

ITF HQ, Vienna, Austria

ITF CONSTITUTION

ver. 2025



ITF Constitution (2025)

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Chapter 1 – Foundation and Cradle of Taekwon-Do

Article 1. Foundation of Taekwon-Do

1.1. Taekwon-Do is the Korean national martial art, founded on 11 April 1955 by General Choi Hong Hi, who perfected and systematised it.

Article 2. Cradle of Taekwon-Do

2.1. The cradle of Taekwon-Do is Korea, the birthplace of the Founder.

2.2. All practitioners of Taekwon-Do are encouraged to visit the tomb of the late General Choi Hong Hi.

2.3. During such visits, practitioners may pay respects to the Founder and acquire the spirit and original techniques of Taekwon-Do, which he created and developed through training with Korean instructors and masters in the Taekwon-Do Palace and other significant sites.

Chapter 2 – Name, Domicile, Languages, Finance and Legal Status

Article 1. Name

1.1. The English name of the organisation is the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF), inaugurated by General Choi Hong Hi on 22 March 1966.

Article 2. Domicile

2.1. The legal domicile of the ITF Headquarters is Draugasse 3, 1210 Vienna, Austria.

2.2. The ITF Headquarters conducts its activities throughout Austria and internationally.

2.3. If relocation becomes necessary, the Executive Board shall decide the new domicile.

2.4. The ITF Headquarters shall operate in compliance with the law of its domicile.

2.5. At least one among the President and Vice-Presidents shall be permanently stationed at the Headquarters, assisted by staff appointed by the President.

2.6. In the unavoidable absence of both the President and Vice-President, the Secretary General is authorised to sign legal documents on their behalf.

2.7. In the unavoidable absence of both the President and Vice-President, the Treasurer is authorised to sign financial instruments on their behalf.

Article 3. Official Languages

3.1. The official languages of the ITF are Korean, English, and German, with German required whenever Austrian law obliges its use.

3.2. All minutes, information, and circular letters shall be written in English. In case of discrepancy, the English text prevails.

3.3. Korean shall be used for all Taekwon-Do technical terminology.

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Article 4. Sources of Revenue and Fiscal Year

4.1. The objectives of the ITF shall be achieved by:

4.1.1. **Idealistic means:** lectures, meetings, courses, tournaments, championships, exchanges of experience, and publications.

4.1.2. **Material means:** Annual membership fees; processing fees for promotions and qualifications; affiliation fees from recognised National Associations; as well as donations, sponsorships, and voluntary contributions, provided that such income complies with the requirements of the Austrian Vereinsgesetz 2002 (§ 21, § 40) and the Federal Fiscal Code (Bundesabgabenordnung, BAO).

4.1.3. **Other means:** Additional revenue may be generated through tournaments, seminars, demonstrations, media rights, licensing, merchandising, and comparable activities. Such revenues are to be treated as Mittelaufbringung (fundraising) in accordance with §§ 34–47 BAO and may only be used to exclusively and directly promote the non-profit and statutory purposes of the ITF in line with the Austrian Vereinsgesetz 2002.

4.2. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

4.3. The euro (EUR) is the official currency for ITF monetary transactions.

Article 5. Legal Status

5.1. The ITF is a non-governmental, non-profit international organisation existing for an unlimited period as a legal entity recognised under Austrian law.

5.2. ITF statutes and activities, including the World Championships, shall conform to the Olympic Charter and the World Anti-Doping Code.

5.3. The ITF Headquarters has the mandate to guide Taekwon-Do worldwide in accordance with this Constitution and ITF regulations.

5.4. Disputes between the ITF and third parties shall be settled under Austrian law.

Article 6. Database

6.1. The ITF Database is the authoritative record of members' lifelong Taekwon-Do activity and is a prerequisite for promotions, qualifications, and event participation.

Chapter 3 – Purpose and Objectives

Article 1. Purpose and Objectives

1.1. **Public-benefit, non-profit purpose.** The ITF pursues exclusively and directly non-profit public-benefit purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 ff BAO, in particular the promotion of physical sport (“Körpersport”) through the practice and dissemination of Taekwon-Do, and the advancement of the spiritual, moral, physical and cultural education of people of all ages. Funds and assets are dedicated solely to these purposes.

1.2. **Non-distribution, asset dedication and selflessness.** The ITF does not seek profit; no member receives profit shares or benefits from ITF assets by virtue of membership. No

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person may be favoured by expenditures unrelated to the ITF's purpose. Upon dissolution or if tax-privileged purposes cease, assets are irrevocably dedicated to tax-privileged public-benefit purposes (details to be set out in the Dissolution Chapter) in line with § 39 BAO.

1.3. Equality, inclusion, and human rights. Taekwon-Do activities shall be open to all and practiced without discrimination against nationality, ethnic origin, race, colour, religion or belief, gender, age, disability, language, political or other opinion, education, or economic status. The ITF commits to respect internationally recognised human rights across its operations.

1.4. Data protection and privacy. In administering membership, events, education, integrity and disciplinary matters, the ITF shall process personal data lawfully, fairly, and transparently, ensuring security and rights of access, consistent with GDPR and the Austrian Datenschutzgesetz (DSG). To ensure compliance, and in accordance with GDPR and DSG the ITF shall appoint a Data Protection Officer.

1.5. ITF members welfare and safeguarding (“Safe Sport”). The ITF shall ensure a safe, respectful training and competition environment, with zero tolerance for harassment, abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and with enhanced protections for children and vulnerable persons. The safeguarding oversight shall be exercised by the ITF Data Protection Officer (DPO), duly registered with the Austrian authority, who is entrusted with safeguarding functions. The DPO shall be supported in this role by ITF Headquarters and the Executive Board and assisted by the ITF Medical Committee, the Anti-Doping Committee, the Statute & Ethic Committee, the Tournament Committee, and the Umpire Committee.

1.6. Integrity of sport: anti-doping. The ITF shall protect clean sport by adopting and implementing anti-doping rules compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and relevant international standards, and by cooperating with competent national anti-doping organisations (including NADA Austria where applicable). Activities shall include testing, results management, education, and intelligence, with respect for proportionality and athletes' rights.

1.7. Integrity of competitions: manipulation and betting. The ITF shall prevent, detect, and sanction match-fixing and betting-related corruption, prohibit misuse of inside information, and require reporting of suspicious approaches, consistent with the Council of Europe Macolin Convention and prevailing integrity standards.

1.8. Good governance, autonomy, and ethics. The ITF shall uphold independence from undue political, religious, or commercial influence and apply systems consistent with the Principles of Good Governance: transparency of decision-making and accounts; democratic processes; member representation and care; internal controls and audits; eligibility and disciplinary due process; and published codes of ethics and conduct.

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1.9. Whistleblowing and reporting. The ITF shall maintain confidential reporting channels for suspected violations (including safeguarding, doping, or corruption) and protect whistleblowers from retaliation, consistent with Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Austrian Hinweisgeber*innenschutzgesetz (HSchG).

1.10. Technical excellence, education, and fair play. The ITF shall advance the technical, pedagogical, and cultural value of Taekwon-Do by developing and publishing rules, techniques, and theory; ensuring fair play; and operating robust education and certification systems for all members, including instructors, umpires, coaches, and administrators.

1.11. Events: quality, safety, and compliance. The ITF shall organise and supervise courses, tournaments, and demonstrations worldwide, ensuring transparent bidding, event safety, risk management, fair procedures, anti-doping controls, safeguarding, inclusion, and accurate reporting and broadcasting.

1.12. Friendship, solidarity, and social impact. The ITF shall promote friendship, solidarity, mutual respect, and community service; support welfare initiatives (including assistance schemes for hardship, injury, or retirement); and recognise meritorious service through distinctions under transparent criteria.

1.13. International cooperation and recognition. The ITF shall foster constructive relationships with a broad range of international, continental, and national sports governing bodies and federations. These include but are not limited to the International Olympic Committee, continental and national Olympic organisations, emerging multi-sport frameworks such as BRICS Sports, other international and national federations, UN agencies, governments, NGOs, and cultural institutions. Cooperation shall be pursued while preserving ITF's autonomy, with the aim of advancing peace, education, public health, safe participation in sport, and the global development of Taekwon-Do.

