



# **World Taekwondo**

## **Election Bylaws**

**These Bylaws Come into Effect as of  
May 19, 2025**

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## **Part I: INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Background**

It is in the interests of the World Taekwondo (WT), and of the candidates seeking election for WT office, that during a campaign an atmosphere of mutual respect is to be maintained, and universal fundamental ethical principles are to be respected.

In consideration of this, and pursuant to Article 2.4.1 and 5.8.8 of the WT Statutes, these World Taekwondo Election Bylaws (these Bylaws) have been enacted by the WT Council and are effective as of 19 May 2025.

### **2. Scope**

- 2.1 These Bylaws apply to all individuals who seek election to any WT office during the Campaign Period, as well as to any other persons or bodies supporting such individuals with their knowledge. These Bylaws are to be read and interpreted in conjunction with the WT Statutes, Integrity Code, and other applicable WT rules and regulations.
- 2.2 For the purposes of these Bylaws, the term “Candidate” includes both:
  - (a) individuals who have submitted a completed Candidate Application Form (CAF) and been declared eligible by the Ad-Hoc Election Committee (AHEC); and,
  - (b) individuals who are actively seeking nomination or support for election to a WT office, including through public statements, campaign activity, or solicitation of endorsements, whether or not they have submitted a CAF.
- 2.3 All Candidates are bound by these Bylaws from the date of publication through the conclusion of the General Assembly. Candidates will be required to certify in their CAF that they have complied with, agree to comply with, and will continue for the duration of the Campaign Period to comply with these Bylaws.
- 2.4 These Bylaws apply to all conduct that relates to the election, including pre-CAF activity. Campaign conduct obligations, including restrictions, reporting requirements, and potential sanctions, apply throughout the Campaign Period and are enforceable against both formal and prospective Candidates.
- 2.5 The definition of “Candidate” for purposes of these Bylaws appears in Annexure A.

### **3. Campaign Period**

- 3.1 The Campaign Period will commence on and from 19 May 2025 and conclude at the end of the General Assembly on 23 October 2025.
- 3.2 The obligations on each Candidate during this period, with respect to, but not limited to, conduct, expenses, gifts and travel are set out herein.

## **PART II: CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNING**

### **1. Officials to be elected:**

1.1 The General Assembly shall elect officials as set out in Article 5.8 of the WT Statutes.

### **2. Candidate and Candidate Information**

2.1 Documents: The Candidate Package, including a Candidate Application Form (“**CAF**”) and Integrity Pledge, Conflict of Interest Declaration (Pledge and Declaration), and Expenditure Reporting Form, as approved by the Ad-Hoc Elections Committee (AHEC) shall be published in accordance with the timeline established in Article 5.8 of the WT Statutes.

Upon publication, the Candidate Package shall become Appendix I and deemed an integral part of these Bylaws.

2.2 Character: Individuals under sanction by WT or a WT MNA or CU or who have been found guilty of acts of corruption or who are otherwise considered to be of questionable integrity are ineligible to stand as a candidate to become a WT official.

2.2.1 This determination is rebuttable by the candidate under a clear error / abuse of discretion standard.

2.2.2 The AHEC may refer any Candidate’s CAF to the WT Integrity and Juridical Committees in accordance with Section 2.4 of these Bylaws.

2.2.3 Any disqualification of a Candidate under this Rule shall be made by the AHEC upon confirmation of the Candidate’s status as determined by the WT Integrity Committees.

2.2.4 A candidate who is disqualified may submit a request for reconsideration to the AHEC within five (5) days of notification. The AHEC shall provide a final decision within ten (10) days, in consultation with the WT Juridical and Integrity Committees.

2.3 Where a Candidate’s application contains minor or technical deficiencies — such as incomplete formatting, missing attachments, or administrative errors that do not affect substantive eligibility — the AHEC shall notify the Candidate and provide a one-time opportunity to cure such defects within five (5) days of receiving the notice.

2.3.1 Failure to timely correct the defect may result in the application being treated as incomplete and not accepted. The AHEC retains discretion to determine whether a defect is technical or material and whether a submission has been sufficiently cured.

2.4 Referral of Integrity Concerns: The Ad-Hoc Elections Committee (AHEC) shall review candidate applications for compliance with the technical and procedural requirements

outlined in these Bylaws and the Candidate Application Form. Where the Committee identifies a concern related to the integrity or ethical conduct of a candidate that falls outside its technical mandate, the matter may be referred to a designated sub-committee composed of members from the Integrity and Juridical Committees for advisory input.

2.5 Candidate Screening and Acceptance: Screening of CAFs shall be conducted by the AHEC to confirm compliance with the published eligibility criteria, including but not limited to qualifications, documentation, and integrity standards.

