



# **CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD ARMWRESTLING FEDERATION (WAF)**

**complete with incorporation changes**

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## STATUTES

### ARTICLE 1: TITLE

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**World Armwrestling Federation (WAF)** is the official title. Through this constitution, the acronym “WAF” will be used to designate the World Armwrestling Federation. This title may be changed only by a majority vote of WAF members at an annual Congress meeting.

### ARTICLE 2: SYMBOL

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The WAF symbol is two arms locked in the start position, outlined in blue, resting on the acronym, WAF, which will be in red. The arms will show only to the mid of the forearm. The year “1977”, will be placed directly below the acronym, WAF and it will be in red. This is to commemorate the start of WAF. Starting from the base of “1977”, a golden laurel will go upwards and stop on either side of the arms just short of the wrists on the arms.

### ARTICLE 3: COMPOSITION

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WAF is composed of Continental Federations. The Continental Federations are composed of participating countries from within their continents.

The countries may have as many active armwrestling organizations as they want, but they may only be represented by one national body from each country. Each national body from within the country must meet criteria as set forth by their continental federations, which they receive from WAF. The member countries are ultimately WAF. Membership criteria are set forth in Article 15.

## **ARTICLE 4: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. WAF is a non-profit organization. The Directors as members of the Executive Committee of WAF are elected and serve on a voluntary basis. They do not receive a salary, nor will they profit financially from carrying out their duties as WAF executives. In retrospect, it is also expected that they will not bear costs personally of operating WAF from day to day. These costs are to be approved by the membership at the annual Congress meetings.
2. Whenever the term “Congress”, “Congress meeting” or “Annual Congress meeting” is referred to in these By-laws, it shall be synonymous with and have the same meaning as the term “Annual Meeting” as that term is defined and referred to in the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (S.C. 2009, c. 23)*.
3. WAF is a non-bias organization. Decisions will not be based on religious, political or racial backgrounds. Discrimination will not be tolerated in the WAF organization.
4. WAF may be associated with any organization that will benefit armwrestling.
5. WAF headquarters will be where the WAF membership deems it to be the most practical, based on good business sense.
6. Bylaws, Executive Committee decisions pertaining to this constitution will come into effect immediately after having been approved. The Congress may ratify the decision during the first scheduled Congress Meeting. A delay to implement a change may be granted if it deems to be beneficial to WAF.
7. Any dispute in interpretation of the constitution statutes and bylaws will be handled by the Executive Committee. Clarification will be presented to the WAF membership to be ratified and documented as a letter of understanding which will form part of the constitution.
8. The head office of WAF shall be designated by the Directors.

## **ARTICLE 5: LANGUAGE**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The official language of WAF is English. All publication, correspondence, reports, scoring, refereeing and Congress proceedings will be in English.
2. The second official language of WAF is Russian. All publication, correspondence and reports will be translated in Russian language.
3. English is a working language, Congress meetings of Executive Committee and Committees should be carried out in English.
4. It is the responsibility of each Country to bring a translator if required to the World Championships.

## **ARTICLE 6: CONGRESS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The WAF Congress will take place annually at the WAF World Armwrestling Championship at least one day prior to the competition. The following items will always be on the agenda:
  - a. Affiliation of new members.
  - b. The approval of the reports of the President, Vice-presidents, General Secretary, Treasurer, Referee and sub-committee members.
  - c. The filling in of any existing vacancies on the WAF Executive Committee.
  - d. Selection of location of WAF world championship, other sanctioned championships and seminars.
  - e. Modification of statutes, bylaws and rules.
  - f. New business presented by affiliated member organizations.
  - g. Review of audited accounts.
  - h. Appointment of auditors.
  
2. Every fourth even year, using 1992 as a reference, Congress will decide on the following:
  - a. Nominations of continental representatives to serve as Directors and to sit on the WAF Executive Committee by each continental federation.
  - b. All continental representatives who sit on the WAF Executive Committee are Directors of WAF. Election or appointment of a representative to sit on the Executive Committee shall be deemed to be an election or appointment of that representative as a Director of WAF.
  - c. Executive Committee Meetings shall be synonymous with Directors Meetings, such that every Executive Committee Meeting shall be a Meeting of Directors.
  - d. Any reference to Board of Directors shall be synonymous with the Executive Committee, such that the Executive Committee shall form the Board of Directors.
  - e. The election of continental representatives to the positions of WAF President and Vice-Presidents;
    - The position of General Secretary will be appointed by the President and voted by the congress;
    - All nominations for WAF executive positions must be made only by adjoining continental federations;
    - Persons nominated must be citizens of their Continent Member Country.
    - Persons suspended by their national or continental federations cannot be nominated in any executive positions.
  - f. The position of the Head of Scoring Committee and Head of Technical Committee Director will work under the leadership of the General Secretary. They will be nominated by President and approved by Executive Board.

