



# STATUTES

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WORLD TAEKWONDO FEDERATION

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**World Taekwondo Federation Statutes  
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## Preamble

[1] Taekwondo is a Korean martial art whose origins can be traced back thousands of years. Taekwondo seeks to train and strengthen its devotees in body, mind and spirit, and it has also evolved into a sport. Today, taekwondo is the world's most practiced martial art in terms of number of practitioners.

[2] The World Taekwondo Federation (the "WTF") was founded in 1973 to promote the development and practice of taekwondo. Under the leadership of the WTF, taekwondo was admitted to the Olympic Games as a demonstration sport during the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and has been an official sport of the Olympic Games since the Sydney Games of 2000.

[3] The WTF has over 190 Member National Associations, making it one of the most diverse federations in the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations ("ASOIF"). It is also one of only two Asian sports represented in the Olympics.

## **PART I: WORLD TAEKWONDO FEDERATION**

### **Article 1 World Taekwondo Federation**

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- 1.1 World Taekwondo Federation (the "WTF"): The WTF is an international non-governmental not-for-profit organization chartered in Korea. The WTF is governed by these Statutes and the rules promulgated hereunder.
- 1.2 Recognition: The WTF is recognized by the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") as the sole governing authority of taekwondo at the Olympic Games.
- 1.3 Location: The WTF headquarters are located in Seoul, Korea. The WTF maintains a representative office in Lausanne, Switzerland.

### **Article 2 Mission and Objectives**

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- 2.1 Olympic Movement: The WTF shall observe the general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter and propagate the Olympic Movement through the sport of taekwondo.
- 2.2 Autonomy: In accordance with the Olympic Charter, the WTF maintains its independence and autonomy in the administration of the sport of taekwondo in its Member National Associations and Continental Unions.
- 2.3 Mission and Objectives: The mission of the WTF is to provide effective international governance of taekwondo as an Olympic Sport. The objectives of the WTF are the following:
  - A. to promote, expand, and improve worldwide the practice of taekwondo in light of its educational, cultural, and sports values (the "Taekwondo movement");
  - B. to promote fair play, youth development, and education;
  - C. to encourage peace and cooperation through participation in sports;
  - D. to promote or sanction international taekwondo competitions;
  - E. to draw up technical rules regulating taekwondo competitions and poomsae competitions sanctioned or promoted by the WTF, including the taekwondo event of the Olympic Games;
  - F. to take action in order to strengthen the unity and protect the interests of the WTF and the Taekwondo Movement;
  - G. to engage in other activities in support of the above objectives.

### **Article 3 Statutes, Rules, and Codes**

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- 3.1 Statutes: The WTF Statutes (these "Statutes") is the fundamental and universal document upon which the administration of the sport of taekwondo is based. These Statutes are intended to be specific enough to achieve complete harmonization on issues where uniformity is required.
- 3.2 Competition Rules: All Championships promoted or sanctioned by the WTF shall observe the WTF Competition Rules and Interpretations (the "Competition Rules").
- 3.3 WADA: The WTF shall strictly observe the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA") Code as prescribed by the IOC and other anti-doping codes relevant in preserving the intrinsic value of the spirit of the sport.
- 3.4 Best Practices: The WTF shall strictly consult with and integrate, if necessary, the best practices and models of the IOC and other International Federations ("IFs") of the Olympic Movement, and other organizations with regard to the administration of the sport of taekwondo.

## **Article 4                    Languages**

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- 4.1 Official Language: English is the official language of the WTF. French, Korean, and Spanish are the auxiliary languages.
- 4.2 Statues and Rules: The WTF Statutes and the WTF Competition Rules and amendments thereto shall be published in the official and the auxiliary languages. Korean technical terms may be used for competition as prescribed by the Competition Rules. In case of a conflict among the different versions, the English language version shall prevail.
- 4.3 Proceedings and Etc.: English is the operating language of the General Assembly, Council, and Secretariat. English is the official language for the minutes, correspondence, seminars, trainings and announcements of the WTF. Members are responsible for translation of the aforesaid into the language of their country. Any MNA shall have the right to speak or write in its mother tongue, but the contents must be translated by the MNA and provided in the official language.

## **PART II: ORGANIZATION**

## **Article 5                    Composition**

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- 5.1 Main Constituents: The main constituents of the WTF are the following: the General Assembly (hereinafter from time to time referred to as "the GA". See Article 7); the WTF Council (hereinafter from time to time referred to as "the Council". See Article 8); the President. (See Article 9); and the Secretariat (See Article 13).
- 5.2 Secondary Bodies: In addition to its main constituents the WTF also encompasses other organizations that have been duly authorized or recognized by the Council and the GA and that operate under the auspices of the WTF. WTF-recognized or authorized organizations include but are not limited to the Continental Unions.

## **Article 6                    Officials**

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- 6.1 Officials: The following officials ("Officials") shall be incepted at the WTF:
  - A. One President
  - B. Six Vice Presidents
  - C. One Secretary General
  - D. One Treasurer
  - E. Twenty-four or less Council members, not inclusive of ex-officio Council Members
  - F. Two Auditors
- 6.2 Status: The Officials shall be elected or appointed as individuals and not as representatives of MNAs. For replacement of officials the following apply:
  - i) if a member resigns or is otherwise unable to continue as an Official, the post shall not necessarily be filled by another individual of the same nationality.
  - ii) if an elected Official is to be replaced, unless otherwise provided for, the by-election shall be held in the Council.
  - iii) The term of office for a replacement Official will be the remaining period of his or her predecessor.

