

**INTERNATIONAL MIXED  
MARTIAL ARTS FEDERATION  
IMMAF**

**STATUTES**  
**2021 EDITION**

13 February 2021

# **IMMAF STATUTES 2021 EDITION**

## **CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS**

1. The International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF), founded for an unlimited period of time in Stockholm, Sweden, the 29th of February 2012, is a non-profit world-wide organisation for the sport of mixed martial arts (MMA).
2. MMA is a modern sport with roots in multiple martial arts from several cultures and traditions since ancient times. It shall be practiced with care for the safety, mutual enjoyment and betterment of participants, as well as fairness in competitions.
3. IMMAF is an independent and democratic federation.
4. IMMAF is composed of autonomous national organisations of MMA, which are Members of the federation in accordance with these Statutes.
5. IMMAF is registered and the office located in Switzerland, unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.
6. IMMAF is represented by its President and Board of Directors.
7. The official language of IMMAF is English. All minutes, regulations, and official documents shall be written in English. Representatives of IMMAF Members may use their own language during meetings, provided they have an English interpreter if needed.
8. All bodies and officials connected to IMMAF must observe the IMMAF Statutes, Code of Ethics and Conduct, Rules, Regulations, Policies and Decisions in all their activities. IMMAF and its Members reject all forms and means of discrimination against individuals, groups of people, organisations or countries, based on ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, or politics.
9. IMMAF supports a fair representation of women in MMA activities and in the management of the sport.

## ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of IMMAF are to:

- a) promote and develop the MMA sport at all levels, as a means to contribute to the positive development of society in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Charter;
- b) assist its Members in strengthening their position as national organisations of MMA; c) provide its Members with support and services;
- d) increase the level of recognition of IMMAF, the MMA sport, and its Members within the international sports community;
- e) organise international MMA competitions, such as world championships, continental championships, world cups, continental cups, and open international tournaments;
- f) recognise the autonomy of its Members and their authority within their jurisdictions as long as Members do not infringe IMMAF rules, regulations, policies, procedures and decisions;
- g) promote closer links among its Members and between its Members and other sports organisations;
- h) coordinate and protect the common interest of its Members;
- i) collaborate with external organisations having as their objective the promotion of MMA on a world-wide basis;
- j) collect, collate and circulate information to and among its Members;
- k) abide by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code);
- l) enforce policies and directives designed to protect the Integrity of the sport of MMA, IMMAF and its Members. This includes anti-doping as well as conflicts of

interest, bribery and corruption, money laundering, illegal betting, and other actions that may negatively impact the reputation of the sport of MMA, IMMAF, and its Members.

m) create a whistleblowing system to protect the Integrity of the sport of MMA, IMMAF and its Members.

## **ARTICLE 3 RIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

1. IMMAF owns any and all commercial rights related to its operations and competitions of whatsoever nature now and in the future including, but not limited to, intellectual property, sponsorship, broadcasting and re-broadcasting, photographs, video, social media posts and contributions, logos, trademarks, value in kind, and media in any format in use now or developed in the future.

2. Copyright and all other trademarks of IMMAF are the property of IMMAF.

3. Any contribution from its Members or its Board of Directors and its President are the property of IMMAF.

4. All IMMAF intellectual property shall remain within IMMAF.

5. IMMAF events shall be subject to the sanctioning by the Board of Directors in a process transparent to the Members.

## **ARTICLE 4 BODIES OF IMMAF**

1. The following bodies of IMMAF are obligatory:

a) the General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body of

IMMAF; b) the Board of Directors is the executive body;

c) the Administration (administrative staff) is the administrative body; d)

the Arbitration Committee is the independent body that resolves disputes;

e) the Financial Audit Committee is the body that is tasked by the General Assembly to oversee the audit and the financial activities of IMMAF;

f) the Anti-Doping Committee is the body that oversees all aspects of the

anti-doping policy and process;

g) the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee is the body that will hear any allegation made of a breach of the IMMAF Anti-Doping Policy;

h) the Disciplinary Committee is the body that will hear any allegation made of a non doping related breach of IMMAF's Statutes, rules, codes of conduct or ethics, and sports related directives;

i) the Nomination Committee is the body that is tasked to propose candidates for elections at the General Assembly.