3. Before the start of Congress, the WAF General Secretary will verify the credentials of all the delegates.
4. Countries will be represented in Congress by the elected officials or official designates of their national armwrestling organizations. Representatives should be prepared to show in writing, proof of their designation from their country if requested by the General Secretary.
5. The attendance to Congress of the WAF President and General Secretary or their proper designates is compulsory.
6. Any items to be included in the Congress agenda must reach the General Secretary's office at least 2 months (60 days) prior to the date set for Congress. The corresponding annual reports about the executed work of the President and General Secretary and Chairman of Committees should be sent to the members of Federations 30 days prior to Congress date. Only items set forth on the agenda may be discussed unless the President gives special permission to hear added items and if time allows for it.
7. All proposals must contain the following information in order to be eligible for voting:
  - type of change: delete, add or modify;
  - document to change: Constitution, rules, procedures or protocols;
  - article number to be changed;
  - original content and the proposed content.
8. Only members in good standing are allowed to vote on the agenda or participate in discussion of the agenda. Good standing includes paid up membership fees. Each member shall have one vote.
9. Congress will only pass items that have been accepted by a majority vote.
10. Voting will be a simple show of hands, on For or Against, unless more than 50% of the membership asks for a ballot vote.
11. Only representatives from the countries present at the Congress can vote. Transfer of "votes" by proxy to representatives of other countries is unacceptable.
12. Congress sessions are private. Observers and special guests can attend providing arrangement has been made with the Executive Committee. They will be observers only and cannot enter debate or vote.
13. The President or his proper designate will chair the Congress meeting, following normal parliamentary procedure such as Robert's Rule.
14. Quorum will be formed with 20% of members in good standing present.
15. A special Congress may be called if 30% of members in good standing request it.
16. However, those requesting the meeting will have to bear the costs of accommodation and meals for the Executive Committee for the duration of such Congress. The President of WAF will have the General Secretary send out notice of the meeting within 2 months (60 days) of its request.
17. Congress will meet no less than once a year at each WAF World Championship.
18. The By-laws of WAF may be repealed or amended by an affirmative vote of at least 50% of the members at the Congress, provided that the repeal or amended of such By-laws shall not be enforced or acted upon until the approval of the Ministry of Industry has been obtained.

19. At each Congress the members shall appoint an Auditor to audit the accounts and annual financial statements of WAF for report to the members at the next Congress. The Auditor shall hold office until the next Congress, provided that the Directors may fill any casual vacancy in the office of the Auditor. The remuneration of the Auditor shall be fixed by the Board of Directors (Executive Committee).
20. Minutes of the Congress meetings will be recorded and distributed within 30 days by the General Secretary.
21. All eligible proposals (point 7), must receive respective committee point of view and recommendations before being presented to the Congress.

## **ARTICLE 7: DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The property of business of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors comprised of a minimum of 3 Directors.
2. The applicants for incorporation shall become the first Directors of WAF whose term of office on the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) shall continue until their successors are elected.
3. At the first Congress following incorporation, the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) then elected shall replace the provisional Directors named in the Letters Patent of the Corporation.
4. Directors shall be elected for a term of four years by members at the Annual Congress.
5. All Directors shall sit on the Executive Committee and all Executive Committee members are therefore Directors of WAF.
6. The office of Director shall be automatically vacated:
  - a. If at a special meeting of members or at the Annual Congress, a resolution is passed by 50% of the members present at the meeting that he be removed from office.
  - b. If a director has resigned his office by delivering a written resignation to the General Secretary.
  - c. If he is found by a court to be of unsound mind.
  - d. If he became bankrupt or suspends payment or compounds with his creditors.
  - e. On death.
7. Provided that if any vacancy shall occur for any reason in this paragraph contained, the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) by majority vote may, by appointment, fill the vacancy with a member of WAF.
8. The Directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no Director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his position as such; provided that a Director may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving WAF as an Officer or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore.

