



Constitution World Fitness Running Federation

(English Version – (2020–2021))

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD FITNESS RUNNING FEDERATION (WFRF)

Definitions

The following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

1. **WFRF:** The *International Fitness Running Federation*.
2. **Federation:** A Fitness Running Federation recognized by WFRF as such. Unless otherwise indicated by the context, the term refers to a Member Federation of WFRF.
3. **Country:** An independent state recognized by the international community.
4. **Confederation:** A group of Federations belonging to the same continent or a comparable geographical region and recognized by WFRF.
5. **Congress (General Assembly):** The supreme legislative body of WFRF.
6. **Council:** The strategic executive and supervisory body of WFRF.
7. **Council Bureau:** The Bureau of the Council as described in Article 37 of this Constitution.
8. **Member Federation:** A Federation admitted as a member of WFRF by the Congress.
9. **Official:** Any person, including a member of the Council, committee member, referee, assistant referee, coach, instructor, or any other individual responsible for technical, medical, or administrative matters within WFRF, a Confederation, or a Federation, as well as any other person bound by the WFRF Statutes.
10. **Fitness Running:** Organized training and sporting activities conducted in accordance with scientific principles and under the supervision of WFRF, a Confederation, and/or a Member Federation.
11. **Stakeholder:** Any individual, institution, or organization that is not a member of a Federation and/or a WFRF body but has an interest in the activities of WFRF and whose interests may be affected by the actions, objectives, or policies of WFRF.

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Name and Headquarters

1. The **International Fitness Running Federation (WFRF)** is an organization incorporated in England.
2. The headquarters of WFRF shall be located in England and may only be transferred to another location upon approval by the Congress.

Article 2 – Objectives

The objectives of WFRF are:

- a. To continuously promote and develop the sport of Fitness Running worldwide through unity, education, and the advancement of its cultural and humanitarian values, particularly by means of youth development programs.
 - b. To organize international events under its jurisdiction.
 - c. To regulate the sport of Fitness Running and all related matters, and to ensure the implementation and enforcement of its rules and regulations.
 - d. To strive to ensure that Fitness Running is accessible to all persons wishing to participate, regardless of gender or age.
 - e. To promote integrity, ethics, and fair play in order to prevent all forms of misconduct, including corruption, doping, and match manipulation, which may jeopardize the integrity of competitions, participants, officials, and Member Federations or result in the abuse of the sport of Fitness Running.
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Article 3 – Human Rights

WFRF is committed to respecting internationally recognized human rights and shall promote the protection of such rights. Any discrimination against a country, individual, or group of persons on the basis of race, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion, or any other status is strictly prohibited and shall be punishable by suspension or expulsion.

Article 4 – Conduct of Bodies, Officials and Other Persons

1. All bodies and officials shall comply with the WFRF Statutes, regulations, decisions, and Code of Ethics in the exercise of their duties.
 2. Under exceptional circumstances, the executive bodies of Member Federations may be removed from office by the Council, following consultation with the relevant Confederation, and replaced for a specified period by a Normalization Committee.
 3. Every person and organization involved in Fitness Running shall comply with the WFRF Statutes, regulations, and the principles of fair play.
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Article 5 – Official Languages

1. English, Persian, Spanish, French, German, Kurdish, Turkish, and Arabic shall be the official languages of WFRF. For official correspondence, memoranda, and notices, English shall be the official working language.
2. Members shall be responsible for translations into their respective languages.
3. English, Spanish, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkish shall be the official languages of the Congress. Qualified interpreters shall provide interpretation into these languages. Delegates may speak in their native language provided that accurate interpretation into one of the official Congress languages is ensured by a qualified interpreter.
4. The Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, Congress Standing Orders, decisions, and official communications of WFRF shall be issued in one or more of the official languages.

PART II – MEMBERSHIP

Article 6 – Admission, Suspension and Expulsion

The Congress shall decide on the admission, suspension, or expulsion of members only upon the recommendation of the Council.

Article 7 – Admission

1. Any Federation responsible for organizing and administering the sport of Fitness Running in its respective country may apply for membership in WFRF. For the purposes of these Statutes, the term "country" refers to an independent state recognized by the international community. Subject to paragraphs 5 and 6 below, only one Fitness Running Federation from each country may be recognized.
2. Membership shall only be granted if the Federation is already a member of a Confederation. The Council shall establish regulations governing the admission procedure.
3. Any Fitness Running Federation wishing to become a member of WFRF shall submit a written application to the WFRF General Secretariat.
4. The application shall be accompanied by the legally valid statutes of the applicant Federation, which shall contain mandatory provisions concerning:
 - o full compliance with the Statutes, regulations, and decisions of WFRF and the relevant Confederation;
 - o unconditional observance of the official Laws and Rules of Fitness Running;
 - o recognition of the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as provided for in these Statutes.

5. A Fitness Running Federation established in a territory that has not yet attained independence may also apply for membership with the approval of the Federation of the country to which it belongs.
 6. This Article shall not affect the status of existing WFRF members.
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Article 8 – Application Procedure

1. The Council may recommend to the Congress either the admission or rejection of an applicant Federation. The applicant Federation shall have the right to present the reasons for its application before the Congress.
 2. Upon admission, the new member shall immediately enjoy all rights and assume all obligations of membership. Its representatives shall immediately acquire the right to vote and to stand for election at WFRF meetings.
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Article 9 – Rights of Members

Members shall enjoy the following rights:

- a. To participate in the Congress.
- b. To submit proposals for inclusion on the agenda of the Congress.
- c. To nominate candidates for the Presidency of WFRF and membership of the Council.
- d. To participate in elections conducted by WFRF in accordance with its Governance Regulations.
- e. To participate in competitions and events organized by WFRF.