2. The General Assembly may decide to form additional Committees with defined tasks and members elected at the General Assembly.

3. The Board of Directors may decide to form commissions with defined tasks and appoint members to them.

4. The Administration is the staff working for IMMAF.

## **ARTICLE 5 INDEMNITY**

1. The Board of Directors, Committees and Commissions of IMMAF and other official structures together with staff are indemnified against all losses, charges, costs, damage and all other expense and liability they may incur or be put to concerning the bona fide execution of their duties as officials of IMMAF, subject to compliance with the required fiduciary duties and duties of care and skill.

## **CHAPTER 2 MEMBERSHIP**

### **ARTICLE 6 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership is available to any non-profit national MMA organisation, which holds regular national competitions, and works for the development of the sport nationwide and in its clubs and other associations.

2. In a country with more than one national MMA federation, IMMAF will allow the

application of the one officially recognised by the National Olympic Committee or the Government Sport Authorities, otherwise the one that contains the majority of the organised MMA activities in its nation.

3. An application to be admitted as a member must be sent to the IMMAF Administration and must include the following:

- a) the applicant's official address and contact details;
- b) a copy of the governing statutes, minutes and financial statements from the last General Assembly of the applicant, translated into English if so requested;
- c) if deemed necessary by IMMAF, documentation or written confirmation from the competent national authorities of the applicant's country;
- d) a written commitment by the applicant to comply, and ensure compliance from its representatives, officials and athletes, with these Statutes and other IMMAF regulations, the WADA Code, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) jurisdiction;
- e) a summary of the past and present competitions and other activities of the applicant in regard to the development of the MMA sport in the applicant's country;
- f) a list of the applicant's active members, i.e., number of clubs and other associations, athletes, coaches, officials and competition officials affiliated to or registered with the applicant, also the gender balance of the persons included.

4. Should the IMMAF Administration determine additional information or clarification of information included in the application to be necessary, it shall provide such request for

additional information or clarification in writing to the applicant. The applicant shall have 30 days from the date of the notice to provide the additional information or clarification requested by IMMAF.

5. The IMMAF Administration shall verify that each application for admission is complete and shall compile a detailed report for the Board of Directors. In particular, the report shall assess the capability of the applicant to act in the interest of MMA in the applicant's country.

## ARTICLE 7 APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and ratified at the next General Assembly, where the Board of Directors shall issue its recommendations.
2. Membership is valid immediately upon being ratified by the General Assembly.
3. Should the Board of Directors find there is appropriate reason for denying an application in accordance with these Statutes, it shall notify the General Assembly and the applicant of the reason for denial.
4. An organisation having been denied Membership of IMMAF may reapply no sooner than the year following that of the General Assembly when the denial was notified.

## ARTICLE 8 MEMBERSHIP FEE

1. Members of IMMAF shall pay an annual membership fee.
2. The amount of the fee shall be decided by each Ordinary General Assembly on a proposal from the Board of Directors and shall be payable annually no later than June.
3. Members who have not paid their annual membership fee in time are not eligible for participation in any IMMAF event, until the payment has reached IMMAF.

## ARTICLE 9 MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS

1. Members must be democratic national non-profit organisations that have as their objective to promote the MMA sport nationally at all levels, as a means to contribute to the positive development of society in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Charter.
2. Members must comply with these Statutes and other regulations, directives, and decisions of IMMAF.
3. Member statutes must contain the following provisions or language supporting these positions:
  - a) the Member and its representatives reject all forms and means of discrimination against individuals, groups of people, organisations or countries based on ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion or politics;