9. The Directors of WAF may administer the affairs of WAF in all things and make or cause to be made for WAF, in its name, any kind of contract which WAF may lawfully enter into and save as hereinafter provided, generally, may exercise all such other powers and do all such other acts and things as WAF is by its Charter or otherwise authorized to exercise and do.
10. The Directors shall have the power to authorize expenditures on behalf of WAF from time to time and may delegate by resolution to an Officer or Officers of WAF the right to employ and pay salaries to employees.
11. The Board of Directors (Executive Committee) shall take such steps as they may deem requisite to enable WAF to acquire, accept, solicit or receive legacies, gifts, grants, settlements, bequests, endowments and donations of any kind whatsoever for the purpose of furthering the objects of WAF.
12. To borrow money upon the credit of WAF, from any bank, corporation, firm or person, upon such terms, covenants and conditions at such times, in such sums, to such an extent and in such manner as the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) in its discretion may deem expedient.
13. To limit or increase the amount to be borrowed.
14. To issue or caused to be issued bonds, debentures or other securities of WAF and to pledge or sell the same for such sums, upon such terms, covenants and conditions and at such prices as may be deemed expedient by the Board of Directors (Executive Committee).
15. To secure such bonds, debentures or other securities, or any other present or future borrowing or liability of WAF, by mortgage, hypothec, charge or pledge of all or any currently owned or subsequently acquired real and personal, movable and immovable, property of WAF and the undertaking and rights of WAF.
16. The Board of Directors (Executive Committee) may appoint such agents and engage such employees as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) at the time of such appointment.
17. Remuneration for all Officers, agents and employees and Congress Committee members shall be fixed by the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) by resolution. Such resolution shall have force and effect only until the next meeting of members when such resolution shall be confirmed by resolution of the members, or in the absence of such confirmation by the members, then the remuneration to such Officers, agents or employees and Congress Committee members shall cease to be payable from the date of such meeting of members.
18. Meetings to be conducted by e-mail or by telephone conference call must be approved of by a minimum of 50% of the Directors.
19. Meetings by e-mail can only be conducted if:
  - a. all directors participating in the meetings can adequately communicate with each other; and
  - b. each director consents in advance to the method of communication and has equal access to such communication method.

20. Meetings of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Directors provided that 48 hours written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each of the Directors. Notice by mail shall be sent at least 30 days prior to the meeting. There shall be at least one (1) meeting per year of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee). No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) or any adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) of WAF shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any Director may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat.

Each Director is authorized to exercise one (1) vote. Notice of meetings may be sent by e-mail and meetings may be conducted by e-mail or by telephone conference calls.

## **TELEPHONE PARTICIPATION**

21. The directors of the Corporation may meet by teleconference provided that either a majority of the directors consents to meetings by teleconference or meetings by teleconference have been approved by resolution passed by the board of directors at a meeting of the directors of the Corporation.

## **MEETINGS BY OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS**

22. The directors of the Corporation may meet by other electronic means that permits each director to communicate adequately with each other, provided that:
- a. The Board of Directors of the Corporation has passed a resolution addressing the mechanics of holding such a meeting and dealing specifically with how security issues should be handled, the procedure of establishing quorum and recording votes;
  - b. each director has equal access to the specific means of communication to be used;
  - c. each director has consented in advance to meeting by electronic means using the specific means of communication proposed for the meeting.
23. A majority of Directors in office, from time to time, but no less than 3 directors, shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee). Any meetings of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions by or under the By-laws of WAF, which shall include the power to manage the affairs of the Corporation.
24. Every Director of WAF and their heirs, executors and administrators and estate and effects, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of WAF from and against:

25. All costs, charges and expenses which such Director sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceedings which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him, or in respect of any act, deed, matter of thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by him in or about the execution of the duties of his office or in respect of any such liability.
  - a. All other costs, charges and expenses which he sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his own willful neglect or default.
  - b. Contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of WAF shall be signed by any two Directors and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon WAF without any further authorization or formality. The Directors shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint an Officer or Officers on behalf of WAF to sign specific contracts, documents and instruments in writing.
26. Custody of the corporate seal, if any, shall be with the General Secretary - Treasurer.
27. The Executive Committee and Officers of WAF consists of the following positions:
  - a. WAF President
  - b. WAF Vice-presidents
  - c. General Secretary and Treasurer
28. The Executive Committee members will serve for four years.
29. Any member of the Executive Committee who is regularly absent or neglects their duties, unless for valid reasons, can be replaced. This will be decided by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee.
30. One member of the Executive Committee will always be on any sub committee.
31. Meetings of the Executive Committee are private.
32. The Executive Committee are the ones who ultimately award the venue of a World Championship, and will only change the vote of the congress with good reason which must be explained to the congress.

