

UNITED RAFTING STATUTES

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Article 1 – Title, recognitions, headquarters and official language

1. The name of the unified federation shall be “United Rafting”. Abbreviations shall not be used as the federation’s official legal name in formal legal instruments. Abbreviations may be used for operational convenience where appropriate.
2. United Rafting is established through the unification of the International Rafting Federation (IRF), founded in 1997 and headquartered in Boise, Idaho (USA), and the World Rafting Federation (WRF), founded in 2018 and based in Rome, Italy, two historically significant institutions that have shaped the international development of rafting through their complementary traditions, expertise and commitment to the sport.
3. United Rafting is the sole international governing body for rafting and e-rafting in all its disciplines and modalities. Rafting is the sport of navigating natural, semi-artificial, or artificial whitewater courses in an inflatable watercraft typically using paddles and/or oars. It governs rafting activities on all types of natural and artificial watercourses; it recognizes and promotes virtual and innovative forms of the sport and reserves the right to organize events or competitions in this context, in alignment with sustainability, inclusivity and technological progress.
4. United Rafting is a non-governmental international association with a non-profit purpose of international interest.
5. It is established for an indefinite duration, with its registered office in Switzerland. Operational offices may be set up in additional locations at the discretion of the General Board to serve regional or functional needs.
6. United Rafting is committed to safeguarding the interests of athletes, coaches and riverguides who are the cornerstone of the sporting movement, and to supporting their development, safety and fair participation in rafting activity.
7. United Rafting maintains strict political, racial, gender and religious neutrality. No discrimination shall be tolerated against any country, individual, or group based on race, skin colour, ethnic, national, or social origin, gender, language, religion, political affiliation, birth status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic.
8. The official language of United Rafting is English. In case of discrepancy, the English version of any governing text shall prevail.
9. United Rafting operates in full respect of the autonomy of sport, the prerogatives of its Member Federations and in alignment with national legal systems.
10. A central pillar of United Rafting’s mission is the promotion of sustainability, with a strong commitment to environmental stewardship, the protection of rivers and ecosystems and alignment with global sustainability goals and best practices in nature-based sport.

Article 2 – Goals

1. The primary objectives of United Rafting are as follows:
 - a. to promote and encourage the development of all sports governed by United Rafting in all possible forms, ensuring widespread participation and advancement worldwide;
 - b. to promote good sporting practice, encouraging respect for the values of integrity, fairness and sportsmanship across all levels of competition and participation;
 - c. to organize the World Championship, World and Continental Cups and other international competitions, determining which events shall be officially recognized by United Rafting;

- d. to establish and maintain rules and regulations for international rafting competitions, including criteria for participation and governance, ensuring fairness and consistency across global events;
 - e. to monitor and enforce the application of these rules by the Continental Councils and Member Federations, ensuring the integrity of the sport's governance at all levels;
 - f. to advocate for a doping-free sport, implementing Anti-Doping Rules in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code to preserve fairness and equality in competition;
 - g. to generally advocate for rafting as a healthy and educational activity for youth, fostering social development, well-being, and the values of teamwork and discipline;
 - h. to award licenses and contracts to United Rafting members and other organizations seeking authority to organize official international rafting competitions and associated activities;
 - i. to establish comprehensive training programs for all Officials, ensuring the highest possible standards of professionalism, competence, and integrity across the sport;
 - j. to develop, manage, and oversee the Rafting Guide and other Technicians training program, ensuring safety, professionalism and the highest standards in rafting practices worldwide;
 - k. to prioritize the protection of the environment when organizing and promoting rafting activities, aligning with global sustainability goals and incorporating environmental stewardship into all aspects of United Rafting's operations;
 - l. to enhance international relations between United Rafting's National Federations and national and international sport organizations, fostering cooperation, solidarity, and mutual support within the global sporting community.
2. United Rafting acknowledges and adheres to the Statutes, values and objectives of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), including its anti-doping regulations, the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) and all other relevant international sport organizations of which United Rafting is a member.
 - ~~3.~~ United Rafting requires all its members to adopt anti-doping rules in compliance with the current WADA anti-doping framework.
 4. United Rafting recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as the final external appellate body in accordance with Articles 41 and 42.
 5. The core principles of the Olympic Charter shall be fully upheld. No provision within these Statutes, nor any rule or regulation of United Rafting, shall conflict with or deviate from these guiding principles.
 6. The United Rafting is committed to gender equality at all levels within its competitions and management. United Rafting approved competitions shall ensure equal opportunity of participation for women and men across all disciplines, and guarantee equality in prizes and prize money. No rule, regulation, or provision shall be enacted or applied in a manner that restricts or undermines this principle of equal opportunity.

Article 3 – National Federation Membership

1. United Rafting is a unique global federation and grants its members exclusive membership status.
2. United Rafting recognizes only one National Federation per Country. For the purposes of these Statutes, "Country" shall refer to a state or territory whose National Olympic

Committee is officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). No additional sport entities shall be recognized as Full Member in countries where a National Federation has already been admitted.

