and members of the board of sports companies and any kind of commercial company which activity is within the realm of commerce, or manufacture, of any kind of sports items or services pertaining to sports.

Any individual while in elected office becoming in breach of above limitations will forfeit any elected position held. The decision of exclusion will be taken by the WKF Executive Committee.

10.3 All the candidatures for elective offices must be put forward exclusively by the respective National Federation (except for cases referred in point 10.1 above) and be received at the WKF seat or at the General Secretariat office - via post, fax or e-mail - at least 4 (four) months before the date of the relative Congress.

10.4 The formalities as per the points above shall also apply to outgoing members.

10.5 The validity of the candidatures shall be verified by the WKF General Secretary. Appeals against the decision of the General Secretary shall be filed to the Disciplinary and Legal Commission (DLC) within the 5 (five) days following the notification of the said decision.

10.6 All the candidatures for elective offices shall be sent by the WKF General Secretary to the affiliated National Federations at least 3 (three) months before the date of the Congress.

10.7 Elective offices and appointments are incompatible with the roles of Athlete, Coach or Referee in official events. Should a person in one of these categories be elected or appointed, he must immediately give up his previous role for the whole duration of the term of office.

10.8 Any National Federation cannot have more than 1(one) Executive Committee member, this without counting the President, the permanent offices, the co-opted member(s) and the former WKF President(s).

10.9 If an appointed member other than a Commission Chairman loses the support of his National Federation, the appointment will be immediately forfeited, barring appeal to the Disciplinary and Legal Commission in application of the Rules of the latter.

10.10 If an elected member or the Chairman of a Commission loses the support of his National Federation, he will need to remain in the office the support of 2/3 (two thirds) of the Executive Committee and subsequently –for the elected member – the support of 2/3 (two thirds) of the Congress when elections take place. When the elected member has been elected at least 2 (two) times in the last 4 (four) 4 (four) year terms, this condition cannot be applied. The member in question can then present himself for the re-election in the normal way.

10.11 The members of the Executive Committee cannot be appointed to the Refereeing Commission, the Technical Commission, the Medical Commission and the Organisation Commission.

10.12 All Executive Committee members must hold the citizenship of the country of their National Federation.

ART. 11- ORGANISATION

11.1 The powers of the WKF are exercised by its organs, namely:

a) The Congress;
b) The Executive Committee;
c) The President;

ART. 12- CONGRESS

12.1 The Congress is the supreme organ of the WKF, being given deliberative powers. It shall decide only on matters included on the official agenda.

The Ordinary Congress shall have the final say on all matters relating to karate as presented from the National Federations, and on any other topic of a general nature, and it shall define the guidelines for the WKF activity.

12.2 The Ordinary Congress shall meet every 2 (two) years at the occasion of the World Senior Championships and in the city where these take place.

12.3 The call for the Congress shall be given by post, fax or e- mail, signed by the President or by the General Secretary.

12.4 The Congress can consider only items which are included in the agenda. At least 6 (six) months before the date fixed for the Congress, the General Secretary shall invite the National Federations members to submit via post, fax or e-mail to the General Secretariat items which they wish to have included in the agenda after agreement from the Executive Committee. The proposals will have to be submitted at least 4 (four) months before the date of the Congress.

12.5 At least 3 (three) months before the date fixed for the Congress, the General Secretary will send to the member Federations the draft of the agenda formulated by the Executive Committee.

12.6 The agenda must include the following: Approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress , reports of the President and General Secretary, report of the Treasurer and of the Auditors, report of the Chairman of the Sports Commission and election of new members to vacant positions in the Executive Committee.

12.7 Also the following matters shall be included on the agenda:

a) Affiliations of new National Federations;
b) Information on the future activity and designation of the relevant organisations;

12.8 Questions not included in the agenda for the Congress may, at the consent of the majority of 2/3 (two-thirds) of the members present, be discussed, barring when the President, due to time constraints or for considering them of sufficient importance, decides to refer the question to the Executive Committee, or if considered of sufficient importance by the President, he decides to refer the question to the next Congress. Changes in the Statutes will by their nature be considered of sufficient importance as defined above.

12.9 The Congress shall be presided over by the President of the WKF, or in his absence by the 1st Vice-president or in absence of the latter by a Vice-president to be selected following the order in which they were ranked. The Congress secretary shall be the General Secretary of the WKF or, in his absence, the Assistant General Secretary.