## **ARTICLE 8: SUB-COMMITTEES**

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### Sub-sections:

1. One member of the Executive Committee must chair any sub-committee. The member can be on more than one sub-committee.
2. Sub-committees will be formed as needed and will be dissolved in Congress after completing their goal.
3. Reports have to be presented annually at Congress by the sub-committee chairperson or his proper designate.
4. Anyone who can contribute to the sub-committees goals can be a member.
5. Standing sub-committees will be allowed.

## **ARTICLE 9: ELECTIONS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. Elections for positions to the WAF Executive Committee will take place every four years, beginning on even years using 1992 as a reference date.
2. Names of candidates from each Continental Federation must reach the office of the General Secretary in writing at least 3 months (90 days) before the date of the annual Congress in the election year.
3. Any person can let their name stand for office on the WAF President. They can be from any country as long as they possess the ability and the desire to do the job.
4. The filling of the positions will be done in the following order: President, Senior Vice-president, Vice-presidents and General Secretary. When the position of WAF President is filled, the vice-president of the Continental Federation affected will move up to position of Continental President. This is because the WAF President has no voting rights except in the case of having to break a tie. This in effect gives that voting right, back to the Continental Federation involved.
5. Voting will be a show of hands with a simple majority deciding the vote.
6. If no continental representative wishes to let their name stand for General Secretary at this time, the Executive Committee will handle this situation.
7. This process will take place at the start of Congress and become legally binding at the end of WAF World championship for the next four years.

## **ARTICLE 10: DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The President will chair the WAF annual Congress. Proper rules of parliamentary debate will be followed.
2. In the event of a tie in a vote on a motion, the President will cast the deciding vote. Otherwise the President will abstain from all other votes.
3. The President will help co-ordinate and give direction to the effective hosting of the WAF World Championship.
4. It is compulsory for the President to attend the WAF Championship unless circumstances will not allow it. Travel and accommodation will be provided by the host country.
5. The President will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies of the WAF World Championship.
6. The President will preside on the committee to settle any disputes at a WAF Championship.
7. The President will assure that at minimum, a quarterly newsletter is sent out to the membership.

8. The President shall attend meetings with organizations that will benefit the sport of armwrestling, ie: the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).
9. The President will conduct business within a budget approved by the Congress. A detailed accounting of these expenditures is to be presented to the annual Congress.
10. In the preceding sub-sections, in the event that the President cannot attend or participate in any of the functions, a proper designate will be appointed. This appointment has to be in writing.
11. The President have the representative right to represent WAF and WAF interests in front of all major sport organizations, partners, media, sponsors and institutions worldwide.
12. The President nominate the Directors and the members of the Committees to be approved by the Executive Board.
13. The President manage the work of the Executive Board and the Committees.

## **ARTICLE 11: DUTIES OF THE WAF VICE-PRESIDENTS**

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**\*\* NOTE \*\*** References to Vice-presidents in this constitution generally mean the WAF Vice-president and the President of the Continental Federation (which are the same) unless denoted otherwise.

### Sub-sections:

1. The Vice-presidents will administrate their respective continental federations as per WAF constitution and rules.
2. The Vice-presidents will help co-ordinate and give direction to the effective hosting of an annual Continental Championship and Congress.
3. The Vice-presidents will preside over any committee to help resolve issues of their respective National Armwrestling Federations in their member countries within their Continental jurisdiction.
4. In the event that any of these issues cannot be resolved at the National or Continental level, then the Vice-presidents will refer the issue to the WAF Executive Committee for resolution.
5. Each Vice-president will issue a report at the WAF Congress on the activities of their respective Continental Federation.
6. Each Vice-president will ensure that member countries host a national championship as per WAF rules. The results of these national championships will be forwarded to the Vice-presidents who will keep these on record for future reference.
7. Any Continental news that each federation would like to share should be forwarded to the General Secretary for inclusion in on the official WAF Web site.
8. Any Vice-president will be expected to stand in if needed to serve as appointed by the President.

9. In the event that the Vice-president cannot attend to any of his above duties for whatever circumstances, the Continental vice-president will fill in as the Continental constitution allows.

