



WORLD RAFTING FEDERATION (WRF)

STATUTES 2018

I. BASIS

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

1. The World Rafting Federation (WRF) is the world governing body for all aspect of Sport Rafting, especially international competitions Rafting, leisure and recreational Rafting, expedition Rafting, all others disciplines directly connected to Rafting and Rafting as sport for all.
2. The WRF is the final authority for all matters concerning competition Rafting and licensing of WRF River Guides.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

1. The principal purposes of WRF are the direction, regulation, promotion, development and furtherance of the sport of competition Rafting on a world-wide basis.
2. The WRF fosters links, networks, and friendly relations among its members, their rafters and officials.
3. All activities of the WRF are independent of any political or governmental influence.
4. The WRF does not allow any discrimination for political, racial or religious reasons.
5. The WRF promotes and supports with all means gender equality in its activities.

Bye-law to Article 2

The WRF also looks after all other matters concerning the sport of rafting as they arise and affect competition rafting.

ARTICLE 3 - REGISTERED OFFICE, HEADQUARTERS AND PERIOD

1. The WRF is a non-governmental international association with a non-profit-making purpose of international interest.
2. The WRF has its legal seat in Viale Tiziano, 70, 00196, Rome - Italy. The WRF undertakes to obtain legal personality pursuant to Art. 14 ff. of the Italian Civil Code. The WRF is established for an indefinite period.
3. The headquarters and the secretariat of the WRF may be located in a country other than Italy, upon the decision of the Executive Board.
4. National member federations shall recognize the Court of Arbitration for Sport and ensure that the latter's decisions are legally binding for national member federations, clubs, leagues, players, managers, officials and agents.

ARTICLE 4 - LANGUAGE

1. The official language of the WRF is English.

ARTICLE 5 - OBJECTIVES

1. The WRF is in particular responsible for and undertakes:
 - a) to encourage, promote, develop and supervise rafting competitions worldwide;
 - b) to promote the spirit of the Olympic Movement, respect the Olympic Charter, and to seek program status in the Olympic Games;
 - c) to affiliate to General Association of International Sports Federation (GAISF);

- d) to fight against doping and all other processes and procedures that might undermine sporting equality; to implement Anti-doping Rules in accordance with the World Anti-doping Code;
- e) to promote good sporting practice;
- f) to generally promote this sport as a healthy and educational activity for youth;
- g) to establish and maintain rules for international rafting competitions and for the participation in such competitions;
- h) to monitor and enforce the application of those rules by the Continental Councils and the member federations;
- i) to organize World rafting Championship, World and Continental Cups, as well as other competitions, and to decide which international rafting competitions are officially recognized;
- j) to award licenses and contracts to WRF members and other organizations that seek authority to organize official international rafting competitions and associated activities;
- k) to establish training courses for all WRF officials in order to guarantee the highest possible standards for all WRF officials;
- l) to develop, manage and supervise the WRF rafting guide training program;
- m) to consider the protection of the environment when organizing and promoting its activities.

Bye-law to Article 5

1. Competitions Events

The WRF organizes the World Championship, the Youth World Championship, the World Cup, the International events, senior and youth, and the Continental Championship where a Continental Council is not in existence. The WRF is also responsible for the technical organization when competition rafting is participating in multi-sport events.

II) Calendar

The coordination of dates is mandatory and shall be achieved through recommendation of the Executive Board, in consultation with the Event Commission, for the vote of the Board of Directors.

III) Gender equality

The WRF is committed to gender equality at all levels within its competitions and management, allowing women to have the same opportunities as men.

WRF-approved competitions shall guarantee a balanced participation for Men and Women in all disciplines, including equality in prizes and prize money.

II. MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, CONTINENTAL MEMBERS, DEVELOPING CONTINENTAL MEMBERS, OBSERVER MEMBERS

1. Membership in the WRF is open to associations being actively involved in sport rafting. All categories of members as defined in this article are members of the WRF, regardless of the category of membership and subject to WRF Statutes and bye-laws.

2. MEMBERS

1. Members of the WRF will be Associations which act as the national representatives of the

sport of competition rafting in their countries and are recognized by the National Olympic Committee and/or the National Sport Authority.

- a. Only one association from each country can be affiliated as a full member of the WRF.
 - b. The admission fee for members is fixed by the Plenary Assembly of WRF.
2. Members have full voting rights and rights for their athletes to compete in all rafting competitions organized by the WRF.

3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Associate members of the WRF may be admitted under special circumstances. The WRF may accept associations from countries where no WRF member exists as Associate members.
 - a. Associate members are entitled to participate in all rafting competitions organized by the WRF, according to the relevant regulations and fee system.
 - b. Associate members are entitled to organize Continental events.
 - c. Associate members annual fees are fixed by the Plenary Assembly.
 - d. Associate members are entitled to vote in their relevant Continental Council.