1.14. Sustainability and environmental stewardship. The ITF shall reduce the environmental footprint of its operations and events and promote sustainability across its membership, consistent with the IOC Sustainability Strategy and international standards.

1.15. Innovation and digital development. The ITF may develop and regulate virtual/remote Taekwon-Do formats, digital officiating tools, and e-sport-adjacent initiatives where supportive of participation, education, and integrity, while respecting martial-art values and fairness.

1.16. Legal status and IP protection. The ITF is a non-governmental, non-profit international organisation constituted under Austrian law. It shall protect its assets and intellectual property (including names, emblems, badges, certificates, publications, designs, and media rights) and regulate their use to preserve integrity and value.

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Chapter 4 – Symbols and Insignia of the ITF

Article 1. Logo

- 1.1. The ITF Logo, designed and approved by General Choi Hong Hi in 1965, represents the organisation's identity and values.
- 1.2. The name "International Taekwon-Do Federation" encircles the Logo, signifying its worldwide reach.
- 1.3. At the centre of the globe is a fist in bold relief, flanked by the Korean word Tae-kwon.
- 1.4. The blue background symbolises the sky, reflecting Taekwon-Do's expansive potential for growth.

Article 2. Banner

- 2.1. The ITF Banner is flown horizontally during official ceremonies.
- 2.2. It measures 1.66 × 1.0 metres, with three free sides tasseled with golden threads.
- 2.3. The scarlet background represents Perseverance, Self-Control, and Indomitable Spirit, while the golden tassels symbolise Courtesy and Integrity.
- 2.4. The Logo at the centre includes a globe and fist, with "International Taekwon-Do Federation" written in English and Hangul.

Article 3. ITF Recognition Plaque

- 3.1. The Recognition Plaque features a globe and fist at the centre of two concentric circles.
- 3.2. Korean characters Tae Kwon flank the fist.
- 3.3. The outer circle bears "INTERNATIONAL TAEKWON-DO FEDERATION," with additional elements including "I.T.F.," "RECOGNITION," and "CHOI HONG HI."
- 3.4. At the top appear three Korean characters transliterated as KUK TAE YON.

Article 4. Flag

- 4.1. The ITF Flag measures 1.5 × 1.0 metres (3:2).
- 4.2. It displays the Recognition Plaque Logo at the centre, on white silk with golden fringe.
- 4.3. It may be mounted vertically or horizontally, and is typically displayed in Dojangs and ITF events.

Article 5. ITF Pine Tree

- 5.1. This mark combines the words "Taekwon-Do," "ITF," and three Korean characters forming an abstract pine tree.
- 5.2. It is embroidered on the back of the ITF Dobok jacket using the Founder's official calligraphy.
- 5.3. The Pine Tree symbolises the enduring strength and tradition of Taekwon-Do.

Article 6. Tenets

- 6.1. The ITF Tenets are Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control, and Indomitable Spirit.

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Article 7. Hymn

7.1. The ITF Hymn is the “Song of Taekwon-Do,” written by General Choi Hong Hi and composed by Mr. Kim Yun Yong. Its lyrics express the ideals of character, justice, and the spread of Taekwon-Do worldwide.

Article 8. Ownership

8.1. Ownership of all ITF symbols and insignia—including the Logo, Recognition Plaque, Flag, Banner, Pine Tree, Tenets, Hymn, certificates, membership booklets, and cards—belongs exclusively to the ITF.

Article 9. Brandbook Compliance

9.1. All materials bearing ITF symbols must comply with the Official ITF Brandbook adopted by the Executive Board.

9.2. Violations may be subject to penalties imposed by the Executive Board.

Chapter 5 – ITF Membership

Article 1. Objectives of ITF Membership

1.1. To preserve and promote the legacy of the Founder, General Choi Hong Hi, as set out in his Encyclopaedia of Taekwon-Do.

1.2. To stimulate spiritual, moral, physical, and cultural education through Taekwon-Do, contributing to welfare, stability, and peace.

1.3. To promote the continuous practice, improvement, and worldwide development of Taekwon-Do as a martial art, a way of life, and a means of social, physical, and mental growth.

1.4. To contribute to human progress by encouraging harmony, mutual support, and peace.

1.5. To ensure Taekwon-Do is enjoyed as an integral part of life, enhancing quality of life for all practitioners.

1.6. To strengthen solidarity among practitioners and organisations, rejecting all forms of discrimination, and promoting friendship and respect worldwide.

1.7. To organise and promote publications and communications on ITF activities, recognising and honouring those who contribute significantly to Taekwon-Do.

Article 2. Members

2.1. Any practitioner of ITF Taekwon-Do who accepts the ITF Constitution, Rules, and Regulations may become a member.

2.2. ITF membership exists exclusively as Life Membership, commencing with the conferment of the first ITF rank (10th Gup).

2.3. By applying for the first ITF rank, each practitioner enters into a lifelong membership agreement with the ITF and accepts the ITF Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and the ITF Data Privacy Policy as binding.

2.4. Active Members are those who have duly paid the annual fee set by the ITF Executive Board and are entitled to participate in ITF events, promotions, and qualifications.

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2.5. Annual membership fees shall be remitted through the member's National Association and duly recorded in the ITF Database.

2.6. Failure to pay annual membership fees shall result in loss of privileges, including ineligibility for promotions, qualifications, and ITF events.

2.7. Inactive or "dormant" Members are exempt from annual fees during inactivity; membership is reactivated upon payment of fees, with periods of inactivity not counting toward promotion time requirements.

2.8. Categories of Members:

2.8.1. ITF Gup Holders (10th to 1st Gup), with promotions recorded by their National Associations.

2.8.2. ITF Dan Holders (1st to 9th Dan), promoted by ITF and recorded by ITF Headquarters.

Article 3. Rights of Members

3.1. Newly admitted Members have the right to be recognised as official ITF practitioners upon conferment and registration of their ITF rank in the ITF Database.

3.2. All Members have the right to access their personal profile in the ITF Database and verify ranks, qualifications, course and seminar participation, competition records, and membership status.

3.3. All Members may set their personal profile in the ITF Database as visible or closed, in accordance with the ITF Data Privacy Policy.

3.4. Members have the right to receive official ITF certificates, booklets, and other documents evidencing their ranks, qualifications, and participation.

3.5. Members have the right to participate in ITF-sanctioned events, courses, examinations, championships, and other official activities, subject to active membership.

3.6. Members have the right to apply for promotions and qualifications in accordance with ITF rules.

3.7. Members have the right to petition the ITF, through their National Association or directly when required by law, to raise concerns, submit proposals, or appeal decisions affecting their rights.

3.8. Members have the right to data protection under the ITF Data Privacy Policy compliant with EU GDPR.

3.9. Members have the right to fair and equal treatment without discrimination.

3.10. Members have the right to recognition and protection of their achievements and contributions.

3.11. Members shall not be liable for ITF debts or obligations.

Article 4. Restrictions on Members

4.1. Members shall not accept orders or obligations from governments or organisations that restrict freedom in Taekwon-Do.

4.2. Members shall have no proprietary rights in ITF assets.

4.3. Members are prohibited from working for, collaborating with, or supporting federations, organisations, or groups hostile to the ITF.

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4.4. Members are prohibited from participating in events, tournaments, or activities organised by hostile federations, organisations, or groups.

4.5. Members shall not participate in events organised by groups outside the ITF without prior written approval from ITF Headquarters. Requests must be submitted through the relevant Continental Federation to ITF Headquarters. ITF's decision shall be final and binding.

4.6. Any violation of Articles 4.3, 4.4, or 4.5 shall result in automatic disqualification of ITF membership, subject to disciplinary procedures under this Constitution and ITF regulations.

Article 5. Admission and Termination

5.1. Admission to ITF membership occurs automatically upon conferment of the first ITF rank (10th Gup or higher). Such conferment is valid only once recorded in the ITF Database. Until registration is completed, the promotion shall not be valid, the period for the next promotion shall not commence, and any unregistered promotion is null and void.

