

WAKO STATUTES



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS

STATUTES

As Amended on the 25th of November 2019

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Historic WAKO Statutes Revisions:

- 6th February, 1988 - Zurich, Switzerland (foundation)
- 19th November, 1999 - Caorle, Italy
- 30th November, 2005 - Szeged, Hungary
- 27th September, 2006 - Zadar, Croatia
- 26th September, 2007 - Belgrade, Serbia
- 25th October 2011 - Skopje, Macedonia
- 8th September 2014 – Rimini, Italy
- 10th November 2017 – Budapest, Hungary
- 25th November 2019 – Antalya, Turkey

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CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Name, history, legal seat

1. The World Association of Kickboxing Organizations ("**WAKO**") is the world governing body for all styles of kickboxing. WAKO is constituted and registered as an association in accordance with art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. The duration of the association is for an unlimited period of time.
2. WAKO is a non-profit, non-political association originally founded in Berlin in 1977; it is composed of autonomous and independent National Kickboxing Federations ("**NFs**" or "**Members**") and other national organizations contributing to the sport of kickboxing and its various styles such as ring and tatami sports ("**Sport of Kickboxing**").
3. The legal seat of WAKO is in Zug, Switzerland, and may only be transferred to another location following a resolution by the Board of Directors followed by the ratification of the General Assembly.
4. The Administrative Office of WAKO can be transferred following a resolution by the Board of Directors upon the proposal of the President.
5. WAKO performs its activities on an amateur basis in compliance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter.

Article 2. Objectives

The objectives of WAKO are:

1. to promote, organize, regulate and popularize the Sport of Kickboxing all over the world, protecting the physical and mental health of the athletes, and contributing to the development of friendly relationships among the NFs and defending the interests of the Sport of Kickboxing throughout the world;
2. to assist its Members in strengthening their position as national leaders in the Sport of Kickboxing;
3. to develop specific services and facilities for its Members and provide them with assistance, training and support;

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4. to increase the level of recognition of WAKO and its Members by the International Olympic Committee and GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations), IWGA, WADA, Fair Play International Committee, AIMS, Peace and Sports, FISU, IWG and any other International sport governing bodies;
5. to approve, regulate and organize international championships, tournaments, contests between countries and large sporting events (World Championships, Continental Championships through the Continental Federations, World Cups, and open international tournaments) relating to the Sport of Kickboxing;
6. to provide administrative and other appropriate support to its Members;
7. to promote closer links among its Members in connection with the Sport of Kickboxing;
8. to promote youth development and education within its Members;
9. to coordinate and protect the common interest of its Members;
10. to collect, collate and circulate information to and among its Members regarding the Sport of Kickboxing;
11. to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their adherence, application and enforcement among its Members and within the Continental Federations;
12. to promote integrity, ethics and fair play and prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of the Sport of Kickboxing;
13. to make all possible efforts to get the Sport of Kickboxing accepted as a sport into the Olympic Games, World Games, Military Games, University Games, GAISF Combat Games and in all other Games of the Olympic circuit;
14. to organize the World Kickboxing Championships in collaboration with the Members.

Article 3. Non-discrimination - representation of women

1. WAKO and its Members reject all forms and means of discrimination against individuals, groups of people, organizations or countries of ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, politics or any other reason. Any

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such discrimination is prohibited and punishable by suspension or exclusion pursuant to Articles 14 and 15 of these Statutes.

2. WAKO supports a fair representation of women in its activities and events related to the Sport of Kickboxing at all levels within the sport.

Article 4. Anti-Doping

1. WAKO is a signatory of the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and shall implement it through anti-doping regulations and procedures compliant therewith.
2. WAKO Members at their level shall implement active anti-doping procedures and policies compliant with the WADA World Anti-Doping Code.

Article 5. Official Language

1. The official language of the WAKO is English.
2. The representatives of the NFs which are Members of WAKO can use their own language during meetings, provided they have a qualified English interpreter.

Article 6. Commercial and Media Rights, Intellectual Property Rights – Sanction fees – Approval of competitions

1. Save for what is provided for in paragraph 6 below, all intellectual and industrial property rights (“**IP Rights**”) relating to WAKO, including – without limitation – copyrights in the WAKO and rights to the trademark “WAKO”, shall be and remain the exclusive and full property of WAKO.
2. WAKO is the original owner of all of the commercial, promotional, media and sponsorship rights in connection with all WAKO approved competitions and other events coming under WAKO’s jurisdiction and/or competence, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of commercial rights, media rights (audiovisual rights, multimedia rights on any support and through any techniques) and any intellectual property rights, which may be created in connection with such competitions.

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3. The Board of Directors shall decide how and to what extent all the rights mentioned in the above two paragraphs are to be exploited in respect of the respective competitions. The Board of the Directors may establish special regulations in this respect. The Board of Directors shall in particular decide whether these rights shall be exercised by WAKO only, or jointly by WAKO and a third party or entirely by a third party.
4. WAKO shall be entitled to collect and retain entry fees or sanctioning fees relating to WAKO World and Continental Championships.
5. All events organized by WAKO Members and Continental Federations shall be subject to prior approval by the Board of Directors.

Chapter II. Membership

Article 7. Categories of Members

1. Provisional Members and Full Members are considered as WAKO Members in the present Statutes
2. Provisional Member: a NF shall be considered as "Provisional Member" when the relevant application for membership has been accepted by the Board of Directors according to Articles 7 and 8 of the Statutes. Provisional membership will automatically expire 2 (two) years after the Board of Directors has granted it. The Board of Directors is empowered to award any extension to any provisional membership which has so expired. The membership yearly fee for the Provisional Members is 50% less than Full Members membership fee as prescribed in these Statutes and determined by the Board of Directors.
3. Full Member: a NF shall be considered as a "Full Member" 2 (two) years after the admission of the NF as a Provisional Member as per Articles 7 and 8 of these Statutes.

Notwithstanding the above, any NF which has reached the recognition by its National Olympic Committee or the country governmental sports authorities may immediately apply for Full Membership without having to be first accepted Provisional Member for a duration of 2 years, subject to the payment of the membership fees relating to such status, the submission of all related official

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documentation required by WAKO and the ratification of its membership by the General Assembly.

Article 8. Admission of Members

1. The NF considered to be the national governing body of for all styles of kickboxing in a specific country and recognised by the National Olympic Committee concerned or the country governmental sports authorities may apply for admission as Full or Provisional Member by WAKO. If the applicant NF has not reached recognition by the National Olympic Committee or the country governmental sports authorities yet, it can only apply for admission as Provisional Member. The admission of a NF by WAKO – either as Provisional Member or Full Member – will be processed in accordance with the rules set forth in these Statutes. NFs have no entitlement to be admitted. No reasons need to be given when refusing an application.
2. Only 1 (one) NF per country may be admitted as WAKO member. A country is defined as an independent State entity recognised by the International Sports Community and in particular by the IOC. The area of jurisdiction of the NF must coincide with the limits of the country which it represents. The name of the NF must reflect the traditional name of such country and shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
3. The NF Statutes and their rules and regulations must be and remain compliant with the rules and principles set forth in the WAKO Statutes and WAKO regulations. The NF Statutes shall explicitly refer to their membership to WAKO and include an acceptance and submission to WAKO Statutes and WAKO regulations. NF Statutes shall be interpreted in a manner conform to the WAKO Statutes. They shall provide that in case of contradiction between the NF Statutes and the WAKO Statutes and WAKO regulations, the latter shall prevail.
4. In accordance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter, WAKO Members shall be and remain independent from political influence. The president and the other members of the board of directors of the Members must be democratically elected. The president must be a citizen of the concerned country. Governments or other public authorities shall not interfere

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in the elections. Representatives of such authorities may however be elected if such election is free. The Board of Directors may take any appropriate decisions for the protection of the independence of the Sport of Kickboxing in a country, including suspension or exclusion of the Member concerned, in case of governmental interference (through legislative measures or governmental act) putting the independence of the Member in question.

