

# STATUTES

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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. On January 31, 2015 Taekwondo was confirmed as an official sport of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

[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**

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

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

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- 2.1 Olympic & Paralympic 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, humanitarian 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, Paralympic Games and Deaflympics;
  - 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, and the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation.

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

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- 3.1 Statutes: The WTF Statutes (these “Statutes”) is the fundamental and universal document upon which the administration of the sport of taekwondo is based. These Statutes are intended to be specific enough to achieve complete harmonization on issues where uniformity is required.
- 3.2 Competition Rules: All Championships promoted or sanctioned by the WTF shall observe the WTF Competition Rules and Interpretations (the “Competition Rules”), the WTF Poomsae Rules and Interpretations, and/or WTF Para-Taekwondo and Deaf-Taekwondo Classification Rules and Regulations, as relevant for the competition.
- 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, IPC and other International Federations (“IFs”) of the Olympic and Paralympic 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**

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

## **PART II: ORGANIZATION**

### **Article 5 Composition**

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

## **Article 6**                      **Officials**

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6.1 Officials: The following officials (“Officials”) shall be incepted at the WTF:

- A. One President
- B. Eight Vice Presidents
- C. One Secretary General
- D. One Treasurer
- E. Twenty or fewer elected and appointed Council Members, not inclusive of ex-officio Council Members
- F. Ex Officio Council Members (See Article 6.4 Ex Officio Council Members)
- G. 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 replacement shall be nominated by the President and approved by the Council.
- iii) The term of office for a replacement Official will be the remaining period of his or her predecessor.

6.3 Terms: The following are the terms of office for Elected and Appointed Officials:

- i) The term of office for Elected Officials is four years. For the purpose of this rule, a year means the period between two successive Ordinary General Assemblies. Terms begin/end at the end of the World Championships held on the occasion of the GA in which the elections take place.
- ii) The term of office for Appointed Officials shall be two years or the end of the President’s term, whichever comes first. For the purpose of this rule, a year means the period between two successive Ordinary General Assemblies.

6.4 Ex Officio Council Members: The Council shall have the following ex-officio members: the five Continental Union Presidents (as Vice Presidents); one Kukkiwon Council member who is nominated by Kukkiwon and approved by the WTF President; the Chairman of the Para-Taekwondo Governing Board, the Chair and Co-Chair of the Athletes Committee.

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) One Chairman of the Para-GB
- v) Eight or fewer Council Members. This will include at least one appointed member from each of the WTF Continental Unions.



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. A Candidate to be WTF President must have at least four years experience as an MNA executive board (or equivalent) member.

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.

6.9. Honorary Vice Presidents: The President may appoint Honorary Vice Presidents selected based on their exceptional contribution to Taekwondo. The term shall be 4 years or the end of the President's term, whichever comes first. They shall be invited to attend Ordinary Council and General Assembly meetings. They shall have no voting rights.

## **Article 7                    General Assembly**

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

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

- i) election of Officials;
- ii) approval of formulation and repeals of the Statutes, Competition Rules, Event Operations Rules, and the WTF Athlete Classification Code
- 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**

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- 8.1 Composition: The Council shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and the Council Members. For Council Members, the following shall apply:
- i) Of the 20 Elected or Appointed Council Members as prescribed in Article 6.1.E, a maximum of 12 members will be elected by the General Assembly.
  - ii) For Elected Council Members the following shall be the following shall be the distribution by Continental Union: three each from the ATU, ETU, and PATU; two from the AFTU; and one from the OTU.
- 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, Event Operations Rules, 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 shall not vote except in case of a tie.
  - iv) Guidelines; Guidelines on special situations may be provided separately.
- 8.7 GA Meetings: The members of the Council shall attend GA meetings as Council members and shall not be delegated as MNA representatives.
- 8.8 E-Voting: For matters that require urgent resolution of the Council, the President may call for a resolution via voting by E-Vote.