4. CONTINENTAL MEMBERS

1. Continental members of the WRF may be admitted under special circumstances. The WRF may accept associations from countries where no WRF member exists.
 - a. Continental members are entitled to participate in all rafting competitions organized by their relevant Continental Council, according to the relevant regulations and fee system.
 - b. Continental members are entitled to organize Continental events.
 - c. Continental members are entitled to vote in their relevant Continental Council.
 - d. Continental members annual fees are fixed by the Plenary Assembly of their relevant Continental Council; the minimum amount of the annual fees is fixed by the WRF Plenary Assembly.

5. DEVELOPING CONTINENTAL MEMBERS

1. Developing continental member are under the guidance, patronage and representation of a member federation. Their athletes can participate in rafting competition organized by WRF.

6. OBSERVER MEMBERS

1. Observer members of the WRF will be Associations who are affiliated with sport rafting or associations in countries where an WRF member already exists. These organizations may be admitted by the Plenary.
 - a. Observer member admission fee is fixed by the Plenary Assembly.
 - b. Observer member are entitled to organize WRF approved events, provided they are approved by the relevant WRF national Member.
 - c. Observer member are also entitled to propose members for all WRF Commissions, provided they are approved by the relevant WRF national Member.

Bye-law to Article 6

Membership Procedure and Criteria

I) Eligibility

Membership of WRF is open to national rafting organizations or any other organizations representing rafting and competitions in that country. In addition, the organization must:

1. be organized with statutes and other regulations in compliance with WRF Statutes, rules and regulations;
2. be open to participation without regards to race, color, religion, national origin, gender;
3. be controlled by its members according to democratic principles.

In countries where a National Federation is under Constitution, and with the approval of the National Olympic Committee and/or the National Sport Authority, or there is not a WRF Member, the Executive Board might consider those countries as Associate Member, allowing their competitors to participate in competitions organized by the WRF. Developing Continental Members are under the guidance, the patronage and the representation of a Member Federation, with regards to the Athletes International License and registration to events.

The relevant National Federation is also responsible for the creation and development of the Federation in the country, within a timeframe set by the WRF Executive Board.

The Statues of Developing Continental Membership is intended to be for a limited time period.

II) Application process

Membership applications should be made through the Secretary-General or through the WRF office.

Applications should include the following:

Compulsory

- information about the applicant - name, address, email, website, key contacts;
- copy of the body's constitution or by-laws;
- statement of number of active members;
- latest annual financial accounts;
- latest annual report of activities of the organization;
- brief history of the organization;
- statement of the legal status of the organization (eg incorporation, non-profit, etc.);
- a formal undertaking to observe and abide by the statutes, rules and regulations of the WRF.

Preferred

- organization website;
- evidence of national championships or other major competitive events held;
- evidence of participation of teams in international competition;
- reference from at least 1 existing member of WRF;
- reference from a governmental agency.

III) Approval process

Membership applications will be formally approved by the WRF Executive Board, or the applicant will be informed of what they need to do to gain the Executive Board's approval.

ARTICLE 7 - ADMISSION CRITERIA

1. Applicant Associations for membership shall send to the WRF Office all required information in the official language and in the format required by the Executive Board as required by the relevant by laws.

ARTICLE 8 - OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

1. Except for Observers Members, all categories of members as defined in Article 6 should be member of their National Olympic Committee or actively seeking such membership.
2. All categories of members as defined in Article 6 shall comply with the Statutes and Regulations of the WRF and with any resolutions adopted by the WRF. They will undertake to request the same of the individual members participating in activities of the WRF.
3. All categories of members as defined in Article 6 agree to respect each other's mutual autonomy and shall in no way harm the development of other members.
4. All categories of members as defined in Article 6 pay membership fee as fixed by the Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 9 - INTERRUPTION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member wishing to terminate membership at the end of the year shall inform the WRF Office in writing before the end of June of that year. The fee for the current year remains payable in full.

ARTICLE 10 - ILLEGAL AND IRREGULAR BETTING

1. All forms of participation in, or support for illegal and irregular betting and gambling are prohibited. Any infringement of this prohibition will result in disciplinary actions by the WRF Disciplinary Commission.

Bye-law to Article 10

Illegal and irregular betting

- a) This bye-law explains Article 10 of the WRF Statutes, which prohibits illegal and irregular betting and gambling;
- b) Betting or gambling in respect of any WRF competition and any involvement in such betting or gambling is irregular and is prohibited. Involvement includes helping others bet or gamble, such as by passing on information;
- c) This rule applies to anyone involved with an WRF competition or the WRF, including athletes, team members, coaches, representatives of national federations, organizers and WRF officials. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not prohibit betting or gambling by spectators (provide they are not involved with the WRF or the WRF competition in any other way);
- d) Any breach of this rule is a disciplinary offense.

ARTICLE 11 - SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER

1. A member may be suspended from membership and/or from participating in WRF approved International Rafting Competitions by the Plenary Assembly for the following reasons:
 - a) non-payment of any liabilities to the WRF;
 - b) failure to comply with these Statutes or other Regulations of the WRF.

2. This decision requires at least half of the members of the WRF having the right to vote be present. To be adopted, such item must receive the approval of the majority of votes cast.