3. Full membership is open to National Federations without discrimination based on race, gender, religion, political opinion or any other status, that must meet the following criteria:
 - a. be established as a non-profit organisation with national scope, composed of grassroots sport entities such as clubs, organizations, or regional associations actively involved in rafting and/or athletes and technicians;
 - b. operate exclusively for non-commercial purposes, reinvesting all resources into the development of the sport and its members;
 - c. be recognized by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or, in the absence of such recognition, by the relevant National Sports Authority (NSA) as the official governing body for the sport at the national level.
4. To be considered for full membership, the applicant organizations, not recognised by the NOC or NSA, must meet the following criteria:
 - a. be established as a non-profit association with national scope, composed of grassroots sport entities such as clubs, teams, organizations, or regional associations actively involved in rafting and/or athletes and technicians;
 - b. have statutes and internal regulations that ensure democratic governance, transparency, accountability and non-discrimination;
 - c. apply public, transparent, and objective criteria for the admission of members, clearly outlined in official statutes or rules, accessible to all stakeholders;
 - d. demonstrate consistent and organized involvement in rafting-related sporting activities, including the promotion, regulation, and development of the sport at the national level;
 - e. operate exclusively for non-commercial purposes, reinvesting all resources into the development of the sport and its members;
 - f. maintain autonomy from political, commercial, or other non-sporting influences.
5. All national organisations must submit a comprehensive set of documents and information that demonstrate their legal standing, operational capacity, and alignment with the mission and values of United Rafting:
 - a. general Information of the applicant organization, including the full legal name of the organization, both the physical and legal address, a valid email address and, where available, a website, names and roles of key contact persons within the organization;
 - b. official documents certifying the legal registration in its respective country;
 - c. a copy of the most recent version of the organization's Statutes or Constitution, detailing its governance structure and objectives
 - d. a formal declaration specifying the organization's legal classification as a non-profit entity. This should include a description of its national scope and a clear indication that it is composed of grassroots sport actors (such as clubs, regional associations, or similar bodies) actively engaged in rafting activities;
 - e. a detailed calendar of national championships and other competitive events, both past and upcoming;
 - f. a copy of the internal rules governing elections within the organization, outlining how leadership positions are filled;

- g. the organization's official financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year;
 - h. a formal written undertaking signed by the organization, pledging full adherence to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of United Rafting.
6. The following documents are not mandatory at the time of application submission; however, they must be submitted by all the full members within 24 months from the date of status approval.:
- 1. strategic plan, a document outlining the organization's short- and long-term goals, development priorities, and proposed strategies for achieving them;
 - 2. development programmes, a description of ongoing or planned initiatives aimed at promoting youth participation, grassroots engagement, and inclusion of underrepresented groups;
 - 3. a report covering the organization's most recent year of operation. This should include detailed information on activities and programs carried out, national championships and competitions organized, youth engagement and grassroots development initiatives, any major milestones or achievements;
 - 4. digital presence, evidence of a digital footprint, including a fully functioning website and active social media channels.

Failure to submit the required documents within twenty-four (24) months may result in suspension of voting rights and/or membership review in accordance with Articles 6 and 12.

- 7. The General Board shall review all membership applications. Applications may be approved outright or returned with instructions for additional requirements necessary for approval.
- 8. The Executive Board may grant provisional membership to applicants that meet the established criteria. Any provisional membership granted by the Executive Board shall be subject to mandatory ratification by the General Board at its next meeting. Provisional members may participate in international activities and competitions but shall not possess voting rights until the next General Board ratifies their status.
- 9. Upon provisional recognition, a National Federation shall immediately enjoy all rights set forth under Article 4, with the exception of voting rights. It shall simultaneously assume all duties applicable to its status under Article 4 and all other applicable United Rafting regulations.
- 10. National organizations that do not meet the requirements set forth in the preceding paragraphs 3 and 4 may be granted the status of Associate Member by the General Board for a predetermined period, not exceeding two consecutive years. Such status does not confer the voting rights associated with Full Membership.

Article 4 – Rights and duties of member federations

- 1. Member Federations shall enjoy the following rights:
 - a. recognition as the sole national governing body for all the United Rafting recognised sports and disciplines;
 - b. participation in World and Continental Championships and other United Rafting competitions;
 - c. voting rights during the Congress, in accordance with Article 12.;
 - d. the right to organize National Championships in all United Rafting recognised sports and disciplines;

- e. the right to submit proposals to the Congress.
2. Provisional Members and Associate Members shall be entitled to participate in the Congress and in the activities and competitions of United Rafting. However, they shall not possess voting rights. Their rights and limitations shall be governed in accordance with Article 3 and Article 12 of these Statutes.
3. Member Federations shall comply with the following duties:
 - a. promote all United Rafting sports at the national level;
 - b. support and uphold the objectives and values of United Rafting;
 - c. comply with decisions of United Rafting bodies;
 - d. organize National Championships to the best of their capacity;
 - e. participate in World and/or Continental Championships at least once every four years, unless excused by the General Board for justified reasons;
 - f. report periodically on national activities upon request;
 - g. accept anti-doping controls and disciplinary jurisdiction by United Rafting or other competent authorities;
 - h. pay all membership and event fees within prescribed deadlines;
 - i. respect the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.
4. Failure to comply may result in suspension or disciplinary measures pursuant to Articles 5 and 6..

Article 5 – National Federation Membership fees

1. National Federation Membership fees shall be approved by the Congress upon proposal of the General Board and are payable annually in *Euro/Dollars* to United Rafting.
2. National Federation membership fees shall be paid each year within the month of March. Failure to comply with this deadline shall result in the Member being deemed not in good standing and, consequently, subject to the suspension of all rights and privileges until full payment has been received. In instances of duly substantiated financial hardship, the General Board of the United Rafting may, at its sole discretion and without prejudice to its rights, authorize the Member to enter into a deferred payment agreement under terms and conditions established by the Federation.

Article 6 – Suspension or exclusion of a National Federation member

1. A National Federation member may be excluded from United Rafting by the Congress, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of its members, for failing to comply with these Statutes or any other applicable regulations.
2. A National Federation member may be suspended by the General Board, with a simple majority vote of its members, for failure to meet financial obligations towards United Rafting. Should the member fail to regularize its position within the deadline set by the General Board, this shall constitute grounds for expulsion by the Congress. This provision applies without prejudice to the effects of Article 5 concerning members not in good standing.