5.2. Upon conferment and registration of the first ITF rank, the individual is recognised as a Life Member of the ITF.

5.3. Life Members are subject to all rights and obligations established under this Constitution and ITF Rules.

5.4. Membership ends by death, withdrawal, or expulsion.

5.5. Withdrawal requires written application; effective ninety (90) days after receipt, subject to discharge of obligations and confirmation by Congress.

5.6. Expulsion may occur for failure to meet obligations, financial defaults, or actions damaging ITF interests or dignity. Expulsion by the Executive Board takes immediate effect, subject to Congress review.

Chapter 6 – Membership Instruments

Article 1. Promotion and Qualification Certificates

1.1. Gup Certificates may be issued by National Associations or International Instructors authorised by the ITF.

1.2. Dan Certificates (1st to 9th Dan) may only be issued by ITF Headquarters. Any attempt by a National Association or other entity to issue Dan Certificates independently constitutes a serious violation and shall result in disciplinary sanctions.

1.3. International Instructor Certificates may be issued to 4th Dan holders aged 22 or older, or as decided by the Executive Board, upon successful completion of an International Instructor Course conducted by an appointed Master or Grand Master. Only International Instructors are authorised to open Dojangs, teach ITF Taekwon-Do, and conduct promotion tests. International Instructors may examine students only up to half of their own Dan rank. They must regularly participate in International Instructor Courses and refresher courses; failure to do so results in suspension of their rights and duties.

1.4. Umpire Certificates are classified as International Umpire (Class A) and National Umpire (Class B). International Umpire Certificates may only be issued by ITF

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Headquarters upon successful completion of an International Umpire Course. National Umpire Certificates may be issued via National Associations, subject to ITF regulations.

Article 2. Dobok, Belt Hierarchy and Titles

2.1. The Dobok, approved in 2002, consists of a shirt, trousers, and a belt. The shirt shall be white. On the left chest, the ITF Logo shall be embroidered with the abbreviation “ITF” placed above it; on the back, the official ITF “Pine Tree” shall be displayed. For Black Belt holders, the shirt shall include a 3 cm-wide black piping sewn along the bottom edge. The trousers shall be white. On both sides, slightly above knee level, the abbreviation “ITF” in Roman letters shall appear with the Korean characters “태권도” written vertically beneath it. International Instructors shall be distinguished by 3 cm-wide black stripes sewn along both sleeves and trouser legs. On the shirt, the stripes shall run from the shoulders to the cuffs; on the trousers, from the waist to the hem, with a break at the middle to avoid overlapping the “ITF” and “태권도” inscriptions.

2.2. The belt is 5 cm wide and 5 mm thick and shall be tied around the waist with a reef knot at the front. Stripes for Gup levels measure 5 mm in width and are sewn across the belt 5 cm from its end. Black Belt ranks are distinguished by Roman numerals embroidered on the belt. The belt colour corresponds to rank and title as follows:

- 2.2.1. White Belt (10th Gup) – Beginner.
- 2.2.2. White Belt with Yellow Stripe (9th Gup) – Beginner.
- 2.2.3. Yellow Belt (8th Gup) – Novice.
- 2.2.4. Yellow Belt with Green Stripe (7th Gup) – Novice.
- 2.2.5. Green Belt (6th Gup) – Intermediate.
- 2.2.6. Green Belt with Blue Stripe (5th Gup) – Intermediate.
- 2.2.7. Blue Belt (4th Gup) – Advanced.
- 2.2.8. Blue Belt with Red Stripe (3rd Gup) – Advanced.
- 2.2.9. Red Belt (2nd Gup) – Pre-Black Belt.
- 2.2.10. Red Belt with Black Stripe (1st Gup) – Pre-Black Belt.
- 2.2.11. Black Belt (1st–3rd Dan) – Assistant Instructor (Bu Sabum).
- 2.2.12. Black Belt (4th–6th Dan) – Instructor (Sabum).
- 2.2.13. Black Belt (7th–8th Dan) – Master (Sahyun).
- 2.2.14. Black Belt (9th Dan) – Grandmaster (Sasung).

Article 3. ITF Recognition Plaques

3.1. Every International Instructor must register their Dojang with ITF Headquarters through application for an official ITF Recognition Plaque with a unique number recorded in the ITF Database.

3.2. The Plaque shall be prominently displayed in the Dojang alongside the Oath for Practitioners and the ITF Flag.

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3.3. Applications for promotions submitted by instructors who do not possess a valid ITF Recognition Plaque shall not be accepted.

3.4. Recognition Plaques must be returned within three (3) months by any instructor leaving the ITF or expelled by the ITF. Failure to return the Plaque may lead to legal action.

3.5. ITF Headquarters reserves the right to request the return of any Plaque whenever necessary to protect ITF intellectual property, ensure compliance with ITF regulations, or prevent any misuse or misrepresentation of affiliation.

Article 4. Awards

4.1. The ITF Order and the Outstanding Instructor Medal are official honours of the ITF.

4.2. The Promotion & Commendation Committee shall nominate candidates for these awards, which may be conferred upon individuals who have rendered distinguished service to Taekwon-Do.

4.3. All nominations and documentation shall be submitted to ITF Headquarters through the relevant National Association. In addition, the ITF Executive Board and the President may nominate candidates directly for consideration.

Article 5. ITF Pension Program

5.1. The ITF shall maintain a pension program for Taekwon-Do practitioners who have devoted their lives to the development and dissemination of Taekwon-Do and subsequently retired from active duties.

5.2. The Promotion & Commendation Committee shall propose candidates for the program, subject to approval by the Executive Board and confirmation by the Congress.

Article 6. Honorary Dan Ranks

6.1. The ITF may confer Honorary Dan (Hon. Dan) ranks upon distinguished individuals who have rendered exceptional service to Taekwon-Do or to the objectives of the ITF.

6.2. Honorary Dan ranks are symbolic distinctions and do not entitle the holder to the obligations of regular ITF members to pay the annual membership fee.

6.3. Nominations for Honorary Dan ranks may be submitted by National Associations or Continental Federations and shall be reviewed by the Promotion & Commendation Committee, subject to approval by ITF Headquarters.

6.4. The award of an Honorary Dan rank shall be recorded in the ITF Database and clearly designated as “Honorary.”

Chapter 7 – National Associations of Members of the ITF

Article 1. Definition of National Association

1.1. A National Association is a non-profit organisation operating under a valid Letter of Recognition issued by the ITF and overseeing individual ITF members and/or clubs, schools, and organisations recognised by the ITF through valid ITF Recognition Plaques.

1.2. A National Association shall preserve the NGO and non-profit status of the ITF, support its recognition, and ensure the legal protection of ITF assets and intellectual property within its territory.

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1.3. A National Association shall ensure that its statutes, internal regulations, and practices are fully aligned with ITF governance. Any provision that conflicts with ITF regulations shall be deemed null and void. ITF regulations shall always take precedence, and the authority of the ITF shall be final and binding.

1.4. A National Association shall be structured and operated in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law.

1.5. For the purposes of this Constitution, the term *National Association* includes both National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Affiliated Governing Bodies (AGBs) as recognised by the ITF.

Article 2. Functions of National Associations

2.1. National Associations are intermediary governing bodies recognised by the ITF to administer membership within their designated territory. They serve as the official governing authority of ITF Taekwon-Do within the boundaries defined by the Letter of Recognition issued by the ITF.

2.2. Recognition of National Associations may be withdrawn by the ITF at any time, at its sole discretion, for non-payment of fees, for violation of the ITF Constitution, Rules, or Regulations, or for any other reason deemed sufficient by the ITF. Recognition may be reassigned to another body within the same territory. The ITF is under no obligation to disclose the reasons for withdrawal or reassignment.

2.3. National Associations shall act as the liaison between the ITF and its members, coordinating and supervising ITF members, clubs, schools, and organisations recognised by the ITF.

2.4. National Associations shall promote, develop, and protect Taekwon-Do activities within their territories in strict accordance with ITF governance and under the supervision of the ITF.