ARTICLE 12 - EXCLUSION OF A MEMBER

1. A member may be excluded from the WRF by the Plenary Assembly for failure to comply with these Statutes or other regulations of the WRF.
2. This decision requires at least half of members of WRF having the right to vote be present. To be adopted, such items must receive the approval of two thirds of the votes cast.

ARTICLE 13 - HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER AWARDS

1. The Plenary Assembly may confer the title of Honorary President of the WRF: as well as conferring the title of Honorary Member. Other awards may be conferred by the Executive Board.

Bye-law to Article 13

WRF Honorary presidency and other awards

I) Foreword

To honor the extraordinary work and support for the WRF and its development, an individual may be awarded by a special recognition.

II) Awards

The following awards can recognize extraordinary work and support:

- WRF Honorary presidency
- WRF Honorary membership

III) Honorary presidency

1. The WRF Honorary presidency can be awarded to persons who were president of WRF and who earned great merits in they work and engagement in the WRF.
2. The WRF Honorary President is not to be considered an WRF Executive Board Member.
3. Upon the request of the WRF President, he/she may participate in the works of the WRF bodies without any voting power and occasionally represent the WRF.
4. The WRF Honorary President is allowed to participate in the WRF Plenary Assembly. Travel expenses and accommodation (hotel and meals) are to borne by the WRF.
5. The decision about Honorary presidency belongs to the Plenary Assembly.

IV) Honorary membership

1. The Honorary membership can be awarded to persons who did great work in the WRF bodies or earned great merits through their general engagement for the WRF development.
2. The Honorary membership is not connected with the membership in a WRF Member Federation. Honorary members are allowed to take part in the WRF Plenary Assembly. The accommodation (hotel and meals) costs may be borne by the WRF upon the decision of the WRF Plenary Assembly.
3. The decision about Honorary membership belongs to the WRF Plenary Assembly.
4. An honorary Member in not entitled to stand for election in any WRF body.

5. An honorary Member cannot act on behalf the WRF or represent the WRF, unless he receives an official mandate from the WRF President or from the WRF Board.
6. An Honorary member will not act in opposition or damage for the WRF, in particular against the members of the Executive Board.
7. If the Honorary Member's behavior is detrimental for the WRF, the case will be reported to the Disciplinary Commission of the WRF, which might propose the dismissal of the Honorary membership.
8. An Honorary Member cannot communicate for the WRF or use the WRF logo without an official authorization of the WRF President or the WRF Board.

V) Service award

The Service award can be awarded to an individual or organization that are not members of the WRF but have contributed to WRF success and growth. Their contribution could be in the way of a donation of time or money or in some other way contribute to the success of the WRF.

VI) Procedure

1. Nomination for the Candidature for a new Honorary Member can be made by any full member of the WRF and supported by two other full members.
2. Each nomination must be submitted with a comprehensive description of merits and works as well as an explanation as to why the candidate deserves honorary membership. It will be the responsibility of the member(s) submitting the nomination to provide all pertinent data in support of the nomination.
3. The WRF President will form as Chairman, a temporary Honors Committee to evaluate the nomination(s) consisting of: two WRF Board members and two Honorary members.
4. The Honors Committee will evaluate the nomination and make a proposal for the WRF Plenary Assembly. The Honors committee may by majority vote:
 - a) decide not to recommend the award, in which case no further action is taken or
 - b) seek additional information from the nominator, in which case the nomination is held over further consideration or
 - c) recommend the award.
5. The application is subject to the approval of the Federation from which the candidate belongs to.
6. Until this point, the nominations are strictly confidential. Only the names of those who are recommended will be disclosed.
7. The recommendation must be presented at least 4 weeks before the Plenary Assembly and available on the website.
8. The application must be in written form and sent at least 3 months before the Plenary Assembly by email to the office and the WRF President.
9. An affirmative vote of simply majority of the Plenary Assembly shall be required for Honorary Membership.
10. The awards are presented by the WRF President or an Executive Board member. The awarding of Honorary presidency or membership is done in occasion of the WRF Plenary Assembly.

VII) Withdrawal of awards

1. Honorary awards may be withdrawn if:
 - a) the awarded person behavior is detrimental for the WRF;

- b) the awarded person is legally excluded from his/her National Federation, member of the WRF.
2. The withdrawal is in the power of WRF Plenary Assembly, upon the proposal of the WRF Disciplinary Commission.
3. The withdrawal has to be announced to the awarded person and the applicant of the awarding.

III. BODIES

ARTICLE 14 - BODIES

1. The WRF functions through ten bodies, each with separately defined powers and duties:
 - Plenary Assembly
 - Board of Directors
 - Executive Board
 - Continental Councils
 - Sport Department
 - Commissions
 - Anti-doping, Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions
 - Athletes' Commission
 - Technicians' Commission
 - Para-rafting Commission

ARTICLE 15 - PLENARY ASSEMBLY

1. The Plenary Assembly is the highest body of the WRF and has ultimate authority for all activities of the WRF.
2. Organization of the Plenary Assembly shall be entrusted alternately to one of its member.
3. There will be an ordinary Plenary Assembly every four years in the year of the Olympic Games for all elected positions to the WRF.
4. The calling notice must be sent to all members at least 2 months prior to date set for the Assembly.