- 6.3 Term: The term of office of elected Officials is four years. The term of office of appointed Officials shall coincide with the term of the President with the exception of the two athlete council members, whose terms of office shall be two years or the end of the President's term, whichever comes first.
- i) All elected Officials begin their terms of office at the end of the GA which elected them.
  - ii) Their terms of office cease at the end of the GA held during the year in which they expire. For the purposes of this rule, a year means the period between two successive General Assemblies.
- 6.4 Ex Officio Council Members: The presidents of the WTF Continental Unions shall be ex-officio members of the Council. If the president of a continental union is elected as the President of the WTF, he or she must resign from the continental presidency within one (1) month.
- 6.5 Re-election: Elected officials are eligible for reelection to their current position without undertaking the candidate application procedures provided in Article 6.7 (i) and (ii).
- 6.6 Appointed Officials: The President is empowered to appoint and remove certain officials. During the appointment process, the President shall take into consideration the distribution of gender and continental representation as well as special skills/qualifications. The President is empowered to appoint the following:
- i) The Secretary General
  - ii) The Treasurer
  - iii) Three Vice Presidents
  - iv) Ten Council Members, including one male and one female athlete council member who have retired from active competition within the last eight years.
- 6.7 Elected Officials: The following shall apply for elected officials:
- i) Only MNA executive board members (or if there is no executive board of a corresponding organ as determined by the ad-hoc Elections Committee) can be nominated as candidates for elected WTF Officials, including the presidency, with the recommendation of the pertinent MNA.
  - ii) The completed application documents for candidature should arrive at the WTF Secretariat no later than 90 days before the election date. The CUs of the MNAs to which candidates belong are required to submit letters guaranteeing to cover all the expenses needed for the candidates' attendance at the official WTF meetings.
  - iii) After the deadline for the candidature application, an ad-hoc Election Committee, composing of five or fewer members, will be established by the President at the request of the Secretary General for screening of the qualifications of the candidates and management of the election procedures in accordance with these Statutes. The final list of the candidatures for election, as screened by the ad-hoc Election Committee, shall be circulated to all MNAs by no later than two months before the General Assembly.
  - iv) All candidates are expected to act with utmost integrity and responsibility and to reflect the values and ethics of the WTF. Those that fail to do so shall face disciplinary actions, such as disqualification of their candidacies, pending the investigation and decision of the ad-hoc Election Committee.
  - v) Bylaws for the election shall be provided separately.
- 6.8 Removal: When an official appointed by the President is adjudged to have been disciplined by the pertinent MNA that he or she belongs to, or when he or she commits any actions that undermine and disgrace the WTF, the President may, at his discretion, withdraw the appointment. In the event that an official elected at the GA commits any actions that undermine and disgrace the WTF, the President may take the matter to the Ethics Committee.



## Article 7                    General Assembly

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7.1 The General Assembly (the "GA"): The GA is the general meeting of the Council and representatives of MNAs of the WTF. The GA is the WTF's supreme decision making organ. Its decisions are final.

7.2 Powers: The powers of the GA are the following:

- i) election of Officials;
- ii) formulation and amendment of the Statutes and Competition Rules;
- iii) approval of the financial budget and financial report;
- iv) approval of the operations report and operations projects;
- v) other matters of importance;
- vi) the GA may refer matters under its jurisdiction and/or responsibility to the President or the Council.

7.3 Chairman: The President of the WTF shall be the Chairman of the GA.

- i. The Chairman may conclude GA discussion if deemed necessary for smooth progress of the meeting.
- ii. If the President is unable to attend he or she shall delegate the responsibility to a Vice President.
- iii. An ad-hoc chairman may be appointed to preside over election of Officials.

7.4 MNA Representatives: Member National Associations ("MNAs") eligible to vote may delegate up to two representatives to attend the GA. Only one of the representatives shall be allowed to speak and to cast a vote (the "Voting Representative.") Provisional MNAs may dispatch only one, non-voting, representative.

- i. It is expected that the Voting Representative will be the President of the MNA and, unless otherwise approved by the WTF, that he or she shall be a citizen in the nation or territory that the MNA represents. If the President is unable to attend, he or she may assign the right to act as Voting Representative to another member of his MNA, such assignment to be by proxy letter presented to the WTF. The proxy is to be a member of the pertinent MNA, with his or her nationality in the country in which the National Association is located.
- ii. Representative must submit their credentials, signed by the president of the MNA that he or she represents, to the WTF Secretariat in accordance with the procedure and deadline announced by the Secretariat.

7.5 Ordinary Meetings: Ordinary Meetings of the GA shall be held every year at the same location where the WTF World Championships or the WTF World Junior Taekwondo Championships is to be held.

7.6 Extraordinary GA Meetings: For Extraordinary GA Meetings, the following apply:

- i) Extraordinary Meetings may be convened whenever deemed necessary by the President, or:
  - A. within 3 months following the request of more than one-third (1/3) of the WTF Council members with clear reasons for the summons; or
  - B. within 3 months following the request of more than one-third (1/3) of the member National Associations with clear reasons for the summons.
- ii) The date, place and agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be designated by the President.
- iii) Matters that are not included in the written agenda of the meeting shall not be deliberated without unanimous consent.

7.7 Voting: Unless otherwise provided herein, Officials (except auditors) and the Voting Representatives of those MNAs that have satisfied the necessary eligibility requirements are entitled to vote.