2.5. National Associations shall:

- (a) Encourage all practitioners to improve their quality of life through Taekwon-Do;
- (b) Encourage continuous development and achievement of high-level performance;
- (c) Promote friendship and understanding among practitioners and affiliated organisations, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, race, religion, ideology, education, or economic status; strengthen solidarity and cooperation based on mutual respect; and reject all forms of discrimination;
- (d) Organise and promote the publication and dissemination of ITF activities; recognise and honour those who have made outstanding contributions; and support welfare initiatives such as the “Taekwon-Do Pension” for veterans;
- (e) Provide assistance to ITF members in their training and development;
- (f) Organise regular courses for the advancement of Taekwon-Do techniques;
- (g) Take strict measures against the use of prohibited and doping substances;
- (h) Ensure the physical safety of members during competitions and training in Dojangs, in compliance with ITF Medical Guidelines.

2.6. National Associations shall safeguard all ITF property, assets, and intellectual

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property within their territory.

2.7. National Associations shall observe regulations, schedules, and dates fixed by the ITF or event organisers to avoid confusion in ITF activities.

2.8. National Associations shall abstain from participating in championships, tournaments, and other functions not authorised by the ITF, unless explicitly permitted in writing by ITF Headquarters.

2.9. National Associations shall preserve their autonomy and resist all pressures of any kind, including political, ideological, racial, religious, or economic.

2.10. National Associations shall take action to be financially self-reliant and work actively to this end, ensuring independence in their activities.

Article 3. Rights of National Associations

3.1. National Associations may formulate proposals concerning amendments to the Constitution and Regulations of the ITF, the work of the ITF, and the development of Taekwon-Do.

3.2. National Associations may submit proposals concerning candidates for the leadership of the ITF.

3.3. National Associations may host the ITF Congress, international courses, and events including the World Championships, or submit applications for these.

3.4. National Associations may participate in activities entrusted to or approved by the ITF.

3.5. National Associations may apply to the ITF for Recognition Plaques, Degree Certificates, and Membership Booklets. They shall not issue their own Certificates for Dan, International Instructor, or Umpire A & B. Any such action constitutes a severe violation of ITF Rules and shall lead to sanctions.

3.6. National Associations may request registration of members, schools, and activities with the ITF.

3.7. National Associations may request assistance of any kind from the ITF.

3.8. National Associations have the right to be represented before the ITF and to access services and functions of the ITF Database.

3.9. National Associations must pay affiliation fees to the ITF as a condition of recognition. Recognition may be suspended or withdrawn by the ITF for non-payment or violation of ITF governance, including suspension of rights, withdrawal of recognition, or reassignment of recognition to another body within the same territory. ITF is not obliged to disclose reasons.

Article 4. Legal Status

4.1. National Associations shall obtain legal recognition and operate as non-profit entities under the laws of their country or region. Where this is not yet possible, the ITF Executive Board may grant a temporary permit to a designated person to assume the functions of a National Association until a legal entity is established.

4.2. In jurisdictions where incorporation is unfeasible, the ITF may provisionally authorise natural persons to fulfil the functions of a National Association. Such representatives must act solely in the interest of the ITF, comply fully with ITF governance, and demonstrate

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capacity to manage membership, registrations, grading, and events. They shall be recognised by a formal ITF Letter of Recognition and shall not be deemed legal partners or agents of ITF under Austrian law.

4.3. Such special authorisations shall be reviewed periodically and may require progress toward incorporation as a condition of continued recognition.

Article 5. Composition and Structure

5.1. National Associations shall be structured in accordance with democratic principles and ITF governance.

5.2. The hierarchy of a National Association shall consist of the Congress, Executive Board, and President.

5.3. A National Association may establish additional bodies or abolish unnecessary ones, in line with its own Constitution, subject to ITF approval.

5.4. Executive Board members of a National Association shall be elected at its Congress or Special Congress.

Article 6. Logo

6.1. The logo of a National Association shall be created by the Association and approved by the ITF.

6.2. Ownership of all National Association logos shall be vested in the ITF.

Article 7. Types of National Associations

7.1. National Governing Bodies (NGBs): serve as the primary official governing authority of ITF Taekwon-Do within their territory. NGBs coordinate and supervise clubs, schools, and organisations recognised through ITF Recognition Plaques, as well as individual ITF members, and act as the principal liaison between the ITF and its members. NGBs host national championships, represent their country at Congresses and ITF events, and possess voting rights at Congress.

7.2. Affiliated Governing Bodies (AGBs): are recognised with limited capacity. They coordinate ITF activities within their scope but do not supersede the authority of the NGB in their country or region. AGBs promote Taekwon-Do, assist in events, and support training, but hold no voting rights at Congress.

Chapter 8 – Continental Federations

Article 1. Name

1.1. Continental Federations shall be named to reflect the territorial limits and traditions of their respective continents.

1.2. The Continental Federations of the ITF are: the Asian Taekwon-Do Federation (ATF), the Oceanian Taekwon-Do Federation (OTF), the European International Taekwon-Do Federation (EITF), the Pan-American Taekwon-Do Council (PTC), and the Taekwon-Do Federation of Africa (TFA).

1.3. Special provisions may apply: the OTF shall cooperate with the ATF until it is sufficiently developed; the TFA may temporarily participate in the activities of other

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Continental Federations until it is fully established; and the Far-Eastern Russian Association may participate in ATF events.

Article 2. Relationship with National Associations

2.1. Continental Federations act as liaison and support bodies under this Constitution.

2.2. Continental Federations shall not organise or interfere in promotion tests, International Seminars, International Courses, or competitions within the jurisdiction of a National Association, unless formally requested by that Association or authorised by ITF Headquarters.

Article 3. Legal Status

3.1. Each Continental Federation shall obtain legal recognition in its host country and operate as a non-profit entity in line with local law.

3.2. Each Continental Federation shall have the status of a corporation in the country where its main office is situated.

3.3. Continental Federations shall not be deemed legal partners or agents of the ITF under Austrian law, nor shall such status establish fiduciary or contractual liability between the ITF and the federation.

Article 4. Composition and Structure

4.1. Composition: A Continental Federation consists of National Associations affiliated with the ITF in its continent. A Continental Federation may not admit a National Association not affiliated to the ITF, nor expel one except through ITF procedures.

4.2. Structure: The hierarchy of a Continental Federation consists of the Congress, Executive Board, and President. The President of a Continental Federation shall be appointed by the ITF President at the Congress.

4.3. Committees: A Continental Federation may organise or dissolve committees or provisional bodies as needed, but these must align with ITF Committees. Where an ITF Committee exists, the continental body shall operate as its sub-committee under ITF guidance. Terms of reference shall be notified to ITF Headquarters, which may require adjustments to ensure uniformity. Continental committees may not create rules conflicting with ITF governance.

4.4. Ex officio membership: ITF Executive Board members shall be ex officio members of the Executive Board of their respective Continental Federations.

Article 5. Logo

5.1. The Logo of a Continental Federation shall be designed by the Federation and approved by the ITF.

5.2. Ownership of Continental Federation logos shall be vested in the ITF.

Article 6. Functions of Continental Federations

6.1. Continental Federations shall propagate the fundamental principles, aims, and activities of the ITF, as well as its techniques, within their continent.

6.2. To ensure and supervise observance of the ITF Constitution and Regulations by

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National Associations in the continent.

6.3. To adopt constitutions modelled on the ITF Constitution.

6.4. To liaise between National Associations in the continent and the ITF.

6.5. To organise continental congresses, championships, courses, and other functions in accordance with ITF authorisation.

6.6. To combat discrimination and violence in all forms.

6.7. To enforce anti-doping rules and promote fair play.

6.8. To represent their continent in ITF Congresses, World Championships, and other functions patronised by the ITF.

6.9. To ensure National Associations do not participate in Taekwon-Do events not authorised by the ITF.

6.10. To preserve their autonomy and resist all pressures of a political, ideological, racial, religious, or economic nature.

6.11. To help National Associations become financially self-reliant.

6.12. To submit regular written reports on their work to the ITF.

6.13. Continental Federations shall not impose punishments on National Associations or members. Cases must be referred immediately to the Statute & Ethic Committee through ITF Headquarters.

6.14. The Secretariat of each Continental Federation shall be registered and operated in its host country.

6.15. Continental Federations shall define and implement objectives aligned with ITF rules to ensure unity and development of Taekwon-Do on their continent.