Article 7 – Withdrawal of National Federations members

1. Any National Federation Member wishing to withdraw from United Rafting shall send a written notice before January 1st.

Article 8 – Honorary distinctions

1. Honorary Membership

Upon proposal by the Executive Board, the Congress may confer the title of “Honorary Member” upon individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the Federation or have significantly contributed to the advancement of rafting at the international level.

Honorary Members may be invited to attend Congresses, official meetings, events, and competitions. They hold no voting rights. Honorary Membership does not entail affiliation with a Member Federation and does not grant eligibility for election to any Federation body. Honorary Members shall not act or speak on behalf of the Federation unless formally authorized by the President or the Executive Board.

Should an Honorary Member engage in conduct deemed detrimental to the Federation or contrary to its values, the case may be referred to the Disciplinary Commission, which may recommend revocation of the title to the Congress.

2. Honorary President

The title of “Honorary President” may be awarded by the Congress to a former United Rafting President or to a former IRF or WRF President or to other individuals connected with the rafting community who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and achieved notable accomplishments in service to the rafting.

The Honorary President is not a member of the General Board. However, upon invitation from the current President, they may attend Federation meetings and represent the Federation on specific ceremonial or consultative occasions, without voting rights. Participation in Congress and related expenses (travel, accommodation, meals) may be covered by the Federation, subject to the Executive Board's approval.

3. Service Award

The Federation may confer a “Service Award” upon individuals or organizations, regardless of membership status, who have made outstanding contributions to the development, visibility, or success of international rafting. Such contributions may include, but are not limited to, volunteer service, financial support, institutional advocacy, or the promotion of environmental and social initiatives.

4. Nomination and approval procedure

Nominations for honorary distinctions may be submitted by any full member of the Federation.

Each nomination must include a comprehensive dossier detailing the candidate’s merits and rationale for the proposed recognition.

Nominations must be submitted in written form at least three (3) weeks before the Congress via email to the Federation’s Secretariat and the President.

An affirmative vote by a simple majority of the Congress is required for the conferment of any honorary award.

The conferment shall be formally presented by the President or a designated Executive Board member during the Congress.

5. Revocation of Honorary distinctions

Honorary distinctions may be withdrawn under the following circumstances:

- a) if the recipient engages in conduct that harms the image or interests of the Federation, or
- b) if the recipient is legally sanctioned or excluded from their respective National Federation, which is a member of the Federation.

Revocation is decided by the Congress upon recommendation by the Disciplinary Commission. The decision must be formally communicated to both the award recipient and the original nominating members.

Article 9 – Governing bodies of United Rafting

1. The governing bodies of United Rafting are:
 - a) the Congress;
 - b) the General Board;
 - c) the Executive Board;
 - d) the President.
2. All the elective offices of United Rafting shall have a four-year term.
3. Likewise, in case the Congress cannot be held due to force majeure, the term shall be adjusted accordingly, pursuant to the rule above.
4. All elected offices within United Rafting shall be renewed on Election Day, held in conjunction with each Elective Congress, with the sole exception of the Athletes' Representative, who shall be elected during the relevant World Championships. The Athletes' Commission Representative shall take office upon certification of the election results and shall serve until the next Athletes' election, notwithstanding the timing of the Elective Congress.

Article 10 – The Congress

1. The Congress is the supreme authority of the United Rafting.
2. The Congress shall meet ordinarily at least once every year. The official summoning of the Ordinary Congress shall be sent out at least one (1) month before the date set.
3. The Congress shall be held in person, remotely or in a hybrid format.
4. The Congress may be held remotely through telematic means, provided that such modalities ensure the identification of participants, their effective participation, and the exercise of their voting rights. The Congress shall be deemed to be convened at the location where the President and the Secretary of the meeting are physically present, in order to allow for the drafting and signing of the minutes. Should the connection be interrupted during the course of the meeting, the President shall declare the session suspended, and any decisions adopted prior to the suspension shall remain valid.
5. An Extraordinary Congress can be summoned by the Executive Board on proposal of the President or on written request submitted by at least one-tenth of the Member Federations. The Extraordinary Congress shall be held within six (6) months from the date of the request. The official summoning shall be sent out at least one (1) month before the date set.
6. The Elective Congress shall be held every four (4) years. In case of a force majeure event, should the Elective Congress be postponed, said term may be changed accordingly.
7. The Congress ratifies the United Rafting annual financial report approved by the General Board. If no Congress is held in that year, the pending report shall be ratified at the next Congress.
8. An Agenda, drafted by the President in his/her discretionary order, shall be sent out at least five (5) weeks before the Congress. Only items included in the Agenda shall be discussed, except for issues unknown prior to the dispatch of the Agenda. In both cases, new items may be considered only with the consent of at least two-thirds of the votes cast. The Congress may approve by simple majority a different order of the items in the Agenda proposed by the President.
9. The Agenda shall include at least:
 - a. declaration of constitutive and deliberative quorum;

- b. appointment of Committee Responsible for the Verification of Credentials and of the Scrutineers;
- c. proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if any);
- d. financial report (if any);
- e. call for elections for the United Rafting elective bodies (if elective congress);
- f. items of general interest duly submitted by Member Federations and/or by the Executive Board within 14 days;
- g. other urgent issues raised after the notification of the Agenda of the meeting.