## **Article 9                      President**

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- 9.1 President: The GA elects, by secret ballot, a President from among its members for a term of four years. A simple majority is required for election of the President. 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 unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes or the relevant rules.
- 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 to seek advice on matters of importance and may form an Executive body to make recommendations and draft resolutions on matters pertaining to the overall development of the federation or special matters.
- 9.4 Succession: If the President resigns or is incapacitated and thus unable to fulfill the duties of his office, the Senior Vice President shall serve as acting president. The acting president shall not have the power of appointment and must call for an interim presidential election to be held in accordance with Article 6 during the next scheduled General Assembly. The winner of this interim election shall serve out the remainder of the term of his/her predecessor.
- i) The Senior Vice President shall be designated by the President.

- ii) If there is no designated Senior Vice President during the relevant period, then the Senior Vice President shall be deemed to be the current Vice President with the longest consecutive term in office. If there is a tie among current Vice Presidents for the longest consecutive term in office, then the Senior Vice President shall be deemed to be the oldest person among the tied Vice Presidents.

**Article 10 Vice Presidents**

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10.1 Continental Union Presidents: The Continental Union Presidents shall be ex-officio WTF Vice Presidents.

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

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

**Article 11 Secretary General**

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11.1 The Secretary General shall:

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

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

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

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

12.3 Auditors: The Auditors have the following duties:

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

**Article 13 Secretariat**

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

13.2 Personnel: Personnel working at the Secretariat shall be appointed and dismissed by the President at the recommendation of the Secretary General. The President may also entrust the Secretary General with the power to appoint and dismiss personnel. The President may appoint a Director General for each WTF office to manage overall operations of the office.

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**

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

14.2 Nation or Territory: WTF 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 or a National Paralympic Committee (“NPC”) recognized by the IPC may also be admitted into the WTF as a full member. A territory that is not self-governing and has no independent NOC or IPC 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 Membership: 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.

- (E) Suspended Membership: A MNA may be subject to suspension of its WTF membership for any of the following: i) suspension of the related National Olympic Committee (NOC) by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), suspension of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), or failure to receive recognition from the appropriate NOC or NPC; ii) failure to fulfill its financial or other outstanding obligations to the WTF; iii) acting in gross violation or repeated violations of these Statutes, Competition Rules, or other WTF rules or regulations; iv) pursuant to a recommendation of the WTF Juridical Committee for poor governance, a failure of governance or a clear and unjustifiable lack of representation; or v) failure to communicate with the WTF and participate in WTF activities and events for a period of one year or more. A member may be suspended on a preliminary basis if a reasonable suspicion 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. For Suspended Members the WTF may at its discretion, and in coordination with the pertinent NOC and/or governmental organization if appropriate, designate an interim body in order to ensure that athletes and officials of the Suspended Member are able to participate in WTF Promoted and Sanctioned Championships. 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 following due notice and a reasonable period specified by the WTF may have its membership revoked by a vote of the Council on recommendation of the President. A MNA that ceases to conduct business or is in a situation that is otherwise determined to be incurable by the WTF Juridical Committee may have its membership revoked by a vote of the Council on recommendation of the President.

## **Article 15            Becoming a Member**

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

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

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**

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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.

i) 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.

ii) MNAs shall include in their regulations the procedural rules necessary to effectively implement the WTF Anti-Doping Rules and the IPC Anti-Doping Code. The rules of every MNA shall specifically provide that all athletes, athlete support personnel and other persons under the jurisdiction of the MNA shall be bound by these rules.

iii) All MNAs shall include in their constitution/statutes the following article: As a member of World Taekwondo Federation, [MNA NAME] agrees to observe the statutes, bylaws, codes and rules of World Taekwondo Federation. In case of a conflict or dissonance between the [MNA NAME] rules and the World Taekwondo Federation statutes, bylaws, codes and rules the latter shall prevail.

iv) All MNAs shall implement the World Taekwondo Global Membership System in accordance with the World Taekwondo Global Membership Bylaws. MNAs that fail to actively expand the GMS within their territories or that are shown to be abusing the GMS system may have their GMS administration rights removed.

v) All MNAs shall must complete the World Taekwondo Member survey each year.