Article 7. Rights of Continental Federations

7.1. To formulate proposals of continental significance addressed to the ITF.

7.2. To carry out tasks entrusted by the ITF.

7.3. To request reports and information from National Associations on matters of continental significance.

7.4. To represent their continents in dealings with other continental organisations, governmental or non-governmental bodies, and enterprises.

7.5. To request assistance from the ITF when required.

7.6. To open and operate their own bank accounts.

7.7. To levy membership fees agreed by ITF members in their continent to cover operational budgets.

7.8. To collect no funds beyond membership fees without explicit ITF approval.

7.9. To coordinate continental events and activities without interfering in the internal affairs of National Associations.

Chapter 9 – Organizational Structure

Article 1. Governing Framework

1.1. The organisational structure of the ITF consists of the Congress, the Executive Board, the President, and the Headquarters.

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Article 2. Congress

- 2.1. Status: The Congress is the supreme body of the ITF and convenes every two years.
- 2.2. Convocation: Regular Congress must be convened with at least sixty (60) days' notice. An Extraordinary Congress requires thirty (30) days' notice at the request of the President or one third of National Associations. Regular Congress coincides with the World Championships; the venue of an Extraordinary Congress is set by the Executive Board.
- 2.3. Agenda: Items may be added up to fifteen (15) days before Congress. Each National Association may send up to three (3) delegates but has one (1) vote. A National Association may delegate its vote by proxy to one other Association from the same continent; no delegate may hold more than one proxy. Proxies must be presented to ITF Headquarters in advance.
- 2.4. Quorum: Congress is quorate when at least one third (1/3) of National Associations are present.
- 2.5. Voting: Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) majority; dissolution requires three-quarters (3/4). Other matters are decided by simple majority. The President presides; in his or her absence, the Senior Vice-President or another authorised officer chairs. The Chair has a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 2.6. Competences: Congress decides on amendments to the Constitution, election of the President and Executive Board, approval of minutes, budgets, reports, venues for major events, disciplinary matters referred by the EB, and other agenda items.
- 2.7. Procedure: Congress decides only on items listed on the agenda. Votes shall be "Yes" or "No." Invalid or withheld votes are excluded.
- 2.8. Elections: Candidatures for President must be submitted sixty (60) days before Congress; for Vice-Presidents and EB members, forty (40) days. Continental quotas apply for ordinary EB members (one per continent). Elections are by secret ballot unless a single candidate stands unopposed.
- 2.9. Emergency Voting: In urgent cases, postal or electronic voting may be authorised subject to two-thirds (2/3) approval of the EB.
- 2.10. Chairing: The Congress shall be chaired by the President. In his or her absence, the Senior Vice-President, another Vice-President, or the Secretary General may chair. The Chair has no vote except in case of a tie.
- 2.11. Additional Matters: Issues not on the agenda may be discussed if one third (1/3) of voters demand and the Chair approves.
- 2.12. Congress Host Obligations: The host shall provide interpretation, recording of proceedings, secretarial services, flags and nameplates for delegations, and appropriate arrangements in accordance with ITF protocol.

Article 3. Executive Board

- 3.1. Status: The Executive Board (EB) is the highest managerial body of the ITF between Congresses and manages all routine business.
- 3.2. Composition: The EB consists of 21 members: the President; five (5) Vice-Presidents (one Senior Vice-President); Secretary General; Director of Administration; five (5) ordinary

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members (one per continent); five (5) Presidents of Continental Federations; and three (3) Standing Committee Chairs.

3.3. Mandates: The President serves six (6) years; others serve four (4). Re-election is permitted. If elections cannot be held due to force majeure, mandates continue until the next Congress. Vacancies are filled by Presidential appointment.

3.4. Meetings: The EB meets at least once per year. Notice periods: 28 days for regular meetings, 14 for irregular, 7 for emergencies. Virtual meetings are permitted.

3.5. Quorum: A majority of EB members currently in office (50%+1). Decisions are taken by simple majority.

3.6. Powers: The EB prepares Congress agendas, examines membership applications, supervises ITF operations, implements Congress resolutions, decides on HQ domicile, approves committees and internal regulations, oversees finances, and revises ITF Tournament and Umpire Rules. The EB also approves the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Data Protection Officer (DPO) proposed by the President.

3.7. Reporting: Each EB member must submit two (2) reports annually and at least one (1) constructive proposal per year.

3.8. Travel Expenses: EB members attending EB meetings at World Championships are entitled to travel expenses. For meetings elsewhere, economy airfare, accommodation, and board may be covered subject to ITF finances.

3.9. Attendance: Absence without notice from an EB meeting held during the World Championships results in loss of travel expense coverage for the next meeting; absence from three consecutive meetings results in automatic disqualification.

3.10. Fees: The EB shall decide on the nature, amount, due dates, and method of collection of ITF fees, including membership fees, event participation fees, processing fees, certification fees, promotion and qualification fees, and other contributions necessary to fulfil the purposes of the ITF.

3.11. All fees decided by the EB shall be reported to the next Congress for information and oversight.

3.12. Reductions: The EB may grant temporary reductions or exemptions from fees or dues.

3.13. Election Rules: The five (5) Vice-Presidents shall be those receiving the highest five vote counts at Congress, regardless of continent. For ordinary EB members, the candidate with the highest votes from each continent shall be elected.

3.14. Restrictions: No EB member may hold more than two positions simultaneously.

Article 4. President

4.1. Term: The President serves six (6) years and may be re-elected. If the President resigns or is incapacitated, the Senior Vice-President acts until the next Congress.

4.2. Powers: The President represents the ITF, chairs all meetings, presides over activities, may set up committees or working groups, appoints Chairs and members, and is ex officio member of all ITF bodies. In emergencies, the President may take necessary measures (except dissolution) and report to EB and Congress.

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4.3. Appointments: The President appoints the Senior Vice-President from among elected VPs, the Secretary General, Director of Administration, Presidents of Continental Federations, Committee Chairs and members, Auditor, and Lawyer, subject to EB approval.

4.4. The President may designate representatives for specific tasks.

4.5. The President may nominate a Spokesperson with EB approval. The Spokesperson represents the ITF exclusively on matters authorised by the President.

Article 5. Honorary Life President

5.1. An Honorary Life President may be appointed by Congress for exceptional contributions.

5.2. The Honorary Life President holds no voting rights but may speak by invitation.

Article 6. Senior Vice-President and Vice-Presidents

6.1. Senior Vice-President: Assists the President, acts in his/her absence, carries out authorised duties, and may represent the ITF. The Senior Vice-President is appointed by the President at the first EB meeting following elections.

6.2. Vice-Presidents: Support the President in carrying out duties. If both the President and Senior Vice-President are incapacitated, the eldest Vice-President shall act as interim. Vice-Presidents may represent the ITF when authorised. Distinguished external persons may be appointed as Honorary Vice-Presidents with no voting rights, upon proposal of the President and EB approval.

Article 7. Secretary General

7.1. Represents the President or ITF when authorised. Signs official documents under Presidential approval.

7.2. Resides in HQ city and manages daily operations.

7.3. Prepares HQ work plans, implements them, and reviews progress.

7.4. Safeguards official stamps and records.

7.5. Prepares EB and Congress documentation and submits records.

7.6. Maintains contact with EB, committees, and National Associations' officials; issues urgent circulars and correspondence.

7.7. Monitors ITF organisations and prepares for major functions.

7.8. In cooperation with the Director of Administration, provides board and lodging for EB members during Congresses, EB meetings, and official Championships.

Article 8. Director of Administration

8.1. Ensures legal protection of ITF intellectual property and assets.

8.2. Registers ITF property and maintains inventories.

8.3. Seeks efficiency improvements and reports them.

8.4. Administers HQ management; supervises promotions and qualifications processing through the ITF Database.

8.5. Registers dojangs/schools; issues Recognition Plaques and records them in the Database.

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- 8.6. Maintains course records in the ITF Database.
- 8.7. Issues membership booklets through the Database.
- 8.8. Supervises HQ staff.