Article 10 – Statutes of Member Federations

- f. All relevant stakeholders shall recognize the jurisdiction and authority of the **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** and acknowledge arbitration as the preferred mechanism for the resolution of disputes.
- g. Member Federations shall have primary responsibility for regulating matters relating to arbitration, anti-doping, athlete and player registration, club licensing, disciplinary measures, including ethical misconduct, and for adopting all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity of competitions.
- h. A clear description of the decision-making bodies and their respective powers and competencies.
- i. Measures to prevent conflicts of interest in all decision-making processes.

j. Legislative bodies shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy, while recognizing and promoting the importance of gender equality in Fitness Running.

k. The financial accounts shall be subject to an independent annual audit.

Article 11 – Suspension

1. The Congress may suspend a Member Federation only upon the proposal of the Council. However, the Council may, without a vote of the Congress, suspend a Member Federation with immediate effect in the event of a serious or repeated violation of the obligations arising from its membership. Any suspension imposed by the Council shall remain in force until the next meeting of the Congress unless the Council revokes it beforehand.
2. A suspension imposed by the Congress shall require the approval of a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Federations present and entitled to vote. Any suspension imposed by the Council shall be submitted for ratification at the next Congress and shall require a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Federations present and entitled to vote. Should the suspension not be ratified, it shall automatically lapse.
3. A suspended Member Federation shall lose all membership rights. The remaining Member Federations shall refrain from maintaining sporting relations with the suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose additional sanctions where appropriate.
4. Any Member Federation that fails to participate in at least one (1) WFRF competition during a consecutive four-year period shall lose its voting rights at the Congress until it has fulfilled its obligations in this respect.

Article 12 – Expulsion

1. The Congress may expel a Member Federation only upon the proposal of the Council if:
 - a. it has failed to fulfil its financial obligations towards WFRF;
 - b. it has committed a serious violation of the Statutes, regulations, decisions, or the WFRF Code of Ethics; or
 - c. it no longer holds the status of the National Fitness Running Federation representing its country.
2. An expulsion shall require the presence of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the Member Federations entitled to vote. The proposal for expulsion shall be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the valid votes cast.

Article 13 – Resignation

1. A Member Federation may resign from WFRF. Such resignation shall take effect only at the end of the relevant calendar year. Notice of resignation shall be submitted to the Secretary General

by official email or registered mail no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year.

2. A resignation shall not become effective until the resigning Member has fulfilled all of its financial obligations towards WFRF and the other Member Federations.

Article 14 – Independence of Members and Their Bodies

1. Every Member Federation shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its activities are not subject to undue influence from any third party.
2. The governing bodies of every Member Federation shall be elected or appointed within its respective National Federation. The statutes of every National Fitness Running Federation shall establish democratic procedures guaranteeing the complete independence of the election or appointment of its officials.

PART III – Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President and Honorary Member

Article 15 – Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President and Honorary Member

1. The Congress may confer the title of Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President, or Honorary Member upon any former member of the WFRF Council who has rendered outstanding services to the development of Fitness Running.
2. The Council may nominate suitable candidates for these honorary titles.
3. Honorary Presidents, Honorary Vice-Presidents, and Honorary Members may attend meetings of the Congress and participate in discussions, but they shall have no voting rights.

PART IV – Confederations

Article 16 – Confederations

1. Member Federations belonging to the same continent shall form the following Confederations, which are recognized by WFRF:
 - a. **Fitness Running Confederation of America (CFRAM)**
 - b. **Fitness Running Confederation of Eurasia (CFROAS)**
 - c. **Union of European Fitness Running Federations (UEFR)**
 - d. **Confederation of African Fitness Running (CAFR)**

Recognition by WFRF shall establish mutual respect between WFRF and each Confederation within their respective areas of competence as defined by these Statutes.

2. In exceptional circumstances, WFRF may authorize a Confederation to admit a Federation that geographically belongs to another continent and is not affiliated with the Confederation of that continent. The opinion of the geographically relevant Confederation shall be obtained before such authorization is granted.

3. Each Confederation shall have the following rights and responsibilities:

a. To fully comply with and implement the Statutes, regulations, and decisions of WFRF.

b. To cooperate closely with WFRF in achieving the objectives set out in Article 2 and in organizing international competitions.

c. To organize and administer its own inter-club competitions in accordance with the International Match Calendar.

d. To organize and administer all international competitions within its jurisdiction in accordance with the International Match Calendar.

e. To ensure that no international league or similar association of clubs is established without the prior approval of WFRF.

f. Upon the request of WFRF, to grant provisional membership status to applicant Federations. Such status shall entitle the Federation to participate in Confederation competitions and attend Confederation meetings. The rights and obligations of provisional members shall be governed by the Statutes and regulations of the respective Confederation. Provisional members shall not be eligible to participate in final WFRF competitions.

g. To promote dynamic and constructive cooperation with WFRF through consultation, dialogue, and the resolution of matters affecting the interests of the Confederations and the global development of Fitness Running.

h. To ensure that representatives appointed to WFRF bodies or elected to the Council perform their duties with mutual respect, cooperation, integrity, appreciation, and sportsmanship, in accordance with these Statutes and all applicable WFRF regulations.

i. To establish standing committees corresponding to those of WFRF where necessary.

j. In exceptional circumstances, and subject to the prior approval of WFRF, to authorize a Federation or a club affiliated with another Confederation to participate in competitions organized within its jurisdiction.

k. In cooperation with WFRF, to undertake all measures necessary for the development of Fitness Running within its continent, including development programmes, educational courses, conferences, seminars, and similar activities.

l. To establish the necessary bodies required for the fulfilment of its responsibilities.

m. To allocate sufficient financial resources to carry out its functions effectively.