## **ARTICLE 12: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The General Secretary will be responsible to gather all information necessary to compile the agenda for the annual WAF Congress and distribute the agenda to the membership at least 1 month (30 days) prior to the date of the annual Congress.
2. The General Secretary will be responsible to have the minutes of the annual Congress recorded and distributed.
3. The General Secretary will attend to all documentation and distribution of relevant news of armwrestling to the membership.
4. The General Secretary will assure that only eligible countries receive a WAF Voting card at the annual Congress.
5. The General Secretary will be responsible to take care of the daily business affairs of WAF, such as forwarding WAF correspondence to the President and Executive Committee, answering such correspondence as directed by the President or Executive Committee and paying any outstanding invoices.
6. The General Secretary will forward membership applications to new applicant countries and record this. He/she will contact the Continental President and make them aware of which country has applied for WAF membership. He/she will maintain a current and up to date mailing list. Hosting countries will receive a copy of this list.
7. It will be the General Secretary's responsibility to work with a Treasurer to conduct daily financial business for WAF. It will also be their combined responsibility to present an audited financial report annually at the Congress or whenever it is required by the Executive Committee.
8. The General Secretary will conduct his business within a budget approved by the WAF Congress. A detailed accounting of expenditures will be given to Congress. This will be audited annually.
9. In the preceding sub-sections, if the General Secretary cannot attend or participate to his/her duties, a proper designate will be appointed by the President. After the approval of the Executive Committee this appointment must be in writing.

## **ARTICLE 13: DUTIES OF THE REFEREE IN CHIEF**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The Referee in Chief will be nominated by the WAF Executive Committee (EC).
  - a. Every WAF Master Referee shall have the chance to be a candidate for this position.
2. The appointment must be accepted by a majority vote of the EC.
3. Each Continental Federation may nominate one person from their federation for consideration by the Executive Committee for the Referee in Chief position.
4. Nominees will be subject to a report from the referee panel. The report will go to WAF Executive Board for voting.
5. The Referee in Chief must pre-arrange the required qualified referees for the WAF World Championship or any other championship in which WAF referees are requested.
6. The Referee in Chief must issue referee report cards to his/her referees at every WAF World Championship, collect these and file them.
7. The Referee in Chief must keep a record of all his/her referees, their training and experience. Valid referee cards must be issued.
8. The Referee in Chief must arrange for a referee training session at each WAF World Championship prior to the championship.
9. The Referee in Chief is responsible to properly interpret the WAF Rules and to insure they are carried out in a professional and orderly manner during WAF Championship.
10. The Referee in Chief is responsible to ensure that the proper technical equipment is used at WAF Championships.
11. The Referee in Chief is responsible to work within a budget allowed by the WAF Executive Committee for the running of programs, travel and upkeep of the WAF Rule book. A detailed accounting of this budget and a report of referee activity is to be presented annually to the WAF Executive. The budget will be audited at the WAF Congress.
12. The Referee in Chief will be responsible to bring forward any rule or technical changes requested by his/her referees or any Continental Federation and present these to the WAF Executive Committee. The WAF Committee will present these to the membership in a motion to be discussed and voted on.

## **ARTICLE 14: CONTINENTAL FEDERATIONS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. A Continental Federation shall have a properly formed constitution, Executive Committee and business address. All federation stationary must have printed, by its registered title, "Member of WAF". Copies of this information has to be submitted to WAF within the year they were formulated.
2. Continental Federations must accept and comply to all WAF Rules and Constitution.
3. Countries that are Continental Federation members can have only one National Association represent each country. Each country may have several different associations within itself, but absolutely only one National Association to represent armwrestling continentally and at WAF World Championships.
4. The National Body shall set forth a qualification system for their Nationals Team, which will be presented to WAF.
5. A continental championship must be held annually and results submitted to WAF General Secretary.
6. The continental representative to the WAF Executive Committee must be a member of the Continental Executive Committee.
7. In the event that a continental federation becomes in-operative or dissolves, WAF will assist that continent to become active again.
8. Continental Federations must have a minor officials training program in place. This includes referees, draw masters and weigh masters.
9. Continental Federations are responsible to develop and supervise any new countries that wish to be affiliated to WAF. All pertinent information in regards to this must be forwarded to the WAF General Secretary.
10. Referee candidates must be affiliated and aggregated by their National Federation.
11. If there is no National Federation existing, the candidate referee needs to be aggregated by the WAF Referee Panel.