Article 11 – Powers of the Congress

1. The Congress has the following duties and powers:
 - a. to elect the members of General and Executive Board;
 - b. to give the discharge to members of the General and Executive Board, individually or collectively;
 - c. to appoint the Auditor or an Audit Firm;
 - 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 Article 14.1;
 - g. to decide the expulsion of members which do not comply with the obligations as stated in these Statutes or any other applicable regulations;
 - h. to hear the report of the auditors;
 - i. to approve the logo, and other items of image and identity, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board or of the General Board;
 - j. to suspend one of its members by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the General Board, subject to ratification by the Congress with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast, provided that at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members entitled to vote are present; ratification shall result in the suspended member of the General Board ceasing to hold office and Article 28 shall apply;
 - k. to decide all matters which no other body is competent to decide or which other bodies refer to the Congress for final decision.

Article 12 - Voting Rights

1. Each Full Member has one vote. Provisional or Associate Members have no voting right.
2. At any Congress, each Member shall be represented by one delegate who may be assisted by one or two advisors.
3. Every National Federation shall be represented at the Congress by its President. In the event that the President of a National Federation Member is unable to attend, the Vice-President or another representative may act as a substitute, provided that he or she is duly delegated. The proxy, where not granted to a different internal representative of the National Member, may be granted to another National Federation holding voting rights. Each National Federation entitled to vote may hold no more than two (2) proxies. The proxy must be issued in writing on the official letterhead of the delegating Federation and, under penalty of inadmissibility, shall include:
 - a. the full personal details of the legal representative of the delegating Federation;
 - b. the official name of the delegating Federation.

- c. The Credentials Committee shall rule on the admissibility of proxies and representation documents.
4. A Member which has not paid its dues in full prior to the Congress is not entitled to vote.
5. The Provisional and Associate Members are entitled to participate at the Congress without voting rights.
6. No member of the General Board may serve as a delegate or proxy representing any Member Federation at the Congress.

Article 13 - Committee responsible for the verification of credentials

1. The appointment and the composition of the Committee responsible for the preliminary verification of credentials shall be the responsibility of the General Board.
2. Members of the Committee responsible for the verification of credentials shall not be the Members of the General Board and the candidates for an office.
3. If any dispute arises regarding the validity of the representation in the Congress, 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 Congress.
4. At the opening of an Elective Congress convened to elect expired/expiring terms, the Congress shall appoint a President to ensure its correct operations; in no case the President shall be a Member of the General Board or a candidate for an office in the same General Board.

Article 14 - Quorum

1. Changes and amendments of these Statutes may only be considered if at least half of the United Rafting Members having the right to vote are present. To be adopted, such items must receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
2. For all other decisions of the Congress there is no quorum. Decisions are taken with the majority of votes cast.

Article 15 - Taking decisions

1. Voting at the Congress is conducted by show of hands. Upon the request of any delegate entitled to vote, supported by at least 10 other delegates, any vote must be taken by secret written ballot.
2. Elections shall always be decided by secret written ballot.

Article 16 - General Board composition

1. The General Board shall deal with all matters of broad policy between Congresses.
2. The General Board shall be composed of the following members:
 - a. the President;
 - b. four (4) Executive Members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the General Board, respectively as First Vice President and Second Vice President;
 - c. the Treasurer;
 - d. the Chair of by the Athletes' Commission;
 - e. the Chair of the GTE Commission;
 - f. continental Representatives, elected as follows:
 - i. up to one (1) representative per Continental Area having more than three (3) but not more than five (5) Member Federations;
 - ii. up to two (2) representatives per Continental Area having more than five (5) but not more than ten (10) Member Federations;

- iii. up to three (3) representatives per Continental Area having more than ten (10) Member Federations;
- g. the Secretary General (without voting rights).

Article 17 - General Board election

1. All positions within the General Board shall be elected during the same Elective Congress, with the sole exception of the Athletes' Commission Chairperson, who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 31, and the GTE Commission Chairperson, who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 33. All Member National Federations shall elect the President, four (4) Executive Members and the Treasurer; the Continental Representatives shall be elected by the Member National Federations of their respective continents.
2. Member National Federations entitled may cast preferences for up to the total number of positions to be filled within each respective component of the General Board.
3. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the General Board upon the proposal of the President. The Secretary General shall be a member of the General Board without voting rights.
4. Each candidate may submit one candidature for one elective position only per Elective Congress. 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.
5. 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.
6. Any candidature for the General Board must be presented not later than 30 days before the scheduled Congress. After this date, every candidature will be assessed in order to verify its compliance to the terms.
7. The candidature form is available for download from the official website. No other document, other than the candidature form, shall be accepted as formal candidature. All candidatures must be presented by email addressed to the United Rafting secretariat. Every candidate shall attach a formal statement declaring his/her compliance to the eligibility requirements outlined in the statutes. All candidates missing the statement described above shall not be accepted.
8. 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 secretariat. Modifications shall only be accepted if respecting the terms and deadlines described above. After such a deadline, only renouncement requests shall be considered.
9. General Board members are elected in a personal capacity, and not as representative of any member association and are to act independently from these.
10. Candidates to the General Board are required to declare any potential conflict of interest, in accordance with the IOC Code of Ethics.
11. Without prejudice to the specific eligibility requirements provided for certain offices under other provisions of the present Statutes, eligibility for all elective and appointive offices shall be subject to compliance with the following general requirements. In elections and appointments, United Rafting shall promote balanced gender representation in accordance with applicable regulations:

- a. have not been convicted by a final and binding criminal judgment for intentional (non-negligent) offences resulting in custodial sentences exceeding one (1) year, or in penalties involving disqualification from holding public office for a period exceeding one (1) year;
 - b. have not, within the last ten (10) years—save in cases of rehabilitation—been subject to final sporting sanctions or bans imposed by United Rafting with an aggregate duration exceeding one (1) year.
12. The following persons shall be deemed ineligible:
- a. those who have been sanctioned with a suspension exceeding one (1) year following the commission of an intentional anti-doping violation in breach of the Anti-Doping Regulations of a member federation or the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA), as well as those who have been sanctioned—even for a period of less than one (1) year—following the commission of an intentional anti-doping violation resulting from a plea agreement or settlement procedure;
 - b. those who are party to pending judicial proceedings against United Rafting;
 - c. those whose income derives, for more than fifty percent (50%), from commercial and/or entrepreneurial activities carried out in their own name and/or on behalf of third parties, which are directly connected to the management of, or activities conducted under the aegis of, United Rafting.
13. Persons who find themselves in a situation of permanent economic conflict of interest with the body to which they have been elected or appointed shall be deemed incompatible with the office held and shall be declared to have forfeited such office.
14. Where the conflict of interest is limited to specific resolutions or acts, the individual concerned shall abstain from participating in the relevant deliberations or decisions.

Article 18 - General Board's functions and duties

1. The General Board exercises governance and regulatory authority between Congresses, including strategic direction, budget approval, membership decisions, appointments, and institutional oversight.
2. The duties and power of the General Board shall be:
 - a. to take steps as may be necessary to achieve the objectives laid down in Article 2 of the Statutes;
 - b. to ensure the implementation of the decisions made by the Congress;
 - c. to approve the Membership applications;
 - d. on the proposal of the Sport Department, assign an event and approve the sports calendar;
 - e. to suspend a Member for failure to meet financial obligations towards United Rafting in accordance with Article 6.2 ;
 - f. upon the proposal of President, to appoint or dismiss the Secretary General if deemed necessary following an appropriate review;
 - g. to request the review or suspension of any Executive Board decision that exceeds its delegated authority;
 - h. to appoint and dismiss Department Directors in accordance with Article 29;
 - i. to suspend one of its members by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the General Board, subject to ratification by the Congress with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast;
 - j. to examine the proposals received from National Federations for submission to the Congress and to take a position on those issues;

- k. to review the annual financial report, prepared by the Treasurer in coordination with the Secretary General and the Administrative Officer, approve it, and submit it to the Congress for ratification;
 - l. to examine the financial situation and to submit a proposal for the annual Membership Fee to the Congress;
 - m. to adopt and amend all regulations; the General Board can, however, authorize other bodies to independently establish technical rules where this seems appropriate;
 - n. to adopt the Administration and Accounting Regulation referred to Article 36;
 - o. to create and appoint commissions or working groups as necessary;
 - p. to reach and sign collaboration agreements with other International Federations or entities;
 - q. to adopt provisional measures in exceptional and urgent circumstances where the conditions underlying a decision of the Congress have materially changed, provided that such measures shall be submitted to the next Congress for mandatory ratification;
 - r. to appoint members to the Anti-doping, Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions.
3. All members of the General Board shall have access, upon request, to relevant operational and financial documentation.

Article 19 - Convening, quorum and taking decisions

- 1. The General Board shall be chaired by the President and decide validly only if a quorum of the majority of the General Board Members are present. Decisions are taken with the majority of votes cast openly.
- 2. No voting rights may be exercised by proxy.
- 3. In case of a tie, the chair's vote shall prevail.
- 4. The General Board shall be convened by the President or upon request of at least half of the members of the General Board or upon request of at least one-third (1/3) of the Member National Federations and the convening will be transmitted by the Secretary General not later than 7 days before.
- 5. The General Board shall meet at least four (4) times per year.

Article 20 - Executive Board's Composition

- 1. The Executive Board consists of the following officers:
 - a. President;
 - b. four (4) Executive Members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the General Board as First Vice President and Second Vice President;
 - c. Treasurer;
 - d. the Chair of by the Athletes' Commission;
 - e. the Chair of the GTE Commission;
 - f. the Secretary General (without voting rights).

Article 21 - Executive Board's functions and duties

- 1. The Executive Board is responsible for implementing all the policy directives and decisions made by the Congress and the General Board, manages operations within the approved budget, and oversees contractual and administrative matters. This includes in particular:

- a. to prepare the agenda of the Congress meetings;
 - b. to prepare the annual account (consisting of the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet);
 - c. to make recommendations to the General Board about regulations and rules to be decided by the General Board;
 - d. to decide the terms and conditions of contracts between the United Rafting and organizers of approved competitions;
 - e. to recommend any proposed changes of the United Rafting Statutes;
 - f. to appoint and remove persons (employees) entrusted with the management of United Rafting's day-to-day operations;
 - g. to make recommendations on the terms and conditions of contract to be concluded with third parties outside United Rafting;
 - h. to decide the official means of information of the United Rafting;
 - i. to appoint an United Rafting delegate for events as necessary;
 - j. to initiate and undertake negotiations with third parties.
2. The President is the authorized signatory of United Rafting. However, the Executive Board may adopt, by regulation, a signatory policy establishing delegated signatories and financial thresholds. In the President's absence or incapacity, the First Vice President, Second Vice President, or Treasurer may sign within the scope of that policy.
 3. The Executive Board is responsible for the functioning of the administrative office of the United Rafting. All permanent employees are hired by the Executive Board and employed in accordance with the annual budget.
 4. The Executive Board shall not adopt decisions that materially alter the strategic direction, policies, or budget approved by the General Board. Any expenditure exceeding the approved budget lines shall require the prior approval of the General Board.
 5. The Executive Board shall report to the General Board on a quarterly basis, including updates on operational decisions, financial matters, and contractual commitments.