4. The Council may delegate additional powers and responsibilities to one, several, or all Confederations through a specific agreement concluded with the respective Confederation(s).

5. Any amendment to the Statutes or regulations of a Confederation shall be submitted to WFRF for approval before entering into force.

Article 17 – Statutes of the Confederations

The Statutes of each Confederation shall comply with the principles of good governance and shall, at a minimum, include provisions governing the following matters:

- a. Political and religious neutrality;
- b. The prohibition of all forms of discrimination;
- c. Independence and protection from any form of political interference;
- d. The establishment of independent judicial bodies in accordance with the principle of separation of powers;
- e. The obligation of all relevant stakeholders to respect the Laws of Fitness Running, the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and fair play, as well as the Statutes, regulations and decisions of WFRF and the respective Confederation;
- f. The recognition by all relevant stakeholders of the jurisdiction and authority of the **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** and the acceptance of arbitration as the preferred method for the resolution of disputes;
- g. The regulation of matters relating to arbitration, anti-doping, player registration, club licensing, disciplinary measures, including ethical misconduct, and the adoption of all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity of competitions;
- h. A description of the decision-making bodies and their respective powers and responsibilities;
- i. Measures to prevent conflicts of interest in decision-making processes;
- j. The establishment of legislative bodies in accordance with the principles of representative democracy, while recognizing the importance of gender equality in Fitness Running; and
- k. Independent annual auditing of financial accounts.

PART V – Governing Bodies

Article 18 – Bodies

1. The Congress shall be the supreme and legislative body of WFRF.
2. The Council shall be the strategic and supervisory body of WFRF.
3. The General Secretariat shall be the executive, operational and administrative body of WFRF.
4. The Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees shall advise and assist the Council and the General Secretariat in carrying out their duties. Their principal responsibilities are defined in

these Statutes, while their structure, functions and additional responsibilities shall be governed by the WFRF Governance Regulations.

5. The Independent Committees shall perform their duties in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable WFRF Regulations.
6. Independent external auditors shall examine all financial accounts and financial statements of WFRF in accordance with the applicable laws of Germany.

Section A – Congress

Article 19 – Congress

1. The Congress may convene as either an Ordinary Congress or an Extraordinary Congress.
2. The Ordinary Congress shall be held annually. The Council shall determine the date and venue of the Congress. The Member Federations shall be notified of the date and venue at least three (3) months in advance. The official notice convening the Congress shall be sent at least one (1) month before the meeting and shall include the agenda, the President's report, the financial statements (including consolidated financial statements), and the auditors' report.
3. The Council may convene an Extraordinary Congress whenever it considers it necessary.
4. The Council shall convene an Extraordinary Congress upon receipt of a written request from at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Member Federations. Such request shall specify the items to be included on the agenda. The Extraordinary Congress shall be held within three (3) months of receipt of the request.
5. The date and venue of an Extraordinary Congress shall be communicated to the Member Federations at least two (2) months before the meeting. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be amended.

Article 20 – Voting, Delegates and Observers

1. Each Member Federation shall have one (1) vote at the Congress, to be exercised by its delegates. Only Member Federations present at the Congress shall be entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by correspondence shall not be permitted.
2. Delegates shall belong to the Member Federation they represent and shall have been duly appointed by the competent bodies of that Federation.
3. Representatives of the Confederations may attend the Congress as observers without voting rights.
4. During their term of office, members of the Council may not serve as delegates of their respective Member Federations at the Congress.

5. The President shall chair the Congress in accordance with the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Congress.

Article 21 – Candidates for the Offices of President, Council, Audit and Compliance Committee and Judicial Bodies

1. Only Member Federations may nominate candidates for the office of President of WFRF. A nomination shall be valid only if it is supported by at least five (5) Member Federations. Member Federations shall submit the nomination in writing to the WFRF General Secretariat at least four (4) months before the Congress, together with written declarations of support from the required Member Federations. A candidate for the office of President must have played an active role in Fitness Running (for example, as an athlete, official of WFRF, a Confederation or a Member Federation, or in another recognized capacity) for at least two (2) of the previous five (5) years preceding the nomination and must have successfully passed the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations.
2. The final list of candidates for the office of President shall be communicated to the Member Federations by the WFRF General Secretariat at least one (1) month before the Congress.
3. Subject to paragraph 4 below, only Member Federations may nominate candidates for membership of the Council. Nominations shall be submitted to the WFRF General Secretariat at least four (4) months before the Congress of the respective Confederation at which the election is to be held. Each Member Federation may nominate only one (1) candidate. If a Member Federation submits more than one nomination, all of its nominations shall be declared invalid. A Member Federation may nominate only candidates belonging to its own Confederation.
4. Members of the Council shall be elected by the Member Federations during the Congress of the respective Confederation in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations. All candidates must successfully pass the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations. The election process shall be supervised by WFRF.
5. The eligibility requirements applicable to candidates for the offices of President and Council Member shall be governed by the WFRF Governance Regulations.
6. The Council may submit proposals for the offices of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the Judicial Bodies. The Council shall first determine the number of seats allocated to each Confederation within those bodies. Such proposals shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least four (4) months before the Congress. The detailed procedure shall be governed by the WFRF Governance Regulations.
7. Candidates for the offices of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Member of the Audit and Compliance Committee or any Judicial Body shall successfully pass the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations.