- b) the Member and its representatives will abide by the WADA Code;
  - c) the Member and its representatives will abide by policies and directives designed to combat corruption, illegal betting, and other actions that may negatively impact the reputation of the MMA sport, IMMAF, and its Members;
  - d) the Member will have provisions for a transparent process for the suspension or removal of officers or officials that are charged or convicted of violations of the law, Member or IMMAF Code of Ethics and codes of conduct;
  - e) the Member agrees that the exclusive process and forum for disputes relating to IMMAF will be arbitration as identified in these Statutes.
4. Members must have their executive bodies and disciplinary bodies elected by their respective General Assembly.
  5. Members must notify IMMAF in writing of any modification in their statutes, regulations and directives, and of the inclusion of any new discipline to their national programme.
  6. Members must abstain from behaviour detrimental to IMMAF and its Members.
  7. Members must send to IMMAF the minutes of their General Assemblies and independently audited annual financial reports.
  8. Members must not be members of other international MMA federations, with the exception of special occasions, due to national regulations approved by National Olympic Committees or Government Sport Authorities, in which case the IMMAF Board of Directors may grant temporary special authorisation.
  9. Members must obtain insurance for their federations and athletes, including coverage for sports accidents in national and international competitions.
  10. Members must, if requested, adopt and utilize IMMAF membership, grading or other educational as well as IMMAF Event related digital or data management platforms.

## **ARTICLE 10 MEMBERS' RIGHTS**

1. IMMAF respects the freedom and independence of any Member, who shall retain complete control over matters falling within their field or activity in their own country, provided they comply with these Statutes.
2. Members have the rights specified throughout these Statutes, and any rights arising from other regulations, directives and decisions of IMMAF.



3. Members have the right to be informed of the state of IMMAF.
4. Members have the right to participate in any IMMAF event, if the eligibility criteria are met.

## **ARTICLE 11 RESIGNATION**

1. A Member may resign at any time, provided that at the time of resignation the member has no outstanding liabilities to IMMAF.
2. A resignation shall take effect immediately upon the IMMAF Administration's receipt of a notice from the Member, signed by the person or persons authorised to do so, and shall be reported to the Board of Directors and to next General Assembly by the IMMAF Administration.
3. Any outstanding membership fees must be paid. Any membership fees already paid will not be refunded.

## **ARTICLE 12 SUSPENSION**

1. The Board of Directors may, in a decision by at least two-thirds of the Board, suspend until the next General Assembly a Member who fails to comply with these Statutes or other IMMAF regulations, directives and decisions.
2. Notification of suspension shall be sent by registered mail to the address reported by the Member to the IMMAF Administration.
3. A suspension must be on the agenda of the next General Assembly for its decision, provided the suspension is still in force at that time.

## **ARTICLE 13 EXPULSION**

1. A Member shall lose its membership of IMMAF, on a resolution passed by an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly, notably for the following reasons:
  - a) refusal to pay liabilities or membership fees due to IMMAF;
  - b) refusal to comply with these Statutes or other regulations, directives, decisions, policies, and disciplinary actions of IMMAF;
  - c) loss of or inability to achieve the status as representative of the MMA sport at the national level;

- d) behaviour detrimental to IMMAF or to the sport of MMA;
- e) infringements of membership obligations;
- f) ceased activities or dissolution.

2. Notification of expulsion shall be sent by registered mail to the address reported by the Member to the IMMAF Administration.

## **ARTICLE 14 HONORARY MEMBERS**

1. The General Assembly may, upon a proposal by the Board of Directors, grant the title of "Honorary President" or "Honorary Member" respectively to a retiring President or a retiring Board of Directors member for their outstanding services to IMMAF.
2. Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members may attend Board of Directors meetings and General Assemblies, but do not have a vote.
3. Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members are not to pay any membership

fees. **CHAPTER 3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

## **ARTICLE 15 DEFINITION**

1. The General Assembly is the meeting attended by the delegates of the Members of IMMAF. It is the supreme and legislative body of IMMAF.
2. The quorum of a General Assembly, if convened in accordance with these Statutes, is reached by the delegates present.
3. The General Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.
4. The General Assembly is chaired by the President of IMMAF, unless absent or indisposed, in which case it is chaired by the Vice President, or another Board of Directors member of the Board's choosing.