Article 22 - 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 23 - Voting rights and decision taking

1. With the exception of the Secretary General, who does not possess voting rights, each member of the Executive Board shall be entitled to 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.
4. All decisions of the Executive Board shall be duly recorded and reported to the General Board. Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be shared with the General Board within fourteen (14) days.

Article 24 - The President

1. The President chairs all meetings of the Congress, the General Board and the Executive Board. He represents the sport in all important matters, especially those pertaining to the international organization.
2. The President shall ensure the proper implementation and execution of all policies and decisions adopted by the Congress, the General Board and the Executive Board.
3. The President may, from time to time, delegate various aspects of United Rafting management to the other members of the Executive Board or of the General Board. The President may also, subject to prior approval by the General Board, appoint qualified individuals on a temporary basis to carry out specific tasks or assignments in the interest of United Rafting.
4. The President is assisted by a Presidential Secretariat, appointed by the Executive Board in agreement with the Secretary General.
5. The President, or a member designated by the President, is entitled to attend and participate in all Commission meetings, but without vote.
6. If the President is prevented from attending a meeting of the Executive Board or a General Board or a Congress, the First Vice President, if the latter is not available, the Second Vice President and if the latter is not available the Treasurer, shall chair those meetings.
7. In case of death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the President, the provisions of Article 28 shall apply.
8. No individual shall be eligible to serve more than three (3) terms as President, whether such terms are served consecutively or non-consecutively. The maximum cumulative period of service in the office of President shall not exceed twelve (12) years. Any partial term of office exceeding two (2) years shall be deemed to constitute a full term for the purposes of this disposition. A partial term of two (2) years or less shall not be considered a full term. Service as President shall be calculated independently of service in any other elected position within United Rafting, unless expressly provided otherwise in these Statutes.

Article 25 – The Vice-Presidents

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

Article 26 – The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer, elected, is directly responsible for all financial affairs of the United Rafting. It is incumbent upon the Treasurer to:
 - a. pay attention to all financial matters of the United Rafting;
 - b. prepare in consultation with the Executive Board the budget of the for submission to the General Board and, upon request of General Board 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 United Rafting;

- e. to prepare the annual financial report in coordination with the Secretary General and the Administrative Officer and to submit it to the General Board.

Article 27 – The Secretary General. The Administrative Officer

1. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the General Board upon the proposal of the President. The Secretary General shall be a member of the General Board without voting rights. He/she directs the administrative work of the United Rafting according to his/her contract of employment.
2. The Secretary General shall exercise executive authority over day-to-day operations within the framework of the budget and directives approved by the Executive Board. The Secretary General reports to the President and is accountable to the Executive Board for operational execution and to the General Board for governance compliance.
3. The Secretary General shall be the head of the Federation’s Secretariat and shall supervise all operational, administrative, and logistical functions, ensuring the effective functioning of the Federation in accordance with its Statutes, regulations, and strategic objectives.
4. An Administrative Officer shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall operate as part of the Secretary General’s staff.
5. The Administrative Officer is responsible for the management and coordination of the administrative and financial operations of the Federation, in accordance with the directives of the Secretary General. The Administrative Officer shall attend meetings of the Executive Board and the General Board upon invitation by the Secretary General, without voting rights, and may provide technical or administrative reports when required.
6. The Administrative Officer shall perform all duties with diligence, transparency, and in the best interest of the Federation, maintaining strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information.

Article 28 – Vacancies, resignation and replacement of General Board Members

1. If one or more members of the General Board cease to hold office and the number of vacancies does not exceed half of the total elected membership:
 - a. the vacancy shall be filled by the first unelected candidate from the most recent election for that position;
 - b. if no eligible unelected candidate exists, the General Board shall continue to function with reduced membership until the next Congress, at which time a special election shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the original term.
2. If more than half of the elected members of the General Board resign or otherwise cease to hold office within a period not exceeding seven (7) days:
 - a. the General Board shall be deemed dissolved;
 - b. the First Vice-President shall immediately assume interim leadership;
 - c. an Extraordinary Congress shall be convened within ninety (90) days for the election of a new General Board.
3. During the interim period, the acting President shall exercise authority limited strictly to:
 - a. urgent matters;
 - b. preservation of institutional continuity;
 - c. ordinary administration.

No strategic, structural, or financial commitments exceeding the approved annual budget may be adopted during this period unless strictly necessary.
4. In the event of death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the President:
 - a. the First Vice-President shall assume the office on an interim basis;

- b. an Extraordinary Congress shall be convened within thirty (30) days;
- c. the election of a new President shall take place within six (6) months;
- d. the newly elected President shall serve the remainder of the original term.

Article 29 – Department and Technical Commissions

1. The operation of United Rafting shall be ensured through the establishment of two Departments:
 - a. the Sport Department;
 - b. the Guide Training & Education (GTE) Department.
2. Each Department shall be headed by a Department Director, appointed by the General Board from among individuals who are not members thereof, in accordance with the provisions set out below. Each Department Director shall, at the time of appointment, provide verifiable evidence of the skills, knowledge and professional experience required for the position.
3. The General Board shall appoint the Director for the Sport Department and the Director for the Guide Training & Education Department. The appointment of the Director for the Sport Department and the Director for the Guide Training & Education Department shall be subject to the approval of the Athletes’ Commission and the GTE Commission, respectively, and these Commissions may submit reasoned recommendations to the General Board concerning the Directors performance or continuation in office. In the event that such approval is not obtained, the appointment may be made by a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of the General Board.
4. Each Director shall exercise the functions assigned under these Statutes, in coordination with the Secretary General and in accordance with the directives and guidelines issued by the General Board in consultation with the Athletes’ Commission or GTE Commission respectively.
5. Within each department, one or more Technical Commissions may be established. Members of the General Board shall not be eligible for appointment to the Technical Commissions.
6. Technical Commissions are internal functional bodies of United Rafting, each vested with the highest authority in its respective area of competence. They do not possess legal personality and shall operate under the authority and supervision of United Rafting, in accordance with these Statutes, its regulations, and any applicable provisions.
7. The operational procedures and internal functioning of the Technical Commissions of both departments may be further regulated through specific internal rules, subject to approval by the General Board.