- i. Voting at the GA shall be conducted by open ballot in general. However, if one or more representative request for a secret ballot, the GA shall vote on this matter, and a simple majority shall decide. Secret ballot is also used for elections and when otherwise required by these Statutes.

7.8 Quorum and Decisions: For GA voting, the following shall apply:

- i) A quorum required for the General Assembly shall consist of no less than one-third (1/3) of members eligible to vote.

- ii) A simple majority of members present and voting is required for passage of resolutions and other decisions. Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority.

- iii) The chairman has the deciding vote in case of a tie.

7.9 Effect: Any decision of the GA comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the GA.

7.10 Elections: Matters of procedure concerning GA elections not covered by these Statutes are determined by the ad-hoc Election Committee.

7.11 E-Voting: In the case of urgency, a resolution may be submitted to a vote by correspondence, including telefax or electronic mail, by the President to the Council and/or the GA. Voting eligibility requirements remain the same. For e-voting quorum purposes, unreturned ballots are considered abstentions; or, in the case of registered mail, certified receipt of mail by at least one-third of members eligible to vote. A simple majority decides. Results shall be announced in the WTF website and reported to the GA at its next meeting.

7.12 Minutes: Minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the GA are established under the authority of the Secretary General. The minutes shall be distributed to each member no later than two (2) months after the GA.

## **Article 8                      Council**

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8.1 Composition: The Council shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and the Council Members. For Council Members, the following shall apply:

- i) Of the 24 Council Members as prescribed in Article 6.1.E, a maximum of 14 members will be elected by the General Assembly.

- ii) Each CU shall provide at least one but not more than five elected members.

8.2 Responsibilities: Council members shall attend the meetings of the Council and GA and observe their responsibilities as prescribed herein. Council members owe a duty of care to the WTF. The Council shall decide upon the following:

- A. Planning and management of WTF organization and operations.
- B. Financial budget and financial reports.
- C. Formulation, amendments and repeal of the WTF Statutes, WTF Competition Rules, and by-laws.
- D. Jurisdiction over WTF-promoted championships and selection of Host Countries of the championships.

E. Agenda of the GA.

F. Matters referred to the Council by the GA or the President.

G. Other matters under its jurisdiction or responsibility as prescribed in these Statutes.

- 8.3 Attendance: An elected or appointed Council member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings without approval of the WTF shall cease to be a Council Member. Ex-official Council members who fail to attend two consecutive meetings without approval of the WTF shall have no voting rights for the following Council meeting.
- 8.4 Delegation: The WTF Council may refer matters under its jurisdiction or responsibility to the President. The Council may appoint ad hoc committees, if necessary.
- 8.5 Meetings: Ordinary Council meetings shall be called by the President before or after an Ordinary GA. Extraordinary Council meetings shall be called by the President before or after an Extraordinary GA, or whenever the President deems necessary.
- 8.6 Voting: For voting at Council Meetings the following shall apply:
- i) A majority of all Council members shall constitute a quorum for a meeting.
  - ii) A simple majority of members present and voting is required for passage of resolutions and other decisions.
- 8.7 GA Meetings: The members of the Council shall attend GA meetings as Council members and shall not be delegated as MNA representatives.
- 8.8 E-Voting: For matters that require urgent resolution of the Council, the President may call for a resolution via voting by E-Vote.

## **Article 9            President**

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- 9.1 President: The GA elects, by secret ballot, a President from among its members for a term of four years. A simple majority is required for election of the President. The duties of the President include the following:
- A. To lead and represent the WTF.
  - B. To concurrently lead the GA and the Council as its chairman, and preside over the meetings and other activities.
  - C. To designate official duties to Vice Presidents on an ad-hoc basis for the betterment of the development of the sport of taekwondo and the WTF operations.
  - D. To appoint the chairmen and members of the WTF Committees.
- 9.2 Emergency Measures: In case disputes occur over matters not specified in these Statutes, or matters that require urgent solution during the period between the two General Assemblies, the President may take emergency measures subject to later submission to and approval at the next Council meeting and the GA.
- 9.3 Advisors: The President may appoint advisors or special assistants, as the case may be, to seek advice on matters of importance.
- 9.4 Succession: If the President resigns or is incapacitated and thus unable to fulfill the duties of his office, the Vice Presidents shall elect from among their members, by simple majority, an acting president, such election to be ratified by the Council by simple majority.

**Article 10**            **Vice Presidents**

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10.1 Duties: The Duties of the Vice Presidents include the following

- A. To assist the President and to fulfill missions delegated by the President.
- B. To concurrently be included in the Council as vice chairmen.
- C. To preside over the ad-hoc duties designated by the President and submit a report thereafter.

**Article 11**            **Secretary General**

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11.1 The Secretary General shall:

- A. Plan, perform and manage the secretarial affairs regarding WTF organizations and operations and other general affairs related to the WTF Secretariat.
- B. Submit a report to the Council and GA on the activities of the Secretariat.
- C. Together with or with the approval of the President, as the case may be, negotiate and sign all contracts between the WTF and other organizations or companies.
- D. Represent the WTF at negotiations concluded on its behalf.

**Article 12**            **Council Members, Treasurer, and Auditors**

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12.1 Council Members: Council Members shall attend Council and GA meetings and observe their responsibilities as prescribed in Article 8 above.

12.2 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget and balance sheet to be presented to the Council and GA.

12.3 Auditors: The Auditors have the following duties:

- A. Conduct audits on the WTF balance sheets and budget as prepared by the Treasurer.
- B. Submit audit statements at the Council and GA meetings, when necessary.

