



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.

[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 200 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

- 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 maintains headquarters and operational offices in Lausanne, Switzerland and Seongnam, Korea.

Article 2 Mission and Objectives

- 2.1 Olympic Movement: The WTF shall observe the general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter and Paralympic 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 and Paralympic 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 and Paralympic 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.
- 2.4 The WTF undertakes its missions and objectives in cooperation with independent affiliated organizations including the WTF Academy, WTF Taekwondo Peace Corps, WTF Demonstration Team, WTF Pro Taekwondo Foundation, Global Taekwondo Support Foundation and WTF International Foundation.

Article 3 Statutes, Rules, and Codes

- 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 strictly observes the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”) Code. The WTF has promulgated the WTF Anti-Doping Code in conformity with the WADA Code.
- 3.4 Best Practices: The WTF seeks to integrate 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. The WTF has promulgated the following: WTF Ethics Code, the WTF Bylaws on Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Action, the WTF Bylaws on Betting and Anti-Corruption, and the WTF Medical Code.

Article 4 Languages

- 4.1 Official Language: English is the official language of the WTF. French, Korean, and Spanish are the auxiliary languages.
- 4.2 Statutes 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

- 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

- 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.

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) An Election Committee composed of five or fewer members shall be established by the President at the request of the Secretary General no later than six months before the scheduled election date. The Election Committee shall establish the candidature application requirements. These requirements shall be circulated to all members no later than five months before the election date.

- iii) The completed application documents for candidature shall arrive at the WTF Secretariat no later than 90 days before the election date. The Election Committee shall screen the candidature applications and determine the list of qualified candidates. The final list of the candidates for election,

as screened by the ad-hoc Election Committee, shall be circulated to all MNAs by no later than 60 days 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.

v) Election Bylaws containing additional procedural and campaigning requirements are 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

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) approval of formulation, amendments and repeals of the Statutes and Competition Rules and Rules on Organization and Operation of International Taekwondo championships;
- 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. If the President is unable to attend, or if the President has eligibility to vote under another capacity (i.e., as a member of the WTF Council), then 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.
- 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.

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 Decision Making and Effect: Any decision of the GA comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the GA. Matters that are not included in the written agenda of the meeting shall not be deliberated without the consent of two thirds of eligible voters.

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

- 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 fiduciary duty 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 repeals of the WTF Statutes, WTF Competition Rules, Rules on Organization and Operation of International Taekwondo championships, and bylaws and codes.
 - 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-officio 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.
 - iii) The chairman has the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- 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

- 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. If an officer of board member of a CU or MNA is elected as President of the WTF, that person must resign the other position within one (1) month of being elected as 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

- 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

- 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

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

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.

PART III: MEMBERSHIP

Article 14 Member National Associations

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

14.2 Nation or Territory: WTF can admit one full member MNA for each nation or each self-governing territory. A territory that is not self-governing but has a National Olympic Committee ("NOC") recognized by the IOC may also be admitted into the WTF as a full member. A territory that is not self-governing and has no independent NOC is eligible for application to the WTF as an Associate Member upon recommendation of the pertinent MNA, if any, and its recognition may be considered subject to comment from other affected MNAs.

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 shall have their membership status restored when they fulfill the requirements prescribed in these Statutes. MNAs demoted for failure to meet participation requirements shall regain full membership at the completion of the championship in which they fulfill the requirement. The reinstatement of MNAs demoted for other reasons may be subject to approval by the Council on recommendation by the President.

- (C) Provisional MNAs that have fulfilled all application requirements as prescribed in these Statutes, and which have received confirmation from the WTF shall be Provisional Members. Provisional Members have no voting rights in official meetings 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 after their applications have been approved by the Council and the GA. Upon recommendation of the Council, Provisional Members may be subject to satisfy additional requirements before Full or Associate Membership is granted, such additional requirements being in accordance with the general principles of these Statutes.
- (D) Associate Membership: Associate membership may be given to organizations representing territories that are not self-governing with approval of any existing WTF MNA with appropriate jurisdiction over the territory. 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. Associate members are ineligible to receive development funds.
- (E) Suspended Membership: A MNA may be subject to suspension of its WTF membership for any of the following: i) the MNA fails to receive recognition from the appropriate NOC, ii) the Sanctions Committee concludes that the MNA had not fulfilled its financial or other outstanding obligations; or iii) the MNA has acted in gross violation or repeated violations of these Statutes, Competition Rules, or other WTF Codes or Bylaws, or for bad governance or a failure of governance pursuant to a final decision of the WTF Ethics Committee. A member may be suspended on a preliminary basis if a reasonable suspension of any of the above is created. 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.