Article 30 – Sport Department

1. The Sport Department shall be the operational and consultative body responsible for the overall coordination and development of sporting activities under the jurisdiction of United Rafting. It shall act under the authority of the General Board.
2. The Sport Department shall be composed of a Director, appointed by the General Board, as well as members of various Technical Commissions that may be constituted to address specific areas of expertise related to sport (e.g. sport regulations and competition formats, the international and continental competition calendar, athlete-related matters and entourage, health, safety, anti-doping education, training and management of officials).

3. Each Technical Commission shall be composed of at least three members, of whom two shall be appointed by the General Board and one shall be appointed by the Athletes' Commission (except for the Officials' Commission).
4. The mandate of each Technical Commission shall expire at the end of the term of the General Board that appointed it.
5. The Sport Department, through its Director and Technical Commissions, shall have the responsibility to:
 - a. provide technical advice and formulate recommendations to the General Board and Executive Board on all sport-related matters;
 - b. draft and submit for approval the preliminary calendar of United Rafting-approved competitions, including the coordination of international and continental events in collaboration with Continental Areas and National Federations;
 - c. ensure the uniform implementation and continuous development of sport regulations and competition formats;
 - d. oversee and promote initiatives related to athlete health, safety, welfare, safeguarding and anti-doping policies;
 - e. supervise the recruitment, education, training, and certification of technical officials, including judges and referees;
 - f. support the integration of athlete perspectives in sport-related decision-making processes, and coordinate with the Athletes' Commission accordingly;
 - g. promote the development of grassroots, youth, and adaptive rafting disciplines, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and commissions.
6. By right, the following Technical Commissions shall be established within the Sport Department: the Athletes' Commission, as referred to in Article 31, and the Officials' Commission.

Article 31 - Athletes' Commission

1. The Athletes' Commission is established as a permanent body to ensure continuous and structured dialogue between active athletes and the governing bodies of United Rafting. It serves as the official voice of the athletes within the Federation, providing input on policies and decisions that affect the athlete community.
2. The Commission shall be composed of six (6) members, all of whom must be active or recently retired athletes who have competed at the international level within the last eight (8) years.
3. Members of the Athletes' Commission shall be elected by their peers in accordance with procedures established in the relevant regulations. Voting rights shall be granted to those considered active athletes. Active athletes are those holding a valid United Rafting license for the current year. Each eligible athlete shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote.
4. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall automatically become Chairperson of the Commission and, for the duration of the Commission's mandate, shall serve as a member of the General Board.
5. At least one-third (1/3) of the Commission members shall be of a different gender than the majority, in accordance with principles of gender equity and inclusiveness.
6. The term of office of the Athletes' Commission shall coincide with the Olympic cycle (four years), and members may be re-elected once.

Article 32 - Guide Training & Education Department

1. The Guide Training & Education (“GTE”) Department shall serve as the specialized body responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of training, education, and certification systems for river guides and other river-related technical roles within United Rafting. It shall operate under the authority of the General Board and may be structured, upon decision of its Director in consultation with the GTE Commission, through the establishment of dedicated Technical Commissions.
2. National Federations shall recognize the GTE standards adopted by United Rafting, while retaining the right to implement and adapt such standards within their national systems, provided that equivalence and minimum international requirements are respected, and that such implementation is compatible with the applicable laws in their respective Countries and with the institutional purposes of the National Federation.
3. The GTE Department shall be composed of a Director as well as members of various Technical Commissions that may be constituted to address specific areas of expertise related to sport.
4. The Technical Commissions shall focus on areas including, but not limited to: the design and delivery of training programs for river guides and river technicians; the definition and harmonization of certification and qualification standards; the development of education curricula; continuing professional development and safety protocols for professional practice.
5. The Technical Commissions shall be composed of members appointed by the General Board upon proposal of the Director of the GTE Department in consultation with the GTE Commission. The Technical Commissions shall have advisory and drafting functions only, and any standards, regulations, or certification requirements they develop shall require approval by the General Board to become binding.
6. The mandate of the Technical Commissions shall expire at the end of the term of the General Board that appointed it, unless renewed by decision of the newly elected General Board.
7. Further provisions regulating the internal functioning, responsibilities, and procedures of the Department and its Commissions may be set out in specific internal regulations, subject to approval by the General Board.
8. The GTE Commission shall act in an advisory and representative capacity, while executive and operational authority for the implementation of training, education, and certification systems shall rest with the GTE Department under the authority of the General Board.

Article 33 - Guide Training and Education Commission

1. The Guide Training & Education (“GTE”) Commission is established as a permanent body to ensure continuous and structured dialogue between active river guides and the governing bodies of United Rafting. It serves as the official voice of river guides within the Federation, providing input on policies and decisions that affect the river guide community.
2. The GTE Commission shall be composed of six (6) members, all of whom must be active or recently retired GTE Instructors or Instructor Trainers who have been active at the international level within the last four (4) years. The composition of the Commission shall, as a whole, aim to reflect global and continental representation, taking into account geographic diversity among the candidates elected.
3. Members of the GTE Commission shall be elected by their peers. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson from among its members in accordance with procedures established in the relevant regulations.