Article 22 – Agenda of the Ordinary Congress

1. The Secretary General shall draw up the agenda based on proposals submitted by the Council and the Member Federations. Any Member Federation wishing to place an item on the agenda shall submit its proposal in writing to the General Secretariat, together with a brief explanatory memorandum, at least two (2) months before the date of the Congress.
2. The agenda of the Ordinary Congress shall include, as a minimum, the following items:
 - a. A declaration that the Congress has been convened and constituted in accordance with the Statutes;
 - b. Approval of the agenda;
 - c. Address by the President;
 - d. Appointment of five (5) members to verify the minutes;
 - e. Appointment of vote scrutineers;
 - f. Suspension or expulsion of a Member Federation (where applicable);
 - g. Approval of the minutes of the previous Congress;
 - h. Activity Report, including the activities carried out since the previous Congress;
 - i. Presentation of the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee;
 - j. Presentation of the audited annual financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, the annual report and the auditors' report;
 - k. Approval of the audited annual financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report;
 - l. Approval of the budget;
 - m. Admission of new Member Federations (where applicable);
 - n. Voting on amendments to the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Rules of the Congress (where applicable);
 - o. Discussion of proposals duly submitted by the Council or the Member Federations within the time limits specified in paragraph 1 (where applicable);
 - p. Appointment of external auditors (where applicable);
 - q. Election of the President and the Women's Fitness Running Representative, and appointment of the Vice-Presidents and members of the Executive Committee (where applicable);
 - r. Appointment or dismissal of the President in accordance with these Statutes (where applicable);
 - s. Appointment or dismissal, upon proposal of the Council, of the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the following committees (where applicable):
 - Disciplinary Committee;
 - Ethics Committee;

- Appeal Committee;
- Audit and Compliance Committee;
- Governance Committee.

t. Voting on the host country for the WFRF World Championship, which shall be held every two (2) years (where applicable).

3. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be amended provided that three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Federations present and entitled to vote approve such amendment.

Article 23 – Elections, Decisions and Required Majorities

1. Elections within WFRF shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. Unless otherwise provided, voting may be conducted by a show of hands or by electronic voting. If the result cannot be clearly determined by a show of hands, voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, and Member Federations shall be called in English alphabetical order.
3. Where there are two (2) or fewer candidates for the office of President, election shall require an absolute majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast. Where there are more than two (2) candidates, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Member Federations present and entitled to vote shall be required on the first ballot. If no candidate obtains such majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated after the second ballot until only two (2) candidates remain.
4. Members of the Council shall be elected by the Member Federations in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 5, of these Statutes.
5. Each Confederation President shall serve as an ex officio member of the Council.
6. Every candidate for the office of Vice-President or Council Member shall successfully pass the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations.
7. Candidates receiving the highest number of valid votes for the vacant positions shall be elected as Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the Judicial Bodies, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Governance Committee.
8. Elections for the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the Judicial Bodies, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Governance Committee shall normally be conducted by slate (block) voting. However, upon the request of at least ten (10) Member Federations, a separate vote shall be held for any individual candidate.
9. Unless otherwise provided in these Statutes, decisions, elections and votes shall be adopted by a simple majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast.

10. Additional procedural provisions relating to elections and voting shall be governed by the Rules of the Congress.

Article 24 – Minutes

1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for preparing the official minutes of the Congress.
2. The minutes shall be reviewed and approved by the persons appointed by the Member Federations for that purpose.

Article 25 – Entry into Force of Congress Decisions

Unless the Congress determines another date, all decisions adopted by the Congress shall enter into force sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the Congress and shall be binding upon all Member Federations.

Section B – Council

Article 26 – Composition, Election of the President, Vice-Presidents and Council Members

1. Subject to Article 75 (Transitional Provisions) of these Statutes, the Council shall consist of thirty-seven (37) members, comprising:
 - One (1) President elected by the Congress;
 - Four (4) Vice-Presidents; and
 - Twenty-four (24) other Council Members.

Upon election, every member of the Council shall undertake to perform his or her duties with integrity, loyalty and independence, in the best interests of WFRF, and to promote and develop Fitness Running worldwide.

2. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a term of four (4) years in the year following the completion of two WFRF World Championship cycles. The term of office shall commence upon the close of the Congress at which the President is elected. No person may serve as President for more than four (4) terms, whether consecutive or non-consecutive. Previous service as a Vice-President or Council Member shall not be taken into account for this term limit.
3. Council Members shall be elected by the Member Federations at the respective Confederation Congress for a term of four (4) years. Their term of office shall commence upon the close of the Congress at which they are elected. No Council Member may serve for more than five (5) terms, whether consecutive or non-consecutive.
4. The allocation of Council seats among the Confederations shall be as follows:

Confederation	Vice-Presidents Council Members	
Fitness Running Confederation of America (CFRAM)	1	4
Fitness Running Confederation of Eurasia (CFROAS)	1	8
Union of European Fitness Running Federations (UEFR)	1	6
Confederation of African Fitness Running (CAFR)	1	6

5. Each Confederation shall ensure that at least one (1) woman is elected to the Council. If no female candidate is elected, the seat allocated for a female representative shall remain vacant until the next Council election.
6. No Member Federation may have more than one (1) representative serving simultaneously on the Council.
7. If the President is temporarily or permanently unable to perform his or her duties, the longest-serving Vice-President shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President until the next Congress. Where necessary, the next Congress shall elect a new President. If the longest-serving Vice-President is likewise unable to act, the next longest-serving Vice-President shall assume such responsibilities.
8. If a Vice-President or Council Member is temporarily or permanently unable to perform his or her duties, the relevant Confederation shall elect a replacement to serve for the remainder of the term of office.