14.4 Revocation: A Suspended Member who fails to remedy the cause of the suspension within a reasonable period following due notice may have its membership revoked by a vote of the Council on recommendation of the President.

Article 15 Becoming a Member

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. After its admittance into the WTF, the MNA shall be expected to submit to the WTF a letter of recognition from the pertinent National Olympic Committee ("NOC"), or in its absence the highest national sports authority.

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

16.1 All MNAs shall constitute and maintain their respective constitutional documents in strict conformity with the principles of these Statutes so as not to contravene any provisions herein. MNAs must manage their internal affairs with independence and ensure that no third party interferes in their operations. They must remain autonomous and resist all political, religious and financial pressure which may infringe their commitment to conform to the WTF Statutes. Any external form of interference or attempt to interfere must be reported to the WTF. MNAs must make provision for an election or internal appointment system that ensures a complete independence of the National Federation vis-à-vis governments and other public authorities.

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 may 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.

16.10 MNA President: It is expected that the President of the MNA, unless otherwise approved by the WTF, shall be a citizen of the nation or territory that the MNA represents.

16.11 MNAs are encouraged to establish Para-Taekwondo Committees within their organizations.

Article 17 Equal Protection

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

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.

18.3 CUs are encouraged establish separate Continental Para-Taekwondo Unions that operate under the CU.

Article 19 **CU Recognition**

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**

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

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 Federation 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:

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

- i. WTF (Men's and Women's) World Taekwondo Championships;
- ii. WTF World Junior Championships;
- iii. WTF World Cup Taekwondo Team Championships;
- iv. WTF World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships;
- v. WTF World Para-Taekwondo Championships;
- vi. WTF World Taekwondo Tour;
- vii. WTF World Qualification Tournament for Olympic Games;
- viii. WTF Qualification Tournament for Youth Olympic Games;
- ix. WTF World Cadet Taekwondo Championships
- x. WTF World Taekwondo Grand Prix Series

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 Team 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 prospective organizer wishing to apply to host a WTF-promoted championship shall form a Bidding Committee and abide by the following procedure:

i) The Bidding Committee shall apply to host the WTF-promoted championship by submitting the appropriate Host City Application and required documents, to the WTF in accordance with the procedure provided in the application.

ii) The WTF shall review the application bid and may conduct an inspection of the prospective Host City facilities. The WTF will then submit an evaluation report to the Council for their review and recommendation.

iii) Recommended Bidding Committees shall be invited to present their bids to the Council for decision selection of the winning bid.

22.6 Host City Agreements: The selected Bidding Committee shall enter into a Host City Agreement with the WTF with prescribed terms and conditions.

22.7 Other Events: The WTF sanctions various international competitions including but not limited to the World University Taekwondo Championships, the World Military Taekwondo Championships and the WTF Continental Qualification Tournament for Olympic Games. 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

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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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.
- iii) 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

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

- (A) Technical & Development Committee: The Technical and Development Committee reviews the organization and management of taekwondo competitions and analyzes 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 be composed of sub-committees as follows:
 - 1. Games Committee: The Games Committee deals with studying the requirements for further improvements of the organization and management of Taekwondo competitions.
 - 2. Referee Committee: The Referee Committee deals 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.
 - ii. Reporting: The chairman of the Technical and Development Committee, when needed, shall attend the WTF Council meeting. The Technical and Development Committee proposes a technical delegate and an ex-officio member of the Competition Supervisory Board to the Secretary General for all the taekwondo competitions promoted and/or sanctioned by the WTF.
 - iii. Supervision: The chairman of the Technical & Development Committee is required to report to the Secretary General and can call meetings, when deemed necessary, with the vice chairmen of the committee and members of the sub-committees. The chairman of the Technical & Development 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 & Development Committee should prepare an annual working plan and put it into practice upon the approval of the Secretary General.
 - v. Composition: The Technical & Development Committee shall be composed of one chairman, up to five vice chairmen, and up to ten regular members. Three of the vice chairmen shall be the

Chairmen of the Games Committee, the Referee Committee and the Anti-Doping & Medical Committee. Regular members of the Committee shall include the Chairmen of each CU Technical Committee, and the Chairman of the Educational Committee, and the Chairman of the Athletes Committee. The remaining members shall be appointed by the President.