12.10 The delegate who represents a National Federation at the Congress must hold the citizenship of the country represented and have a proxy signed by the President of the National Federation unless if the National Federation is represented by its President.

12.11 The verification of the proxy will be carried out by a Commission composed by 3(three) persons, namely 1 (one) Vice-president, the General Secretary or the Assistant General Secretary and the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer before the official opening of the Congress. In the case of any contestation, the General Secretary shall submit the claim to the Disciplinary and Legal Commission. Should any of the prescribed members of the Commission not be present at the Congress the WKF President will, at his discretion, appoint substitute Commission members from the WKF Executive Committee members present.

12.12 For the positions to be elected where there is the same number of candidates as positions, the election may take place by acclamation, one candidate at a time.

12.13 In order to be valid, candidatures for the Executive Committee must be sent by post, fax or e-mail 4 (four) months before the Congress to the seat of the WKF. This formality is also necessary for all members who present themselves for re-election, including the Executive Committee co-opted members.

12.14 Observers may be invited to the Congress by the President, with the right to speak only upon the authorisation of the President.

12.15 The candidates for election must stand with respect to the ethics and principles of the WKF and not attempt to procure votes by offering incentives to the WKF members. Any candidate found offering incentives to obtain votes will forfeit his eligibility for the candidature of the office.

12.16 It is forbidden for a National Federation to give a proxy to another National Federation or to a delegate who has a different citizenship than the one of the country of the National Federation, even if he is a member of that National Federation.

12.17 The members of the Executive Committee other than the Executive Bureau members shall not have the right to vote in the Congress, except if they represent a National Federation.

12.18 Barring the terms of Articles 22 and 23 as set forth herein, the Congress shall decide by majority vote. Voting shall generally be done by the show of hands or by roll call. For elections and questions of particular importance, or whenever the Chair of the Congress or ½ (half) of the delegates with voting rights demand it, voting shall be by secret ballot. For elections secret ballot is obligatory – except for the cases referred in Article 12.12 - and the one round system will be followed in all cases. When secret ballot, the Executive Bureau members will vote at the end.

12.19 In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the Congress shall have the right to cast the deciding vote or may also decide to repeat the voting between the candidates tied.

12.20 The following shall be entitled to take part in the Congress:

a) The affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights;

b) The Executive Committee;

c) The Chairmen of the WKF Commissions;

d) The Honorary President(s) and Honorary Member(s);

e) The National Federations with provisional affiliation;

12.21 The affiliated National Federations, in accordance with Statutory Norms and Rules shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote, providing they have had sporting activity in WKF in the year of the Congress and in the previous year, have paid the relative membership fee during the last 2 (two) years and have cleared all the outstanding payments to the WKF.

12.22 The annual sporting period, accounting period and fiscal year adopted by the WKF shall coincide with the calendar year (1st of January / 31st of December).

12.23 Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority.

12.24 Each National Federation may be represented by up to 2 (two) persons, who, if 1 (one) of the 2 (two) is not the National Federation President, must be in possession of a proxy signed from the President of the same National Federation. Each Federation may also have its own interpreter.

12.25 The Congress shall be deemed valid at the first call if at least 1/2 (half) of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights are present, or at the second call, 1 (one) hour later, if at least 1/3 (one-third) of affiliated National Federation in possession of voting rights are present. If finally a valid Congress is not possible for reasons of quorum, the Executive Committee will convene right after the cancellation of the Congress, with the same agenda as published for the Congress, and with equivalent powers as that of the announced Congress with exception to Article 23 of these Statutes.

12.26 Every 6 (six) years, to coincide with the World Senior Championships, the Ordinary Congress shall elect the President via secret ballot.

Every 4 (four) years, to coincide with the World Senior Championships, the Ordinary Congress shall elect, via secret ballot:

a) The 17 (seventeen) elective positions of the Executive Committee;

12.27 The 17 (seventeen) Executive Committee members elected by the Congress are elected for a period of 4 (four) years.

12.28 The Extraordinary Congress shall meet:

a) Upon the initiative of the President, when the same considers it necessary;

b) Upon the written and justified request of at least 50% + 1 (half plus one) of the members of the Executive Committee;

c) Upon written and justified request of at least 50% (half) of the affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights;

Providing it complies with the terms and procedures for the validity of Congress as set forth herein, an Extraordinary Congress may be called at the same time as an Ordinary Congress.

The resolutions and decisions of the Extraordinary Congress shall have the same validity as those of the Ordinary Congress.