5. The admission of a NF as a Full Member is subject to ratification of the decision of the Board of Directors by the General Assembly.

Article 9. Application Procedures

1. NFs wishing to be admitted as Provisional Members or Full Members by WAKO must pay the relevant application fee payment, which in the event of acceptance of the application will be applied as the first year's membership fee.
2. The application shall include the following mandatory information/documentation of the applicant (if not in English, to be provided with an English certified translation) to be provided to the Administrative Office:
 - a. a copy of the statutes, regulations and directives of the applicant;
 - b. a chart of the applicant's organizational structure (including staff), with detailed explanations regarding the composition of its governing bodies, and a list of all its members;
 - c. information as to the recognition of the relevant applicant by the National Olympic Committee of the relevant country;
 - d. information regarding the Sport of Kickboxing activities and relevant events organized by the applicant in the last two years;
 - e. a copy of the audited financial statements of the last two years;
 - f. declaration to accept, recognize and always comply with WAKO Statutes and WAKO regulations, as well as all directives and decisions, as adopted or resolved by the Board of directors;
 - g. declaration to accept that any disputes have to be exclusively solved in accordance with Article 56 of these Statutes;

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- h. any other document relevant in connection with the application and required by the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors may issue from time to time other rules or guidelines in connection with the requirements for admission to (which, in any event, cannot derogate to the provisions of these Statutes), specifying the criteria for admission.
4. The payment of the application fee shall be in the form of a bank check or bank transfer and of such amount as specified by WAKO. This payment must be effectively received before the admission procedure proceeds.
5. The decision of the Board of Directors regarding the admission shall be communicated in writing to the applicant by President.
6. The admission is subject to subsequent ratification by the General Assembly.
7. The admission (ratified by the General Assembly) of a new Member shall be communicated to the Members and, for this purpose, notably published on the WAKO website.

Article 10. Honorary Members

Upon proposal of the Board of Directors, the General Assembly may grant the title of “Honorary President” or “Honorary Member” respectively to (i) a retiring President or (ii) a retiring Board of Directors member, for the outstanding services rendered to WAKO.

Article 11. WAKO Individual Affiliates

1. The physical persons entitled to be WAKO Individual Affiliates through a Member are:
 - a. the Athletes;
 - b. the Coaches;
 - c. the Physicians;
 - d. the Referees;
 - e. the Officials.

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Article 12. Members' Rights

1. Full Members have the right:

- a. to receive the agenda of the General Assembly as provided in this Statutes;
- b. to be called to attend the General Assembly;
- c. to take part to the General Assembly and to exercise their right to vote (one vote per member);
- d. to call for an Extraordinary General Assembly as per Article 26;
- e. to propose items for consideration regarding the agenda of the General Assembly;
- f. to nominate candidates for election of the WAKO President, the Board of Directors or any other election for which Full Members can propose candidates;
- g. to propose candidates amongst WAKO Individual Affiliates under their respective jurisdiction for appointment to the Board of Directors or to other positions within WAKO and WAKO's Committees;
- h. to be informed of the activities and events of WAKO;
- i. to exercise any right of WAKO Members arising from this Statutes and/or regulations;
- j. to participate in any WAKO event in accordance with the applicable specific Competition Rules;
- k. to enjoy any further advantages and benefits provided to WAKO members.

2. Provisional Members have the right:

- a. to receive the agenda of the General Assembly as provided in this Statutes;
- b. to be called to attend the General Assembly;

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- c. to attend the General Assembly with no right to vote, nor to propose items for consideration, nor to nominate candidates for elections;
 - d. to exercise any other right of WAKO Members arising from this Statutes and/or regulations (unless specifically reserved to Full Members);
 - e. to participate in any WAKO event in accordance with the applicable specific Competition Rules;
 - f. to enjoy any further advantages and benefits provided to WAKO Members (unless specifically reserved to Full Members).
3. The Honorary Members may attend the General Assembly and may participate in the debates, but do not have any right to vote, nor any right of proposal for nomination.
4. The WAKO Individual Affiliates are persons affiliated to WAKO Members and as such:
- a. have the right to participate to WAKO events through the respective Members;
 - b. when they are affiliated to Full Members, have the right to be put forward for elective offices and appointments providing they possess the minimal requirements;
 - c. have the right to be appointed as Delegates of a Full Member. The WAKO Individual Affiliates have no individual right to attend the General Assembly.

Article 13. Members' Obligations

1. The Members of WAKO shall have the following obligations:
- a. to comply with these Statutes as well as any and all regulations, directives and decisions enacted or issued by WAKO bodies at any time and to comply with the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS);

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- b. to comply with applicable laws, their own statutes and regulations, and generally accepted notions of good governance. For the avoidance of doubt, generally accepted notions of good governance include, inter alia, democratic elections and decision-making, separation of powers, the rule of law, transparency, and zero tolerance towards any form of discrimination, physical or mental abuse, abuse of powers, corruption or manipulation of sporting competitions.
- c. to pay each year the affiliation fees applicable in connection with their respective membership status. Such fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The applicable membership fee shall be paid and received on WAKO bank account no later than 31st March of each year. If the membership fee is not paid by that date, a surcharge as set by the Board of Directors will be applicable. If the payment is not made until December 31, a further surcharge as set by the Board of Directors will be applicable.
- d. to have their executive bodies and disciplinary bodies democratically elected by their respective general assemblies;
- e. to organize competitions in the styles comprised in the Sport of Kickboxing;
- f. to actively participate in WAKO activities, in particular in the WAKO World Championships;
- g. to conduct their activities and notably to organise competitions in conformity with the WAKO Statutes and the WAKO regulations. In particular, WAKO Competition Rules shall be applied in their entirety at all official national and international competitions and the Members Statutes and regulations shall remain compliant with the rules and principles set forth in the WAKO Statutes and WAKO regulations (Article 8.3);
- h. to respect the international WAKO calendar and not to schedule international activities in conflict with events previously scheduled on the international WAKO calendar;

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- i. to remain independent from political interference in the conduct of their activities (Article 8.4);
 - j. to notify WAKO, for approval by WAKO Board of Directors, of any modification in their statutes, regulations and directives or of the inclusion of any new discipline to their national program.
2. Members shall not:
- a. be member of any other national or international kickboxing organization which include the Sport of Kickboxing as a discipline;
 - b. have among its members persons who are part of other national or international Kickboxing organizations which include the Sport of Kickboxing as a discipline;
 - c. permit or allow its affiliates to participate or officiate in any other national or international event(s) organized by kickboxing organizations which include the Sport of Kickboxing as a discipline.
3. Any Members in breach of the provisions of this Article 12 shall be subject to disciplinary actions as well as consequences and sanctions resulting therefrom, as provided by these Statutes and other WAKO regulations.
4. WAKO Individual Affiliates, when participating to WAKO activities and competitions shall be subject to the provisions of these Statutes and of other WAKO regulations. In case of breach, they shall be subject to disciplinary actions as well as consequences and sanctions resulting therefrom, as provided by these Statutes and other WAKO regulations.