2.5.1 Rejection at the application screening stage shall be treated as a non-acceptance of candidacy and shall not require the full investigation procedures of the Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code (DAAC). However, a candidate may submit a one-time request for reconsideration to the AHEC within five (5) days of notification.

2.5.2 Where a Candidate's application is accepted and they are included in the published list of eligible Candidates, any subsequent allegation of misconduct or disqualifying facts shall be treated as a potential post-acceptance disqualification. The AHEC shall handle such matters in consultation with the Juridical and Integrity Committees, applying principles of fairness, but the AHEC's final decision shall not be subject to further appeal within WT.

2.6 A list of all candidates declared eligible by the Ad-Hoc Elections Committee shall be circulated by the WT in accordance to the timeline set out in the WT Statutes.

2.7 All persons subject to these Bylaws have a positive obligation to report any alleged breach of these Bylaws to the AHEC.

2.8 Information about the candidates shall be published on a dedicated page on the WT website.

2.8.1 The webpage shall be open to the public and a link to this page shall be emailed to all eligible voters.

2.8.2 Each Candidate may prepare and send to the AHEC a video promoting his or her candidacy which will be uploaded to the WT website. The AHEC can require that this video be provided by a certain date and time, be in a specified format and not exceed a certain length.

2.8.3 The AHEC may decline to publish any video which in their opinion contravenes the Election Rules, does not meet the specifications prescribed, or which is otherwise inappropriate for WT. All submitted videos shall be uploaded on the same date.

2.9 Candidates are permitted to have their own social media presence but are not permitted to campaign or communicate using WT social media accounts (directly or indirectly) nor may they use the WT logos or other identifying marks other than as

specified herein.

- 2.10 Candidates are prohibited from using testimonials from senior members of WT, the IOC, other IFs or WT commercial partners.

### **3. Education**

- 3.1 Candidates shall undertake any educational or training programs which WT specifies as a condition of standing for election and provide such proof of having successfully completed such education or training programs or modules as the AHEC may require.

### **4. Campaigning**

- 4.1 Each candidate may promote his/her candidature, subject to respecting the provisions of the present directions.

4.1.1 For the sake of equal opportunity and to minimize cost, Candidates shall refrain from holding official meetings specifically for election purposes.

4.1.2 The promotion of a candidature shall be conducted with dignity and moderation. Each candidate shall, in the framework of promoting his/her candidature, respect the other candidates, WT Members, and WT itself.

4.1.3 Candidates shall direct their campaigning to WT Members. A candidate may grant interviews to the media so long as the Candidate maintains ethical standards and respect towards WT and the other candidates.

4.1.4 Candidates shall at all times refrain from “attack” campaigning. A candidate may produce no spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to unjustifiably harm the image of a candidate or cause his/her prejudice.

4.1.5 No candidate may enter into any undisclosed promise or undertaking to be performed, whatever the timing of such performance, for the direct or indirect benefit of a WT Member, region or partner.

4.1.6 The conduct of the candidates shall comply with the WT Integrity Code and the Candidate Integrity Pledge.

4.1.7 Any Candidate, who is an existing official, shall continue to carry out official duties during their Candidacy, including scheduling meetings with WT MNAs on a basis consistent with the ordinary course of their business as an official, during which the Candidate may refer to his or her Candidacy in a purely factual manner. However, the promotion of the Candidacy of an official by organizing or participating in meetings or events with WT MNAs or other events solely or mainly for the purpose of promoting a Candidacy is not permitted.

### **5. Gifts and Promises**

- 5.1 Candidates shall refrain from giving gifts or other conveniences related to their campaigns. However, gifts and exchanges of tokens of courtesy may be given if they are of nominal value, meaning such items must have little or no commercial value. The Ad-hoc Election Committee shall issue guidelines, pursuant to Article 8.1.2 below in this respect.
- 5.2 In no case and under no circumstances or pretext shall an Official voting in an election or in a position to influence its outcome, accept gifts of whatever nature or value, or any grants of advantages or benefits of whatever nature or value, from a Candidate, (including gifts otherwise in compliance with the applicable Integrity Code of Conduct), unless they are gifts or exchanges of tokens of courtesy as set out in Article 5.1 above (and as set out in any guidelines issued by the AHEC, pursuant to Rule 5.1 above in this respect).
- 5.3 No Candidate shall enter into any promise or undertaking with an Official for that Candidate to act (whether as a Candidate or after being elected) for the direct or indirect personal benefit of the official.
- 5.4 Any gifts of any nature or value, or any grants of advantages or benefits of whatever nature or value, offered by a Candidate to an Official must be reported to the AHEC within 7 days.
- 5.5 No Official shall directly or indirectly give or offer any benefits of whatever nature intended to influence decisions by a Candidate within their authority once elected, or which may reasonably be perceived as intending to have that effect.
- 5.6 Candidates must not engage in paid targeted advertising on social media platforms. Use of bots or bulk messaging tools is prohibited. Official campaign accounts must be clearly identified and transparent.
- 5.7 No Official shall enter into any form of undertaking, arrangement or agreement with, nor provide any guarantee to, any Candidate that is likely to affect the Candidate's freedom of decision or action if elected.