16.2 Annual Fees: Each MNA is required to pay an annual membership fee by the end of February each year. Failure to pay the annual membership fee may result in loss of rights to host or participate in WTF events or apply for funding from the WTF 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 are expected to send competitors to the WTF World Championships, the WTF World Junior Championships, and/or the WTF World Para-Taekwondo Championships.

i) To maintain voting rights, MNAs are required to dispatch at least two competitors to at least one of the championships listed above during the two year period prior to the pertinent General Assembly.

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 expected to submit a NOC letter of good standing following every election and as required by the WTF; confirm that their contact information on the WTF website is correct and immediately notify the WTF of any changes; complete the annual MNA Survey; submit a report of activities to the WTF in a format provided by the WTF to be included in the WTF's annual report.

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 shall incorporate Para-Taekwondo under the umbrella of their organization in order to provide para-athletes with a pathway to international competition and the Paralympic Games.

## **Article 17            Equal Protection**

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

## **PART IV: CONTINENTAL UNIONS**

### **Article 18 Continental Unions**

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

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

18.3 CUs shall establish Para-Taekwondo as part of the CU operations.

### **Article 19 CU Recognition**

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

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

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

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

### **Article 20 CU Requirements**

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20.1 Constitution: Each CU shall ensure its constitution is in line with the WTF Statutes. To the extent there is a conflict the WTF Statutes shall prevail. The final determination on such matters shall be made by the WTF Juridical Committee.

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 Governance: CUs shall adopt good governance rules and practices in line with WTF initiatives and guidance.

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. Unless otherwise approved by the WTF, and only in case of compelling reason, the events shall be held in accordance with the Target Months for WTF Promoted and Sanctioned Championships, as provided in the Event Operations Rules. 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.

20.9 Para Taekwondo Calendar: The dates and locations for the Continental Para Taekwondo Open (G4/G2) tournaments shall be subject to approval of the WTF. The tournaments shall be scheduled so that it does not collide with other Para Taekwondo events. The Continental Para Taekwondo Open (G4/G2) tournaments shall be scheduled at least 5 months before the pertinent year on which the tournament is scheduled to be held. The Continental Para Taekwondo Open (G4/G2) tournaments may be combined with a Taekwondo tournament. The WTF Para Taekwondo Department shall handle the communications between the CUs to ensure that the tournaments are scheduled in a way to maximize participation.

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

### **Article 21            Activities**

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21.1 Activities: The WTF engages in the following activities:

- i) promoting and sponsoring championships, tournaments and other events;
- ii) research for the propagation and development of taekwondo techniques;
- iii) publication of taekwondo-related material;
- iv) promoting the principles and activities of the World Taekwondo 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 disabled persons in Taekwondo; 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 Events**

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22.1 WTF Promoted Events: The following are WTF Promoted Events:

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

22.2 WTF World Taekwondo Championships: The WTF World Taekwondo Championships and the WTF World Taekwondo Junior 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 Youth Olympic Games ("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.

22.4 Host City Selection: Any prospective organizer wishing to apply to host a WTF-promoted championship shall form a Bidding Committee and abide by the Event Operations Rules:

- 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.

22.5 Host City Contract: The selected Bidding Committee shall enter into a Host City Contract with the WTF with prescribed terms and conditions.

22.6 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**

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

- 23.2 International Referees: WTF Championships, CU Taekwondo Championships, and other international championships sanctioned or promoted by the WTF shall be officiated only by WTF-approved International Referees.
- 23.3 International Referee Training: Only the WTF shall conduct or authorize International Referee training courses, refresher courses and seminars. Apart from MNAs, no other organization shall be authorized to organize, execute, or issue certificates for referee training courses, refreshers courses, or seminars.
- 23.4 International Referee Qualification: The President shall grant the qualification of “International Referee” to those who have successfully completed an International Referee Seminar and who have passed all the prerequisite tests and criteria deemed necessary by the WTF.
- 23.5 International Coach: The President shall grant the qualification of “International Coach” to those who have successfully completed the International Coach Training Course and who have passed all the prerequisite tests and criteria deemed necessary by the WTF.
- 23.6 Related Rules and Regulations: The rules for organizing the championships and regulations for the International Referee and International Coach shall be enacted by the Council.