Article 14. Resignation

1. Any WAKO Member may resign at any time from WAKO.
2. Such resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt by WAKO of a notice of resignation signed by the legal representative of the relevant Member.
3. The resignation does not affect the liabilities or debts of the WAKO Members vis-à-vis WAKO. Any fees already paid are not subject to refund.

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4. Any Member intending to relinquish membership must send the notice of resignation to the Administrative Office of WAKO.

Article 15. Suspension

1. The Board of Directors, through a decision adopted with the qualified majority provided under Article 35, paragraph 6, of these Statutes may suspend a WAKO Member for:
 - a. failure by the relevant WAKO Member to fulfill its financial obligations towards WAKO;
 - b. serious violation of the Statutes, regulations or decisions of WAKO or its bodies;
 - c. systematic failure to participate actively to WAKO activities, in particular but not limited to regular participation to the WAKO World Championships. This is without prejudice to the specific suspension of the right to vote in accordance with Article 23, paragraph 1, of these Statutes;
 - d. behavior detrimental or which can create a material prejudice to WAKO and its Members.
2. Before deciding on a suspension under paragraph 1, the Board of Directors shall
 - a. notify the WAKO Member concerned of the potential ground(s) for suspension, and of the factual allegations (together with any evidence) underlying such ground(s);
 - b. grant the WAKO Member concerned a time limit of no less than 14 (fourteen) days for it to file a written response to the allegations, together with any evidence the WAKO Member seeks to rely on.
3. Subject to a different decision of the Board of Directors, the suspended WAKO Member loses the benefit of all its membership rights. It remains subject to all Members' obligations. A reasonable deadline will be granted to the suspended Member to remedy to the reason of the suspension.

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4. Subject to a different decision of the Board of Directors, other WAKO Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
5. The suspension decision of the Board of Directors shall be communicated to the Members by the President or by another member of the Board of Directors designated by the President and to other interested third parties as appropriate to give effect to the decision. It shall be published on the website.
6. A WAKO Member that has been suspended as per the above provisions may file an appeal against the decision of the Board of Directors to the Arbitration Board.
7. A suspension decision can be revoked by the Board of Directors once and subject to the WAKO Member having remedied the cause of suspension.

Article 16. Exclusion

1. A suspended WAKO Member which fails to remedy the cause of the suspension within a reasonable deadline – as determined and communicated by the Board of Directors - following due notice provided under Article 15, paragraph 4 of these Statutes, may be excluded as a member by a decision of the Board of Directors taken by means of a resolution adopted with the qualified majority provided under Article 35, paragraph 6, of these Statutes.
2. If a violation is severe enough to justify an exclusion and is not capable of remedy or the Member expressly refuses to remedy it, a Member may be excluded without previous suspension.
3. Before deciding on an exclusion under paragraphs 1 or 2, the Board of Directors shall
 - a. notify the WAKO Member concerned of the potential ground(s) for exclusion, and of the factual allegations (together with any evidence) underlying such ground(s);
 - b. grant the WAKO Member concerned a time limit of no less than 14 (fourteen) days for it to file a written response to the allegations, together with any evidence the WAKO Member seeks to rely on.

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4. Any exclusion decision by the Board of Directors of WAKO is subject to ratification by the next General Assembly. Until the General Assembly has decided, the WAKO Member shall be provisionally (or remain, as applicable) suspended. The WAKO Member concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present its arguments against an exclusion to the General Assembly.
5. The exclusion decision of the Board of Directors and, thereafter, its ratification shall be communicated to the Member concerned by the President. All WAKO Members and other interested third parties as appropriate to give effect to the decision shall be properly informed on the exclusion of the relevant Member. The exclusion shall be published on the WAKO website.
6. A WAKO Member that has been excluded from WAKO may appeal the exclusion to the Arbitration Board following ratification by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER III. ORGANISATION OF WAKO

Article 17. Bodies

1. The organs of WAKO are the following:
 - a. the General Assembly
 - b. the Board of Directors
 - c. the Auditor
2. The following entities/bodies are further established to administer WAKO:
 - a. Committees:
 - i. the Legal Committee
 - ii. The Disciplinary Committee
 - iii. The Athletes' Committee
 - iv. Ad hoc Committees
 - b. the Doping Hearing Panel

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c. the Arbitration Board

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 18. Definition, Organization

1. The General Assembly is the supreme body of WAKO and shall have the power to decide upon any matters arising in WAKO, which are not delegated to another organ or body.
2. The General Assembly may be attended by the Provisional and Full Members (through their Delegates) and the Individual Honorary Members.
3. Only a General Assembly properly convened has the authority to exercise its powers.
4. The General Assembly may be convened ordinarily in accordance with Article 24 of these Statutes ("Ordinary General Assembly") or extraordinarily in accordance with Article 26 of these Statutes ("Extraordinary General Assembly"). The word "General Assembly" under these Statutes refers to both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Assemblies.

Article 19. Powers of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly has the power to:
 - a. adopt and/or amend these Statutes;
 - b. elect the President and the Directors;
 - c. appoint the Auditor;
 - d. appoint the scrutineers;
 - e. ratify admission and/or exclusion of Members;
 - f. grant, on proposal by the Board of Directors, the title of Individual Honorary Member as per Article 10 of these Statutes;
 - g. approve the financial statements;
 - h. approve the budget;
 - i. approve the President's activity report;

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- j. decide on proposals submitted by Members or by the Board of Directors in accordance with these Statutes;
- k. dissolve WAKO;
- l. exercise any other competence not specifically attributed to another organ or body by these Statutes.

Article 20. Delegates

1. Each Provisional and Full Member is represented at the General Assembly by 1 (one) or 2 (two) Delegates. In case of 2 (two) Delegates, the relevant Full Member shall indicate, upon registration of its Delegates, which Delegate shall be authorized to vote on behalf of that Full Member ("**Main Delegate**").
2. Delegates may be the NF President and/or other NF representative(s) being Affiliate(s) of the NF in question and designated by the NF President. The Delegates other than the NF President shall be able to establish their powers by means of a written power-of-attorney ("**Proxy**") in the English executed by the President of the NF.
3. Members which establish proxies shall provide duly executed Proxies at the latest 7 (seven) days before the date scheduled for the meeting of the General Assembly.
4. Delegates of a WAKO Member must be WAKO Individual Affiliates of that Member and hold the citizenship of the country of the concerned Member. Representation by Delegates of another Member is not authorized.
5. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Electoral Commission composed of three persons. The Electoral Commission shall verify the attendance and the regularity the Proxies before a General Assembly.