**Article 13**            **Secretariat**

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13.1 Secretariat: The WTF shall install the Secretariat at the location of the WTF Headquarters for the execution of the secretarial affairs and duties of the President and the Secretary General.

13.2 Personnel: Personnel working at the Secretariat shall be appointed and dismissed by the President at the recommendation of the Secretary General. The President may also entrust the Secretary General with the power to appoint and dismiss personnel.

13.3 Equal Opportunity: Personnel may be employed at the Secretariat, regardless of race, religion, nationality, creed, etc., as deemed fit by the President and the Secretary General.

**Article 14 Member National Associations**

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14.1 Member National Associations (“MNAs”): WTF MNAs shall consist of duly recognized national taekwondo associations.

14.2 Nation or Territory: WTF shall approve only one MNA for each nation or each self-governing territory. In the event that a country is not self-governing but has a National Olympic Committee (“NOC”) recognized by the IOC, it shall be eligible for application into the WTF.

14.3 Levels of Membership: The following shall be the levels of membership within the structure of the WTF:

- (A) Full Membership: Full members shall have voting rights at the GA and shall have the right to participate in all official events of the WTF. Full members shall be required to pay annual membership fees, as prescribed in these Statutes.
- (B) Demoted Membership: An MNA shall be demoted if it does not fulfill its financial or Championship participation requirements, or if it is found by the Sanctions Committee to have engaged in a gross violation of these Statutes. Demoted members shall no longer be able to exercise voting rights in official meetings, such as at the GA, but they still retain the right to participate in all official WTF events. Demoted members are still required to pay their membership fees. Demoted members will not be eligible for funding from the WTF. Demoted members may restore their membership status in full when they fulfill the requirements prescribed in these Statutes.
- (C) Provisional Membership: Provisional members are MNAs that have fulfilled all application requirements as prescribed in these Statutes, and are awaiting final approval of the Council and GA for their membership. Provisional members have no voting rights in official meetings, such as at the GA, but they shall have the right to participate in all official WTF events. Provisional members are not required to pay annual membership fees. Provisional members will become full members when they have fulfilled the requirements prescribed in these Statutes and their applications have been approved by the Council and the GA.
- (D) Associate Membership: Associate membership may be given to MNAs from countries that are not self-governing. Associate members may attend official meetings, such as the GA, as observers, but they shall have no voting rights. They shall have the right to participate in official WTF events only upon the approval of the WTF. Associate members are required to pay annual membership fees under the Tier 3 classification level.
- (E) Suspended Membership: An MNA may be subject to suspension of its WTF membership if the Sanctions Committee concludes that the MNA had not fulfilled its financial or other outstanding obligations or has acted in gross violation or repeated violations of these Statutes, or for bad governance or a failure of governance pursuant to a final decision of the WTF Ethics Committee. Suspended members shall no longer be able to attend official meetings, such as at the GA, nor will they be able to participate in all official events of the WTF, nor will they be eligible to receive funds from the WTF. Suspended members are not required to pay annual membership fees for the period of their suspension. Suspension can be removed by decision of the Council on recommendation of the President.

## **Article 15            Becoming a Member**

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15.1 Membership Applications: Admittance into the WTF shall require the approval of the Council and GA. National taekwondo associations applying for WTF membership are required to present designated application documents to the WTF. National associations that would like to join the WTF must submit the following to the WTF Secretary General:

- i) a completed membership application along with a US\$500 application fee;
- ii) a commitment letter pledging that the national association intends to dispatch at least two competitors, ideally one male and one female, to each WTF World Championship and WTF World Junior Taekwondo Championship.

15.2 Admittance Procedure: Once a completed application form has been received by the Secretary General it shall be submitted to the Council for contingent approval. If membership is approved by the Council a resolution for admittance shall be submitted to the GA for final approval.

15.3 Multiple Organizations: In case more than one organization claims to represent a nation or self governing territory, the dispute shall be resolved by WTF.

## **Article 16            MNA Rights and Responsibilities**

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16.1 MNA Statutes: All MNAs shall constitute their respective statutes in strict conformity with the principles of these Statutes so as not to contravene any provisions herein.

16.2 Annual Fees: Each MNA is required to pay an annual membership fee by the end of each calendar year. Failure to pay the annual membership fee will result in immediate suspension of membership until the fee, along with any resulting penalties, is paid.

- i) Tiers: Membership fees are scaled according to the following classifications: Tier One = US\$700; Tier Two = US\$500; and Tier Three = US\$ 300.
- ii) Determination of Tiers: As the default rule, unless otherwise provided herein, all MNAs are to be Tier One. The Council may designate specific MNAs as Tier Two or Tier Three based on special circumstances.
- iii) Penalties: MNAs that fail to pay membership fees for more than three months past the due date may be referred to the Sanctions Committee for further action. Memberships of MNAs that are referred to the Sanctions Committee under this clause cannot be restored without approval of the Council.

16.3 Affiliations: MNAs shall be neither affiliated to any other international taekwondo organization not recognized by WTF, nor participate in any taekwondo events organized by such an organization. An executive board member of a MNA shall not hold another executive board member position concurrently in another MNA.

16.4 Participation in Championships: MNAs with Full Membership and Demoted Membership have the right and obligation to send competitors to the WTF World Championships and the WTF World Junior Championships.