12.29 The Extraordinary Congress may deal with all matters normally handled by the Ordinary Congress. It shall decide on the proposals to amend the Statutes or any proposal to dissolve the WKF.

12.30 The Chairman of the Congress shall decide on the duration of the speaking time granted to the participants and limitations to when an issue is considered adequately debated before being taken up for voting.

12.31 The Congress may delegate powers to the Executive Committee.

12.32 Any decision of the Congress, including decisions on amendments to the Statutes, comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the Congress upon proposal of the President.

12.33 Minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the Congress are established under the authority of the President.

ART. 13- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13.1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, and at least 22 (twenty two) members, of whom 5 (five) members shall be permanent members (i.e. the representatives of each of the 5 (five) Continental Federations), and 17 (seventeen) elected members.

13.2 All Executive Committee elective positions will be elected by the whole Congress.

13.3 In the Executive Committee the equal opportunity to women and men must be assured.

13.4 The Executive Committee will have the right to co-opt a number of additional female members in the event that after the elections the number of women members of the Executive Committee, in the Committee's own opinion, is considered insufficient for female representation. The Executive Committee will have also the right to co-opt 2(two) additional members. The term of the co-opted member(s) will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee, who may at any time revoke the co-option(s). These co-opted members are appointed with simple majority of the Executive Committee members and once co-opted will enjoy full membership and voting rights until the next ordinary election.

13.5 The Executive Committee will from time to time revise and fix the criteria and distribution of the 17 (seventeen) elective Executive Committee positions between the 5 (five) Continental Federations.

13.6 The Executive Committee shall be in power for a 6 (six) year term for the President's office and for a 4 (four) year term for the 17 (seventeen) elected members. All may be re-elected indefinitely.

13.7 The newly elected President and Executive Committee members will take office immediately after the election. All attendance and accreditation rights of the outgoing EC members will be kept until the day after the close of the Championships where the corresponding elective Congress has taken place.

13.8 In its first meeting, to take place as early as possible after the elective Congress, the Executive Committee, upon proposal of the President, shall reconfirm or appoint from among its members the 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd Vice-president, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary, the General Treasurer, and the Assistant General Treasurer.

The Executive Committee, upon proposal of the President, may revoke and subsequently reappoint any of these positions.

The Presidents of the 5 (five) Continental Federations will automatically assume the positions of Vice-presidents. When the representative of the Continental Federation is not the President of that Continental Federation, the representative will have the status of regular Executive Committee member.

The Executive Committee, by qualified majority of 3/5 (three fifths), may revoke the appointment of the representative of a Continental Federation in the WKF Executive Committee and may also consequently make a direct appointment for the representative of that Continental Federation in the WKF Executive Committee.

13.9 The Chairman of the Athletes Commission will be invited to attend all Executive Committee meetings.

13.10 In accordance with the provisions of Article 10 herein, former WKF Presidents shall remain Executive Committee members for life, without voting rights.

13.11 The Executive Committee shall lead, manage and administer WKF activity, draw up programmes in accordance with the directives approved by the Congress and assure that they are enacted.

Mainly, it shall:

a) Call Congresses, establishing the agenda;

b) Draft the technical and financial report on the previous year's activity, to be submitted for the approval of the Congress;

c) Approve the budget relative changes and the final balance-sheet, to be submitted for the approval of the Congress;

d) Create, restructure and remove Commissions;

e) Approve and amend Rules and Regulations;

f) Decide upon the provisional affiliation of National Federations, to be submitted for ratification of the Congress;

g) Decide on the suspension of international activities of National Federations that have not paid their annual fees;

h) Confer and repeal appointments;

i) Administer available funds;

j) Monitor compliance with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations and issued Norms;

k) Issue provisions pertaining to recognition, affiliation and membership;

l) Decide upon the amounts of fees and charges;

m) Grant amnesties, pardons and remissions and establish the limits of these measures;

n) Grant distinctions

0) Consider urgent provisions issued by the President;

p) Decide upon other matters included in the agenda;

13.12 The Executive Committee shall be convened by the President as required but at least 1 (one) time yearly in an ordinary session or, at the written and justified request of the majority of its members, in an extraordinary session.

13.13 There will be an Executive Bureau in charge to deal with the day to day affairs between the President and the different Bureau members, depending on the matters to be dealt with. The Executive Bureau composition will be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee upon the suggestion of the President. As a minimum it will comprise the President, the 1st Vice-president, the General Secretary and the General Treasurer.