Article 27 – Powers of the Council

1. The Council shall determine the mission, strategic direction, policies and core values of WFRF, particularly with regard to the organization and development of Fitness Running worldwide and all related matters.
2. In commercial and financial matters, the Council shall, inter alia:
 - establish the standards, policies and procedures governing the conclusion of commercial contracts by WFRF;
 - establish the standards, policies and procedures governing the operational expenditure of WFRF;
 - establish the standards, policies and procedures governing all other commercial and financial matters of WFRF.

The Council shall delegate the executive management of commercial and financial affairs to the Secretary General, who shall act under the authority and supervision of the Council and remain accountable to it.

3. The Council shall supervise the overall management of WFRF carried out by the Secretary General.

4. The Council shall approve the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements prepared by the Finance Committee, and shall submit the Annual Report to the Congress for approval.
5. The Council shall appoint the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the Standing Committees, except for those whose appointment is reserved to the Congress under these Statutes.
6. The Council shall propose to the Congress the election of the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee, Appeal Committee, Audit and Compliance Committee and Governance Committee.
7. The Council may establish Ad Hoc Committees whenever it considers this necessary.
8. Upon the proposal of the President, the Council shall appoint the Secretary General. The Secretary General may be removed from office only by decision of the Council.
9. The Council shall determine the dates and venues of the final competitions of WFRF tournaments and the number of participating teams allocated to each Confederation. The selection of the host country for the WFRF World Championship shall remain within the exclusive authority of the Congress.
10. The Council shall adopt the General Regulations and, in particular, the WFRF Governance Regulations.

Section C – President

Article 28 – President

1. The President shall represent WFRF in all matters.
2. The President shall promote and protect the image and reputation of WFRF and ensure that the mission, strategic direction, policies and values established by the Council are implemented and safeguarded.
3. The President shall maintain and strengthen relations between WFRF, the Confederations, the Member Federations, governmental authorities and international organizations.
4. The President shall chair the meetings of the Congress and the Council. The President shall have no voting right in the Congress and shall have one ordinary vote in meetings of the Council.
5. The powers and responsibilities of the President shall be further defined in the WFRF Governance Regulations.

Section D – General Secretariat

Article 29 – General Secretariat

1. Under the direction of the Secretary General, the General Secretariat shall perform, in particular, the following functions:
 - organizing WFRF competitions and all related activities in accordance with the decisions and directives of the Council;
 - negotiating, concluding and implementing all commercial agreements in accordance with the standards, policies and procedures approved by the Council;
 - providing administrative support to the Standing Committees, particularly in relation to the allocation of development funding for Fitness Running;
 - managing the day-to-day operations of WFRF in accordance with the policies established by the Council and within the budget approved by the Finance Committee; and
 - carrying out all other administrative duties necessary for the effective operation of WFRF as authorized or required by the Council.
 2. In the performance of its duties, the General Secretariat shall operate under the supervision of, and shall be accountable to, the Council.
 3. The powers and responsibilities of the General Secretariat shall be further specified in the WFRF Governance Regulations.
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Article 30 – Secretary General

1. The Secretary General shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of WFRF.
 2. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Council and may be removed from office by the Council in accordance with Article 34, paragraph 9, of these Statutes.
 3. The Secretary General shall report directly to the Council.
 4. The Secretary General shall successfully complete an eligibility review conducted by the Review Committee.
 5. The powers and responsibilities of the Secretary General shall be further defined in the WFRF Governance Regulations.
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Section E – Council Bureau

Article 31 – Council Bureau

1. The Council Bureau shall deal with all matters falling within the competence of the Council that require urgent action between meetings of the Council. The Council Bureau shall consist of at least seven (7) members. The President of WFRF and the Presidents of the four (4) Confederations shall serve as members of the Council Bureau by virtue of their office.

2. The President shall convene and chair meetings of the Council Bureau. Where a meeting cannot be convened within the required time, decisions may be taken by other appropriate means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall promptly inform the Council of all decisions adopted by the Council Bureau.
3. All decisions adopted by the Council Bureau shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Council for ratification.
4. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest-serving Vice-President present shall act as Chair of the meeting.
5. The President may appoint a substitute for any member who is unable to attend a meeting or who has a conflict of interest regarding a particular matter. Such substitute shall be a Council Member from the same Confederation as the absent or conflicted member.

Section F – Standing Committees

Article 32 – Standing Committees

1. The Standing Committees of WFRF shall be:
 - a. Governance Committee;
 - b. Finance Committee;
 - c. Research and Development Committee;
 - d. Fitness Running Stakeholders Committee;
 - e. Member Federations Committee;
 - f. Referees Committee; and
 - g. Medical Committee.
2. The Standing Committees shall report to the Council. They shall advise and assist the Council within their respective fields of responsibility.
3. Members of the Standing Committees may simultaneously serve as members of the Council, except:
 - a. Members of the Governance Committee, who shall not be members of the Council;
 - b. Independent members of the Finance Committee in accordance with Article 41, paragraph 2;

c. Independent members of the Development Committee in accordance with Article 42, paragraph 1.

Founding Members of Fitness Running, namely **Emad Faraji, Mohammad Khaled Doodman, Morteza Golmakani, Ali Tabrizi, Ebrahim Othmani and Naser Rahimi**, shall, upon retirement, serve as permanent official members and permanent advisers of WFRF.