Article 21. Quorum - Decisions – Methods of vote – Effect of the decisions

1. A General Assembly shall be deemed duly constituted if at least half (50%) of the Full Members are represented through their respective Delegates.
2. When the quorum under paragraph 1 is not reached in the first call, the General Assembly shall be reconvened after a delay determined by the Board of

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Directors but of minimum 6 hours. The General Assembly may then proceed and validly decide on the items on the agenda, provided that at least one third (1/3) of the Full Members are represented through their respective Delegates.

3. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be made by simple majority of the votes effectively and validly cast by Full Members. Abstentions shall not be taken into account in the determination of the majority.
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 above, decisions of the General Assembly regarding amendments to the Statutes or dissolution of WAKO, require a qualified 2/3rd (two thirds) majority of the votes effectively and validly cast by Full Members. Abstentions and invalid votes shall not be taken into account in the determination of the majority.
5. Unless otherwise provided in these Statutes, the vote is normally conducted by a show of hands. Secret ballot shall be applied if requested by at least five Full Members in attendance.
6. Any decisions passed by the General Assembly, including those under paragraph 4 above, shall come into effect immediately upon the close of the General Assembly, unless immediate application or another effective date is specifically determined as part of the decision.

Article 22. Voting rights

1. Subject to the provisions below, each Full Member has one vote to be exercised by its Delegate(s). If a Full Member is represented by two (2) Delegates, only the Main Delegate (see Article 20, paragraph 1, of these Statutes) shall be entitled to exercise that Full Member's vote.
2. Each Full Member which is not suspended is entitled to vote.
3. The right to vote of the Full Member in the General Assembly is however subject to the Full Member meeting the following requirements:
 - a. participation to the WAKO World Championships held in the year of the General Assembly;
 - b. payment of the affiliation fees of the last 2 (two) years.

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4. In case the Full Member does not satisfy the above requirements, it shall not have the right to vote in the relevant General Assembly. The voting rights of the Full Member shall be ascertained before any General Assembly pursuant to the modalities indicated in Article 20 of these Statutes.
5. Abstentions as well as illegible, void, blank or improper votes shall not be taken into account for the purpose of votation or election results or majority counts.

Article 23. Elections

1. Elections may be carried out by means of show of hands, unless otherwise set forth in these Statutes.
2. Elections shall be carried out by means of secret ballot whenever there is more than 1 (one) candidate for the office up for election.
3. With the exception of the special election procedure for Elected Directors (Article 32, paragraphs 2 and 3, of these Statutes), a person is elected, when he or she receives a simple majority of the votes effectively and validly cast (abstention do not count). When there are more than the number of candidates necessary to fill the position plus one, the candidate with the least votes drops after each ballot until a last ballot in which there is only one candidate more than the positions to be filled. In case of a tie (either between the two remaining candidates in the last ballot, or between multiple candidates with the least votes), the respective round of the election shall be repeated up to two (2) times to break the tie; if the tie persists, it shall be broken by lot.

Article 24. Ordinary General Assembly

1. The Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Board of Directors -once a year. The meetings of the Ordinary General Assembly may be convened anywhere in the world upon proposal of the President and the decision of the Board of Directors.
2. At least 60 days before the date scheduled for the Ordinary General Assembly, a formal notice of call of the meeting shall be sent to all WAKO Members.

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3. The notice of call shall specify the place where the meeting is to be held, the date and time of calling and the items on the agenda, as provided in Article 25 of these Statutes.

Article 25. Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

1. The notice of call of the Ordinary General Assembly shall include the agenda.
2. The Ordinary General Assembly agenda shall include without limitation, the following items:
 - a. approval of the agenda;
 - b. appointment of scrutineers;
 - c. approval of the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly;
 - d. President's activity report (containing the activities since the last Ordinary General Assembly);
 - e. presentation of the financial statements;
 - f. report of the Auditor;
 - g. approval of the financial statements;
 - h. discharge of the Board of Directors
 - i. presentation and approval of the budget;
 - j. further items, if any, submitted the Board of Directors or proposals of the Members (including, if any, proposals to amend the Statutes or dissolve WAKO)
 - k. Election of the President and of the Directors (if applicable);
 - l. appointment of the Auditor;
 - m. information on the future activities of WAKO, in particular championships
3. Full Members may propose items to be put on the agenda. Such proposals must be submitted to the Board of Directors through the Administrative Office - no later than 45 days prior to the Ordinary General Assembly. Proposals supported by at least 5 Members have to be included in the agenda. Other

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proposals submitted by Members are included in the agenda at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

4. At least 30 days prior to the Ordinary General Assembly, the President shall circulate the final agenda prepared by the Board of Directors.
5. Documentation relating to the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly may be provided with the agenda or at least 20 days before the Ordinary General Assembly. In the case provided by paragraph 6 below, they shall be provided as quickly as reasonably possible.
6. The Board of Directors of WAKO may at any time add an urgent item to the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly. The Members shall be informed as soon as possible.

Article 26. Extraordinary General Assembly

1. An Extraordinary General Assembly may deal with all matters within the powers of the General Assembly.
2. An Extraordinary General Assembly is organized when a matter needs to be addressed by the General Assembly in between Ordinary General Assemblies. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be called:
 - a. by decision of the Board of Directors of WAKO;
 - b. upon the written request of at least 1/3rd of the Full Members
3. An Extraordinary General Assembly called based on a Members' request shall be held within 2 (two) months of the relevant request.
4. The notice of call of the meeting of the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be sent to all Provisional, Full Members and Honorary Members at least 30 (thirty) days in advance.
5. The notice of call shall specify the place where the meeting is to be held, the date and time of calling and the items on the agenda as well as any explanations in regard of the reasons for convening an Extraordinary General Assembly. Documentation relating to the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly may be provided together with the agenda or at least 20 days before the

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Extraordinary General Assembly. Documents and information relating to the items on the agenda shall be provided together with the agenda.

6. No items other than those specified in the notice of call may be added to the agenda of the meeting nor shall be discussed at an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 27. Conduct of General Assembly

1. The President acts as Chairman of General Assembly. If the President cannot attend the meeting, the First Vice-President, or in his/her absence, another Vice-President appointed by the Board of Directors acts as Chairman.
2. The Chairman appoints an *ad hoc* secretary of the General Assembly.
3. The Chairman decides on procedural aspects, including on the admissible content and duration of the speaking time granted to the participants and limitations thereof.

Article 28. Minutes of the General Assembly - Written Resolutions

1. The minutes of the General Assembly are established under the authority of the Chairman.
2. The minutes of the meetings are recorded in English by the *ad hoc* secretary of the meeting.
3. The minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly are communicated to the Provisional, Full and Honorary Members and are subject to approval by the next General Assembly.