4. The term of office of the GTE Commission shall coincide with the Olympic cycle (four years), and members may be re-elected once.
5. The GTE Commission Chairperson shall automatically become a member of the General Board for the duration of the Commission's mandate. The GTE Commission Chairperson, when serving on the General Board, shall act in a personal capacity while ensuring regular reporting to the GTE Commission on matters of relevance to guide training and education. The Chairperson shall assume the position on the General Board immediately upon confirmation of the election results.

Article 34 – Continental Areas

1. United Rafting recognizes the following Continental Areas:
 - a. Africa
 - b. America
 - c. Asia
 - d. Europe
 - e. Oceania

Continental Areas are territorial extensions of United Rafting and do not possess independent legal personality unless expressly authorized by the General Board.

2. The governance structure of each Continental Area shall reflect that of United Rafting and shall be subject to the United Rafting Statutes, By-Laws, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, and all other applicable rules and regulations. The Continental Area's Statutes may be registered in a State subject to the approval of the General Board.
3. Each Continental Area shall elect its own Council in accordance with specific regulations approved by the General Board.
4. The President of each Continental Council shall be granted the right to attend General Board meetings of United Rafting as an ex officio participant. Ex officio participants may speak but have no vote and are bound by the same confidentiality and conflict-of-interest obligations as General Board members.
5. If a Continental Area does not reach a minimum of three (3) Member Federations, a Commissioner shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The Commissioner shall remain in office until the next Elective Congress and shall operate in accordance with the general provisions and principles set forth in these Statutes.

Article 35 – Financial year – Auditor

1. The financial year of United Rafting shall run from 1 January to 31 December.
2. An Auditor or an Audit Firm can be appointed by the Congress.

Article 36 – Funds

1. The funds of United Rafting shall consist of:
 - a. annual membership fees;
 - b. organization fees;
 - c. sanctioning fees;
 - d. donations and contributions;
 - e. sponsorships;
 - f. media rights sales;
 - g. publications and related activities;
 - h. any other lawful income related to United Rafting's purposes.
2. To achieve its goals, United Rafting may:

- a. issue guarantees and carry out any relevant financial operations;
 - b. acquire shares in companies, provided these do not become its main activity or violate existing regulations.
3. The General Board shall adopt, with the favorable vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, an Administration and Accounting Regulation. Such Regulation shall govern the procedures for the submission of Department's budget proposals, define the ordinary expenditure powers by establishing spending limits according to categories of expenditure, and set out the procedures for the authorization and approval of extraordinary expenditures.

Article 37 – Regional Organizations

1. United Rafting may recognize other organizations in specific geographic areas to promote its sports, provided they comply with United Rafting Statutes and Regulations. These organizations may cooperate but are not represented in United Rafting bodies.

Article 38 – Dissolution

1. If a Congress resolution is passed to dissolve United Rafting, sufficient funds shall be reserved to settle debts. Any remaining assets shall be allocated, in accordance with the national law under which United Rafting is incorporated, to one or more non-profit institutions preferably active in sport and/or environmental protection, as determined by the Congress or by the liquidator, subject to Congress approval and in compliance with applicable law.

Article 39 - Prohibition of betting and competition manipulation

1. All individuals subject to United Rafting's Statutes, Regulations, and Codes (including athletes, team officials, technical officials, and representatives) are strictly prohibited from:
 - a. betting on any rafting or e-rafting event in which they are directly or indirectly involved;
 - b. engaging in any form of competition manipulation.
2. Member Federations must promptly report to United Rafting any incidents of manipulation occurring within their jurisdiction, including final decisions and related sanctions.
3. Any sanctioned individual may be subject to additional disciplinary measures by the United Rafting Disciplinary Commission, including international extension of the sanction.
4. Any person approached to violate this article must immediately report the incident to the Secretary General (before the event) or the Event Director (during the event).

Article 40 - Anti-Doping and Disciplinary Commissions

1. The function of the Anti-Doping Commission is to ensure that the United Rafting complies with the World Anti-Doping Code. It operates in full compliance with and enforces 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 United Rafting Anti-Doping Rules) or misconduct.
3. Rules concerning these commissions are set out in a regulation made by the General Board.

Article 41 - 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 General Board for the appointment to the Appeals' Panel. Members appointed to the Appeal's Panel must have a legal training and must not be General Board's 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 filed by an affected party against decision of United Rafting, 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 the Legal Commission, if it's appointed, on proposed amendments to these Statutes and on internal regulations.
4. Except in doping matters, decisions of the Appeals' Panel shall constitute the final internal instance of United Rafting.

Article 42 - The Court of Arbitration for Sport

1. Decisions of the Disciplinary Commission in doping cases and decisions 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 to its regulations. The decision of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport will be the final external appeal and there will be no further appeal from it.

Article 43 - Symbols, logos and intellectual property protection

1. The symbols, logos, and all related reproductions, as well as the name "United Rafting", together with those of the two organizations from which it originated, namely, the "International Rafting Federation" and the "World Rafting Federation", and their respective abbreviations "IRF" and "WRF", are the exclusive property of United Rafting. They may not be used, reproduced, or distributed in any form without the prior written consent of United Rafting.
2. All documents, audiovisual materials, manuals, training resources, digital content, and any other works created under the authority, mandate, or auspices of the IRF or the WRF, prior to or following their unification, are considered the shared intellectual property of United Rafting. Such content is fully integrated into the heritage of United Rafting and may not be reproduced, adapted, or disseminated without its express authorization.

Article 44 - Entry into force

1. These Statutes shall be registered concurrently with the approval of the merger project by both the World Rafting Federation (WRF) and the International Rafting Federation (IRF).