## **ARTICLE 16 POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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1. The General Assembly has the power to decide about any IMMAF matter, provided it is in accordance with these Statutes.
2. The General Assembly elects the President, Vice President, other members of the Board of Directors, and the Committees of IMMAF.

## ARTICLE 17 DELEGATES

1. Each Member's delegation is limited to a maximum of three persons, excluding members of the Board of Directors.
2. A delegate may speak on behalf of another Member only if requested by that Member.
3. Delegates other than the President, Chairperson or General Secretary of the Member may send to the Administration (time permitting) a letter of authority signed by one of those officers, which must be carried on the day of the General Assembly.

## ARTICLE 18 VOTING

1. Members who have satisfied all their financial obligations toward IMMAF, including membership fees, are entitled to vote, carrying one vote each.
2. Members may represent one additional Member and carry that Member's vote, if an appropriate proxy authorisation has been submitted in writing to the IMMAF Administration prior to the General Assembly.
3. Unless otherwise stated in these Statutes, decisions of the General Assembly are reached by simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast.
4. Illegible, void, blank or improper ballot votes, and abstentions, shall not be included in the count of cast votes.
5. The Chairperson of the General Assembly shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
6. Voting is conducted by either show of hands or paper ballots or electronic means, unless at least two Members request a secret ballot, or in the case of elections.

## ARTICLE 19 ELECTIONS

1. Each election starts with the Nomination Committee presenting its proposal,

except in the election of the Nomination Committee. Alternative candidates are allowed from the floor, if endorsed by the delegates of the Member to which they are affiliated.

2. Elections are held by secret ballot, except that of a Chairperson pro-tempore.

3. In an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of posts to elect, they shall be deemed elected without voting.

4. In an election where the number of candidates exceeds the number of posts to elect, those receiving more than 50% of the votes cast are elected.

5. In an election for a single post, where no candidate reaches the votes to be elected, a second election shall be held among the two candidates who received the most votes, and the one receiving the most votes in it is elected.

6. In an election of more than one post, if there are not enough candidates reaching the votes to be elected, a second election shall be held among the candidates remaining, where the ones getting the most votes are elected to the remaining posts even if not reaching simple majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie, the election will be decided by a toss of the coin.

7. In an election where one of the candidates is the person who chairs the Assembly, a Chairperson pro-tempore will be elected by show of hands, paper ballots or electronic means.

8. The General Assembly elects the President, the Vice President, and the other members of the Board of Directors for the term until the election at the Ordinary General Assembly held four years later, unless previously in accordance with earlier versions of these Statutes elected for other terms, in which case those terms stand until their completion.

9. The General Assembly elects the Committees for the term until the election at the Ordinary General Assembly held two years later, unless previously in accordance with earlier versions of these Statutes elected for other terms, in which case those terms stand until their completion.

10. The President, Vice President, other members of the Board of Directors, and Committees take office immediately upon their election.

11. The President, Vice President, other members of the Board of Directors, and Committees are eligible for re-election upon the end of their term.

## **ARTICLE 20 NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

1. The Nomination Committee is composed of three members, elected by the General Assembly, who are not members of the Board of Directors or any of the other IMMAF Committees.
2. The Committee makes decisions by simple majority (more than 50%) of its members.
3. For all elections except that of itself, the Nomination Committee presents its proposal in advance of and at the General Assembly.
4. Nominations for President, Vice President, other members of the Board of Directors, and Committees may be submitted by any Member. All candidates for election must be endorsed in writing by the Members to which they are affiliated.
5. To be considered by the Nomination Committee, nominations must be in writing to the Committee no later than 90 days before the General Assembly at which the elections are to take place.
6. The list of all nominees, with the Nomination Committee's proposals, shall be distributed to the Members no later than 30 days before the General Assembly at which the elections are to take place.
7. Nominations for the Nomination Committee are handled by the Financial Audit Committee, which presents its proposal at the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 21 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1. The Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened annually by the Board of Directors.
2. At least 90 days in advance, the IMMAF Administration shall send a formal notice of the Assembly to all Members.
3. Any Member wishing to submit an item or proposal to the agenda must do so in writing to the Administration no later than 60 days prior to the Assembly.
4. At least 30 days prior to the General Assembly, the Administration shall circulate the final agenda as prepared by the Board of Directors, together with a report of IMMAF activities since the previous General Assembly, the audited accounts and the budget, details of membership applications, and any other relevant documentation.