- vi. Bylaws: The by-laws of the Technical & Development Committee shall be provided separately from the WTF Rules.
- (B) Women's Committee: The Women's Committee deals with the specific issues related to the practice, development and promotion of Taekwondo amongst women. The Committee gives advices to the WTF Council on matters related to Women's Taekwondo.
- (C) TV & New Media Committee: The TV and New Media Committee is responsible for preparing and implementing the overall WTF strategy for future broadcast rights negotiations. The TV and New Media Committee deals in particular with the development of the visibility and brand image of WTF; collaboration with the media and its development (written press, radio, TV, Internet, etc.); working conditions of the media during competitions organized by the WTF; WTF publications; management of public relations activities; contacts with the authorities, other sport federations, the IOC, sponsors and the sport industry; the development and exploitation of all the rights pertaining to the competitions and events organized by the WTF.
- (D) Marketing Committee: The Marketing Committee reviews and studies possible sources of financing and revenue for the WTF whilst ensuring that the control of sport rests with sports authorities. The Committee is to make recommendations to the WTF Council regarding marketing and related programs. The Committee is to monitor the implementation of the WTF's marketing and related programs, and report thereon to the WTF Executive Board. The Committee is also to seek means of maximizing the potential benefits to the Taekwondo Movement available through association with marketing partners.
- (E) Coaches Committee: The Coaches Committee deals with studying requirements for the athletes and coaches' safety, participation in competitions and technical enhancement. The Committee represents athletes and coaches within the Taekwondo Movement and also upholds the rights and obligations of the athletes and coaches.
- (F) Para-Taekwondo Committee: Para-Taekwondo is Taekwondo for persons with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities. The Para-Taekwondo Committee is tasked with drafting amendments to documents governing Para-Taekwondo competitions and classification of Para-Taekwondo athletes for WTF World Para-Taekwondo Championships as well as reviewing educational material for coaches, trainers and referees working with Para-Taekwondo athletes. The Para-Taekwondo Committee also deals with promotion of Para-Taekwondo and Deaf-Taekwondo and its inclusion in all events by the International Organizations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).
- (G) Ethics Committee: The Ethics Committee is the guardian of the ethical principles of the Taekwondo Movement, as set out in the WTF Charter and the [Code of Ethics](#). It conducts investigations into breaches of ethics submitted to it by the WTF President and, where necessary, makes recommendations for measures or sanctions to the WTF Council; these recommendations remain confidential.

- (H) Youth & Collegiate Committee: The Youth and Collegiate Committee deals with the issues related to the practice, promotion and development of Taekwondo amongst the youth and collegians. The committee is also tasked with studying various affairs relating to Youth and Collegiate Taekwondo competitions, such as the Universiade Games.
- (I) Anti-Doping & Medical Committee: The Anti-Doping and Medical Committee deals with the problem of doping in the Taekwondo world. The task of the Committee is to support the protection of the athletes' health. It is also 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.
- (J) Juridical Committee: The Juridical Committee deals with drafting the WTF Statutes and by-laws and amendments thereto; providing legal opinions to the WTF Executive Board, upon their request, on issues relating to the exercise of their respective competences; considering actions or defense concerning the WTF; and carrying out studies of a legal nature on issues which may affect the interests of the WTF.
- (K) Scientific Research Committee: The Scientific Research Committee deals with promoting Taekwondo Studies, and encouraging and supporting the efforts and developments of other institutions and departments involved in Taekwondo Studies. The role of the committee is to organize an International Taekwondo Symposium every two years and publish an e-journal.
- (L) Taekwondo Tour Events Committee: The Taekwondo Tour Events Committee deals with developing dynamic Taekwondo Tour Events. The roles of the committee are as follows: to produce the highest skilled and most marketable athletes in the Taekwondo world (Athlete Development); to help promote the Sport of Taekwondo as well as the Professional Taekwondo Association and Tour; and to create career opportunities for Taekwondo competitors on a professional level and promote Taekwondo competition as a viable profession.
- (M) Expansion Committee: The Expansion Committee is composed of the Presidents and Secretaries General of the WTF Continental Unions. Additional members with specific knowledge or subject matter expertise may be added as deemed appropriate. The purpose of the Committee is to help coordinate activities among the various members organizations of the WTF and to make recommendations for actions in furtherance of the WTF's Mission and Objectives.
- (N) Athletes Committee: The Committee represents athletes within the Taekwondo Movement, upholds the rights and obligations of the athletes, and conducts educational training for and on behalf of athletes. The Chairman or member of the Committee shall be a member of the Competition Supervisory Board for WTF Promoted Championships. The Committee members shall be elected in accordance with a procedure determined by the Ad Hoc WTF Elections Committee established under Article 6.7 of these Statues.
- (O) Education and Development Committee: The Education and Development Committee deals 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. The committee advises the WTF Council on the promotion of culture and Taekwondo education and supports the WTF programs and activities related to the education of youth through Taekwondo.
- (P) Poomsae Committee: to the Poomsae Committee formulates revisions to the WTF Poomsae Competition Rules and reviews the organization and management of Poomsae taekwondo competitions. The Poomsae Committee is tasked with studying the requirements for further improvements of the organization and management of taekwondo Poomsae competitions, studying