ARTICLE 16 - POWERS OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

1. The Plenary Assembly has the following duties and powers:
 - a) to elect the members of Executive Board;
 - b) to give the discharge to members of the Executive Board, individually or collectively;
 - c) to appoint the Auditor;
 - d) to fix admission, membership and other fees;
 - e) to approve plans for future activities;
 - f) to adopt and amend these Statutes, such decisions needing a quorum and majority as described in Art. 19;
 - g) to decide the suspension or expulsion of member which do not comply with the obligations as stated in these Statutes;
 - h) to approve the Minutes of meetings;
 - i) to receive, discuss and approve the report of the Executive Board;
 - j) to hear the report of the auditors;

- k) to approve the WRF logo, and other items of image and identity, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board or of the Board of Directors;
- l) to decide all matters which no other body is competent to decide or which other bodies refer to the Plenary Assembly for final decision.

ARTICLE 17 - VOTING RIGHTS

1. Each Member of the WRF as defined in Article 6.2 has one vote. The other categories of members as defined in Article 6 has no voting right.
2. At any Plenary Assembly, each Member shall be represented by one delegate who may be assisted by one or two advisors.
3. Every national Member shall be represented in the Plenary Assembly by its President. In case the President of a national Member is unable to attend, the Vice-President or any other representative will act as substitute, if duly delegated.
4. A Member which has not paid its dues in full prior to the Plenary Assembly is not entitled to vote.
5. The Associate Members are entitled to participate without voting rights.

ARTICLE 18 - COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. The appointment and the composition of the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials shall be responsibility of the Executive Board.
2. Members of the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials shall not be the Members of the Board of Directors and the candidates for an office in the same Board of Directors.
3. In cases covered by Statute of Plenary Assembly convened to elect lapsed Bodies the appointment and the composition of the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials shall be responsibility of the responsible body to call it.
4. If any dispute arises regarding the validity of the representation in the Assembly, the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials writes up a report. That report shall be signed by the person concerned, referring the matter to the vote of the Assembly.
5. At the opening of the Assembly convened to elect lapsed Bodies, the Assembly shall appoint a President to ensure its correct operations; in no case the President shall be a Member of the Board of Directors or a candidate for an office in the same Board of Directors.
6. The Committee responsible for verification of the ballot is appointed by the Plenary Assembly upon proposal of the President of the same Plenary Assembly; the members of the Committee responsible for verification of the ballot shall not be the Members of the Board of Directors, neither the candidates for an office in the same Board of Directors. The Members of the Committee responsible for verification of the ballot can be the same of the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials.
7. If any dispute arises regarding the validity of the conduct of the Assembly, the Committee responsible for verification of the ballot shall fix it. The Committee may refer the matter to the vote of the Assembly.
8. On completion of the work records a Minutes including:
 - a) the total number of the members entitled to vote;
 - b) the total number of the members entitled to vote present in Assembly;
 - c) the total number of the disputes arisen.

ARTICLE 19 - QUORUM

1. Changes and amendments of these Statutes may only be considered if at least half of the WRF Members having the right to vote are present. To be adopted, such items must receive the approval of two thirds of the votes cast.
2. For all other decisions of the Plenary Assembly there is no quorum. Decisions are taken with the majority of votes cast.

ARTICLE 20 - TAKING DECISIONS

1. Voting at the Plenary Assembly is conducted by show of hands. Upon the request of any delegate entitled to vote, supported by at least one other delegate, any vote must be taken by secret written ballot.
2. Elections shall always be decided by secret written ballot.

ARTICLE 21 - AGENDA AND RIGHT TO INTRODUCE PROPOSAL

1. Items for inclusion in the Agenda of any Plenary Assembly may be presented by:
 - a) the Executive Board;
 - b) the Board of Directors;
 - c) any Member.
2. The provisional Agenda with short explanation of the topics shall be distributed 50 days before the date of the Plenary Assembly. Items presented by WRF Members are to be sent to WRF Executive Board at least 40 days before the Plenary Assembly. The full Agenda with all documents has to be sent to all members at least 15 days before the Plenary Assembly.
3. Associate Members, Continental Members, Developing Continental Members and Observer Members are entitled to speak, but not to present motions to the Plenary Assembly, in accordance to the relevant regulations.
4. The Agenda shall include the list of the members entitled to vote.
5. If a Member concerned, not included in the list of the members entitled to vote, however considers to be entitled to vote shall make a written reasoned complaint to the Board of Directors at least 20 days before the Assembly.
6. The Secretary General shall verify as soon as possible the status of the Member concerned and, if the complaint before the Board of Directors is successful, shall notify the Member concerned about it. The Board of Director's decision must be substantiated.
7. The complaint shall be regarded as rejected if 10 days before the Assembly no communication is delivered to the Member concerned.