13.14 If for any reason a position should become vacant in the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may proceed to co-opt a member in accordance with the terms of Article 10 herein. The co-opted member(s) shall remain in office at the discretion of the Executive Committee and as a limit until the following Congress, when regular elections for the co-opted position(s) are held.

13.15 The travel, accommodation costs and other expenses, as well as the relative allowances from the Executive Committee members shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Rules and Regulations.

13.16 The term of the members of the Executive Committee will be automatically extended up to the time of the Congress if the term expires before the date of meeting of such Congress.

13.17 At the request of the Executive Committee, meetings will also be attended by the Chairmen of the Permanent Commissions for matters directly concerning them.

13.18 All members of the Executive Committee of the WKF are its representatives in their respective countries and not delegates of their countries within the WKF. This is also applicable at Continental Federations level.

13.19 The National Federations affiliated to the WKF must include the WKF Executive Committee members in their country, if any. Such members shall form part of and will have the right to vote in the Executive Committees and the General Assemblies of their National Federations. When the national legislation does not allow so, they will be invited to attend, and will also in all cases be attributed a preferential place in all manifestations, events and championships.

13.20 When for any reason a meeting of the Executive Committee cannot take place, the necessary decision may be taken following an exchange of faxes or e-mails.

13.21 The Executive Committee takes all their decisions by simple majority. In the event of a tied vote, the President, or in his absence the Acting Chairman, will have the casting vote.

13.22 In order to be considered valid, any meeting of the Executive Committee of the WKF must include at least 50% (half) of its members and be presided over by the President, or in his absence, by one of the Vice-presidents to be selected following the order in which they were ranked. No proxies are allowed.

13.23 The minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the Executive Committee are established under the authority of the President. No correction or alteration to the minutes will be accepted unless written modification has been received and acknowledged in writing by the Secretariat within 1(one) month after they have been circulated to the National Federation members.

13.24 Vice-Presidents

13.24.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members, upon proposal of the President, at least the 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd Vice-president.

13.24.2 The Vice-presidents shall provide the President with assistance for all functions and shall replace him upon in the occasions as set forth herein in accordance with the relative procedures.

13.24.3 The Executive Committee may assign special duties to the Vice-presidents providing they are not in contradiction with the provisions herein.

13.25 General Secretary

13.25.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members, upon proposal of the President, the General Secretary.

13.25.2 To be eligible as the WKF General Secretary is necessary to be a WKF Executive Committee member at the time of the election in the relevant EC meeting (see 13.8).

13.25.3 The duties of the General Secretary shall be:

a) To execute the decisions taken by the Executive Committee;

b) To maintain relationships with the Continental Federations, with the affiliated National Federations and with outside parties;

c) To draw up and take care of the minutes of the Executive Committee and of the Congress meetings;

13.25.4 At each meeting of the Executive Committee the General Secretary must present an up to date report on the WKF situation.

13.26 Assistant General Secretary

13.26.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members, upon proposal of the President, the Assistant General Secretary.

13.26.2 The duties of the Assistant General Secretary shall be:

a) To assist the General Secretary and replace him in the event of absence or impediment;

b) Perform any other secretarial duty asked by the General Secretary or by the Executive Committee;

13.27 General Treasurer

13.27.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members, upon proposal of the President, the General Treasurer.

13.27.2 It is the duty of the General Treasurer to keep the accounts in order.

13.27.3 At each meeting of the Executive Committee to take place immediately before an Ordinary Congress, the General Treasurer must present an up to date report on the WKF situation.

13.28 Assistant General Treasurer

13.28.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members, upon proposal of the President, the Assistant General Treasurer.

13.28.2 The duties of the Assistant General Treasurer shall be:

a) To assist the General Treasurer and replace him in the event of absence or impediment;

b) Perform any other administrative duty asked by the General Treasurer or by the Executive Committee;

ART. 14- PRESIDENT

14.1 The President or other member(s) of the Executive Committee appointed by the President shall represent the WKF in International Organisations and before outside parties. The President represents the WKF before the ordinary justice both in demand and in defence without need to be authorised by the Executive Committee. He can delegate his powers to be represented in any event, before the Court or before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAS / CAS) or in any other juridical matter.

14.2 To be eligible as the WKF President is necessary to be a WKF Executive Committee member at the time of the election.

14.3 The WKF President shall be responsible for the day to day running of the WKF and for answering to the Congress and to the Executive Committee.