Article 29. Decisions by circulation

1. The Board of Directors may submit an item to decision by the General Assembly by means of written resolution made by circulation. Such procedure must be reasonably justified and may not be applied for elections of the President or of Directors or for a decision to dissolve WAKO.
2. In the event of a decision by circulation as per paragraph 5:

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- a. The Full Members shall be notified in writing of the item(s) to be decided and given a deadline of at least 15 days to provide their vote. Provisional Members and Honorary Members are informed of the vote and of its outcome.
- b. The Full Members cast their vote by registered letter, fax, e-mail or other means that can provide evidence of receipt of their vote.
- c. For a decision to be validly passed at least half (50%) of the Full Members must effectively submit their votes.
- d. The results of the vote are communicated without delay to the Members. Provisional Members and Honorary Members are informed of the vote and of its outcome.

The President and the Board of Directors

Article 30. Function and composition

1. The Board of Directors is the executive body of WAKO.
2. Including the President, the Board of Director consists of minimum 11 up to maximum 17 members – among whom at least 30% to 40% should be women.

Article 31. Election of the President

1. Any Full Member can present a WAKO Individual Affiliate as candidate to the position of President subject to:
 - It has been a Full Member for the last 8 (eight) years;
 - the proposed candidate fulfils all the personal conditions to be met by candidates for the Board of Directors (except the age limit);
 - The candidature is submitted in writing to the Administrative Office at the latest 45 days prior to the relevant General Assembly.
2. The candidatures shall be communicated to all the Full Members at least 30 days before the relevant General Assembly. The Provisional Members and the Honorary Members are informed of the candidatures.

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3. During the election of the President, the out-going President shall, if seeking re-election, surrender the chair to the Vice-president. If the Vice-president is a candidate, an ad hoc chairman is appointed by the Board of Directors, amongst its members.
4. The President, whether re-elected or newly elected, takes office immediately upon election and notably chairs the General Assembly.

Article 32. Composition of the Board of Directors

1. In addition to the President, the Board of Directors is constituted by maximum 17 members, as follows, as follows:
 - a. up to 5 (five) directors, as representatives of each of the 5 Continental Federations, to be appointed by the General Assembly upon proposal of the elected President. To be entitled to be represented on the Board of Directors of WAKO, a Continental Federation must have at least 3 Full Members participating at the WAKO World Championships in the last 2 (two) years and which have paid their affiliation fees to the WAKO in the last 3 (three) years. In the event these cumulative conditions cease to be met, the representation of that Continental Federation by an Ex Officio Director is suspended until they are again fulfilled;
 - b. a minimum of 5 and up to 11 (eleven) directors to be appointed by the General Assembly upon proposal of the elected President as set forth below.
 - c. The proposed members of the Board of Directors are designated by the elected President amongst the candidates proposed by the Members pursuant to Article 33 below.
 - d. The proposed members of the Board of Directors shall be selected by the President taking into account the following criteria:
 - i. One member (taking also into account members in accordance with lit. b above) has to be a Member of the Athlete's Committee.
 - ii. The number of women directors shall tentatively reach at least 30 to 40 % of the members.

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2. The list of proposed members of the Board of Directors shall be subject to a vote of the General Assembly. In case the General Assembly does not approve the list, the President shall submit a new proposal. The process shall be repeated until a proposal is accepted.
3. In its first meeting, to take place as early as possible after the elective General Assembly, the Board of Directors, upon proposal of the President, shall appoint from among its members Vice-Presidents (from 2 up to maximum 6) among whom a First Vice President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer (the latter must necessarily be appointed from the directors elected pursuant to Article 2c) above). The General Secretary must be elected from the Members, who already served as Board Members.
4. In case of the President withdraws or becomes unable to perform his or her function for any reason, the First-Vice President shall act as interim Chairman until the President is able to resume his position. If the President is definitively unavailable a General Assembly having the election of a new president on its agenda shall be organized within 6 (six) months from the date the interim president has begun to exercise its functions of President ad interim.
5. In case of vacancy of a director other than the President or a director representing a Continental Federation for any reason, the corresponding position of member of the Board of Directors may remain vacant until the next ordinary General Assembly. Notwithstanding the above, if the number of directors appointed pursuant to Article 2c) above becomes less than 5 (five), a General Assembly must be called to elect new directors.
6. Subject to the above, the Board of Directors determines its own organization. It may delegate the handling of specific tasks to certain of its members.
7. Members of the Board of Directors may only be compensated for their activities on behalf of WAKO in case the Board of Directors so resolves and if such compensations are included in the annual budget.

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Article 33. Eligible Candidates

1. Full Members can present WAKO under their respective jurisdiction as candidates for positions in the Board of Directors, provided that
 - i. they are Full Member of WAKO since the last 2 (two) years;
 - ii. have taken part to the WAKO World Championships and is up to date with all payments and documentation due to the WAKO at the time of the General Assembly;
 - iii. the proposed candidates shall not be involved in any conflicting activity with any other competing organization active in kickboxing;
 - iv. the proposed candidates shall not be older than 70 years or become older than 70 years during the year in which they would be appointed to the Board of Directors (such limit does not apply to the President);
 - v. the proposed candidate must have full legal capacity and must never have incurred any WAKO sanction, disqualification and/or criminal conviction.
2. Employees of WAKO or of WAKO Members, either directly or through a company, for the duration of the employment and for the following 2 (two) years after the termination thereof for any reason cannot be elected members of the Board of Directors, respectively, members of the Board becoming employees will lose their position: as member of the Board of Directors.
3. All the candidatures for the positions as members of the Board of Directors shall be exclusively submitted by Full Members in writing to the WAKO Administrative Office at the latest 45 days before the relevant General Assembly.
4. The validity of the candidatures shall be verified by WAKO Administrative Office and confirmed at the latest 30 days before the General Assembly.
5. Specific provisions applicable in connection with the appointment of the General Secretary are set forth in Article 46 of these Statutes.

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Article 34. Terms of Office

1. The term of office of the President shall be 4 (four) years, ending at the Ordinary General Assembly staged in the fourth year after the election of the President.
2. In principle, Elected Directors shall be elected concurrently with the President, in which case their term of office shall coincide with that of the President. If an Elected Director is not elected concurrently with the President, such Elected Director's term of office shall be the remainder of the President's term.
3. If a new President is elected before the expiry of his predecessor's term of office as provided for in paragraph 1, a new election shall be held in respect of the Elected Directors at the same General Assembly.
4. The President and the Elected Directors may be re-elected provided that they continue to meet the applicable eligibility conditions.
5. Notwithstanding the above, the President's, First Vice-President's, General Secretary's and Treasurer's office cannot be exercised by the same person for more than 3 (three) mandates.

Article 35. Meetings, Quorums, Written Resolutions

1. A meeting of the Board of Directors shall be convened at least two (2) times a year anywhere in the world whenever the Board deems it necessary.
2. Meetings shall be called by the President (or the First Vice President in case of impediment of the President) at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. In case of urgency, meetings may be called at shorter notice as required by the circumstances. Meetings with all Board of Director members in attendance may be held without a call.
3. The notice of call shall specify: the date, the time, the place and the items on the agenda. A meeting can also be held by video-conference (including skype or webcast) in which case the modalities to access the conference shall be specified.
4. The President (or the First Vice President in case of impediment of the President) chairs the Board of Directors.