## **6. Campaign Assistance and Expenditure**

- 6.1 MNAs and Continental Unions shall not provide institutional support, including access to mailing lists or event platforms, to any candidate.
- 6.2 No assistance, whether financial, material or in kind, be it direct or indirect, may be given to Candidates related to their candidature. This includes assistance by Officials including, as defined herein, MNA or CU personnel, or any individual acting in an official WT-related capacity. If offered such assistance, the candidate concerned has the duty to refuse it and inform the WT Integrity Committee.
- 6.3 This rule does not prevent private expressions of opinion or intentions, but MNA authorities, their representatives and delegates, shall not announce to the public in any

form whatsoever their intention to vote for a particular candidate, shall refrain from making any public declaration, and shall not in any way, support a candidature in public.

6.4 No Candidate may spend a sum more than US Dollars 25,000 (excluding any applicable taxes) on campaign expenditures for their Candidacy, regardless of the nature or source of the funding, except that a Candidate for President and Vice President may spend a sum up to US Dollars 50,000 (excluding any applicable taxes)

6.4.1 Using the Candidature Campaign Spending Report Form, each Candidate shall submit to the AHEC a report of all campaign-related expenditures no later than seven (7) days prior to the General Assembly (by October 16). The report shall include:

- i. A breakdown of all actual expenses incurred up to the date of submission; and,
- ii. An itemized estimate of any projected expenses through to the election day.

6.4.2 Within 21 days following the election, successful Candidates must submit a final report to the AHEC using the Candidature Campaign Spending Report Form detailing all campaign-related expenses.

6.4.3 The AHEC may require clarification or additional documentation where necessary. Failure to submit the required report in full and on time may result in a warning, censure, or a public notice of non-compliance.

6.4.4 The AHEC may summarize and publish submitted expenditure data at its discretion to ensure fairness and transparency.

### **PART III: ELECTION DAY**

#### **7. Election Procedure**

7.1 Election Procedures: The details of the election day procedure, including guidelines on voting and scenario planning as approved by the AHEC, shall be published together with the eligible candidate list by no later than 60 days before the election.

7.1.1 Upon publication, the Election Procedures shall become Appendix II and deemed an integral part of these Bylaws.

7.2 In any case the following shall apply:

7.2.1 The AHEC shall ensure that the election result, including voting numbers, is published immediately following the close of the elections.

7.3 Within 60 days of the General Assembly election, the AHEC shall prepare and submit a report summarizing the conduct, outcomes, and any material issues raised during the election.

### **PART IV INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

#### **8. Interpretation of these Bylaws**



8.1 Any questions regarding the interpretation of these Bylaws and the related rules should be submitted to the AHEC for final resolution.

8.1.1 The questions should be submitted to the Membership and Integrity Department at the following email address: [election@worldtaekwondo.org](mailto:election@worldtaekwondo.org).

8.1.2 In conducting campaigns, candidates shall comply with all guidelines, manuals or directives issued by the AHEC.

## **9. Post-Acceptance Disqualification**

9.1 If, after publication of the list of eligible Candidates, the AHEC receives credible information suggesting that a Candidate may have engaged in conduct warranting disqualification, the AHEC shall:

9.1.1 Refer the matter to the WT Integrity Committee for investigation under the WT Integrity Code and Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code (DAAC);

9.1.2 Notify the Candidate of the allegations and afford the Candidate an opportunity to respond;

9.1.3 Act in consultation with the Juridical and Integrity Committees before making a final decision;

9.1.4 Communicate any disqualification decision to the Candidate.

9.2 The final decision of the AHEC regarding a Candidate's disqualification shall be final and not subject to appeal.

## **10. Breach of these bylaws**

10.1 Any interested party may bring an alleged breach of these Bylaws to the attention of the AHEC, which will undertake an inquiry in conjunction with the Juridical Committee and the Integrity Committee in accordance with a procedure to be determined by the Juridical Committee.

10.2 False statements or material or substantive omissions in the Candidate Application Form shall be considered a breach of these Bylaws and may result in disqualification or sanction.

10.2.1 Reports of alleged breaches should be submitted to the Global Integrity Unit at the following email address: [investigations@worldtaekwondo.org](mailto:investigations@worldtaekwondo.org).

10.3 If a breach of these Bylaws is proven, the AHEC has the power to take the following actions:

10.3.1 Issue an observation, either private or public, in writing or not as it determines.

10.3.2 Issue a warning letter, which shall automatically be made public by publication on the WT website.

10.3.3 Issue a letter of censure, which shall automatically be made public by

publication on the WT website.