4. The Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and Members of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Council upon nominations submitted by the Member Federations, the President of WFRF or the Confederations, except for the Governance Committee, whose Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the Congress upon the proposal of the Council. The Council shall ensure appropriate representation of women. Members shall serve a four-year term commencing on the date of appointment. Members of the Standing Committees may be removed by the Council at any time, except for members of the Governance Committee, who may be removed only by the Congress.
5. Candidates for membership of the Standing Committees shall successfully complete an eligibility review conducted by the Review Committee. Candidates for the Governance Committee shall undergo an eligibility review conducted by the Investigatory Chamber of the Ethics Committee in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations.
6. The composition, structure, eligibility requirements, number of members required to satisfy the independence criteria, as well as the specific powers and responsibilities of each Standing Committee, shall be regulated in the WFRF Governance Regulations.
7. Each Chairperson shall represent his or her Committee and shall direct its work in accordance with the WFRF Governance Regulations.
8. Subject to the approval of the Council, the Council and each Standing Committee may establish bureaux and/or sub-committees whenever necessary for the proper discharge of their responsibilities.
9. Each Standing Committee may submit proposals for amendments to its respective regulations to the Governance Committee and/or the Council.

Article 33 – Governance Committee and Review Committee

1. The Governance Committee shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than twelve (12) members elected by the Congress. More than one-half of its members, including the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, shall satisfy the independence criteria established under the WFRF Governance Regulations.
2. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and one (1) member of the Governance Committee shall, while remaining members of the Governance Committee, constitute the Review Committee.
3. The Governance Committee shall deal with all governance matters of WFRF and shall advise and assist the Council on such matters.
4. The Review Committee shall conduct eligibility checks on candidates and office holders of the relevant WFRF bodies in accordance with these Statutes and the WFRF Governance Regulations.

5. The Review Committee shall verify the independence of candidates and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the Judicial Bodies, and those Standing Committees whose members are required to satisfy independence criteria under the WFRF Governance Regulations. It shall also review related-party declarations submitted by members of the Council.
 6. The detailed duties and responsibilities of the Governance Committee and the Review Committee shall be set out in the WFRF Governance Regulations.
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Article 34 – Finance Committee

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than twelve (12) members, all of whom shall possess appropriate qualifications and experience in financial matters.
 2. More than one-half of the members of the Finance Committee shall satisfy the independence criteria established under the WFRF Governance Regulations.
 3. The Finance Committee shall determine WFRF's financial and asset management strategy and shall advise the Council on such matters. In particular, it shall prepare the annual budget for approval by the Council, review the annual and consolidated financial statements, recommend their approval or rejection, and prepare policies, rules and guidelines concerning the overall financial and asset management strategy of WFRF for adoption by the Council.
 4. The detailed duties and responsibilities of the Finance Committee shall be set out in the WFRF Governance Regulations.
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Article 35 – Research and Development Committee

1. The Research and Development Committee shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than twelve (12) members appointed by the Congress. More than one-half of its members shall satisfy the independence criteria established under the WFRF Governance Regulations.
2. The Research and Development Committee shall oversee the educational, scientific and global development programmes of WFRF. It shall formulate, evaluate and recommend strategic development initiatives, monitor support provided to Member Federations and Confederations, identify major development challenges, advise the Council on development programmes, propose innovative development initiatives and related budgetary matters, prepare guidelines and regulations governing development programmes, approve thematic priorities, programme activities and the allocation of development funds among Confederations and/or Member Federations, and supervise the administrative implementation of its decisions. The Committee may establish specialized sub-committees according to its areas of responsibility.
3. The detailed duties and responsibilities of the Research and Development Committee shall be set out in the WFRF Governance Regulations.

Article 36 – Fitness Running Stakeholders Committee

The Fitness Running Stakeholders Committee shall address matters relating to all disciplines of Fitness Running, including Women's Fitness Running, Futsal and Beach Fitness Running. It shall, in particular, examine the structure of competitions and the relationship among clubs, players, leagues, Member Federations, Confederations and WFRF, while also considering issues affecting the interests of clubs worldwide, together with the principal aspects of technical education and the technical development of Fitness Running.

Article 37 – Member Federations Committee

The Member Federations Committee shall oversee relations between WFRF and its Member Federations and shall monitor compliance by Member Federations with the WFRF Statutes. It shall formulate proposals to strengthen cooperation between WFRF and its Member Federations and shall review the evolution of the Statutes and regulations of WFRF, the Confederations and the Member Federations.

Article 38 – Medical Committee

The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical matters relating to Fitness Running, including anti-doping, sports medicine, athlete health, injury prevention and medical regulations.

PART VI – Annual Conference of Member Federations

Article 39 – Annual Conference of Member Federations

WFRF shall organize at least one (1) Annual Conference of the Member Federations each year for the Presidents and/or Chief Executive Officers of the Member Federations, either in person or by electronic means.

The Conference shall address matters of major importance to the global development of Fitness Running, including development programmes, integrity, social responsibility, governance, human rights, anti-racism, match manipulation, gender equality, sportsmanship, youth protection and safety.

PART VII – Independent Committees

Article 40 – Independence of the Committees

The Independent Committees and each of their members shall perform their duties with complete independence and impartiality while acting at all times in the best interests of WFRF and in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable WFRF Regulations.