14.4 The WKF President shall convene and chair the Executive Committee, after having drafted the agenda, and shall monitor the implementation of the approved resolutions, barring exceptions expressly specified herein

14.5 The WKF President shall convene and chair the Congress, barring exceptions expressly specified herein.

14.6 The WKF President will be by right a member of the Executive Committee of each of the Continental Federations recognised by the WKF.

14.7 In emergency situations, the WKF President may take decisions normally attributed to the Executive Committee or to the Congress. These decisions shall however be submitted to the ratification of the Executive Committee, and in its case of the Congress, in its subsequent meeting.

14.8 In the event of a temporary absence, the WKF President may delegate some or all of his functions and powers to the 1st Vice-president.

14.9 In the event of the President's resignation or permanent absence, his powers shall be taken over by the 1st Vice-president, that, together with the Executive Committee, shall continue to carry out the ordinary administration of the WKF until the next Congress, to be convened and held in accordance with the terms and procedures for the validity of a Congress as set forth herein. In the event of absence or resignation of the 1st Vice-president, the other Vice-presidents shall take his place according firstly to the rank given by the Executive Committee, secondly to seniority in office and lastly to seniority by age.

ART. 15- FINANCES, ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING

15.1 Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the General Treasurer is responsible for the liquid assets of the WKF and the regular keeping of the accounts.

15.2 The Executive Committee will appoint an independent qualified accountant, or a firm of qualified accountants, who will be given the task of auditing annually the accounts of the WKF and reporting to it on them. For each Ordinary Congress, the appointed accountant will moreover provide a succinct report on the audit of the WKF accounts. This report will also indicate whether the accounts have been kept in a regular manner and in accordance with the Statutes of the WKF.

ART. 16- PERMANENT COMMISSIONS

Without prejudice of what contained in Article 13, point 11), letter d), there will in principle be the following Permanent Commissions:

1.- Anti Doping Commission
2.- Athletes Commission
3.- Disciplinary and Legal Commission
4.- Gender Equity Commission
5.- Medical Commission
6.- Organisation Commission
7.- Refereeing Commission
8.- Sports Commission
9.- Technical Commission

ART. 17- RULES AND REGULATIONS

17.1 The Executive Committee, in accordance with the terms set forth in Article 13, point 11), letter e), and in order to achieve the aims of the WKF, shall issue all the Rules and Regulations.

17.2 The Permanent Commissions shall help to prepare the Rules and Regulations in their own sphere of activity.

17.3 All Rules and Regulations must conform to the principles of these Statutes.

ART. 18- HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBERS

18.1 Based upon a proposal of the Executive Committee, the Ordinary Congress shall elect the Honorary Presidents and the Honorary Members by acclamation. They shall be chosen among members who, with selfless commitment, have made a significant contribution to the spread of karate in the world and acquired special merits within the WKF.

The Honorary President(s) and Honorary Member(s) are elected without time limitation. Their nomination may be reconsidered by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Committee or the Disciplinary and Legal Commission by a 2/3 (two thirds) majority vote.

18.2 It is not possible to have more than 2 (two) Honorary Presidents at the same time, except in the case of an outgoing President being elected Honorary President.

18.3 The Honorary President is entitled to attend, without voting rights, Congresses and Executive Committee meetings.

18.4 The Honorary President(s) and Honorary Members shall make up the WKF Honorary Board.

ART. 19- PRIZES AND REWARDS

19.1 The Star for Sporting Merit will be the distinction to honour National Federations and individuals who have distinguished themselves through the performance of activity to popularise and improve the sport of karate.

19.2 There are 3 (three) types of Stars for Sporting Merit:

a) Gold: For the Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members, for National Federations and individuals that have worked for karate at least 20 (twenty) years.

b) Silver: For National Federations and individuals that have worked for karate at least 15 (fifteen) years.

c) Bronze: For National Federations and individuals that have worked for karate at least 10 (ten) years.

19.3 The Stars for Sporting Merit are accompanied by the corresponding Diploma and, for individuals, by a special badge.

ART. 20- DAN GRADES

20.1 The WKF shall recognize and award Dan Grades in accordance with the relative Regulations.

ART. 21- PRINCIPLES OF SPORTING JUSTICE

21.1 The WKF will have a Disciplinary and Legal Commission (DLC). The right of defence and contradiction will be granted.

21.2 Any dispute arising from the application or interpretation of the WKF Statutes will be settled exclusively and finally by a Tribunal formed by the DLC following its Rules.