ARTICLE 22 - ADDITION OF ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

1. Upon affirmative vote of no less 2/3 of the Members being present and having voting rights, the Plenary Assembly itself may add items to the Agenda of any meeting.

ARTICLE 23 - EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY ASSEMBLY

1. The Executive Board or the Board of Directors may at any time call an extraordinary Assembly.
2. At the written request of the majority of the Members entitled to vote, the Executive Board or the Board of Directors shall convene an extraordinary Plenary Assembly within 3 months

of receipt of such request. The request must be substantiated and accompanied by a proposal for the Agenda.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 24 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMPOSITION

1. The WRF Board of Directors shall deal with all matters of broad WRF policy between Congresses.
2. The WRF Board of Directors is composed of the following persons:
 - WRF President
 - WRF First Vice President
 - WRF Second Vice President
 - WRF Treasurer
 - WRF Responsible for the Sport Department
 - One representative elected by the Athletes' Commission
 - One representative elected by the Technicians' Commission
 - Up to three (3) Members of the European Continent
 - Up to two (2) Members of the American Continent
 - Up to two (2) Members of the Asian Continent
 - One (1) Member of each of the Oceanic Continents
 - One (1) Member of each of the African Continents

ARTICLE 25 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ELECTION

1. The WRF President, the WRF First Vice President, the WRF Second Vice President and the WRF Treasurer are elected in accordance with the Article 30.
2. The Continental Members of the WRF Board of Directors are elected in accordance with the Article 39.
3. The Athletes' Commission elects a representative as member of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Article 40.
4. The Technicians' Commission elects a representative as member of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Article 41.
5. Everyone, who is interested, will submit only one application for each Plenary Assembly.

Bye-law to Article 25

Whoever intends to run for any of the elected positions, must present their formal candidature (specifying the exact position that he/she is running for) respecting terms and procedures described in the following paragraphs.

As by art. 25.4 of these Statutes, in no case the same person can run for two positions at the same time. If two contemporary candidatures are presented, the candidate will be automatically excluded by the ballot. The candidate has the right, if still within the terms, to present a new candidature, opting for one position.

Any candidature for the Board of Directors must be presented not later than 30 days before the scheduled Plenary Assembly or Continental Council. After this date, every candidature will be assessed in order to verify its compliance to the terms.

The candidature form is available for download from the WRF website. No other document, other

than the candidature form, shall be accepted as formal candidature. All candidatures must be presented by registered letter or email addressed to the WRF secretariat. Every candidate shall attach a formal statement declaring his/her compliance to the eligibility requirements outlined in the statutes. All candidatures missing the statement described above shall not be accepted.

All candidates intending to modify their candidature and to run for a different office from the one mentioned in the initial application shall do so by registered letter or email addressed to the WRF secretariat. Modifications shall only be accepted if respecting the terms and deadlines described above. After such deadline, only renouncement requests shall be considered.

ARTICLE 26 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS' DUTIES

1. The duties and power of the WRF Board of Directors shall be:
 - a) to take steps as may be necessary to achieve the objectives laid down in Article 5 of the Statutes;
 - b) to ensure the implementation of the decisions made by the Congress;
 - c) the WRF Board of Directors shall have the power to amend or change a decision of Congress provided that it fulfils the following criteria:
 - d) the WRF President has decided that the circumstances which prevailed at the time the decision was taken by Congress have changed to a material extent;
 - e) upon the proposal of WRF President, to appoint or dismiss the WRF Secretary General if deemed necessary following an appropriate review;
 - f) to examine the proposals received from National Federations for submission to the Congress and to take a position on those issues;
 - g) to review and approve the annual accounts after having heard the report of the auditors;
 - h) to approve the budget;
 - i) to examine the financial situation of the WRF and to submit a proposal for the annual Membership Fee to the Congress;
 - j) on recommendations of the Executive Board, to set up the calendar of WRF approved competitions and to coordinate schedules of Internationals and Continental competitions;
 - k) to adopt and amend all regulations: the Board of Directors can, however, authorize other bodies to independently establish technical rules where this seems appropriate;
 - l) to submit a proposal for the WRF Working Program to the Congress;
 - m) to appoint commissions or working groups as necessary;
 - n) to reach and sign collaboration agreements with other International Federations;
 - o) to appoint members to the Anti-doping, Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions.

ARTICLE 27 - VACANCIES

1. In the case of decease, resignation or suspension, the integration of the Board of Directors shall follow the non-elected persons' ranking list respectively for each category of member until the next ordinary or extraordinary Plenary Assembly.
2. If and when the WRF President is temporarily prevented from fulfilling the duties of office, the position shall be taken by the WRF First Vice President and if the latter is not available, by the WRF Second Vice President and if the latter is not available by the WRF Treasurer. If the latter is not available, the WRF Board of Directors shall appoint one of its Members to take the position of the WRF President.