- i) MNAs are required dispatch at least two competitors to at least one of the two most recent Championships.
- ii) MNAs who fail to participate in championships as provided above without justifiable reasons, such as but not limited to, natural calamities, shall be demoted at the GA on the occasion of the second

successive championships in which the MNA has failed to participate. MNAs demoted under this clause shall regain their full membership on the GA following the fulfillment of the participation requirement.

16.5 Hosting WTF Events: Unless otherwise prescribed in these Statutes, all MNAs have equal right to host WTF events with approval of WTF, including WTF-promoted championships.

16.6 Non-WTF Championships: MNAs may host other international championships, such as invitational and goodwill, provided that these championships do not include the term "World", do not use the WTF logo or emblems, do not use the names of the CUs of the WTF, and do not violate the letter or the spirit of Article 16.3 (Affiliations).

16.7 New Member Voting Rights: National associations shall be given WTF membership at the time of the General Assembly called to ratify the membership, but shall not be eligible to vote until the next GA is convened.

16.8 Reporting: MNAs are required to submit an annual report of their taekwondo activities to the WTF in official forms developed by the WTF.

16.9 Withdrawal: Any MNA may withdraw its membership provided that it has fulfilled its financial and other outstanding obligations to the WTF. To be effective notice of withdrawal must be provided within four months of the end of a calendar year.

#### **Article 17            Equal Protection**

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17.1 Equal Protection: All WTF Members shall be equal before these Statutes. The WTF shall be free of any form of discrimination with regard to a country or person on the grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise.

### **PART IV: CONTINENTAL UNIONS**

#### **Article 18            Continental Unions**

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18.1 Continental Unions: MNAs located in the same geographic area may form a Continental Union ("CU") with prior approval of the WTF. MNAs not part of the same continent/geographic area can join a CU with approval of the WTF.

18.2 Boundaries: The territorial boundaries for jurisdiction of a CU shall be fixed by the Council. Only WTF MNAs may affiliate to a WTF CU.

#### **Article 19            CU Recognition**

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19.1 Recognition: Recognition by the WTF shall be granted to and withdrawn from each CU per decision of the Council. The decision of the Council to recognize or withdraw recognition from a structure as a recognized CU shall be made based on the capability of the structure to ensure the function of a CU in the interest of the sport of taekwondo and the interests of the WTF.

19.2 Special Action: In case of serious breach of the WTF Statutes or WTF Competition Rules or a serious failure of governance, as determined by the Sanctions Committee, the WTF shall have the right to appoint an emergency replacement of CU leadership.

19.3 Recognized CUs: WTF recognizes five Continental Unions as follows:

- African Taekwondo Union – AFTU;
- Asian Taekwondo Union – ATU;
- European Taekwondo Union – ETU;
- Oceania Taekwondo Union - OTU;
- Pan American Taekwondo Union – PATU

## **Article 20            CU Requirements**

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20.1 Constitution: CUs shall adopt a basic constitution as provided by the WTF. Amendments thereto shall be subject to the final approval of the WTF Council.

20.2 Reporting: CUs shall conduct only the operations approved or entrusted to them by the WTF. Each CU shall keep minutes of all official CU meetings, including all ordinary and extraordinary general assembly meetings and council meetings, and shall submit those minutes to the WTF. Each CU shall submit an annual report to the WTF in official forms developed by the WTF. The WTF shall have a right to call for an inspection of CU accounting books regarding the use of funds provided by the WTF.

20.3 Officers: Only individuals who are a board member of a WTF MNA belonging to a CU are eligible for election as an officer of the pertinent CU. CU officers cannot be members of more than one MNA.

- i) Candidates for CU president must be recommended by at least three (3) of the CU's MNAs or by the WTF President. The CU president-elect must be ratified by the WTF. If there is no ratification, the WTF may designate an interim CU president until new elections can be held.

20.4 Ex-Officio: Members of the WTF Council shall have the option to be ex-officio members of an appropriate CU council.

20.5 Observer: WTF has the right to appoint an observer to each CU council and/or GA. The observer has the right to attend and speak at all official CU meetings, but has no voting rights. Attendance costs for the observer are to be covered by the CU.

20.6 CU Elections: CU elections shall be held within the six months after the election of the WTF president.

20.7 CU Championships: CU taekwondo championships shall be held every two years under supervision of the WTF, and shall be organized by a host MNA selected at the general assembly of the CU. The CU taekwondo championships shall not be held in the same year as the WTF World Championships.

20.8 Calendar: The dates and locations of CU Championships and other tournaments and events shall be subject to the approval of the WTF. A calendar of events shall be submitted to the WTF at the beginning of each calendar year. A report on the results of all completed events shall be submitted to the WTF within one month of the completion of the event, along with all related documents and media material.



## **PART V: ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES**

### **Article 21           Activities**

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21.1 Activities: The WTF engages in the following activities:

- i) promoting and sponsoring championships, tournaments and other events;
- ii) research for the propagation and development of taekwondo techniques;
- iii) publication of taekwondo-related material;
- iv) promoting the principles and activities of the World Taekwondo Academy;
- v) promoting the principles that the Kukkiwon, center of traditional taekwondo, has adopted in respect to the taekwondo philosophy and the development of techniques and Dan certification.
- vi) sponsoring, recognizing, or otherwise supporting organizations designed to further the development of taekwondo;
- vii) developing education, training and certification programs for members of the WTF;
- viii) supporting the advancement of scientific and medical understanding of taekwondo;
- ix) supporting the participation of women in sports;
- x) supporting the participation of the physically challenged in sports; and
- xi) other activities authorized by the Council in furtherance of the WTF's mission and objectives as defined in Article 2.