21.3 The National Federations are responsible before the WKF of the actions of the associations, clubs and individuals that belong to them, as well as of the compliance of all their components with the Statutes of the WKF.

21.4 A National Federation may be excluded from the WKF for one of the following reasons:

a) By majority decision of the Congress;

b) For omission of payment of the membership fees for 2 (two) years. In this case the decision may be taken by the Executive Committee;

c) By decision of the DLC, in accordance with the Article 11 of the Disciplinary Rules.

21.5 National Federations who have not paid their annual fees and whatever other amounts due to the WKF by the required date may be suspended by the Executive Committee as full rights members and from all international activities until complete payment of all amounts due is made. Only the Executive Committee will be able to authorise exceptions or postponements, these exceptions or postponements not affecting the full applicability of Articles 10.1 and 12.21.

21.6 National Federations whose payments are not completely made at the date fixed by the Congress may be authorised by the Executive Committee to attend the Congress but will not have the rights to intervene nor to vote.

21.7 Whether a National Federation shall leave the WKF through expulsion or resignation or any other reason, it shall remain liable to the WKF for all amounts due and must fulfil its duties and obligations to the WKF.

21.8 If a National Federation, the members that form that National Federation or an individual member of that National Federation contravenes the Statutes of the WKF, or for any reason of discipline, the WKF may restrain or suspend the activities of this Federation or individual member, in accordance with the WKF Statutes and the Disciplinary Rules. Any disciplinary decision taken by the WKF must also be applied inside the corresponding Continental Federation.

21.9 The WKF expressly prohibits their National Federations, and their components, from the double affiliation with any karate organisation as it may be determined by the WKF Executive Committee to be a dissenting organisation.

National Federations and their members are prohibited from having sporting relationships with these dissenting organisations, or with a member country of the WKF which National Federation is suspended due to non payment of fees or for disciplinary reasons.

21.10 The Disciplinary and Legal Commission may take disciplinary actions against Federations and physical persons.

21.11 The amnesties, pardons and remissions given can be specific, partial or of an absolutely general nature.

21.12 Affiliated members and Individuals shall commit themselves to accept no authority other than the one of the WKF. An appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAS / CAS) is only possible after having exhausted all the internal resources foreseen in the WKF Statutes and Disciplinary Rules.

ART. 22- AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

22.1 Proposals to amend these Statutes may be put forward by the Executive Committee or by affiliated National Federations having voting rights. In the case of National Federations, proposals must be presented to the Executive Committee by at least 50% + 1 (half plus one) of all affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

22.2 The Executive Committee shall call the relevant Extraordinary Congress in compliance with the terms and procedures as set forth herein.

22.3 Proposals to amend these Statutes must be approved by at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the affiliated National Federations having voting rights that are present at the Congress.

22.4 Changes in these Statutes become provisionally effective upon approval of the Executive Committee and finally upon ratification by the Congress.

22.5 For anything that is not covered by these Statutes, the Executive Committee may take action the necessary decisions which must then be submitted for ratification to the next Congress.

ART. 23- DISSOLUTION

23.1 The proposal to dissolve the WKF must be presented to the Executive Committee by at least 4/5 (four fifths) of the affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

23.2 The Executive Committee shall call the relative Extraordinary Congress in compliance with the terms and procedures as set forth herein.

23.3 The proposal to dissolve the WKF must be decided by the Extraordinary Congress with a majority of at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of the votes of the affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

23.4 Should the WKF be dissolved, its assets must be divided among the affiliated National Federations having voting rights in proportion to the number of years that each Federation has been affiliated.

Transitional Dispositions

1) These Statutes will be in effect immediately after their approval of the WKF Congress, with exception to any paragraph that may, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, infringe on the existing rights of elected officials under the previous existing Statutes, in which case the Executive Committee will make such dispositions as in their opinion is deemed required, and determine the necessary transition period for any such remedy.

2) The elections in the 5 (five) Continental Federations must be held in the year after the Olympic Summer Games.

3) The Chairmanship of the Athletes Commission is at present an appointed position. It is the intent of the WKF to, at such time as there is in place a mechanism through which this position can be directly elected by the athletes, to revise the Statutes to include the Chairman of the Athletes Commission as a full rights Executive Committee member. In the interim, the Chairman of the Athletes Commission will be invited to all Executive Committee meetings, participating in the deliberations without voting rights.

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The present Statutes have been approved by the WKF Congress in Bremen (Germany) on November 4th of the year 2014.