ARTICLE 28 - CONVENING, QUORUM AND TAKING DECISIONS

1. The Board of Directors shall be chaired by the WRF President and decide validly only if a quorum of the majority of the Board of Directors⁹ Members are present. Decisions are taken with the majority of votes cast openly. The Continental Members, still not elected according to the Art. 39, shall not be included in the calculation of the quorum.
2. No voting rights may be exercised by proxy.
3. In case of a tie, the chair⁹s vote shall prevail.

Bye-law to Article 28

The Board of Directors shall be convened by the President or upon request of at least half of the members of the Board of Directors and the convening will be transmitted by the Secretary General not later than 30 days before.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

ARTICLE 29 - EXECUTIVE BOARD'S COMPOSITION

1. The Executive Board of WRF consists of the following officers:
 - WRF President
 - WRF First Vice President
 - WRF Second Vice President
 - WRF Treasurer
 - WRF Responsible for the Sport Department
 - The representative elected by the Athletes Commission
 - The representative elected by the Technicians⁹ Commission
 - The non-voting Secretary General.

ARTICLE 30 - ELECTION

1. Candidates standing for election to any post in the Executive Board shall be presented by the Member association of the country where he/she holds citizenship.
2. The members of the Executive Board are elected by the Plenary Assembly for a term of four years.
3. Executive Board members are re-eligible at will.

Bye-law to Article 30

Executive Board members

WRF Executive Board members are elected in a personal capacity, and not as representative of any member association and are to act independently from these.

Candidates to the Executive Board are required to declare any potential conflict of interest, in accordance with the IOC Code of Ethics.

No member of the Board shall also be representative of a member association in the Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 31 - FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

1. The Executive Board is responsible for implementing all the policy directives and decisions made by the Plenary Assembly. This includes in particular:
 - a) to prepare the agenda of the Plenary Assembly meetings;
 - b) to prepare the annual account (consisting of the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet);
 - c) to approve the Membership applications;
 - d) to make recommendations to the Plenary Assembly about:
 - 1) the long-term strategies of WRF;
 - 2) regulations and rules to be decided by the Plenary Assembly;
 - 3) the candidates to be appointed by the Plenary Assembly as members of Anti-doping, Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions;
 - 4) the expulsion of Member associations;
 - e) to make recommendations to the Board of Directors about:
 - f) regulations and rules to be decided by the Board of Directors;
 - g) to decide about the composition and function of the Sport Department, if that will be formed;
 - h) to decide the terms and conditions of contracts between the WRF and organizers of WRF approved competitions;
 - i) to recommend any proposed changes of the WRF Statutes;
 - j) to appoint and remove persons (employees) entrusted with the management of WRF's day-to-day operations;
 - k) to make recommendations on the terms and conditions of contract to be concluded with third parties outside WRF;
 - l) to decide on membership issues between Plenary Assembly meetings;
 - m) to decide the official means of information of the WRF;
 - n) to appoint an WRF delegate for WRF events as necessary;
 - o) to initiate and undertake negotiations with third parties.
2. All binding statements and contracts must be signed by the President and the General Secretary. In case of absence, WRF First Vice President or WRF Second Vice President may replace him only if they are in possession of a WRF President's proxy.
3. The Executive Board is responsible for the functioning of the administrative office of the WRF. All permanent employees are hired by the Executive Board and employed in accordance with the annual budget.

ARTICLE 32 - EXECUTIVE BOARD'S CONVENING

1. The Executive Board meets as often as necessary, but not less than twice every year. Board meetings may be held by attendance in person or via teleconference and/or conferencing.
2. The Board meetings are convened by the President or at the request of the majority of its members.

ARTICLE 33 - EXECUTIVE BOARD'S AGENDA

1. The Agenda for the Executive Board meetings is prepared by the WRF President, assisted by the Secretary General. However, any member of the Executive Board is entitled to present proposal for the agenda. Such proposal must be submitted, with relevant documentations, at least three weeks before the date set for any Executive Board meeting. The full agenda

shall be sent by the Secretary General to the Executive Board members at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

ARTICLE 34 - VOTING RIGHTS AND DECISION TAKING

1. Every member of the Executive Board has one vote. The Executive Board shall meet and decide validly only if a quorum of the majority of the Executive Board's Members are present.
2. No voting rights may be exercised by proxy.
3. In case of a tie, the chair's vote shall prevail.

ARTICLE 35 - THE PRESIDENT

1. The President chairs all meetings of the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. He represents the sport in all important matters, especially those pertaining to the international organization.
2. The President may, from time to time, delegate various aspects of WRF management to the other members of the Executive Board or of the Board of Directors.
3. The President, or a member designated by the President, is entitled to attend and participate in all Commission meetings, but without vote.
4. If the President is prevented from attending a meeting of the Executive Board or a Board of Directors or a Plenary Assembly, the WRF First Vice President, if the latter is not available, the WRF Second Vice President and if the latter is not available the WRF Treasurer, shall chair those meetings.
5. In case of death or disability of the President, the WRF First Vice President, if the latter is not available, by the WRF Second Vice President and if the latter is not available the WRF Treasurer, shall assume the President's duties until the next Plenary Assembly and convene an Extraordinary Plenary Assembly in order to elect appropriate replacements.