Article 9. Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer

- 9.1. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are appointed by the President with EB approval for a four-year term; reappointment permitted.
- 9.2. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial administration of the ITF. Together with the Deputy Treasurer, the Treasurer shall:
 - 9.2.1. prepare the annual budget and present it to the Executive Board (EB) and the Congress;
 - 9.2.2. prepare the annual financial report and present it to the Executive Board (EB) and the Congress;
 - 9.2.3. ensure that all revenues and expenditures are properly recorded in accordance with Austrian law and generally accepted accounting standards, and liaise with Austrian authorities;
 - 9.2.4. safeguard ITF assets and oversee the execution of payments as authorised by the EB.
- 9.3. The Deputy Treasurer shall support the Treasurer in these tasks and substitute for the Treasurer in case of absence or incapacity.
- 9.4. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer shall act independently of personal interest, may not receive disproportionate remuneration, and are accountable to the ITF Headquarters, Executive Board and Congress.
- 9.5. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer shall manage ITF financial transactions.
- 9.6. Transactions up to EUR 2,000 may be executed with the signature of either Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer, with notification to the President. Larger transactions require prior Presidential approval. Documents must be archived with countersignatures.
- 9.7. Keeps accounts for obligatory fees as determined by Congress.
- 9.8. Ensures payment of travel, board, and lodging for members required to travel on ITF business.
- 9.9. Neither Treasurer nor Deputy Treasurer may act independently without authorisation.
- 9.10. Citizenship: As long as HQ remains in Vienna, both must be Austrian or EU citizens.

Article 10. Auditor

- 10.1. Nominated by the President and approved by EB.
- 10.2. Must not be a member of the EB or any ITF Committee.
- 10.3. Audits ITF finances, budgets, and reports to ensure compliance with this Constitution and ITF objectives. Reports are submitted to HQ and presented to the EB.

Article 11. Data Protection Officer

- 11.1. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Austrian Datenschutzgesetz (DSG), the ITF shall appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO).
- 11.2. The DPO shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Board

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(EB).

11.3. The DPO shall act independently within the scope of GDPR, DSG, and internationally recognised safeguarding frameworks, and may not be dismissed or penalised for the proper performance of duties.

11.4. The DPO shall report on matters within their competence to the Congress, the ITF Headquarters, and the Executive Board.

Chapter 10 – Committees of the ITF

Article 1. Definition

1.1. Standing Committees, Provisional Committees, and working groups are established under this Constitution but do not form part of the ITF hierarchy.

1.2. Committees act within their defined fields, subject to Executive Board approval and under the supervision of ITF Headquarters, with regular reporting obligations.

Article 2. Standing Committees

2.1. The Standing Committees of the ITF are: Technical & Education; Tournament; Umpire; Junior & Veteran; Women's; Promotion & Commendation; Public Relations; Statute & Ethic; Medical; Anti-Doping; Finance & Marketing; Pro-League; and Athletes.

Article 3. Composition

3.1. Each Standing Committee shall consist of three (3) to nine (9) members, including its Chairperson.

3.2. The Promotion & Commendation Committee shall consist of five (5) members, at least two (2) of whom shall be 9th Dan and three (3) of whom shall be 8th Dan.

Article 4. Appointment

4.1. Committee Chairpersons and members are appointed by the ITF President for a term of four (4) years.

4.2. Members may be nominated on the recommendation of their Chairperson.

Article 5. Powers and Functions

5.1. Committees prepare proposals, reports, and recommendations within their assigned fields.

5.2. Committee decisions require Executive Board approval and are implemented under ITF Headquarters supervision.

5.3. Each Standing Committee must submit regular reports to ITF Headquarters.

5.4. Committees may not adopt decisions or regulations independently. All proposals and draft regulations require ITF Headquarters approval before implementation.

Article 6. Technical & Education Committee

6.1. Protects and develops the authenticity of Taekwon-Do techniques and theory as created by the Founder.

6.2. Updates curricula for Technical Seminars and International Instructor Courses and

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supervises course conductors.

6.3. Conducts training, refresher education, and examinations for International Instructors.

6.4. Disseminates updated techniques and training methods in cooperation with ITF Headquarters.

6.5. Promotes spiritual education as an essential component of instruction.

Article 7. Tournament Committee

7.1. Exercises guidance and supervision over preparation and conduct of ITF World Championships and oversees ITF-sanctioned tournaments.

7.2. Maintains and develops ITF Tournament Rules, issues Championship Guidelines, and cooperates with the Technical & Education Committee.

7.3. Conducts post-event reviews and ensures continuous improvement of standards.

7.4. May request and review event and financial reports within ninety (90) days of completion, submitting findings to ITF Headquarters.

Article 8. Umpire Committee

8.1. Develops and revises ITF Umpire Rules in cooperation with the Tournament Committee.

8.2. Organises International Umpire Courses and refresher sessions.

8.3. Provides training for umpires before major events.

8.4. Conducts post-event reviews and ensures continuous improvement of umpiring standards.

Article 9. Junior & Veteran Committee

9.1. Promotes the interests of junior and veteran members and encourages family participation.

9.2. Develops tournament rules for junior and veteran divisions in cooperation with other committees.

9.3. Expands junior and veteran membership and promotes Taekwon-Do as a lifelong activity.

Article 10. Women's Committee

10.1. Promotes women's participation and leadership in Taekwon-Do.

10.2. Proposes initiatives to ensure safe training and competition environments.

10.3. Encourages greater representation of women in ITF bodies and events.

Article 11. Promotion & Commendation Committee

11.1. Consists of five (5) members, at least two (2) of whom shall be 9th Dan and three (3) of whom shall be 8th Dan.

11.2. Reviews promotion applications from 4th Dan and above.

11.3. Screens candidates for 7th–9th Dan and advises the EB.

11.4. Recommends awards, commendations, and pensions.

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11.5. May recommend appointment of examiners for Dan tests.

11.6. Studies and recommends Grand Masters deserving pensions and titles.

Article 12. Public Relations Committee

12.1. Operates the ITF website, social media, and communication channels in cooperation with ITF Headquarters.

12.2. Promotes ITF activities through the media, ensuring accuracy and consistency.

12.3. Monitors third-party use of ITF symbols and reports violations.

12.4. Manages relations with press and international organisations with Presidential approval.

Article 13. Statute & Ethic Committee

13.1. Reviews and updates ITF constitutional and regulatory texts.

13.2. Investigates infringements, disputes, and disciplinary matters, reporting findings to the EB.

13.3. Imposes disciplinary sanctions within its authority and may recommend suspension or expulsion for EB or Congress approval.

13.4. Provides guidance on the application of ITF rules and regulations.

Article 14. Medical Committee

14.1. Develops ITF medical policy and ensures implementation at ITF events.

14.2. Evaluates medical services at competitions and supports National Associations in establishing medical structures.

14.3. Promotes education in sports medicine relevant to Taekwon-Do.

14.4. Recommends sanctions for violations of medical rules.

14.5. Membership includes qualified sports medicine experts.

14.6. Every National Association shall establish a Medical Committee.

Article 15. Anti-Doping Committee

15.1. Oversees compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code and international standards.

15.2. Develops and updates the ITF Anti-Doping Policy.

15.3. Manages testing strategies in cooperation with WADA and NADOs.

15.4. Provides education programs on anti-doping.

15.5. Supports organisers in conducting doping controls.

15.6. Recommends sanctions for violations of anti-doping rules.

15.7. Every National Association shall establish an Anti-Doping Committee.

Article 16. Finance & Marketing Committee

16.1. Advises the Treasurer on ITF financial policy and promotes transparency.

16.2. Identifies income sources including advertising, broadcasting, sponsorships, and merchandising.

16.3. Represents the ITF in commercial negotiations with EB and Presidential approval.

16.4. Reviews and signs financial contracts in line with ITF procedures.

16.5. Protects ITF intellectual property and brand rights.

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Article 17. Pro-League Committee

- 17.1. Develops and maintains Pro-League tournament rules distinct from standard ITF rules.
- 17.2. Oversees competitor selection and umpire appointments for Pro-League events.
- 17.3. Seeks sponsorship and financial support for Pro-League activities.
- 17.4. May conclude contracts for Pro-League events with prior Presidential and EB approval; financial contracts require Finance & Marketing countersignature.