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5. The Board of Directors may validly deliberate if a majority of its members participates in the meeting or in the circular decision.
6. Decisions of the Board of Directors are taken by simple majority of the votes effectively and validly cast (abstentions do not count). Notwithstanding the above, decisions of the Board of Directors regarding suspension and expulsion of a WAKO Member require a 2/3rd (two third) majority of the votes effectively and validly cast (abstentions do not count).
7. Decisions of the Board of Directors may also be made by circulation (items to be decided submitted in writing to the members of the Board of Directors).

Article 36. Powers of the President

1. The President of the Board of Directors:
 - a. chairs the General Assembly and the Board of Directors;
 - b. is responsible for and exercises the high management of WAKO;
 - c. oversees the day to day running of WAKO by the Administrative Office;
 - d. represents and commits WAKO towards third parties;
 - e. is authorized to make expenditures pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article 40 of these Statutes.
2. The President may delegate certain of his powers to the First Vice-President or one or more of the other Vice Presidents.
3. In the absence of the President, WAKO may be represented by the First Vice-President.
4. The President shall not be entitled to a salary. He may receive an indemnity as decided by the Board of Directors and is entitled to reimbursement of the reasonable expenses incurred in performing his duties.

Article 37. Powers of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors has all powers necessary to manage WAKO and, in particular:

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- a. In between General Assemblies, is responsible for all matters that are not specifically reserved to other bodies of WAKO by these Statutes or the regulations and directives of WAKO;
- b. prepares and convenes the General Assemblies;
- c. processes membership applications;
- d. issues regulations in connection with the Committees and appoints any further Committees it deems necessary at any time;
- e. provides sanctioning in connection with WAKO events;
- f. appoints the First Vice-President, the Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary and Treasurer of WAKO;
- g. prepares and issues the regulations and Bylaw of WAKO which rule the functioning of WAKO;
- h. checks and ratifies the Statutes and By-laws relevant of each Continental Federation;
- i. approves the annual financial statements of WAKO which are then submitted to the General Assembly for ratification.

Committees

Article 38. Legal Committee

1. The Legal Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 4 other members appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of 4 years.
2. Members of the Legal Committee shall be WAKO Individual Affiliates of Full Members. They shall have legal education and experience.
3. The conditions set forth in Article 33, paragraph 1 lit. iii) to vi), apply to the eligibility of Legal Committee members.
4. If a member of the Legal Committee becomes unavailable or does not meet the eligibility conditions anymore, it can be removed by the Board of Directors, which replaces him or her for the remaining period of his or her term.

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5. Members of the Legal Committee may be re-appointed provided they meet the applicable personal eligibility conditions.
6. The Legal Committee supports and advises the Board of Directors in regard of all legal and regulatory matters (advice regarding issuance, interpretation and application of regulations, legal issue).
7. The Legal Committee further issues decisions or recommendations in specific matters, when such competence is provided in these Statutes or in provisions of further WAKO regulations.
8. Further and more detailed modalities regarding the Legal Committee are set forth in regulations issued by the Board.

Article 39. Disciplinary Committee

1. The Disciplinary Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 4 other members appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of 4 years.
2. Members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be WAKO Individual Affiliates of Full Members. They shall have appropriate background and experience to sit in a disciplinary panel. The Chairman shall have legal education.
3. The conditions set forth in Article 33, paragraph 1, lit. iii) to vi) apply to the eligibility of Disciplinary Committee members.
4. If a member of the Disciplinary Committee becomes unavailable or does not meet the eligibility conditions anymore, it can be removed by the Board of Directors, which replaces him or her for the remaining period of his or her term.
5. Members of the Disciplinary Committee may be re-appointed provided they meet the applicable personal eligibility conditions.
6. The Disciplinary Committee is in charge of the conduct of disciplinary proceedings conducted as a consequence of violations of these Statutes and further WAKO Regulations by WAKO Members and/or WAKO Individual Affiliates.

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7. Further modalities regarding the Disciplinary Committee are set forth in regulations issued by the Board.

Article 40. Doping Hearing Panel

1. The Doping Hearing Panel consists of a Chairman and at least 4 other members appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of 4 years.
2. Members of the Doping Hearing Panel may be WAKO Individual Affiliates of Full Members or persons independent from WAKO and/or its Members. They shall have appropriate background and experience to sit in anti-doping panel (legal, medical, field experience in anti-doping etc.).
3. The conditions set forth in Article 33, paragraph 1, lit. iii) to vi) apply to the eligibility of Doping Hearing Members.
4. If a member of the Doping Hearing becomes unavailable or does not meet the eligibility conditions anymore, it can be removed by the Board of Directors, which replaces him or her for the remaining period of his or her term.
5. Members of the Doping Hearing may be re-appointed provided they meet the applicable personal eligibility conditions.
6. The Doping Hearing Panel is in charge of the conduct of proceedings in application of the WAKO Anti-Doping Rules.
7. Further modalities in regard of the Doping Hearing Panel may be set forth in the Anti-Doping Rules.
8. The Board of Directors may transfer the implementation of the Anti-Doping Rules to independent entities.

Article 41. Athletes' Committee

1. The Athletes' Committee consists of 13 (thirteen) members. Seven members shall be elected by the athletes. Six members shall subsequently be appointed by the Board of Directors with a view to strengthening diversity, in particular in terms of gender and geography.
2. The Chairman of the Athletes' Committee shall be elected in its first meeting by all members of the Athletes' Committee.

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3. The term of office of each member of the Athletes' Committee shall be 4 years.
4. Members of the Athlete's Committee shall be WAKO Individual Affiliates of Full Members. They shall be or have been active high level kickboxing athletes.
5. If a member of the Athlete's Committee becomes unavailable or does not meet the eligibility conditions anymore, it can be removed by the Board of Directors, which replaces him or her for the remaining period of his or her term.
6. Members of the Athletes' Committee may be re-appointed provided they meet the applicable personal eligibility conditions.
7. The Athletes' Committee supports the Board of Directors in matters concerning the Athletes. It is consulted in this respect. The Athletes' Committee may submit proposal and recommendations to the Board of Directors.
8. Further modalities regarding the Athletes' Committee may be set forth in regulations issued by the Board.

Article 42. Other Committees

9. The Board of Directors may establish other Committees to address specific issues in connection with the management of WAKO's activities.
10. The Board of Directors determines the constitution, organization, competences of the Committees and, if appropriate, issues corresponding regulations. In the absence of specific provisions, provisions applicable to the constitution of standing committees apply to the ad hoc committees *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 43. Arbitration Board

1. The Arbitration Board consists of a Chairman and at least 3 other Members appointed by the Board of Directors for 4 years terms of office.
2. The Members of the Board of Arbitration shall be independent and shall not be WAKO Individual Affiliates. They shall have a legal education and experience in dispute resolution.

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3. If a Member of the Arbitration Board becomes unavailable, the Board of Directors may replace him or her for the remaining period of his or her term.
4. The Arbitration Board shall act as independent dispute resolution body and resolve disputes submitted in application of these Statutes or other WAKO regulations.
5. The Arbitration Board, respectively its Members acting as panel members or sole arbitrators shall apply WAKO Statutes and regulations and Swiss Law. They determine the applicable procedural rules subject to observance fundamental principles of procedure, including the right to be heard.
6. The Arbitration Board may issue procedural provisions or directives governing the proceedings in front of panels or sole arbitrators.