## **ARTICLE 22 AGENDA FOR ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1. The agenda shall contain the following items, when applicable:

- 1) opening of the meeting;
- 2) roll call;
- 3) adoption of the agenda;
- 4) the President's address;
- 5) appointment of Scrutineers;
- 6) approval of the minutes of the previous meeting;
- 7) activity report;
- 8) financial statements, balance sheet and accounts;
- 9) Financial Audit Committee report and the matter of freedom of liability for the Board of Directors and the President;
- 10) Approval of Auditors.
- 11) new membership applications;
- 12) suspension or expulsion of a Member;
- 13) approval of the budget for the coming term;
- 14) review of membership fees, arbitration fee, and penalties;
- 15) items or proposals submitted to the agenda by Members;
- 16) proposals submitted to the agenda by the Board of Directors;
- 17) review or amendments of the Statutes;
- 18) election of IMMAF President;
- 19) election of IMMAF Vice President;
- 20) election of other members of the Board of Directors;
- 21) election of Financial Audit Committee and its Chairperson;
- 22) election of Arbitration Committee and its Chairperson;
- 23) election of Anti-Doping Committee and its Chairperson;

- 24) election of Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee and its Chairperson; 25) election of Disciplinary Committee and its Chairperson;
- 26) election of Nomination Committee and its Chairperson;
- 27) items presented for information.

2. The Board of Directors may add any urgent matter to the Agenda at any time, if the addition is approved by at least two-thirds of the votes cast.

## **ARTICLE 23 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- 1. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened at the request of the Board of Directors or upon receipt of a written request from at least one-fifth of the Members having the right to vote, no later than 90 days after the request has been received by the Administration.
- 2. Notification of the Assembly shall be sent to the Members at least 30 days in advance.
- 3. The notification shall detail the reasons for convening an Extraordinary General Assembly. No business other than specified in the notification shall be conducted at the Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 24 MINUTES**

- 1. The minutes of General Assemblies are recorded in English by the Administration and submitted within 30 days of the Assembly to the Board of Directors for approval.
- 2. When approved by the Board of Directors, the minutes are sent to the Members.
- 3. Members may suggest corrections of the minutes by written notification to the Administration, within 30 days of the date of the distribution of the minutes to the Members. Any such correction needs the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 4. The minutes are submitted for approval at the next General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER 4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATION**

## ARTICLE 25 COMPOSITION

1. The Board of Directors is the executive body of IMMAF. It consists of the President, the Vice President, and a maximum of seven other members of the Board.
2. All members of the Board of Directors are elected by the General Assembly.
3. The Board of Directors may appoint Board members to specific assignments.
4. No country shall have more than two members on the Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors shall include at least one member from each continent where IMMAF has Members. For the purpose of this provision, the continents are Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Pan America.
6. The Board of Directors shall include a minimum of 30% of female members and at least one active or recently retired athlete.
7. Board of Directors members may be compensated for their expenses, but not for their services without approval of the General Assembly.
8. The Board of Directors may invite individuals they deem valuable to IMMAF as Board of Directors Appointees, who participate in the meetings and work of the Board, but they have no vote.
9. The Board of Directors may appoint individuals of their choice to specific functions in IMMAF, and may also call them to Board meetings, but they have no vote.
10. Members of the Board of Directors may only serve 2 consecutive terms (eight years).