Article 18. Athletes Committee

- 18.1. Protects and promotes the rights and interests of athletes.
- 18.2. Encourages athlete involvement in development of ITF techniques and policies.
- 18.3. Organises athlete-focused competitions, seminars, and educational programs.
- 18.4. Promotes solidarity and social service through Taekwon-Do.
- 18.5. Supports athletes in continuing Taekwon-Do activity and serving as role models.

Chapter 11 – World Level Events

Article 1. Definition

- 1.1. The ITF recognises two types of World Level Events: the Taekwon-Do World Championships and the World Cup Taekwon-Do Games (World Cup). These events gather elite practitioners worldwide and are the ultimate expression of Taekwon-Do competition. Both are the exclusive property of the ITF.
- 1.2. The Taekwon-Do World Championships are reserved for National Teams officially recognised by their National Associations. Competitions are held between individual athletes and teams representing National Associations, but not between countries as political entities.
- 1.3. The World Cup Taekwon-Do Games are open to clubs and schools worldwide. Competitions are held between individual athletes and club teams, ensuring wide participation beyond National Teams.

Article 2. Frequency

- 2.1. The Taekwon-Do World Championships take place every two years.
- 2.2. The World Cup Taekwon-Do Games are held in the interim years.

Article 3. Hosting

- 3.1. The honour of hosting World Level Events is entrusted by the ITF Congress to a National Association (NGB).

Article 4. Election of Host Venue

- 4.1. A National Association applying to host must submit a written application to ITF Headquarters within the designated period, accompanied by a supporting letter from the relevant governmental authority.
- 4.2. Once accepted, the Secretary General shall examine the documents and, if satisfactory, present them to the Executive Board, which in turn refers them to Congress.

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4.3. The host city should, in principle, be determined at Congress four (4) years before the scheduled event, and not less than two (2) years in advance.

Article 5. Agreement

5.1. Once the host venue is determined by Congress, an agreement is signed between the host National Association and the ITF.

Article 6. Organising Committee

6.1. The host National Association shall establish an Organising Committee immediately after the venue is approved.

6.2. The Organising Committee shall be responsible for planning, logistics, marketing, and compliance with ITF regulations.

6.3. The composition, mission, and role of the Organising Committee shall be governed by ITF guidelines and subject to Executive Board supervision.

Article 7. Invitation and Regulations

7.1. The official invitation to World Level Events, as well as their organising and technical rules, shall be issued by ITF Headquarters in accordance with this Constitution and relevant ITF rules.

Article 8. Legal Basis and Safety

8.1. All World Level Events shall be governed by ITF rules and regulations.

8.2. The safety of participants shall be ensured by compliance with ITF Medical Guidelines and the oversight of the ITF Medical Committee.

Chapter 12 – International Seminars & Courses

Article 1. Purpose

1.1. The ITF organises and conducts International Seminars and Courses to preserve and promote the authentic techniques and theories created by General Choi Hong Hi, the Founder of Taekwon-Do, and to ensure that practitioners worldwide train and acquire the same standards of Taekwon-Do.

Article 2. Types of Courses

2.1. **International Technical Seminars (ITS):** Three-day training programs for 1st Dan and above, covering fundamental movements, ITF patterns, sparring, self-defence, and theory. Attendance may shorten time requirements for promotion.

2.2. **International Instructor Courses (IIC):** Three-day training programs for 3rd Dan and above, focusing on Taekwon-Do history, philosophy, pedagogy, educational theory, and qualification testing. Attendance may shorten Dan promotion requirements. Regular participation is mandatory for maintenance of instructor status.

2.3. **International Umpire Courses (IUC):** Training for 4th Dan and above on umpire rules, theory, and practice. Attendance may shorten Dan promotion requirements. Regular participation is mandatory to maintain umpire qualification.

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Article 3. Curriculum

- 3.1. The curriculum for International Seminars and Courses shall be determined by the Technical & Education Committee and the Umpire Committee.
- 3.2. Implementation of curricula must be approved by the Executive Board.

Article 4. Obligations of Conductors

- 4.1. Conductors must preserve the authenticity of Taekwon-Do, emphasise spiritual education, maintain teaching quality, and submit reports to ITF Headquarters.
- 4.2. Conductors shall disseminate updated techniques and theories and train instructors and umpires in accordance with ITF standards.
- 4.3. International Course Conductors shall be appointed by ITF Headquarters.

Article 5. Conduct Rules for Course Conductors

- 5.1. Conduct courses only within their assigned classification and authorised regions.
- 5.2. Follow official schedules without unauthorised changes.
- 5.3. Attend ITF-organised conductor training when required.
- 5.4. Combine theory and practice with emphasis on spiritual education.
- 5.5. Examine candidates strictly and fairly.
- 5.6. Submit course plans to ITF Headquarters at least twenty-one (21) days before commencement.
- 5.7. Ensure all participants are registered through the ITF Database; unrecorded participation shall not be recognised.
- 5.8. Prevent and report unauthorised international courses.
- 5.9. Accept disqualification if rules are breached.

Chapter 13 – International Instructors and Umpires

Article 1. International Instructors

- 1.1. International Instructors are 4th Dan and above who have been qualified as International Instructors by the ITF and duly recorded in the ITF Database.
- 1.2. Only International Instructors may open Dojangs, teach ITF Taekwon-Do, and conduct promotion tests.
- 1.3. International Instructors shall regard it as their honourable obligation to visit the homeland of Taekwon-Do to pay reverence at the tomb of General Choi Hong Hi, the Founder of Taekwon-Do.
- 1.4. International Instructors may examine students for promotion only up to half of their own Dan rank:
 - 1.4.1. 4th–5th Dan may test up to 2nd Dan.
 - 1.4.2. 6th Dan may test up to 3rd Dan.
 - 1.4.3. 7th Dan may test up to 4th Dan.
 - 1.4.4. 8th–9th Dan may test up to 6th Dan.

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1.5. International Instructors must regularly participate in International Instructor Courses and refresher courses endorsed by the ITF. Failure to do so shall result in suspension of their rights and duties as International Instructors.

Article 2. Umpires

2.1. Classification:

2.1.1. **Umpire A (International):** Must be 4th Dan or higher, qualified by the ITF through successful completion of an International Umpire Course (IUC), accredited with significant officiating experience, and recorded in the ITF Database. Umpire A may officiate at international matches in any country when appointed by the ITF.

2.1.2. **Umpire B (National):** Must be 2nd Dan or higher, qualified and certified by ITF through their parent National Association, and duly recorded in the ITF Database. Umpire B may officiate at national matches under their National Association's authority.

2.2. Responsibilities:

2.2.1. Umpires shall officiate matches with fairness, impartiality, and in strict accordance with ITF Tournament and Umpire Rules.

2.2.2. Umpire A shall serve as Judges or Referees at international events, including Continental and World Championships, World Cups, and ITF-sanctioned tournaments.

2.2.3. Umpire B shall officiate at national tournaments under their National Association.

2.3. Obligations:

2.3.1. Umpires must regularly participate in International Umpire Courses and refresher courses endorsed by the ITF. Failure to do so shall result in suspension of their right to officiate at ITF-sanctioned events.

2.3.2. Umpires must decline assignments if a conflict of interest exists.

2.3.3. Umpires shall uphold the Tenets of Taekwon-Do and conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism, safeguarding the dignity of the ITF.

Chapter 14 – Arbitration

Article 1. Jurisdiction

1.1. Any incident or dispute beyond the competence of the Statute & Ethic Committee shall be referred to the Court of Arbitration established within the ITF.

Article 2. Composition

2.1. The Court of Arbitration is chaired by the Chairperson of the Statute & Ethic Committee.

2.2. It consists of judges appointed by the Congress, one from each continent, serving indefinite terms unless dismissed by the Congress.

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2.3. Judges must be lawyers or persons with recognised legal experience and shall not be members of the Executive Board or any other ITF Committee.

Article 3. Procedure

- 3.1. Once an action is filed, a Panel of three (3) shall be formed within seven (7) days, comprising the Chairperson and two judges.
- 3.2. The Panel shall request submission of relevant documents in English within thirty (30) days.
- 3.3. Hearings shall take place within two (2) months of receiving documents.
- 3.4. The two ordinary judges shall not be from the continent directly involved in the dispute.

