



# **Governing Statutes**

Updated September 2021

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## Definitions

In interpreting these Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Board:

1. "WFFA" means the WORLD FREESTYLE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.
2. "Key Leader" refers to an individual recognized by WFFA as the responsible person for managing communications between a group of Country Leaders and the Executive Board.
3. "Country Leader" means a key community member recognized by and a Member of the WFFA and nominated in their country as the community lead.
4. "Executive Board" means the supreme and legislative body of the WFFA – Consisting of the three founding members and all Key Leaders.
5. "Congress" refers to the yearly meeting that includes all WFFA Key and Country Leaders.
6. "Committee" means any committee of the WFFA as constituted in accordance with the Statutes.
7. "Rules of Freestyle Football" means all the competition rules and regulations controlled by the WFFA.
8. "Statutes, Regulation Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Board" means rules and regulations decided by the Board.
9. "Regulations" means rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as decided by the Board.
10. "Freestyle Football Athletes" means professional or amateur Athletes registered with the WFFA.
11. "Members of the Association" means Athletes as individuals who are joined in support of the WFFA. This could involve paying, or not.
12. "Simple majority" means more than 50 percent.



## Statutes

### Article 1: Title, Legal Form, Headquarters and Language

The organisation shall be called “**World Freestyle Football Association**” or “**WFFA**”. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

The headquarters of the WFFA is in Mississauga, Canada and may only be transferred by a resolution of the Board. The WFFA is registered to the following address under company number 1041184-1:

**1142 Meadowgrove Court  
Mississauga  
Ontario  
L5W 1J1  
Canada**

The official language of the WFFA shall be **English**.

### Article 2: Objectives

The objectives of the WFFA are:

1. To develop the sport of Freestyle Football globally in an orderly and structured manner;
2. To create and promote avenues for athletes to compete;
3. To build Freestyle Football globally with professional and transparent relationships amongst all Members and partners;
4. To ensure respect, compliance and prevent infringements of the Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders, directives and decisions of the WFFA and The Rules of the Game;
5. To protect the interests of its Members;
6. To draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
7. To respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the WFFA as well as the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
8. To prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of Freestyle Football;
9. To manage international sporting relations connected with Freestyle Football in all its forms;
10. To ensure that its representatives across the world actively represent the collective views of the WFFA and do so in the true spirit of Freestyle Football solidarity;

11. To disseminate all information on the WFFA activities;
12. To raise funds, for the benefit of, or reinvestment in all levels and areas of Freestyle Football.

## **Article 3: Neutrality and Non-Discrimination**

1. The WFFA is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
2. The WFFA opposes all discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason. It is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

## **Article 4: Freestyle Football athletes**

The status of a Freestyle Football Athlete and the provisions of their status or registration shall be regulated by the Board of the WFFA in accordance with the WFFA Regulations for Professional / Associated Athletes.

## **Article 5: The Rules of the Sport**

Each Leader shall enforce compliance with the Rules of Freestyle Football issued by the WFFA. Only the WFFA may lay down and amend the Rules of Freestyle Football based on the approval of the WFFA Board.

## **Article 6: Membership**

The WFFA shall govern the rights and obligations for Members of the Association as well as rules regarding the admission, suspension, expulsion and resignation of any Leader.

The WFFA Board shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Leader or Member. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements.

### **Details of Memberships**

1. Membership shall be open to any individual in the world.
2. Only one Member, however, shall be officially recognized as the Leader in each country or territory.
3. All applications for membership shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the WFFA to the General Secretary of the WFFA.
4. An Athlete can become a Member. A Member can become a Country Leader. A Country Leader can become a Key Leader and Executive Board Member.

## Article 7: Member Rights

The Members of the WFFA have the following rights:

1. To inform their country Leader of any suggested rule changes or fresh ideas for the sport of Freestyle Football to grow.
2. To cast a vote on any community-wide topics that require a Simple Majority.
3. To participate in any officially sanctioned events by the WFFA. Noting that some may be only open to Members of a certain territory.
4. To receive regular updates from the WFFA on general news and updates around the globe within the sport.

## Article 8: Country Leader Obligations

The Country Leaders for the WFFA have the following obligations:

1. To comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the WFFA, and always to ensure that these are also respected by Members in their own country.
2. To take part in competitions and other sports activities organized by the WFFA.
3. To respect the Rules of Freestyle Football and to ensure that these are also respected by members through a statutory provision.
4. To feed any communications from their Country Members to their Key Leader when appropriate.
5. To cast any vote on behalf of their Country Members in to their Key Leader for the purposes of activating any necessary changes to the sport.
6. To attend and participate in the Congress.