#### **Article 24            Finances**

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- 24.1 Income Sources: The income of the WTF shall be derived from the following sources: membership fees; operating income; donations and subsidies; other income.
- 24.2 Financial Year: The financial year of the WTF shall start on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.
- 24.3 Auditing of Members: Any Continental Union, or Member National Association, or other organization that receives WTF subsidies or funding, including the Development Fund, may be audited by the WTF as regards the use of such funds. For this purpose, their accounts must be available at all times to the auditors appointed by the WTF. The WTF may demand return of misused or unused funds.

#### **Article 25            Intellectual Property**

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- 25.1 In General: WTF-promoted competitions and events are the exclusive property of the WTF, which owns all rights and data relating thereto, in particular, and without limitation, all rights relating to their organization, exploitation, broadcasting, recording, representation, reproduction, access and dissemination in any form and by any means or mechanism whatsoever, whether now existing or developed in the future. The WTF shall determine the conditions of access to and the conditions of any use of data relating to the WTF-promoted competitions and events.
- 25.2 Marks and Symbols: The WTF emblem, WTF Para-Taekwondo 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, WTF Para-Taekwondo properties, in their original form or any other possible modifications, and the possible legal and/or disciplinary actions against perpetrators who did not obtain such official approval from WTF, shall be enacted separately.

## **Article 26            Media Rights**

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

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

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

## **PART VI: COMMITTEES**

### **Article 27            Committees**

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27.1 Standing Committees: The WTF shall constitute the following standing committees:

- (A) Anti-Doping & Medical: The Anti-Doping and Medical Committee studies medical affairs related to taekwondo competitions and establishes necessary guidelines; studies updates to the Anti-Doping Code and best practices of the World-Anti-Doping Agency (WADA); supports the protection of the athletes' health; and recommends amendments to the Medical Code and the Anti-Doping Rules. The committee includes two sub-committees: TUE and Scientific Research.
- (B) Athletes: The Athletes Committee represents athletes within the Taekwondo Movement and upholds the rights and obligations of the athletes and conducts educational training for and on behalf of athletes. The Committee shall be elected or appointed in accordance with a procedure determined by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee established under Article 6.7 of the Statutes. Elected members shall have a four-

year term. Appointed members shall have a two-year term. The Committee members shall elect from among themselves a Chair and Co-Chair, one of which shall be male and one of which shall be female. The Chair and Co-Chair shall sit as ex-officio members of Council.

- (C) Coaches: The Coaches Committee represents coaches within the Taekwondo Movement; upholds the rights and obligations of coaches; and studies and recommends methods and measures to improve taekwondo competitions. The committee shall be comprised of a total of eleven members (including chair and co-chairs) and shall include one member from each continent who shall be elected by the coaches of their respective Continental Unions.
- (D) Development: The Development Committee recommends standards for national and continental members and regional training centers; recommends guidelines for adoption under World Taekwondo's development funding programs; considers how to improve and expand the practice of taekwondo at all levels; and explores collaboration agreements with bodies which have financial means for sports (Commonwealth, UN, EU, etc.).
- (E) Education: The Education Committee oversees the certification courses; studies methods for cultivation of competent administrators, athletes, coaches and general taekwondo practitioners with an emphasis on online education; prepares or recommends educational materials for the further development of taekwondo; and supports World Taekwondo programs and activities related to education. The committee has one sub-committee: Taekwondo Studies.
- (F) Ethics: The Ethics Committee is made up of a majority of members otherwise independent of World Taekwondo and is the guardian of the ethical principles of the Taekwondo Movement as set out in the Statutes and the Code of Ethics. It conducts investigations into breaches of ethics submitted to it by World Taekwondo and, where necessary, makes recommendations for measures or sanctions to the Council. Committee includes one sub-committee: Integrity.
- (G) Juridical: The Juridical Committee supervises appeals under the Dispute Resolution and Appeals Code; carries out investigations on legal and disciplinary issues; drafts amendments to the Statutes, by-laws, and codes; and provides opinions on legal matters to the Council upon their request.
- (H) Marketing: The Marketing Committee identifies and evaluates possible sources of financing and revenue for the federation; considers ways to exploit of all the rights pertaining to the competitions and events organized by the federation; makes recommendations regarding marketing and related programs; monitors the implementation of the federation's marketing and related programs and reports thereon to the Council.
- (I) Media: The Media Committee studies the practices of other international federations and similar organizations; makes recommendations on ways to improve World Taekwondo's visibility and brand image with an emphasis on digital media and broadcast; and oversees the development and execution of the federation's communications strategy.
- (J) Poomsae: The Poomsae Committee reviews the organization and management of Poomsae taekwondo competitions and studies ways to improve the competitions and increase the consistent application of the Poomsae Competition Rules; researches methods for effective management of training courses for International Poomsae Referees; and formulates revisions to the Poomsae Competition Rules and the Regulation on the Administration of International Poomsae Referees. The committee includes two subcommittees: Games and Referee.
- (K) Sustainability: The Sustainability Committee conducts research and makes recommendations to define the federation's sustainability agenda and to adjust the federation's sustainability policy to further its