the conditions for consistent application of the WTF Poomsae Competition Rules, and researching methods of effective management of training courses for International Poomsae Referees.

27.2 General Guidelines: For Committees the following shall apply:

- (A) Composition: All the committees, with the exception of the Technical & Development Committee, shall consist of one chairman, up to three vice chairmen, and up to fifteen members for a two-year term, as designated by the President. .
- (B) Meetings: The committees, with the exception of the Technical & Development Committee, shall meet at least once 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 may be enacted separately from the WTF Statutes.

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

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

29.1 Cause of Action: The WTF may sanction its Members and participants in WTF championships and events ("Participants") for any violation of these Statutes, 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 and Ethics, and/or that bring the WTF into disrepute, and for behavior that contradicts, undermines, or belittles the traditional Martial Arts Values of courtesy, respect, and fidelity that are commonly expected of taekwondo practitioners.

- (A) For the purposes of these rules, "Participants" include all those who participate or assist in WTF Promoted or Sanctioned competitions or other WTF-sponsored or related events and each Participant

shall be automatically bound by, and be required to comply with, these rules by virtue of such participation or assistance.

- (B) Each Member and Participant submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of any decision making committee or panel convened under these Bylaws.
- (C) The WTF may conduct an investigation into the activities of any Member or Participant that it believes may have committed a violation of the rules, regulations or principles in 29.1, above, and may appoint one or more Persons for this purpose. Such investigation may be conducted in conjunction with relevant competent national or international authorities and all Members and Participants must cooperate fully with such investigations. The WTF shall have discretion, where it deems it appropriate, to stay its own investigation pending the outcome of investigations conducted by other competent authorities.
- (D) As part of any such investigation, if the WTF reasonably suspects that a Member or Participant has committed a Violation, it may make a written demand to such Participant for information that is related to the alleged Violation and/or require the attendance of such Participant for interview, or a combination of the two. Any interview shall be at a time and place to be determined by the WTF and the relevant Participant shall be given reasonable notice in writing of the requirement to attend.
- (E) By participation in a Competition, each Participant shall be deemed to have agreed for the purposes of applicable data protection laws and other laws, and for all other purposes, to have consented to the collection, processing, disclosure or any other use of information relating to his activities (including without limitation personal information) to the extent permitted under these rules and shall confirm such agreement in writing upon demand.

29.2 Notice of charge: Where following an investigation the WTF determines that there is a case for the Member or Participant to answer, the WTF shall issue the Participant with a written Notice of Charge setting out the following:

- (A) The specific Violation(s) that the Participant is alleged to have committed;
- (B) The facts upon which such allegation(s) are based;
- (C) The range of sanctions applicable under the Bylaws for such Violations;
- (D) Details relating to the Member's or Participant's response to the Notice of Charge within a specified deadline; and
- (E) The Member's or Participant's right to have the matter determined by a hearing.

29.3 Request for hearing: The Notice of Charge shall also specify that, if the Member or Participant wishes to exercise his right to a hearing, he must submit a written request for a hearing so that it is received by the WTF as soon as possible but in any event within 14 days of receipt of the Notice of Charge. The request must state how the Member or Participant responds to the charge and must explain (in summary form) the basis for such response.

- (A) If the Member or Participant fails to file a written request for a hearing by the specified deadline, he shall be deemed to have:
 - (i) waived his right to a hearing;

(ii) admitted that he has committed the Violation(s) specified in the Notice of Charge; and

(iii) acceded to the range of applicable sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge.

(B) Where the Member or Participant requests a hearing the matter shall proceed to a hearing. Where the Participant is deemed to have waived his right to a hearing and to have admitted the Violation(s) in accordance with the above, any hearing held at the WTF's discretion shall be limited to determining the applicable sanctions only.