## **ARTICLE 15: MEMBERSHIP**

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### Sub-sections:

1. A national armwrestling organization wishing to become affiliated to WAF must first apply to their Continental Federation.
2. WAF will supply the membership form to be filled out by the country applying for membership. This form will cover all the points needed to be affiliated. Some of these points are:
  - a. List of executives.
  - b. A copy of their constitution.
  - c. 400.00 EURO annual membership fee.
  - d. All phone and fax numbers. Mailing addresses and e-mail addresses if applicable.
3. An application for membership implies complete acceptance of the WAF Constitution and rules.
4. Full membership becomes valid only if the physical presence of the applicant country is established through the participation by an official or athlete at a WAF World Championship.
5. After all WAF formalities are completed, the new member will be given an official welcome at the WAF Congress.
6. Active National armwrestling associations must send in the results and photos of their National Championship to their Continental Federation.
7. A member country may lose their affiliation for the following reasons
  - a. Non compliance to WAF constitution, rules and bylaws.
  - b. Non payment of affiliation fees for more than two years.
  - c. Affiliating or being affiliated / associated to another International Armwrestling or Para-Armwrestling organization declared not in good standing or rival to WAF interests.
8. Regarding sub-section 7 a and b, discussion would take place at the WAF Congress and a vote would be taken as to the outcome. Results will be sent out by registered mail. For the subsection 7 c, the member will automatically lose affiliation from WAF.
9. Every member country must try by all means to have representation at the WAF World Championship.
10. Member countries may withdraw by providing written notice to the General Secretary. There shall be no refund of membership fees.
11. Only Members in good standing are allowed to vote or participate in discussions. Good standing includes paid up membership fees. Each member shall have one vote.
12. There shall be only one class of membership.
13. Each voting member present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one vote.
14. Members shall have the right to attend all members meetings.
15. In the event that a delegate of a member is also a member of the Board of Directors, such a delegate shall not be permitted to vote on a requisitioned vote.

16. A member country or its management cannot be an affiliated member to another International Armwrestling or Para-Armwrestling Federation organization declared not in good standing or rival with WAF interests.
- 17.1 Members of WAF, their athletes, officials, management and personnel cannot be affiliated to, occupy positions or participate in other Armwrestling or Para-Armwrestling Federations / Organizations / Companies of any kind, cannot practice competitive/similar to WAF's activities.
- 17.2 WAF and WAF Members disciplinary decisions / actions taken against persons / organizations / companies or events interfering at national or continental level with the WAF Members will extend to all WAF Members and must be considered as a worldwide applicable decision.
- 17.3 In case of non-observation of clause 17.1. and/ or 17.2. WAF has the right to give the member a period of 14 days for the breach to be suspended. In case upon expiration of this period the breach is not suspended WAF has the right to suspend the membership or dismiss the member country.
- 17.4 WAF has the right to claim compensation for damages for non-observation of clause 17.1. from the offenders.

## **ARTICLE 16: FEES**

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### Sub-sections:

1. All payments of fees are to be in EURO with cash or through bank transfer no later than one full week in advance of team registration.
2. An official WAF receipt must accompany all transactions.
3. All fee structures are decided by the WAF membership at the annual Congress.
4. All fees are due at registration of a country's National team. If for some reason there is only an official present, the fee is due prior to the start of Congress.
5. A license fee is charged for the rights of all WAF Championships and it is due prior to the running of any of those championships. These include World, International or Continental Championships that wish to be sanctioned by WAF.
6. WAF reserves the right to negotiate with the host, a percentage fee of any revenues received through television and video of any WAF sanctioned championship.
7. The present fee structure is as follows:
 

a. Annual membership fee (per country)	400.00 EURO
b. Competitor fees (per person/ per arm/ per class)	
i. Senior Weight classes	50.00 EURO
ii. Master & Grand Masters	50.00 EURO
iii. Junior Classes	30.00 EURO
iv. Disabled Junior Classes	30.00 EURO
v. Disabled Senior Classes	50.00 EURO
c. Competitor annual license fee (per person)	
i. All classes	20.00 EURO
8. Registration fees will be split as follows: 37.5% Host Country, 37.5% for WAF and 25% for the Referee Panel.