### **Article 22           WTF Promoted Championships:**

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22.1 WTF Promoted Championships: The following are WTF Promoted Championships:

- i. WTF World Championships;
- ii. WTF World Junior Championships;
- iii. WTF World Cup Team Taekwondo Championships;
- iv. WTF World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships;
- v. WTF World Para-Taekwondo Championships; and

22.2 World Championships: The WTF World Championships and the WTF World Junior Taekwondo Championships shall be held every two years under the auspices of the WTF and organized by a host MNA. The WTF World Championships and the WTF World Junior Championships shall not be held in the same year.

22.3 Other Championships: The timing for the WTF World Cup Taekwondo Championships and the WTF World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships shall be determined by the Council as recommended by the President.

22.4 YOG: In the year of the Youth Olympic Games ("YOG"), the WTF World Junior Taekwondo Championships shall be held, ideally, no later than six months prior to the Games, in connection with the YOG Qualifier.

22.5 Host City Selection: Any MNA applying to host a WTF-promoted championship shall abide by the following procedure:

- i) Organizing Committee applies to host the WTF-promoted championship by submitting a written Host City Application with prescribed terms and conditions and proposing a specific amount of monetary contribution to the WTF, along with required documents, to the WTF.
- ii) WTF inspection team reviews the prospective Host City facilities and plans and gives a report to the Council.
- iii) Organizing Committee presents bid to the Council for Council decision.

22.6 Host City Agreements: Selected Host Cities shall enter into a Host City Agreement with the WTF with prescribed terms and conditions, ideally no later than six months prior to the event.

22.7 Other Events: The WTF sanctions various international competitions including but not limited to the World University Taekwondo Championships and the World Military Taekwondo Championships. The WTF also promotes or sanctions other events including but not limited to international training and certification courses and seminars for coaches and referees.

## **Article 23 Referees, Coaches, Competition Rules**

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23.1 Competition Rules: All championships promoted or sanctioned by the WTF shall observe the Competition Rules of the WTF.

23.2 International Referees: WTF Championships, CU Taekwondo Championships, and other international championships sanctioned or promoted by the WTF shall be officiated only by WTF-approved International Referees.

23.3 International Referee Training: Only the WTF shall conduct or authorize International Referee training courses, refresher courses and seminars. Apart from MNAs, no other organization shall be authorized to organize, execute, or issue certificates for referee training courses, refreshers courses, or seminars.

23.4 International Referee Qualification: The President shall grant the qualification of "International Referee" to those who have successfully completed an International Referee Seminar and who have passed all the prerequisite tests and criteria deemed necessary by the WTF.

23.5 International Coach: The President shall grant the qualification of "International Coach" to those who have successfully completed the International Coach Training Course and who have passed all the prerequisite tests and criteria deemed necessary by the WTF.

23.6 Related Rules and Regulations: The rules for organizing the championships and regulations for the International Referee and International Coach shall be enacted by the Council.

## **Article 24 Finances**

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24.1 Income Sources: The income of the WTF shall be derived from the following sources: membership fees; operating income; donations and subsidies; other income.

24.2 Financial Year: The financial year of the WTF shall start on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.

24.3 Auditing of Members: Any Continental Union, or Member National Association, or other organization that receives WTF subsidies or funding, including the Development Fund, may be audited by the WTF as regards the use of such funds. For this purpose, their accounts must be available at all times to the auditors appointed by the WTF. The WTF may demand return of misused or unused funds.

## **Article 25 Intellectual Property**

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25.1 In General: WTF-promoted competitions and events are the exclusive property of the WTF, which owns all rights and data relating thereto, in particular, and without limitation, all rights relating to their organization, exploitation, broadcasting, recording, representation, reproduction, access and dissemination in any form and by any means or mechanism whatsoever, whether now existing or developed in the future. The WTF shall determine the conditions of access to and the conditions of any use of data relating to the WTF-promoted competitions and events.

25.2 Marks and Symbols: The WTF emblem, flag, motto, identifications (including but not limited to “WTF-promoted” and “WTF-sanctioned”), as defined by the WTF shall be collectively or individually referred to as “WTF Properties.” The following applies to WTF Properties:

i) All rights to any and all WTF Properties, as well as all rights to the use thereof, belong exclusively to the WTF, including but not limited to the use for any profit-making, commercial or advertising purposes. The WTF may license all or part of its rights on terms and conditions set forth by the WTF.

ii) WTF properties shall not be used without prior approval of the WTF. Each MNA shall use reasonable efforts for prevention of the name and emblem's use without approval of the WTF in the areas under the jurisdiction of that association.

iii) The WTF reserves the right to approve MNAs to take appropriate legal action against pirating and/or illegal use of the name and emblem of the WTF by clubs, associations and individuals in countries where such violations have occurred.

25.3 Bylaws: By-laws concerning the use of WTF Properties, in their original form or any other possible modifications, and the possible legal and/or disciplinary actions against perpetrators who did not obtain such official approval from WTF, shall be enacted separately.

## **Article 26            Media Rights**

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26.1 Media Rights: All television, radio, photographic, film, internet, telephone and other media rights to WTF events known of or unknown of today are the exclusive property of the WTF. These rights may not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of the WTF, which may delegate its powers to negotiate the sale or use of these rights, but which shall retain the sole authority for the final decision.