## Article 9: Key Leader Obligations

The Key Leaders for the WFFA have the following obligations:

1. To comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the WFFA, and always to ensure that these are also respected by Country Members who report to them.
2. To take part in competitions and other sports activities organized by the WFFA.
3. To respect the Rules of Freestyle Football and to ensure that these are also respected by members through a statutory provision.
4. To represent their Region neutrally and diplomatically always. Paying particular attention to equality, access and social impact.
5. To not accept any form of bribe or incentive that may affect their voting position on any matter.
6. To vote in a timely manner on all subjects and actions set by the Executive Board.
7. To attend and participate in the Congress.

## Article 10: Suspension

The WFFA Executive Board is responsible for suspending a Member or Leader that has seriously and repeatedly violated its obligations with immediate effect.

Provisional suspension of a Member can be notified by the WFFA General Secretary and the official suspension shall be confirmed at the next WFFA Executive Board Meeting by a Simple Majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension will be automatically lifted and this will also be notified by the General Secretary accordingly.

A suspended Member shall lose all its membership rights and all legal and commercial use of the WFFA affiliation shall cease to be used immediately. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions. The lifting of the suspension will be based on the Disciplinary Committee's decision and also via the confirmation of the WFFA Board.

Country Leaders who do not renew their membership of the WFFA shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

## Article 11: Expulsion

The Executive Board may expel a Leader if;

- they fail to fulfil their obligations (set out in articles 7-9) towards the WFFA;
- they seriously violate the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of the WFFA;
- they are proven to have accepted any form of bribe or incentive to affect their voting position.

The presence of a Simple Majority of those entitled to vote at the WFFA Executive Board is necessary for an expulsion to be valid.

## Article 12: Resignation

A Leader may resign from the WFFA with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the Executive Board no later than six months before the end of the year.

The resignation is not valid until the Leader wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial and legal obligation towards the WFFA and the other Leaders of the WFFA.

## Article 13: Bodies

1. The Executive Board is the supreme and legislative body of the WFFA.
2. The General Secretariat is the administrative person of the WFFA.
3. The Standing Committees shall assist the Executive Board in the performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, Rules and Regulations. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special Regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee, which shall be in line with these Statutes.
  - a. Each Chairperson and Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee shall be appointed by the WFFA Directors.
  - b. Each Committee Chairperson may appoint up to 5 other committee members and these appointments must obtain the approval of the WFFA Directors to be deemed valid and official.
4. The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee (if established). The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee shall be stipulated in the WFFA Disciplinary Code. The Disciplinary Code is created by the Executive Board.

The WFFA may from time to time establish other bodies, which it deems necessary for the development of Freestyle Football globally and any Ad-Hoc Committees shall be project and time bound and will report directly to the relevant committee of the WFFA Executive Board if required.

The bodies of the WFFA shall be either elected or appointed by the WFFA itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

## Article 14: the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of up to 11 Members elected from among the candidates holding the following positions:

- Two (2) Directors of the WFFA
- One (1) Head of the Global Network
- One (1) Head of Sports Development
- One (1) Head of Judging
- Four (4) Regional Representatives (America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Africa)
- Two (2) Independent Members elected by the WFFA Directors as and when appropriate.

It is recognized that the extra two Independent Members can be admitted at any time by the WFFA Directors if the Executive Board feels it relevant for any board meeting discussions.



Members of the Executive Board shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election.

All candidates must be persons who have served Freestyle Football in various capacities and be nominated by at least twenty (20) Members in their country of residency.

If the WFFA Directors cease to carry out or are prevented from performing their duties the Remaining Executive Board Members will cast an internal vote for Leadership on the Board.

## **Article 15: Powers and Duties**

The Executive Board shall be empowered to take decisions on all matters, which are not exclusive to the Board or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the WFFA towards the fulfilment of its objectives.

The duties of the Executive Board are as follows:

- 1) to carry out the objectives of the WFFA;
- 2) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- 3) to approve regulations stipulating how the WFFA shall be organised internally;
- 4) to formulate the Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Instructions of the WFFA;
- 5) to appoint the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the judicial bodies;
- 6) to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- 7) to approve and submit the following:-
  - a) the reports of the Key Leaders and the various Committees and bodies;
  - b) the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report;
  - c) the budget;
  - d) all proposals for amendments and alterations to the Statutes;
  - e) the appointment of the External Auditors;
  - f) all questions to be raised.
- 8) to appoint and dismiss the General Secretary.

## **Article 16: Meetings**

1. The Executive Board shall meet at least two (2) times a year.
2. The WFFA Directors shall convene the Executive Board meetings.
3. The General Secretary shall compile the agenda. Each Member of the Executive Board is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The Members of the Executive Board must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretary at least six (6) weeks before the meeting. The



agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Board at least four (4) weeks before the meeting.