Article 41 – Audit and Compliance Committee

1. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than seven (7) members. Its members shall not belong to any other body of WFRF. They shall possess appropriate knowledge and experience in financial, legal and/or governance matters and shall not have participated in decisions affecting the operations of WFRF.
2. Candidates for membership, and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee, shall satisfy the independence criteria established under the WFRF Governance Regulations.
3. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the Congress for a term of four (4) years commencing at the close of the Congress at which they are elected. They may be removed from office only by the Congress.
4. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of the Audit and Compliance Committee may serve a maximum of four (4) terms, whether consecutive or non-consecutive.
5. If the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or any Member resigns or becomes permanently unable to perform his or her duties, the Council shall appoint an interim replacement until the next Congress, at which a successor shall be elected for the remainder of the term.
6. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall report directly to the Congress.
7. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise, assist and supervise the Council in financial oversight, compliance matters and the implementation of the WFRF Governance Regulations. It shall also review the performance of the General Secretariat.
8. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial statements by reviewing the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and the reports of the external auditors. It shall further supervise WFRF's financial management, budgeting and the allocation and distribution of development funds and may make recommendations to the competent WFRF bodies whenever appropriate.
9. The Committee shall establish a Remuneration Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the Chairperson of the Audit and Compliance Committee and a third member jointly appointed by those two Chairpersons. The third member shall satisfy the applicable independence criteria.
10. The Remuneration Sub-Committee shall establish the remuneration policy and determine the remuneration of the President, Council Members and the Secretary General of WFRF. Such remuneration shall be publicly disclosed.

11. The detailed responsibilities of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the Remuneration Sub-Committee, their internal procedures and all related governance matters shall be regulated by the WFRF Governance Regulations.
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PART VIII – Finance

Article 42 – Financial Period

1. The financial year of WFRF shall commence on 1 January and end on 31 December of each calendar year.
 2. The revenues and expenditures of WFRF shall be managed in a financially balanced manner. The long-term financial stability of WFRF shall be safeguarded through the maintenance of adequate financial reserves.
 3. The Secretary General shall be responsible for preparing the annual consolidated financial statements of WFRF and its subsidiaries before the end of each financial year.
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Article 43 – External Auditors

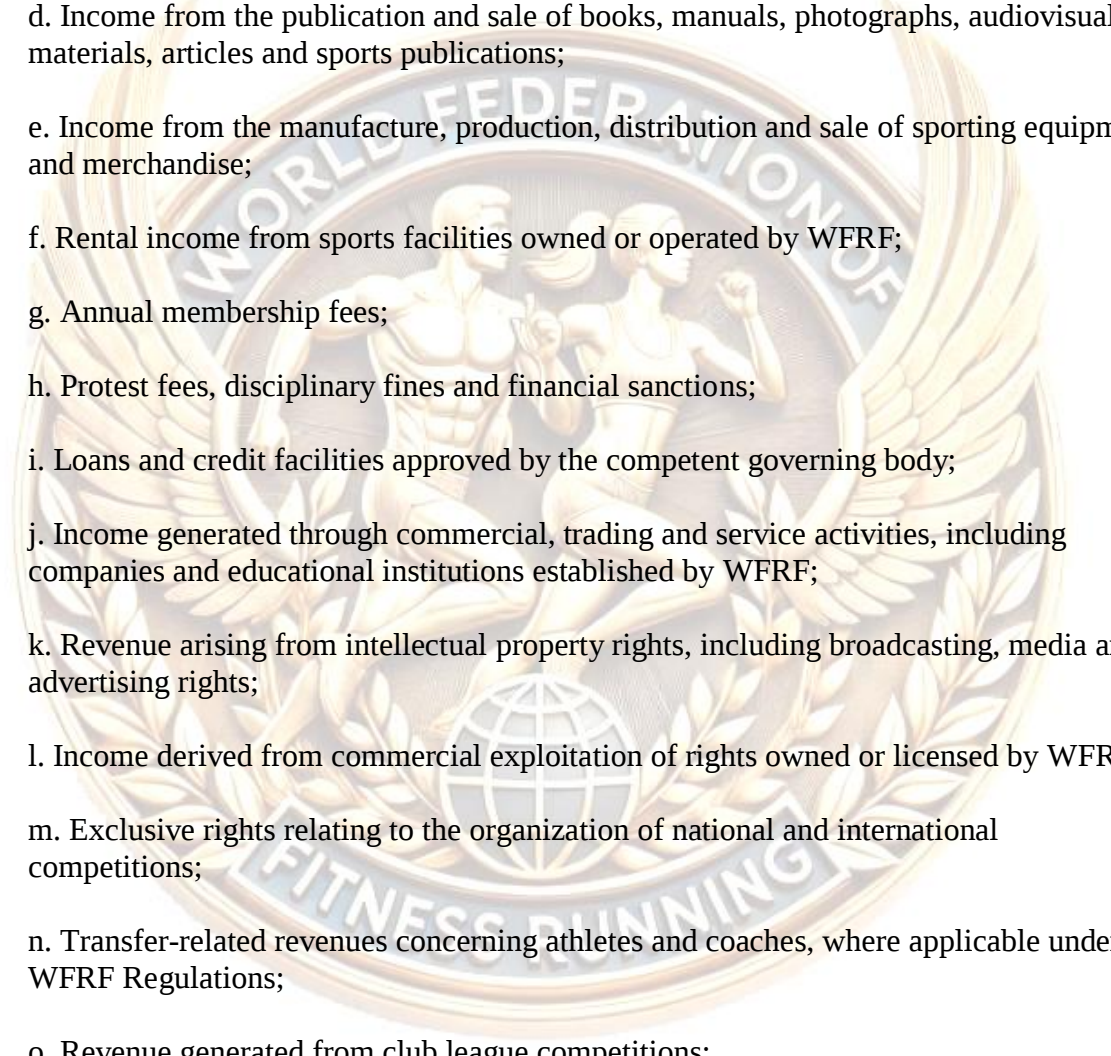
The external auditors shall examine the annual audited financial statements and consolidated financial statements approved by the Council and shall report to the Congress in accordance with the applicable laws. They shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed.