## **ARTICLE 17: BIDS FOR WAF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. All applications for a WAF championship will be done through a bid format. The bids will be reviewed during the WAF Congress.
2. The Continental or National organization wishing to host the championship must first agree in writing that they wish to bid for a specific championship and include a bid bond of half of the fee. If they are successful bidders, the bond will go towards the fee and the balance will be due. If they are not successful, the bid bond will be returned to them.
3. The organization that receives the WAF license undertakes all financial liability and any other risks associated to the championship. WAF assumes no risk.
4. Upon approval of a bid, WAF and the successful bidder will enter a contract which will guarantee that the organizer will fulfill their part of the agreement.
5. WAF will provide qualified people to supervise registration, weigh-ins, badges and scorekeeping. All aspects of Registration, Weigh-ins, Badges, Scorekeeping and Refereeing will be done in accordance to WAF Rules and Regulation Guidelines.
6. The bid process will include the following basic points:
  - a. An official letter from the host which outlines organizational ability, financial ability and commitment.
  - b. Payment of the bid bond.
  - c. Detail of the proposed venue for the championship and for the annual Congress which should include the registration and weigh in facility.
  - d. A guarantee of accommodation and meal expenses for the WAF Executive Committee members and minor officials (which includes referees, scorekeepers and weigh masters) for the fixed number of days and nights of the championship.
  - e. A guarantee of transportation of the above mentioned and the athletes between airport, train stations and hotel upon arrival and departure. Also transportation between hotel and venue where applicable.
  - f. A guarantee of the return airfare of the President, General Secretary and Head Referee of WAF, from their home town to the site of the WAF World Championship.
  - g. Knowledge of the WAF constitution, rules and championship guidelines.
  - h. Availability of proper medical people at the venue during the championship.
7. WAF retains the right to revoke a championship license if the constitution and rules are not followed and could cancel the championship.

## **ARTICLE 18: CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT**

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### Sub-sections:

1. WAF and country banners must hang in a prominent manner to be very visible during the championship. Size & placement must be approved by the Executive Committee.
2. Advertising and sponsorship signage may be displayed to the sides of the venue.
3. All other products and forms to be approved by WAF.
4. All WAF Championships will be double elimination system of scorekeeping and feature both left arm and right arm categories for men and women. This will include Masters, Grand Masters, Disabled and Youth classes.
5. All WAF championships will be conducted using WAF qualified referees and scorekeepers. No “seeding” is allowed and “luck of the draw” is used for scoresheets. Team members from the same country will not be matched against each other in the same round if possible.
6. All WAF Championships will feature an opening and closing ceremony and an awards ceremony. The “opening” and “closing” ceremonies will consist of the following:
  - a. All participating countries will be assembled on stage or in the venue in alphabetical order.
  - b. A designated person will carry the National flag of each country and a “host volunteer” will carry the country name placard at the forefront of each group.
  - c. The guest of honor of the host organization will give a short speech.
  - d. The President of the organizing country will give a short speech.
  - e. The President of WAF or proper designate will give a short speech and then the WAF and host country flags will be raised while the host’s national anthem is played.
  - f. The speakers and teams will disperse and the stage will be set for the armwrestling to begin.
  - g. The Referee-in-chief will come on stage introduce himself and the team of referees for that particular championship. The championship will now commence.
  - h. The championship will normally run over 6 days, including 2 days for disabled. Exceptions can be made when it is requested by the host committee.
  - i. The Awards Ceremony to be held daily after each day of competition will feature a three-tiered podium to present the awards to the athletes. Athletes finishing up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place will come to the podium. The announcer will start with 3<sup>rd</sup> place and work down to the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher. They will pose momentarily for WAF and country pictures.
  - j. The WAF Executive Committee will present the awards and certificates supplied by the host country.
  - k. A similar ceremony will take place to recognize the top teams of the championship in all categories.
  - l. The John Miazdzyk Memorial Award will be presented.

- m. At the conclusion of the awards, the WAF President and host President will invite the following year's host country to come forward and receive the symbolic exchange of the WAF flag to be displayed at next year's championship. The WAF President will then declare the championships officially over.
  - n. A specified area will be secured on stage for the pullers who's class is being run. The Officials will send these pullers to this specified area.
7. All WAF Continental Championships will be managed by WAF in terms of competition: team registration, refereeing, scoring, weigh-in, anti-doping, and media exposure: Live Streaming / TV Broadcasting standards.

## **ARTICLE 19: CODE OF ETHICS**

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**\*\*NOTE\*\*** This section will cover the conduct of executive, officials and athletes alike, both during the championships and between championships.

### Sub-sections:

1. All executive, officials and athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is expected of ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honor to have earned the right to be your country's ambassadors. Conduct yourselves accordingly.
2. WAF views the use of prohibited substances or prohibited methods as unethical and strictly forbids it. WAF has adopted anti-doping rules (the "WAF Anti-Doping Rules") that comply with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) and shall maintain the compliance of the WAF Anti-Doping Rules with the WADC. Athletes may be subject to testing and if found positive may be subject to the consequences indicated in the WAF Anti-Doping Rules.
3. Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons will be subject to the consequences indicated in the WAF Anti-Doping Rules if they commit any of the anti-doping rule violations specified therein.
4. As permitted by the WAF Anti-Doping Rules, if an Athlete is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, WAF has the right to investigate their National Federation's armwrestling program and officials for violations of the WAF Anti-Doping Rules. National Federations may be sanctioned as provided for in Section 12 of the WAF Anti-Doping Rules, as amended from time to time.
5. Any Athlete that commits an anti-doping rule violation will have their results disqualified as provided for in the WAF Anti-Doping Rules.
6. All Samples collected from Athletes will be analyzed in a WADA-accredited laboratory.