ARTICLE 36 - THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

1. It is incumbent upon the WRF First Vice Presidents and upon the WRF Second Vice President, elected in accordance with Article 30, to:
 - a) carry out the duties of President in accordance in cases covered by the WRF Statutes
 - b) fulfill the specific tasks allocated to them by the WRF President or WRF Executive Board or the WRF Board of Directors and to report on their activities to WRF President or WRF Executive Board or the WRF Board of Directors;
 - c) support the WRF President in carrying out its duties.

ARTICLE 37 - THE TREASURER

1. The WRF Treasurer, elected in accordance with Article 30, is directly responsible for all financial affairs of the WRF. It is incumbent upon the WRF Treasurer to:
 - a) pay attention to all financial matters of the WRF;
 - b) prepare in consultation with the WRF Executive Board the budget of the WRF for submission to the WRF Board of Directors and, upon request of Board of Directors or the Congress, to the same Congress;
 - c) see to it that the expenditure keeps within the limits laid down in the budget;
 - d) to keep the financial records of the WRF;

- e) prepare the accounts and to obtain the report of the auditors for presentation to the WRF Executive Board, the WRF Board of Directors and the Congress.

ARTICLE 38 - THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The WRF Secretary General directs the administrative work of the WRF according to his contract of employment.
2. The travel and accommodation expenses of the WRF Secretary General, in connection with the duties of office, are paid by the WRF.

ARTICLE 39 - CONTINENTAL COUNCILS

1. Continental Councils are responsible for the administration, development and furtherance of competition rafting in a specific continent or geographic area. The Continental Councils shall comply with and enforce the rules and regulations of the WRF and co-operate with WRF bodies. They organize continental championship and other competitions in their area.
2. The Continental Councils are:
 - Africa
 - Asia
 - Europe
 - Pan America
 - Oceania
3. The Statutes and Regulations of the Continental Councils must be submitted to the Executive Board for approval and will not come into effect until they have received such approval.
4. Assembly of the respective Continental Association shall elect the Continental Members of the WRF Board of Directors for a period of four (4) years. When such Continental Council does not exist, only the delegates of the respective continental shall elect the Continental Members to the WRF Board of Directors.
5. The Continental Members of the WRF Board of Directors must come from different countries.

Bye-law to Article 39

I) Statutes and Regulations

The Executive Board approval process will be limited to verify the compliance of the Continental Council Statutes and Regulations with the WRF Statutes, Bye-laws and Regulations.

II) Finances

Continental Councils activities are financed by Continental competition fees and a possible annual financial support, included in the budget of the WRF, approved by the Plenary Assembly. To be considered for inclusion in the budget, detailed development and activity plans shall be presented to the Executive Board two months prior to the Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 40 - ATHLETES' COMMISSION

1. The Athletes' Commission is created to provide permanent liaison between active Athletes and the Continental Council.

2. Each Continental Councils appoint up two active athletes as members of the Athletes⁹ Commission.
3. When such Continental Council does not exist, only the delegates of the respective continental Federations present at the last Plenary Assembly shall elect the Continental Members to the WRF Board of Directors.
4. One representative appointed by the Athletes⁹ Commission must be a member of the Continental Council Executive Board.

ARTICLE 41 - TECHNICIANS⁹ COMMISSION

1. The Technicians⁹ Commission is created to provide permanent liaison between active Technicians and the Continental Council.
2. Each Continental Councils appoint up two active technicians as members of the Technicians⁹ Commission.
3. When such Continental Council does not exist, only the delegates of the respective continental Federations present at the last Plenary Assembly shall elect the Continental Members to the WRF Board of Directors.
4. One representative appointed by the Technicians⁹ Commission must be a member of the Continental Council Executive Board.

ARTICLE 42 - SPORT DEPARTMENT

1. The Sport Department can form the Technical Commissions related to the topics such as sport regulations, calendar, Athletes and Entourage, Athletes⁹ health, officials, etc.
2. These Technical Commissions are subject to approval by the Executive Board.
3. Members of these Commissions are proposed by Member associations. Their membership expires at the end of the term of the Executive Board.
4. One member of each Commission is appointed by the Athletes⁹ Commission.
5. Each Commission is directed by one of its members (Director), who is appointed by the Executive Board.

Bye-law to Article 42

I) Sport Department

The Sport Department shall be coordinated by one WRF Vice President, appointed by WRF President, and its purpose is to advise the Executive Board on sport matters.

ARTICLE 43 - COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

1. The President, in accordance with the Executive Board, may create permanent or other standing or ad hoc commissions and working groups whenever it appears necessary, for the purpose of advising the Plenary Assembly, the Executive Board or the President.

Bye-law to Article 43

I) Commissions and Working Groups

For Commissions and Working Groups, the President appoints their Members, sets the term of reference and decides their dissolution once he considers that they have fulfilled their mandates, except where otherwise specified in the WRF Statutes or in the Executive Board Regulation.