## ARTICLE 26 ELIGIBILITY

1. All IMMAF Board of Directors members must have reached the age of maturity in their own country, be in full possession of their civil rights, and must never have incurred any criminal conviction that could harm IMMAF's reputation or interests.
2. Any member of the Board of Directors may, in a decision by at least two-thirds



of its members, be disqualified if the member:

- a) is lastingly incapacitated for health reasons;
- b) is charged with criminal conduct that may potentially damage the reputation of IMMAF;
- c) is guilty of corruption related to or associated with the member's official duties for IMMAF;
- d) acts within IMMAF in flagrant disregard of these Statutes.

3. An employee of IMMAF shall not be a member of the Board of Directors.

4. Any member of the Board of Directors may resign at any time, by notice in writing to the IMMAF Administration.

## **ARTICLE 27 MEETINGS, QUORUM, VOTES**

1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times annually.

2. Board of Directors meetings shall be called by the President with 90 days prior written notice, including a preliminary agenda to which items may be added until 30 days prior to the meeting.

3. For urgent matters, the President may call to meetings with no less than one week's notice, and where the agenda is fixed at the time of calling.

4. Board of Directors meetings may be held using modern media means, such as video conference or other web-based technology options.

5. The President chairs the meetings, or the Vice President in the case of the President's absence. If both are absent, the Board of Directors elects a Chairperson among them.

6. The quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors is the simple majority (more than 50%) of its members.

7. The Board of Directors shall decide with simple majority (more than 50%) of its members, unless otherwise stated in these Statutes.

8. The members of the Board of Directors have one vote each. In a tie, the chair has the casting vote.

9. A member of the Board of Directors, having a conflict of interest regarding an item on the agenda, is obliged to report this and is not allowed to cast a vote on that issue. Nor can the member chair the meeting during that item of the agenda.

## **ARTICLE 28 POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT**

1. The President represents and commits IMMAF regarding third parties.
2. The President will represent IMMAF for all purposes within its legal existence and before the Courts.
3. In the President's absence, IMMAF may be represented by the Vice President.
4. The President may delegate certain powers of the President to another member of the Board of Directors.
5. The President may call on the IMMAF Administration for assistance with tasks.

## **ARTICLE 29 POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Board of Directors is responsible in all IMMAF matters that are not reserved to other bodies by these Statutes.
2. The Board is obliged to follow and pursue the decisions of the General Assembly.
3. The Board can appoint any Commission, working group or task force it deems necessary at any time.

## **ARTICLE 30 ADMINISTRATION**

1. The mission of the IMMAF Administration is to implement the decisions made by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors and carry out all the administrative duties of IMMAF.
2. The Administration is supervised by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who reports to the President of IMMAF.
3. Members of the staff are appointed or dismissed by the CEO in agreement with the IMMAF Board of Directors.
4. Members of the Administration may be called to Board of Directors meetings, but they have no vote.

## **CHAPTER 5 ANTI-DOPING, DISCIPLINARY CASES, AND ARBITRATION**

## ARTICLE 31 ANTI-DOPING

1. IMMAF recognises and commits to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) World Anti Doping Code (WADA Code) as the principal authority for its anti-doping policy.
2. IMMAF has approved Anti-Doping Rules consistent with the WADA Code, which must be adopted and adhered to by each Member of IMMAF.
3. Future revisions of the WADA Code shall be incorporated in the IMMAF Anti-Doping Rules and brought before the General Assembly for approval.
4. In IMMAF, anti-doping matters are handled by two Committees elected at the General Assembly:
  - a) the Anti-Doping Committee oversees IMMAF's anti-doping policies and implementation across IMMAF competitions, ensuring that IMMAF's Anti-Doping Rules are WADA Code compliant. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) applications from athletes;
  - b) the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee manages and resolves asserted violations of the IMMAF Anti-Doping Rules, and other disputes arising from the implementation of those Rules or from the Results Management process as described in the Rules.
5. Both Committees are composed of three to six members each, elected by the General Assembly, who are not members of the Board of Directors.
6. Both Committees make decisions by simple majority (more than 50%) of their members.
7. Complaints about procedure in anti-doping cases can be heard by the IMMAF Arbitration Committee but appeals against decisions of the IMMAF Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee must be brought to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

## ARTICLE 32 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. These Statutes set the procedural rules that govern all non-doping related disciplinary measures within IMMAF towards its elected or appointed officers, and Members and their affiliate groups and individuals.
2. The Disciplinary Committee is composed of three members, elected by the General Assembly, who are not members of the Board of Directors.