Continental Federations

Article 44. Recognition as Continental Federation

1. WAKO Members that belong to the same continent may form the following Continental Federations, which are subject to recognition by WAKO as per this Article 44:
 - a. WAKO Europe (WAKO European Kickboxing Federation)
 - b. WAKO Africa (African kickboxing Confederation)
 - c. WAKO Asia (Asian kickboxing Confederation)
 - d. WAKO Oceania
 - e. WAKO Pan America (Pan American Kickboxing Confederation)
2. Upon request, WAKO may recognize and approve an applicant organization (the “**Applicant**”) as its Continental Federation for the relevant continent if the Applicant establishes that it meets the following requirements:
 - a. It shall be a non-for profit organization.
 - b. Its members shall exclusively be WAKO Members from the continent concerned.
 - c. Its statutes and regulations shall

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- (i) be in compliance with the WAKO Statutes and regulations;
 - (ii) provide that the Applicant accepts, submits to and undertakes to abide by the WAKO Statutes and regulations, as well as any decisions of WAKO issued thereunder;
 - (iii) provide that they shall be interpreted in accordance with the WAKO Statutes and regulations, and that the WAKO Statutes and regulations shall prevail in case of any conflict;
 - (iv) provide that any amendment to them shall become valid only upon approval by the WAKO Board of Directors;
 - (v) provide for the possibility of an extraordinary general assembly to be convened (at least) upon request of 1/3 (one third) of its members, in accordance with the principles set forth in Article 26 of these Statutes;
 - (vi) provide that the WAKO President or a delegate nominated by him may attend any meetings of the Applicant's general assembly, board of directors or any other executive bodies, and that the WAKO President shall be invited to any such meetings concurrently with the other participants and shall receive the same documentation in relation to such meeting;
 - (vii) provide for its president, its board of directors and any other executive bodies to be elected by the general assembly for a term of four (4) years, with (at least) the president being subject to a limitation of three (3) mandates (at most); and
 - (viii) provide that in order to be eligible as president or member of the board of directors or of any other executive body, candidates (or their national federation, as applicable) must comply with the eligibility requirements set forth in Article 33 of these Statutes.
- d. The Applicant's current president, board of directors and any other executive body have in fact been democratically elected by the general assembly for a term of four (4) years.
- e. The Applicant is free of any governmental interference that calls the independence of the Applicant into question.

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- f. The Applicant's dealings have been and continue to be in compliance with applicable laws, its own statutes and regulations, and generally accepted notions of good governance. For the avoidance of doubt, generally accepted notions of good governance include, inter alia, democratic elections and decision-making, separation of powers, the rule of law, transparency, and zero tolerance towards any form of discrimination, physical or mental abuse, abuse of powers, corruption or manipulation of sporting competitions.
3. WAKO may request from the Applicant any information and supporting documentation (including certified English translations, if applicable) that WAKO deems reasonably necessary to assess compliance with the requirements set out in paragraph 2.
4. Recognition of a Continental Federation is without prejudice to the direct dealing between WAKO and the national member federations of the Continental Federation, which are and continue to be WAKO Members notwithstanding any affiliation to the Continental Federation.

Article 44bis. Mission and duties of Continental Federations

1. Each Continental Federation shall be in charge of the organization or supervision of Continental Championships and other continental competitions on its continent.
2. The Continental Federations shall closely collaborate with WAKO within their areas of jurisdiction. They shall recognize the supreme authority of WAKO in all matters concerning the Sport of Kickboxing. By 28 February of each year, they shall forward to WAKO a full annual report of their competitive, organizational, financial and promotional activities undertaken in the previous calendar year.
3. At least 5 (days) before each meeting of the WAKO Board of Directors, each Continental Federation's president shall provide to the WAKO Board of Directors a written summary report on the activities of his or her Continental Federation since the last meeting.

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4. Each Continental Federation shall hold a general assembly at least bi-annually and in each case before the WAKO Ordinary General Assembly of the same year. Each Continental Federation's board of directors shall meet at least twice per year. Meetings of the general assembly and the board of directors shall be conducted in English. Any decisions or resolutions taken as well as the minutes of the meeting shall be recorded in written form and in the English language.
5. All decisions and resolutions taken by the general assemblies and the boards of director of each Continental Federation, and the minutes of the respective meetings, must be communicated to the Board of Directors of WAKO without undue delay, and at the latest within one (1) month from the date of the relevant meeting.
6. Each Continental Federation shall at all times meet the requirements set out in Article 44, paragraph 2, of these Statutes (in this context, any reference therein to the term "Applicant" shall be read as a reference to the Continental Federation). WAKO may request from each Continental Federation any information and supporting documentation (including certified English translations, if applicable) that WAKO deems reasonably necessary to assess continued compliance with those requirements.
7. The Statutes and regulations of the Continental Federations and any later amendments thereof shall be submitted (together with a certified English translation, unless the original language is English) to the WAKO Board of Directors for its approval prior to their entry into force.

Article 44ter. Suspension/Withdrawal of Recognition as Continental Federation

1. The WAKO Board of Directors may suspend the recognition of a Continental Federation that fails to fulfil its mission or its duties under these Statutes.
2. The Board of Directors may withdraw the recognition of a Continental Federation
 - a. if the Continental Federation has been suspended but fails to remedy the cause of the suspension within a reasonable deadline – as determined and communicated by the Board of Directors – following due notice provided under paragraph 5; or

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- b. without previous suspension, if the Continental Federation's non-compliance is severe enough to justify an exclusion, and is either not capable of remedy or the Continental Federation expressly refuses to remedy it.
3. Before deciding on a suspension or withdrawal of a Continental Federation's recognition under paragraphs 1 or 2, the Board of Directors shall
 - a. notify the Continental Federation concerned of the potential ground(s) for suspension/withdrawal, and of the factual allegations (together with any evidence) underlying such ground(s); and
 - b. grant the Continental Federation concerned a time limit of no less than 14 (fourteen) days for it to file a written response to the allegations, together with any evidence the Continental Federation seeks to rely on.
4. Any decision by the Board of Directors to withdraw a Continental Federation's recognition is subject to ratification by the next General Assembly. Until the General Assembly has decided, the Continental Federation shall be provisionally (or remain, if applicable) suspended. The Continental Federation concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present its arguments against a withdrawal of its recognition to the General Assembly.
5. The decision of the Board of Directors to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a Continental Federation shall be communicated by the President (or by a Director designated by the President) to the Members and to other interested third parties as appropriate to give effect to the decision. The decision shall also be published on the WAKO website, as shall be the resolution of the General Assembly on the ratification of the withdrawal of the recognition.
6. As long as the recognition of a Continental Federation is suspended, it shall
 - a. not be represented by its president on the Board of Directors of WAKO and shall not enjoy any of the other rights conferred upon it as a Continental Federation;
 - b. continue to fulfill its mission and duties under Article 44bis of these Statutes, unless and until WAKO expressly and specifically directs otherwise; and

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- c. WAKO may itself assume the role of Continental Federation for the continent concerned, in which case the Continental Federation shall be obliged to collaborate with WAKO upon request so as to ensure that the mission set out in Article 44bis, paragraph 1, of these Statutes is fulfilled in the respective continent.
7. If the recognition of a Continental Federation is withdrawn, the respective organization shall definitely lose all rights conferred upon it as a Continental Federation, while any accrued obligations shall continue to exist unless and until WAKO expressly and specifically waives its right to performance of those obligations. The WAKO Members from the relevant continent shall resign from the respective organization. Until a new Continental Federation is recognized for the continent concerned, WAKO may itself assume the role of Continental Federation for that continent.