ARTICLE 44 - PARA-RAFTING COMMISSION

1. Composition and functioning of the Para-rafting Commission are described in the relevant regulations as approved by the Board of Directors.

VI. FINANCES

ARTICLE 45 - FINANCES

1. The WRF will finance its own activities sources such as:
 - a) membership and subscription fees of its Members;
 - b) the organization and authorization of Competitions, competitor entry fees, and any other fees relating to official competitions;
 - c) management of the WRF River Guide Training Program, organization of courses and updates, annual licensing fees and any other fees relating to the WRF River Guide Training Program;
 - d) any other sources that may be available (sponsorship, TV rights, donations, etc.).

Bye-law to Article 45

I) Source of financing and rights ownership

The WRF is the sole owner of internet, television and radio rights and of all other commercial rights relating to all events under the jurisdiction of the WRF. It may rise, within the framework of its non-profit purpose, other funds by assigning or licensing all or part of such rights as well as by concluding any agreements relating to such rights, especially sponsorship or other similar agreements.

ARTICLE 46 - FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND PAYMENTS

1. The individuals who serve on the WRF bodies are volunteers. However, considering the work carried out, some of them are entitled to receive financial compensation as presented in the related policy approved by the Executive Board. The expenses of the Executive Board and the Commissions are borne by the WRF according to regulations of the Executive Board.
2. Within approved budgets, the Plenary Assembly of the WRF, the Board of Directors and the Executive Board are empowered to authorize payments of fees and expenses to individuals and/or organizations to provide specific professional service or advice.

Bye-law to Article 46

Executive Board members⁹ compensation are described in the relevant Indemnity Policy, subject to approval by the Plenary Assembly. Each Continental Council is responsible for the Indemnity Policy implementation for their relevant officers.

ARTICLE 47 - FINANCIAL YEAR AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT

1. The financial year of the WRF shall run from the 1st January to the 31st December annually.
2. The financial year of the WRF shall receive and approve annual budgets detailing the forecast income from all sources and the proposed annual expenditure and shall establish and maintain financial accounting system and produce annual accounts audited by the

accredited Auditor, appointed by the Plenary Assembly of the WRF, meeting international recognized standards.

3. The WRF Secretary General is responsible for the administrative management; all revenue and expenditure shall be included in the annual budget.
4. The WRF Treasurer decides after co-ordination with the WRF President on the investment of liquid resources, the WRF Executive Board is to be informed about the transactions.
5. Only the assets of the WRF can be used to settle WRF liabilities and obligations. Any liability of the Member Associations is excluded.
6. The basic currency for annual accounting purposes will be the Euro.

VII. JUDICIAL

ARTICLE 48 - ANTI-DOPING AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS

1. The function of the Anti-Doping Commission is to ensure that the WRF complies with the World Anti-Doping Code. Its rules with the World Anti-Doping Code.
2. The function of the Disciplinary Commission is to investigate and take appropriate action following any complaint concerning breach of rules (including the WRF Anti-Doping Rules) or misconduct.
3. Rules concerning these commissions and their rules are set out in a regulation made by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 49 - THE APPEALS' PANEL

1. The Appeals' Panel has a four-year term of office identical with that of the Executive Board. It consists of a Chairman, two members and two substitute members. The Secretary General shall put forward a list of candidates to the Executive Board for the appointment to the Appeals' Panel. Members appointed to the Appeal's Panel must have a legal training and must not be Board of Directors' Members.
2. Should an effective member be temporarily indisposed, the oldest substitute member replaces him as long as this indisposition lasts. In the event of permanent indisposition of an effective member, the oldest substitute member replaces him for the remainder of his term.
3. The Appeals' Panel has the following duties:
 - a) to hear and decide on appeals file by an affected party against decision of WRF, including its divisions, organs and disciplinary bodies, except in doping cases, where the appeal will be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport;
 - b) to consult with and to the Legal Commission, if it's appointed, any amendments to these Statutes and the internal regulations of WRF.

ARTICLE 50 - THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

1. Decisions of the Disciplinary Commission in doping case and decision of the Appeals' Panel may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (in Lausanne, Switzerland). The procedure before the Court of Arbitration for Sport takes place according its regulations. The decision of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport will be final and there will be no further appeal from it.

VIII. SYMBOLS AND LOGOS

ARTICLE 51 - SYMBOLS AND LOGOS

1. The symbols, logos and their production, as well as the name [®]World Rafting Federation[®] and the abbreviation [®]WRF[®] are the exclusive property of the World Rafting Federation and may not be used without its consent.

IX. DISSOLUTION OF WRF

ARTICLE 52 - DISSOLUTION OF WRF

1. A three-quarter majority of the WRF members may propose the dissolution of the WRF. This dissolution becomes effective on approval of the proposal by a three-quarter majority at the Plenary Assembly, providing that at least two third of the members entitled to vote are present or represented at the Plenary Assembly.
2. The disposal of the assets of the WRF shall be decided by the Plenary Assembly dissolving the WRF and shall be in keeping with the aims of the WRF and transferred to a non-profit-making association decided by the same Plenary Assembly.