Article 44 – Membership Fees

1. Annual membership fees shall become payable on 1 January of each year. Newly admitted Member Federations shall pay their annual membership fee within thirty (30) days following the close of the Congress at which their membership is approved.
 2. Upon the recommendation of the Council, the Congress shall annually determine the percentage of revenue derived from the organization of national and international coaching, officiating and educational courses payable by Member Federations as membership fees. Such contribution shall not be less than ten percent (10%) and not more than twenty percent (20%) of the relevant income and shall be binding upon all Members.
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Article 45 – Revenue

The revenues of WFRF shall be derived from, among others, the following sources, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations:

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- a. Financial contributions from governmental authorities and national and international organizations;
 - b. Income from ticket sales for competitions, sporting events and educational programmes;
 - c. Donations, grants, gifts and other voluntary contributions, including movable and immovable property;
 - d. Income from the publication and sale of books, manuals, photographs, audiovisual materials, articles and sports publications;
 - e. Income from the manufacture, production, distribution and sale of sporting equipment and merchandise;
 - f. Rental income from sports facilities owned or operated by WFRF;
 - g. Annual membership fees;
 - h. Protest fees, disciplinary fines and financial sanctions;
 - i. Loans and credit facilities approved by the competent governing body;
 - j. Income generated through commercial, trading and service activities, including companies and educational institutions established by WFRF;
 - k. Revenue arising from intellectual property rights, including broadcasting, media and advertising rights;
 - l. Income derived from commercial exploitation of rights owned or licensed by WFRF;
 - m. Exclusive rights relating to the organization of national and international competitions;
 - n. Transfer-related revenues concerning athletes and coaches, where applicable under WFRF Regulations;
 - o. Revenue generated from club league competitions;
 - p. Income from coaching, officiating and educational courses; and
 - q. Revenue generated through sports marketing, sponsorship and commercial partnerships.

Article 46 – Settlement of Accounts

WFRF may offset any outstanding debts or financial obligations owed by a Member Federation against any amounts payable by WFRF to that Member Federation.

Article 47 – Taxes and Levies

1. Confederations may impose levies or taxes on international matches involving national teams in accordance with their respective Statutes and Regulations.
 2. Member Federations may levy taxes or charges on matches organized within their respective territories in accordance with their own Statutes and Regulations, independently of their Confederation.
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PART IX – Rights in Competitions and Events

Article 48 – Rights in Competitions and Events

1. WFRF, the Member Federations and the Confederations shall be the original owners of all rights arising from competitions and other events falling within their respective jurisdictions, without restriction as to content, time, place or applicable law. Such rights shall include, but not be limited to, financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording rights, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and advertising rights, intellectual property rights, including rights in official emblems and logos, and copyright and related rights.
 2. The Council shall determine the manner in which such rights are exercised and exploited and shall adopt the relevant regulations. The Council shall decide whether such rights shall be exploited exclusively by WFRF, jointly with third parties, or entirely through third parties.
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Article 49 – Distribution and Broadcasting Rights

1. WFRF, the Member Federations and the Confederations shall have the exclusive right to authorize the audiovisual transmission, broadcasting, recording, distribution and dissemination of images, sounds, data and other media relating to Fitness Running competitions and events falling within their respective jurisdictions, without limitation as to content, time, place or technical or legal means.
 2. The Council shall adopt specific regulations governing the management and exploitation of such rights.
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PART X – Final Provisions

Article 50 – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of WFRF, all assets of WFRF shall be transferred to the competent Supreme Court of the country in which the headquarters of WFRF is located. Such assets shall be held in trust until WFRF is re-established or until otherwise determined in accordance with the applicable law.

Article 51 – Transitional Provisions

1. These Statutes were adopted by the Extraordinary Online Congress and shall enter into force sixty (60) days after the conclusion of that Congress, subject to the provisions set out below.
2. Sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the Congress, the Executive Committee shall automatically become the Council. The members serving on the Executive Committee at that date shall become the first members of the Council. Their term of office shall expire upon completion of the remainder of the term for which they were elected to the Executive Committee.

Accordingly, during the transitional period, until the entire Council has been elected by the Member Federations through the respective Confederation Congresses, the number of Council Members may be lower than that provided for in these Statutes.

3. The members of the Governance Committee shall subsequently be elected through an online election.
4. With regard to Standing Committees that are no longer provided for under these Statutes, the Council shall determine the date on which they shall cease to exist. For Standing Committees that continue to exist but are restructured under these Statutes, the Council shall determine the details of the transition and the date on which the restructured Committees shall commence their activities. Members of such Committees shall continue to serve until the expiry of the terms for which they were originally appointed.

Hamburg, 20 September 2020

Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes

Article 1 – Application for Membership

The Council may establish the procedures governing applications for membership through specific regulations.

Article 2 – Confederations

1. The Council shall determine, on the basis of the final report submitted by the relevant Confederation, whether an applicant Federation has fulfilled all requirements for admission to WFRF.
2. Where all admission requirements have been satisfied, the next Congress shall decide whether to approve or reject the application for membership.

Article 3 – Objectives

WFRF shall ensure the achievement of its objectives through the effective use of its own human and financial resources, or by delegating responsibilities to Member Federations or Confederations, or through cooperation with Confederations, in accordance with the WFRF Statutes.

Article 4 – Entry into Force

These Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes were adopted by the Executive Board of the **World Fitness Running Federation (WFRF)** on **20 September 2020**, upon Proposal No. **1020** dated **20 July 2020** submitted by the **Research, Development and International Relations Committee**, and shall enter into force immediately upon their adoption.