Article 4. Hearings

- 4.1. Proceedings shall include plaintiff and defendant parties, each with up to five (5) representatives, including interpreters and witnesses.
- 4.2. The language of proceedings shall be English.
- 4.3. The venue shall always be the city of the ITF Headquarters.
- 4.4. The losing party shall bear all expenses, including venue costs and the travel and accommodation of the Panel and the winning party.

Article 5. Decisions

- 5.1. The Court of Arbitration shall render decisions with fairness and impartiality.
- 5.2. Decisions shall be issued in writing, delivered to the parties, and reported immediately to the ITF President and Headquarters.

Article 6. Finality

- 6.1. Decisions of the Court of Arbitration are final within the ITF.

Chapter 15 – Media and Broadcasting Rights

Article 1. Ownership

1.1. All television, radio, film, internet streaming, advertising, merchandising, and other commercial rights connected with ITF international events, Championships, and official functions belong exclusively to the ITF, whether organised directly by the ITF or by Continental Federations under ITF authority.

Article 2. Organising Committee Rights

- 2.1. The Organising Committee of any ITF event may exercise delegated rights only by written agreement with the ITF.
- 2.2. The Organising Committee must cooperate fully with the ITF and may not dispose of any rights without ITF approval.
- 2.3. Negotiations with third parties must be conducted jointly by the ITF and the Organising Committee as one party.

Article 3. Representation and Negotiations

- 3.1. The Finance & Marketing Committee represents the ITF in negotiations for

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broadcasting and commercial rights.

3.2. With approval of the ITF President and Executive Board, the Finance & Marketing Committee may enter into agreements and sign contracts on behalf of the ITF.

3.3. The ITF President may also sign such contracts personally, upon recommendation of the Finance & Marketing Committee and with Executive Board approval.

Article 4. Application of Revenues

4.1. Revenues from broadcasting, advertising, merchandising, and other commercial rights shall be used solely to support the non-profit purposes of the ITF as set out in this Constitution.

4.2. All revenues shall be recorded, managed, and disbursed in compliance with Austrian non-profit tax law and accounting standards.

Chapter 16 – Website, Social Media, and Digital Platforms

Article 1. ITF Website

1.1. The official ITF Website shall be managed by ITF Headquarters in cooperation with the Public Relations Committee.

1.2. General information, news, announcements, and all materials expressing the position or policy of the ITF shall be published only with approval of the ITF President.

1.3. The ITF Website is the authoritative online source of ITF rules, regulations, and official communications.

Article 2. Social Media

2.1. All official ITF social media accounts shall be administered by ITF Headquarters in cooperation with the Public Relations Committee, under the authority of the ITF President.

2.2. Content on ITF social media must reflect the integrity, neutrality, and policies of the ITF. No personal opinions may be expressed through official ITF channels.

2.3. Continental Federations, National Associations, and Organising Committees may operate their own social media platforms but must respect ITF intellectual property and refrain from communications contradicting ITF policy.

Article 3. ITF Digital Media Platforms

3.1. The ITF YouTube Channel and ITF TV are official media platforms of the ITF.

3.2. These platforms shall be used to promote Taekwon-Do, broadcast ITF events, distribute educational materials, and showcase ITF history and philosophy.

3.3. All official ITF events at Continental and World level must be streamed exclusively through ITF.TV.

3.4. Content for ITF digital platforms shall be coordinated by the Public Relations Committee, approved by ITF Headquarters, and authorised by the ITF President.

3.5. Revenues generated through ITF digital platforms belong exclusively to the ITF and must be applied in line with ITF's non-profit purposes.

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Article 4. Intellectual Property and Compliance

4.1. ITF marks and insignia—including the Logo, Recognition Plaque, Pine Tree, Hymn, certificates, and other protected elements—may not be used on websites, social media, or digital platforms without ITF approval.

4.2. All digital content must comply with international copyright law, the ITF Brandbook, and ITF data protection policies.

4.3. The Public Relations Committee shall monitor compliance with ITF communication standards and report to ITF Headquarters.

Chapter 17 – ITF Legal Counsel

Article 1. Appointment

1.1. The ITF shall appoint one or more lawyers (Rechtsanwälte) as required.

1.2. At least one lawyer must be qualified to practice law in the Republic of Austria, where the ITF Headquarters is situated, to ensure compliance with Austrian law and to represent the ITF before Austrian authorities and courts.

1.3. Additional lawyers may be appointed in other jurisdictions, including the country where a Congress or major event is held, to provide local legal support.

1.4. Appointment and dismissal of lawyers shall be decided by ITF Headquarters.

Article 2. Duties

2.1. The primary duty of ITF legal counsel is to ensure the legality of ITF activities under Austrian law, particularly association law (Vereinsgesetz 2002), civil law, labour law, and tax law.

2.2. Legal counsel shall:

(a) Safeguard the legal status of the ITF in Austria, including registration and reporting obligations.

(b) Ensure compliance of the ITF Constitution, regulations, and decisions with Austrian law.

(c) Advise on contracts, agreements, and international obligations.

(d) Provide guidance on financial, tax, and non-profit compliance under Austrian law.

2.3. In the event of a legal dispute, including court proceedings, arbitration, or administrative actions, ITF legal counsel shall represent the ITF under the authority of the ITF President and Headquarters.

Article 3. Reporting

3.1. ITF lawyers shall act in accordance with Austrian professional legal standards.

3.2. They shall report to ITF Headquarters on legal matters and provide written opinions when requested.

3.3. All opinions, advice, and contracts prepared by legal counsel shall be archived by ITF Headquarters.

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Chapter 18 – Dissolution of ITF

Article 1. Decision and Liquidation

1.1. The ITF may be dissolved by decision of the Congress with a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the votes cast, or by final administrative order issued by a competent Austrian authority.

1.2. Upon dissolution—or if the tax-privileged purposes of the ITF cease—the Congress shall appoint one or more liquidators. If none are appointed, the President shall automatically serve as liquidator. The rights and duties of the liquidator(s) follow the Austrian Vereinsgesetz 2002.

1.3. No distribution of assets to members shall take place. Members may in no case derive benefits from the assets of the ITF. Upon their withdrawal or upon dissolution, members may receive at most their paid-in capital contributions and the fair market value of any contributions in kind made by them; any further claims are excluded.

1.4. After satisfaction of all creditors, the remaining assets of the ITF must be used exclusively and directly for tax-privileged purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 ff BAO, in particular for the promotion of physical sport (Körpersport) through Taekwon-Do, including training, youth and grassroots development, health promotion, safeguarding, fair play, and integrity in sport. This dedication is irrevocable, including where the tax-privileged purposes cease.

1.5. For this purpose, the assets shall be transferred to a body under public law or another tax-privileged legal entity (association, foundation, or comparable asset pool) with its registered office in Austria or in another EU/EEA Member State that fulfils the requirements of §§ 34–47 BAO, which must use the assets exclusively for the purposes set out in Article 1.4. The specific recipient shall be determined by the Congress in the dissolution resolution; if not possible, the liquidator(s) shall decide in accordance with these criteria.

1.6. Intellectual property and other intangible rights of the ITF (including names, emblems, trademarks, certificates, publications, broadcasting and media rights) shall be included in the liquidation and transferred in accordance with Article 1.4.

1.7. The liquidator(s) shall document the purpose-bound transfer of assets and provide proof to the competent authority upon request.

Chapter 19 – Validity

Article 1. Entry into Force

1.1. This Constitution enters into force upon approval by the competent Austrian authority in accordance with §§ 11–13 of the Vereinsgesetz 2002.

1.2. For ITF Headquarters located in Vienna, the competent authority is the Federal Police

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Headquarters, Vienna, Office for Society, Assembly and Media-Law Matters
(Landespolizeidirektion Wien, Referat Vereins-, Versammlungs- und
Medienrechtsangelegenheiten).

1.3. In case of conflict or doubt, Austrian law, in particular the Vereinsgesetz 2002 and the Bundesabgabenordnung (BAO) governing non-profit associations, shall prevail.