commitment to incorporating social, environmental and ethical factors into the federation's decision making and to help guide stakeholders and reports thereon to the Council.

- (L) Technical: The Technical Committee studies the organization and management of taekwondo competitions; studies the safety and performance of equipment; considers ways to improve techniques used in taekwondo competitions; analyzes various issues in the effective management of international referees; and recommends amendments to rules related to the organization and running of competitions including but not limited to the Competition Rules and Interpretations. The Technical Committee shall be composed of one chairperson, up to five vice chairpersons, and up to ten regular members. Three of the vice chairs shall be the chair 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 chair of the Coaches Committee, and the Chair of the Athletes Committee. The remaining members shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Council. The committee includes two subcommittees: Games & Equipment and Referee.
- (M) Women in Taekwondo: The Women in Taekwondo Committee studies policies and procedures to encourage more women to participate in taekwondo both as competitors and in the management of the sport; encourages the organization of training courses for women in different areas of sport (leadership, management, training, refereeing, etc.); and gives advice to the Council on how to encourage women to work and contribute to the development of taekwondo throughout the world at all levels.
- (N) Youth & Collegiate: 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.

#### 27.2 General Guidelines:

- i. Composition: Unless otherwise indicated in these Statutes, committees shall consist of one chairperson, up to two vice chairpersons, and up to six members as nominated by the President and confirmed by the Council for a two-year terms. Sub-committees can be comprised of members of the parent committee and up to 2 additional subject-matter experts.
- ii. Meetings: Committees shall meet at least once before the opening of the Council meeting to be held on the occasion of the World Taekwondo Championships. Committees are expected to report on their activities and, as the case may be, provide recommendations to the Council.
- iii. Terms of Reference: Terms of Reference (TOR) for each committee shall be provided separately. The Council or the President may entrust each committee with execution of the matters under its jurisdiction and/or responsibility.

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

27.4 Para-Taekwondo Governing Board: See the WTF Para-Taekwondo Bylaws.

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## **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. Disciplinary Actions**

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29.1 Disciplinary Actions: The WTF may investigate, fine, suspend, and otherwise issue penalties against members and participants in WTF events for violation of WTF rules and regulations in accordance with the World Taekwondo Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code.

### **Article 30 Appeals**

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30.1 Appeals: WTF may hear appeals of WTF decisions and the decisions of WTF member organizations in accordance with the World Taekwondo Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code.

## **PART VIII: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 31 Dissolution**

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

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

### **Article 32 Modifications**

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32.1 Amendments: The Council shall formulate drafts, amendments or repeals of the WTF Statutes, WTF Competition Rules, Event Operations Rules, and bylaws and codes. Approval of the GA shall be required for formulation of the Statutes, Competition Rules and Event Operations Rules.

### **Article 33 Interpretation of Statutes**

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

### **Article 34 Enforcement**

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34.1 Adoption: These Statutes 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.
- F. The Target Months for WTF Promoted and Sanctioned Events calendar (Article 20.8) and any amendments thereto shall not be enforced against events whose dates were confirmed by the WTF before the calendar or its amendments were adopted.
- G. Changes to the Council structure made by the various amendments of Articles 6, 8 and 10 in December 2015 shall take effect as of the 2017 elections.

## **Article 35            Abbreviations and Definitions**

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

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