10.3.4 Issue a recommendation to revoke the Candidate's application, which will then be referred to the Juridical and Integrity Committees.

10.3.5 Issue a recommendation for other sanctions, which will then be referred to the Juridical and Integrity Committees.

10.4 In determining what sanctions, if any, should be imposed under Section 10.3, the AHEC shall consider, without limitation:

10.4.1 Whether the violation was the product of negligence, recklessness, or intentional disregard of the rules.

10.4.2 Whether the violation reflects on the candidate's fitness to serve in the position for which the individual is a candidate.

10.4.3 Whether the violation materially impairs the integrity of the election process and the interests that are sought to be protected by this Election Code.

10.4.4 In cases of potential disqualification, whether any impairment of the integrity of the election process can be mitigated through other means.

10.4.5 The materiality of the violation.

10.4.6 Whether the violation is also a violation of other codes or regulations to which candidates are bound.

## **11. Duty to Report Conduct Violations**

11.1 All Candidates and Officials involved in the election process are subject to a continuing duty to report, as soon as practicable, any act, attempt, or information they become aware of that may constitute a violation of these Bylaws, the WT Integrity Code, or any applicable WT rule.

11.2 This includes but is not limited to:

- a) Offers of improper inducement or support;
- b) Unauthorized campaign assistance;
- c) Inaccurate or misleading financial reporting;
- d) Retaliation or intimidation associated with campaign conduct.

11.3 Reports should be submitted in writing to the Global Integrity Unit at: [investigations@worldtaekwondo.org](mailto:investigations@worldtaekwondo.org).

11.4 Failure to report may constitute a violation of these Bylaws and Article 5.1 of the WT Integrity Code, and may result in sanction under the Integrity Code or the Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code, as applicable.

## **Annexure A — Definitions (Election Bylaws)**

For the purpose of interpreting and applying the 2025 WT Election Bylaws, the following terms are defined:

### **Candidate**

A person who is: (a) Declared eligible by the Ad-Hoc Election Committee (AHEC) or (b) Actively seeking nomination or support for election to any WT office, including through public statements, campaign activity, or solicitation of endorsements, whether or not they have formally submitted a Candidate Application Form. For the purposes of these Bylaws, campaign conduct obligations (including reporting, restrictions, and sanctions) apply to both formal and prospective candidates throughout the Campaign Period.

### **Ad-Hoc Election Committee (AHEC)**

A committee formed under Article 5.8.9 of the WT Statutes responsible for overseeing the conduct of the elections, including candidate screening, campaign oversight, and election-day procedures.

### **Candidate Package**

The set of documents and forms required for candidacy, including the Candidate Application Form (CAF), Integrity Pledge, and Conflict of Interest Declaration, as approved by the AHEC.

### **Campaign Assistance**

Any financial, material, or in-kind support provided to a candidate for the purposes of promoting their candidacy. Such assistance is prohibited unless specifically authorized under these Bylaws.

### **Conflict of Interest**

A situation where an individual's personal, financial, or other interests could improperly influence or appear to influence their official decisions or actions within the election context.

### **Integrity Code**

The WT Integrity Code (September 2024) sets forth expected standards of behavior and governs investigations, reporting, and sanctions related to ethical and professional conduct across WT operations, including elections.

### **Integrity Committee**

The WT Integrity Committee is a standing body responsible for safeguarding the ethical standards, integrity, and good governance of the organization. Its duties include reviewing allegations of misconduct, monitoring compliance with the Integrity Code, and recommending appropriate actions or reforms to protect the reputation and functioning of the organization. The Integrity Committee operates independently from the management structure to ensure impartiality and fairness in its proceedings.

### **Juridical Committee**

The WT Juridical Committee is a standing advisory body tasked with providing legal and procedural guidance to the organization. Its responsibilities include reviewing statutes, by-laws, and regulations; advising on the interpretation and application of legal frameworks; and assisting in the drafting and amendment of organizational rules. The Juridical Committee ensures that all regulatory and governance documents are coherent, legally sound, and aligned with best practices in international sports governance.

**Official**

Any person holding an elected, appointed, or designated position within World Taekwondo (WT), including but not limited to members of the WT Council and members of any WT Commission, Committee, or ad-hoc body (including the Ad-Hoc Election Committee).

The term also includes persons acting in an official capacity on behalf of WT, whether as staff, consultants, or contractors, as well as any officials of WT-recognized Continental Unions (CUs) or Member National Associations (MNAs) when performing functions related to their positions.

Officials are bound by the WT Integrity Code and these Bylaws in all election-related matters, including obligations to report, avoid conflicts of interest, and uphold the principles of fairness, impartiality, and transparency.