26.2 Hosting WTF Promoted Championships: When a MNA hosts a WTF-promoted event, the Organizing Committee shall first get the approval of the WTF before signing any marketing contract with private entities. For such contracts the following shall apply:

i) The WTF shall be allotted thirty percent (30%) of any fees for all media rights, advertisement income and royalties arranged by the Organizing Committee for using the WTF emblem in connection with all the WTF-promoted championships.

ii) For arrangements by the WTF for the Organizing Committee, those fees shall be divided in equal parts between the WTF and the Organizing Committee.

## **PART VI: COMMITTEES**

### **Article 27            Committees**

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27.1 Standing Committees: The WTF Council shall constitute the following standing committees as auxiliary apparatuses:

(A) Technical Committee: The task of this committee is to formulate revisions to the WTF Competition Rules and review the organization and management of taekwondo competitions. The committee shall analyze various issues in the effective management of international referees and study the improvement of techniques related to taekwondo competitions.

i. Sub-Committees: For systematic achievement of its function, the committee may compose of sub-committees as follows:

1. Games Committee: The Games Committee is tasked with studying the requirements for further improvements of the organization and management of taekwondo competitions.
  2. Referee Committee: The Referee Committee is tasked with studying the conditions for consistent application of the WTF Competition Rules, researching methods of effective management of and conducting training courses for International Referees.
  3. Training, Education and Development Committee: The Training, Education and Development Committee is tasked with studying the requirement for cultivation of competent athletes, coaches and general taekwondo practitioners, etc, and preparing educational materials for the further development of taekwondo and better understanding of the WADA and anti-doping rules.
- ii. Reporting: The chairman of the Technical Committee, when needed, shall attend the WTF Council meeting. The Technical Committee proposes a technical delegate and an ex-officio member of the Competition Supervisory Board to the Secretary General for all the taekwondo competitions organized by the WTF.
  - iii. Supervision: The chairman of the Technical Committee is required to report to the Secretary General and can hold meetings, when deemed necessary, with the vice chairmen of the committee and members of the sub-committees. The chairman of the Technical Committee is also obliged to draft the amendments to the WTF Competition Rules for deliberation at the WTF Council meeting, the General Assembly or the Joint Technical Meeting, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary General.
  - iv. Annual Plan: The chairman of the Technical Committee should prepare an annual working plan and put it into practice upon the approval of the Secretary General.
  - v. Composition: The Technical Committee shall be composed of one chairman and three ex-officio vice chairmen who are the chairmen of each sub-committee for a two-year term, as recommended by the President and approved by the WTF Council. Each of the sub-committees shall be composed of one chairman, four or less vice chairmen, and ten or less members respectively.
  - vi. Bylaws: The by-laws of the Technical Committee shall be provided separately from the WTF Rules.
- (B) Technical Committee for Poomsae: The task of this committee is to formulate revisions to the WTF Poomsae Competition Rules and review the organization and management of Poomsae taekwondo competitions.
- i. For systematic achievement of its function, the committee may compose of sub-committees, the structure, role and function of which are the same as those of Article 27.2 A. Technical Committee.
    1. Games Committee for Poomsae: The Games Committee for Poomsae is tasked with studying the requirements for further improvements of the organization and management of taekwondo Poomsae competitions.
    2. Referee Committee for Poomsae: The Referee Committee for Poomsae is tasked with studying the conditions for consistent application of the WTF Poomsae Competition Rules, researching methods of effective management of and conducting training courses for International Poomsae Referees.

3. Training, Education and Development Committee for Poomsae: The Training, Education and Development Committee for Poomsae is tasked with studying the requirement for cultivation of competent athletes, coaches and general taekwondo practitioners, etc, and preparing educational materials for the further development of taekwondo Poomsae and better understanding of the OMADC and anti-doping rules.
  - ii. Reporting: The chairman of the Technical Committee for Poomsae, when needed, shall attend the WTF Council meeting. The Technical Committee for Poomsae proposes a technical delegate and an ex-officio member of the Poomsae Competition Supervisory Board to the Secretary General for all the taekwondo Poomsae competitions organized by the WTF.
  - iii. Supervision: The chairman of the Technical Committee for Poomsae is required to report to the Secretary General and can hold meetings, when deemed necessary, with the vice chairmen of the committee and members of the sub-committees. The chairman of the Technical Committee for Poomsae is also obliged to draft the amendments to the WTF Poomsae Competition Rules for deliberation at the WTF Council meeting, the General Assembly or the Joint Technical Meeting, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary General.
  - iv. Annual Plan: The chairman of the Technical Committee for Poomsae should prepare an annual working plan and put it into practice upon the approval of the Secretary General.
  - v. Composition: The Technical Committee for Poomsae shall be composed of one chairman and three ex-officio vice chairmen who are the chairmen of each sub-committee for a two-year term, as recommended by the President and approved by the WTF Council. Each of the sub-committees shall be composed of one chairman, four or less vice chairmen, and ten or less members respectively.
  - vi. Bylaws: The by-laws of the Technical Committee for Poomsae shall be provided separately from the WTF Rules.
- (C) Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee is tasked with legislating the WTF Rules and by-laws while being obliged to draft amendments to those rules, and to study the membership status of WTF members.
- (D) Medical Committee: The Medical Committee is tasked with studying medical affairs related to taekwondo competitions and setting up necessary guidelines, and studying the most up-to-date Anti-Doping Code and best practices of the WADA.
- (E) Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Committee is tasked with publicizing the activities of the WTF.
- (F) Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is tasked with reviewing financial affairs of the WTF and seeking ways to secure enough resources for various projects.
- (G) Women's Committee: The Women's Committee is tasked with studying and reviewing various problems related to taekwondo competitions for women.
- (H) Collegiate Committee: The Collegiate Committee is tasked with studying various affairs relating to college taekwondo competitions, such as the University Games.
- (I) TV Committee: The TV Committee is tasked with conducting TV right sales and enhancement of the WTF brand through TV exposure.