29.4 Preliminary suspension: In any case where the WTF decides to charge a Member or Participant the WTF shall have discretion, in circumstances where it considers appropriately serious, to provisionally suspend the Member or Participant pending the relevant tribunal's determination of whether a violation has been committed.

(A) A decision to impose a provisional suspension on a Participant shall not be subject to appeal.

29.5 Right to a fair hearing: where the WTF alleges that a Member or Participant has committed a Violation and the Member or Participant denies the allegation and/or disputes the sanctions to be imposed for such Violation, then the matter shall be referred to a hearing before a Hearing Panel.

(A) The members of the Hearing Panel shall have had no prior involvement with the case and shall not, unless otherwise agreed between the parties, be from the same country as the Member or Participant alleged to be in violation.

(B) The hearing process shall respect the following principles: a timely and fair hearing, the right to be represented by counsel (at own expense), the right to respond to the asserted rule violation and range of resulting sanction; the right of each party to present evidence, including the right to call and question witnesses (subject to the Hearing Panel's discretion to accept evidence by telephone or written submission), the right to an interpreter at the hearing (with the Hearing Panel to determine the identity and responsibility for the cost of the interpreter) and a timely, written reasoned decision specifically including an explanation of the reason(s) for the sanction imposed.

(C) Once the parties have made their submissions, the Hearing Panel shall determine whether a Violation has been committed. Where the Hearing Panel determines that a Violation has been committed, the Hearing Panel shall recommend the appropriate sanction after considering any submissions on the subject that the parties may wish to make.

(D) The Hearing Panel shall issue a decision in writing, with reasons, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing. The decision will set out and explain:

(i) the Hearing Panel's findings as to whether any Violation has been committed;

(ii) the Hearing Panel's findings as to what sanctions, if any, are recommended;

(iii) the date that any period of ineligibility shall commence; and

(iv) the rights of appeal described in Article 29.10, below.

(E) The WTF President shall have the right to review the decision of the Hearing Panel and, where it may be in the best interest of the growth and development of the Taekwondo Movement in its entirety, may reduce the amount / duration / severity of the sanction imposed.

29.6 Aggravating and Mitigating Factors: In imposing sanctions the Hearing Panel shall be entitled to consider the existence of any aggravating and/or mitigating factors including the following:

(A) Aggravating Factors:

- (i) failure to co-operate with any investigation or requests for information;
- (ii) any previous Violations;
- (iii) receiving or being due to receive a significant Benefit in connection with the Violation;
- (iv) the Violation having or having the potential to affect the course or result of an Event or Competition;
- (v) displaying a lack of remorse ; and
- (vi) any other aggravating factor the Hearing Panel deems relevant.

(B) Mitigating factors:

- (i) co-operation with any investigation or requests for information;
- (ii) a timely admission of guilt;
- (iii) clean prior disciplinary record;
- (iv) the youth or inexperience;
- (iv) the Violation not having affected or not having the potential to affect the course or result of an Event or Competition;
- (v) displaying remorse; and
- (vi) any other mitigating factor the Hearing Panel deems relevant.

29.7 Recognition of Decisions: It shall be a condition of membership of the WTF that all Member National Associations shall comply with, recognize and take all necessary and reasonable steps within their powers to enforce and give effect to these Bylaws and to all decisions and Sanctions imposed hereunder.

29.8 Sanctions. Sanctions shall be determined in consideration of past precedent and/or as benchmarked against those imposed by other comparative organizations. As the case may be, the measures which may be taken by the ad-hoc 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 or ban.
- E. Expulsion
- F. Disqualification.
- G. Order the return of funds provided by the WTF.
- H. Order to payment for reasonable costs incurred by the WTF in relation to the Sanctioning progress

I. Any other sanction deemed appropriate.

29.9 Sanctions Committee: The ad-hoc Sanctions Committee shall consist of at least three 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).

29.10 Appeal: Decisions made under Article 29 may be appealed under and in accordance with Article 6 of the WTF Bylaws of Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Action.

Article 30 Dispute Resolution

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

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

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

Article 33 Interpretation of Statutes

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

34.1 Adoption: These Statutes as per Article 7.9 come into force immediately, except for the following, as 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.
- D. Article 14.3(D): Requirement for MNA approval shall be enforced for new members.
- E. Article 14.2: This revised membership application requirement shall apply only to new applicants and shall not effect the status of existing members.

Article 35 Abbreviations and Definitions

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