4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role.
5. The meetings of the Executive Board shall not be held in public. The Executive Board may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Board.
6. Any member of the Executive Board who is absent without a properly accepted apology for three (3) consecutive meetings or any six (6) meetings during their term shall be provisionally suspended from the Executive Board.
7. If circumstances so require, any member of the Executive Committee may, subject to the agreement of the WFFA Directors and General Secretary, attend a meeting of the Executive Board by telephone conference, video conference, or another method.

### **Article 17: Decisions**

1. The Executive Board shall reach decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Members present. In the event of a tied vote, the WFFA Directors shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or letter is not permitted.
2. Any member of the Executive Board must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.
3. The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
4. The decisions taken by the Executive Board shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Board decides otherwise.
5. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Board may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the members of the Executive Board consent thereto in writing, and the written consents are filed with the minutes of meetings of the Executive Board. The resolution in writing, signed by a majority of the Executive Board members for the time being entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the committee, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Executive Board duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by one or more members. The expressions “in writing” or “signed” include approval by legible confirmed transmission by email, facsimile, or other forms of electronic communication.

### **Article 18: Standing Committees**

1. The Standing Committees of the WFFA are:
  - a. Finances Committee
  - b. Communications Committee

- c. Events Committee
  - d. Development Committee
  - e. Education Committee
  - f. Equality Committee
  - g. Athletes Committee
  - h. Ad-hoc Committees (to be defined when necessary)
2. The Standing Committees shall each have a chairman, a deputy chairman and a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of five (5) members. Only members of the Executive Board shall be appointed as chairmen of the Standing Committees. The members of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board on the proposal of the Directors of the WFFA. The term of office of the Standing Committees is four years. Members may be reappointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time.
  3. Each chairman shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and the relevant organisation regulations drawn up by the Executive Board.
  4. The dates and the agenda of meetings of each Standing Committee shall be fixed by the General Secretary in consultation with the relevant chairman.
  5. Any decisions and/or policies made by the Standing Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Executive Board or subsequently ratified by the Executive Board, in order to take effect.
  6. A member of the Standing Committee shall not take part in the deliberation of any matter or point of issue involving the region with which he/she is associated, or in any in which a conflict of interest exists.
  7. Any member of the Standing Committees who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings or any five (5) meetings during their term without a properly accepted apology is automatically suspended from the said committee. A decision shall then be made by the Executive Board whether or not to dismiss the member, which shall be final.
  8. Each Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee from among its members to settle urgent or specialized matters.
  9. Each Standing Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Board.
  10. If circumstances so require, any member of a Standing Committee may, subject to the agreement of that Committee's Chairman and the General Secretary, attend a meeting of that Committee by telephone conference, video conference or another method.

## **Article 19: The General Secretary**

The General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the Executive Board.



He/She shall be nominated by the WFFA Directors and the appointment approved by the WFFA Executive Board upon on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.

The General Secretary shall:

- implement decisions passed by the Executive Board in compliance with the WFFA Directors;
- be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat;
- be responsible for the appointment and discipline of all staff of the General Secretariat;
- assist and participate in the Executive Board and Standing Committee meetings;
- be responsible for the Minutes of all meetings;
- be responsible for all publications of the WFFA;
- be responsible for all correspondence of the WFFA;
- liaise with any other organisation in the promotion of the objects of the WFFA;
- manage and keep the accounts of the WFFA properly;

In the absence of the General Secretary, an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

The General Secretary / CEO or his/her representative shall attend all meetings of the WFFA as an ex-officio official without the right to vote.

## **Article 20: Competitions**

The WFFA shall have the sole jurisdiction to organize or sanction any competitions in which Members participate for official World Ranking points or status aligned with the WFFA.

The Executive Board may however delegate to the WFFA Country/Key Leaders or external partners the authority to organize competitions.

The Executive Board of the WFFA shall set up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of WFFA competitions.

By the act of entering a competition organized by or associated with the WFFA, each Member agrees to comply with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations and decisions of the WFFA and their bodies.

## **Article 21: Financial Management**

The WFFA is committed to the growth of Freestyle Football and these Statutes determine this. As a not-for-profit organisation, all revenues received during any trading year will be



re-invested into the sport. There will be no residual profits left at the end of each financial year in the accounts of the WFFA.

The WFFA is committed to supporting all of its members with resources and finance as and when both applicable and possible. The Executive Board will make all decisions on the distribution of funds. Naturally, the sport needs governance and such costs will be considered before support is issued out to the member each year.

Financial and Organizational reports will be made available at the end of each financial year for anyone interested.