- (J) Marketing Committee: The Marketing Committee is tasked with conducting marketing activities through advertisements and sponsorship contracts while studying ways to diversify the sources of revenue.
- (K) Athletes Committee: The Athletes Committee is tasked with studying requirements for the athletes' safety, participation in competitions and technical enhancement.
- (L) Paralympic Committee: The Paralympic Committee is tasked with studying the benefits of taekwondo for rehabilitation of person(s) with a disability, and promotion of taekwondo as a program of the Paralympic Committee.
- (M) Ethics Committee: The Ethics Committee is tasked with creating the WTF Code of Ethics and recommending sanctions against individuals or institutions that have violated the ethical principles.

27.2 General Guidelines: For Committees the following shall apply:

- (A) Composition: All the committees, with the exception of the Technical Committee, shall consist of one chairman, two or three vice chairmen and fifteen or less members for a two-year term, as designated by the President. Each committee is entitled to set up sub-committees.
- (B) Meetings: The committees, with the exception of the Technical Committee, shall meet at least once one day before the opening of the Council meeting to be held on the occasion of the WTF World Championships. When necessary, committees may be requested to make verbal or written reports on their activities or provide recommendations to the Council. Each committee, when necessary, may conduct studies and analyses exclusively or jointly with other related committees. The chairmen of the respective meetings have the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- (C) Role and Responsibility: The Council or the President may entrust each committee with execution of the matters under its jurisdiction and/or responsibility.
- (D) Bylaws: The by-laws detailing the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the committees shall be enacted separately from the WTF Rules.

27.3 Ad-Hoc Committees: As provided in these Statutes the WTF may from time to time form special purpose Ad-Hoc committees.

## **Article 28            Joint Technical Meeting**

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28.1 Joint Technical Meeting: A Joint Technical Meeting, consisting of the WTF Technical Committee members and the chairmen of the Technical Committees of MNAs, may be convened. For a Joint Technical Meeting, the following shall apply:

- i) All the representatives attending the Joint Technical Meeting shall submit their credentials to the Secretariat.
- ii) The Secretary General or the WTF Technical Committee Chairman may chair the Joint Technical Meeting.

## **PART VII: SANCTIONS**

### **Article 29. Sanctions**

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29.1 Cause of Action: The WTF may sanction its members for any violation of the these Statues, the Competition Rules, or other WTF regulation or bylaw including anti-doping codes, and for participation in activities that are contrary to the WTF's Mission and Objectives, Ethics, Values, and/or that bring the WTF into disrepute.

29.2 Sanctions. As the case may be, the measures which may be taken by the Sanctions Committee, the ad-hoc Election Committee, the Doping Panel or any relevant organ of the WTF include the following:

- A. Warning.
- B. Rebuke.
- C. Fine.
- D. Suspension.
- E. Expulsion
- F. Disqualification.
- G. Order the return of funds provided by the WTF.
- F. Any other sanction deemed appropriate.

29.3 Sanctions Committee: The Sanctions Committee shall consist of no more than five Council members to be designated by the President, with the exception of sanctions against the Secretariat staff, whereby a Sanctions Committee may be constituted by the officials of higher rank than the offending individual(s).

### **Article 30 Dispute Resolution**

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30.1 Dispute Resolution: For resolution of disputes among members or between members and the WTF, Dispute Resolution bylaws shall be provided separately.

## **PART VIII: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 31 Dissolution**

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31.1 Dissolution: The dissolution of the WTF can only be decided at the General Assembly by the unanimous resolution of all the members that comprise the General Assembly.

31.2 Residual Funds/Properties: Exclusive right over the use of any funds or WTF properties shall be given by the General Assembly that has reached the resolution for the dissolution.

### **Article 32 Modifications**

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32.1 Amendments: The Council shall formulate drafts, amendments or repeals of the bylaws and rules and regulations. Approval of the GA shall be required for formulation of Competition Rules and Rules on Organization and Operation of Taekwondo Championships.

**Article 33 Interpretation of Statutes**

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33.1 Interpretation Authority: The authority for settling any dispute arising out of the interpretation of these Statutes shall reside with the President, who shall seek the advice of the Council or appropriate Committees before taking a financial decision.

**Article 34 Enforcement**

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34.1 Adoption: These Statutes have been adopted at the General Assembly in Tashkent in October 2010. As per Articles 7.10, they come into force immediately, except for the following, for which the previous rules shall apply until indicated:

- A. Article 16.4(i) and (ii): Enforced beginning 2012 GA.
- B. Article 20: Enforced beginning January 2011.
- C. Article 22.5: Enforced beginning 2012 selection process.

**Article 35 Abbreviations and Definitions**

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35.1. The following are commonly used abbreviations and designations used in these statutes:

Competition Rules:	WTF Competition Rules and Interpretations
CU:	Continental Union
GA:	General Assembly
IOC:	International Olympic Committee
MNA:	Member National Association
The/These Statutes:	World Taekwondo Federation Statutes
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
The WTF:	World Taekwondo Federation