Article 45. Support to Continental Federations

1. Financial contributions from WAKO to support the activities of the Continental Federations are subject to the Continental Federation submitting a strategic plan for the use of such contribution and of a budget.
2. The use of any financial contributions of WAKO by the Continental Federations must be traceable, in compliance with all applicable laws, and strictly limited to the purpose indicated in the strategic plan of the Continental Federation as per the previous paragraph. In particular, such contributions cannot be used to finance the payments by WAKO Members of the affiliation fees to WAKO.
3. Financial contributions to the Continental Federations can only be transferred to a duly established bank account of the Continental Federations.
4. Any financial contribution of WAKO and its use must be documented in the Continental Federation's books of account and financial statements (together the "**Records**"). WAKO shall have the right to appoint an external auditor who shall have full access to the Records and to the relevant supporting documents at any time in order to conduct an audit for the purpose of assessing if the Continental Federation's use of any financial contributions from WAKO is compliant with this Article 45. The Continental Federation shall fully cooperate with the external auditor in respect of such audit, and hereby

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releases any third party (e.g. accountants or lawyers of the Continental Federation) from any applicable confidentiality undertaking to the extent necessary to allow for this cooperation. The external auditor shall provide WAKO with a detailed report of its findings regarding the Continental Federation's (non-)compliance with this Article 45.

Administration

Article 46. Administrative Office

1. The Administrative Office carries out the day to day activity of WAKO. It notably serves as support office for the President to allow him to manage WAKO and carry on the presidential duties.
2. The Administrative Office carries out all its duties on behalf of WAKO, under the direction of the President.
3. Under such direction, the Administrative Office implement the decisions made by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors and support the activities of the Committees.
4. The staff of the Administrative Office (employees and/or consultants) are appointed by the President on behalf of WAKO. The President also enters the other contractual arrangements linked with the running of the Administrative Office (e.g. rental, IT etc.).

Article 47. General Secretary

1. The duties of the General Secretary shall be specified upon its appointment by the Board of Directors.
2. Such duties may notably include without limitation and always in close cooperation with and in support of the President:
 - a. to secure the follow up and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Board of Directors;
 - b. to maintain and develop relationships with international sport organizations, notably the International Olympic Committee, GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations), IWGA,

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WADA, Fair Play International Committee, AIMS, Peace and Sports,
FISU, IWG;

- c. At each meeting of the Board of Directors, the General Secretary shall present a report on WAKO's situation.

CHAPTER IV. FINANCES

Article 48. Affiliation Fees

1. All Provisional and Full Members of WAKO shall pay an annual affiliation fee as determined by the Board of Directors and ratified by the General Assembly.
2. Should no decision determining a different amount be issued by the General Assembly, the amount of affiliation fees applicable for the previous year shall continue to apply and be due on the 31st of March of each year, until a new amount has been determined.
3. The provisions of Article 13 of these Statutes shall also be applicable in case of breach by a Member to pay the affiliation fees.

Article 49. Expenses

1. The budget shall be approved by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.
2. Within the limits of the approved budget, the President is authorized to make expenditures up to a limit decided by the Board of Directors. Expenditures in excess of such limit are subject to prior approval of the Board of Directors.

Article 50. Funding and Revenues

The revenues of WAKO include without limitation the Members fees (application, affiliation), sanction and entry fees, revenues linked with the organization of competitions including but not limited to revenues from commercial and media rights, sponsorships. WAKO may accept donations and bequests.

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Article 51. Financial reporting

1. The financial year of the WAKO shall run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.
2. The WAKO accounts shall be established in accordance with applicable accounting standards international financial business practices in all matters.
3. All banking and financial transactions pertaining to WAKO are to be maintained transparent and duly supported by adequate documentation.

Article 52. Auditor

1. The Auditor is appointed by the General Assembly for a period of two (2) years to audit the financial statements of WAKO. The Auditors may be re-appointed.
2. The Auditor must be chosen among external qualified professional auditors totally independent from WAKO and its bodies.
3. The Auditor shall carry out an audit at least once per financial year on the financial statements approved by the Board of Directors and present a report to the General Assembly.
4. All financial documentation (including expenses, financial statements, balance sheets, receipts, banking information) shall be submitted as requested by the Auditor for the purpose to conduct its audit.

Article 53. Insurance – Liability

1. All Members are responsible for obtaining insurance for their own activities and, including specifically but without limitation coverage of athletes for sports accidents in national and international competitions.
2. Any liability of WAKO, its officers and / or employees is excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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CHAPTER V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 54. Modification of the Statutes

1. Amendments to these Statutes require a qualified 2/3rd (two thirds) majority of the votes effectively and validly cast in the General Assembly by Full Members.
2. Amendments to the Statutes made in accordance with paragraph 1 become effective upon approval by the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

Article 55. Dissolution

1. The dissolution of WAKO shall be decided by the General Assembly with a qualified 2/3rd (two thirds) majority of the votes effectively and validly cast by Full Members
2. Any net assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities, shall be attributed to a non-profit organization pursuing objectives towards the development of the sport of kickboxing, as determined by the General Assembly.

Article 56. Dispute resolution

1. Disputes arising from, or related to decisions issued the application of these Statutes or other WAKO's regulations which cannot be resolved through internal procedures can be brought in front of the Arbitration Board. For the sake of good order, purely sporting issues (field of play issues) are not subject to challenge in front of the Arbitration Board.
2. The Arbitration Board shall adjudicate the matters referred to it by Members and WAKO Continental Federations and / or WAKO Individual Affiliates.
3. A non-refundable arbitration fee as determined by the Arbitration Board, must be paid upon submission, in writing, of the dispute to the same.
4. The Arbitration Board acts either through a panel of three members or a single arbitrator, as decided by the Chairman of the Arbitration Board, who appoints the acting panel or the acting arbitrator from the Member of the Arbitration Board (including him or herself).

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5. An Appeal against decisions of the Arbitration Board may be lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne (Switzerland) CAS within 30 days of notification of the decision in question.
6. Subject to a different decision of the entity which issued the decision or a decision of the CAS, the appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.
7. WAKO Members shall ensure that their members, affiliated clubs, athletes and officials comply with the decisions passed by the Arbitration Board and by CAS.
8. The Members shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes in the Member or disputes affecting athletes, clubs, officials and other association officials to ordinary courts of law, unless the WAKO regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration. Such disputes shall be taken to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognized under the rules of the member or to CAS.
9. The Members shall also ensure that this stipulation is implemented in the association, if necessary by imposing a binding obligation on its members. The Members shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

Article 57. Entry in force

1. These amended Statutes have been submitted for approval by the Ordinary General Assembly held in Budapest, Hungary, on November 10, 2019.
2. They come into force immediately upon their adoption.