## **ARTICLE 20: DISCIPLINE**

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**\*\* NOTE\*\*** All and any member of WAF, whether individual or country, executive or federation, all are subject to disciplinary action by WAF. All countries and individuals who choose to participate in and become members of WAF agree to respect and abide by the WAF constitution and rules. The WAF is a democratic federation which will give any group or individual the benefit of the doubt unless proven different. The guidelines that would warrant discipline are as follows in the sub-sections.

### Sub-sections:

1. Disciplinary action can be taken against any member of WAF who contravenes the WAF Code of Ethics, WAF Constitution or WAF rules.
2. Disciplinary action can be taken against any member country that refuses to participate in WAF sanctioned events, but continues to promote itself as a member in good standing with WAF. This country would first receive a warning letter.
3. Any athlete or official who threatens or uses abusive language against or directed to, another athlete or official can be disciplined.
4. Any athlete or official who acts in a manner that brings dishonor to WAF or his country is subject to discipline.
5. Any athlete, official or country that is served with a disciplinary notice has the right to file a defense to be heard in front of the disciplinary panel. There will be a motion put forward after the hearing. The motion will be discussed and then voted on. If the notice is upheld they may appeal to the WAF Congress.

## **ARTICLE 21: FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. The WAF will operate a daily bank account to do day to day business. Activity within this account will be reported annually to the WAF membership by the General Secretary. Checks will be numbered to be able to cross reference the entries.
2. WAF bank accounts will operate in internationally accessible banks. These accounts will be maintained by the President or General Secretary, who will work with a treasurer, mutually agreed upon by the Executive Committee.
3. WAF will work within an established budget that will be approved at Congress. The budget will take into account the financial resources available to WAF. Items to be included in the budget will be categorized and addressed by priority.
4. WAF accounts are open to scrutiny by any member in good standing. These accounts will be audited annually by a chartered accountant.

## **ARTICLE 22: AWARDS**

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### Sub-sections:

1. Special awards can be given out to worthy individuals or countries from time to time to show appreciation of the work being done by them for WAF. This will be an Executive Committee decision.
2. The John Miazdzyk Memorial Award will be given out annually at WAF world championship to a deserving individual who has shown greatness in the sport of armwrestling either through organizing, competition or volunteerism. The presentation will be done prior to the final closing of the championship. It is in memory of a great Canadian who hosted the very first WAF World Armwrestling Championship in Weytaskwin, Alberta, Canada in 1979. This is WAF's highest honor!

## **ARTICLE 23: DISPUTES**

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### Sub-sections:

1. All disputes arising under this Constitution shall, in accordance with its provisions, be subject to an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (CAS).
2. The CAS appeal shall be in accordance with the rules of CAS currently in force, provided always that the CAS Panel shall be bound to apply the Articles of this Constitution and the appellant shall file its statement of appeal within sixty days of the date of communication in writing of the decision that is to be appealed.
3. The decision of CAS shall be final and binding on the parties and no right of appeal will lie from the CAS decision. The decision shall have immediate effect and all Members shall take all necessary action to ensure that it is effective.
4. The governing law of any such appeal shall be the law of the country residence of WAF and the arbitration shall be conducted in English, unless the parties agree otherwise.
5. All disputes arising under the Rules and Regulations shall be resolved in accordance with their provisions.

## **APPENDIX 1: WAF CHAMPIONSHIP HOST CONTRACT**

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As voted at the 2006 WAF Congress Meeting in Manchester England. The WAF contract will be part of the WAF Constitution and will be appended to the document.

## **APPENDIX 2: WAF ANTI-DOPING CODE**

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As adopted at the 2021 WAF Congress Meeting in Bucharest, Romania, the 2021 WAF Anti-Doping Rules (ADR), as amended from time to time, will be part of the WAF Constitution and will be applied by all members.

## **APPENDIX 3: WAF CLASSIFICATION CODE**

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As voted at the 2016 WAF Congress Meeting in Blagoevgrad Bulgaria, the WAF Classification Code will be part of the WAF Constitution and will be applied by all members.