3. The Committee makes decisions by simple majority (more than 50%) of its members.
4. The Committee will hear all non-doping related disciplinary complaints and admit the defence from the accused before making its ruling. Non-doping related disciplinary complaints may refer to:
  - a) non-compliance with these Statutes where the procedure is not specified herein;
  - b) non-compliance with IMMAF competition rules;
  - c) non-compliance with IMMAF Code of Ethics and codes of conduct;
  - d) non-compliance with other IMMAF directives pertaining to sport activities and events.
5. The limitation period for prosecuting non-doping related offences and executing disciplinary measures under these Statutes is 180 days from the time of the offence or 90 days from when it was made known to the Disciplinary Committee, whichever comes first.
6. Disciplinary measures arising from or connected with any breach of these Statutes or any regulation or policy approved pursuant to these Statutes include, but are not limited to, a fine, service to the IMMAF community, suspension for a period of time, and exclusion from participation in the affairs of IMMAF by any athlete, administrator, athlete support personnel, technical official, club or organisation associated with IMMAF.
7. The decision of the Committee on a disciplinary case must be delivered in writing to the accused, the one making the complaint, the Member to which the accused is affiliated, and the IMMAF Board of Directors.
8. Both the one who brought the complaint to the Committee and the accused may make an appeal of the decision to the IMMAF Arbitration Committee.
9. Urgent non-doping related disciplinary measures at ongoing IMMAF competitions may be decided by two present representatives of IMMAF appointed to this task by the Board of Directors. Their decision must be unanimous and can be appealed to the Disciplinary Committee.

## **ARTICLE 33 ARBITRATION**

1. Any dispute arising from or related to these Statutes, regulations, directives, operations and decisions of IMMAF, which cannot be resolved through the standard operational procedures of IMMAF, may be brought forward to the independent IMMAF Arbitration Committee in writing.

2. A non-refundable arbitration fee set by the General Assembly must be paid upon submission of the dispute to the Arbitration Committee.

3. The Arbitration Committee is elected by the General Assembly and cannot be members of the Board of Directors or of the IMMAF Administration. The IMMAF Arbitration Committee will establish a pool of Arbitrators with recognised competence with regards to sport and alternative dispute resolution procedures, including expertise in Anti-doping Rules (ADR) and with appropriate medical/scientific qualifications to serve on IMMAF Arbitration Panels.

IMMAF Arbitration Panels will be appointed by the Chairman of the Arbitration Committee with the aim of ensuring a wide geographical and gender representation for individual Hearing Panels.

Subject to an Arbitrator's acceptance and challenge (of potential conflict of interest) process, up to three (or sole) Arbitrator(s) shall conduct the Individual Hearing.

4. IMMAF Arbitration Panels make decisions by simple majority (more than 50%) of the arbitrators. The Panel's decision is the final position at IMMAF.

5. IMMAF enforces any decision taken by the Arbitration Panel, provided that no appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has been lodged.

6. If the parties are not satisfied with the decision rendered by the Arbitration Panel regarding sport matters, cases must be reserved exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Each party shall be responsible for its own costs.

7. IMMAF recognises as the principal authority, in all disputes and matters of arbitration relating to sport, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) jurisdiction and accepts the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration as defined.

8. Any appeal against a final and binding decision from any IMMAF body shall exclusively be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), to the exclusion of any ordinary court of any country.

9. All other matters of legal dispute shall be handled in accordance with the law and in the jurisdiction of the country where the IMMAF headquarters are located.

## **CHAPTER 6 FINANCES**

### **ARTICLE 34 FUNDING AND REVENUES**

1. IMMAF is mainly but not solely funded by membership fees, income from sport events, sponsors, sanction fees, contributions and donations, public subsidies, and merchandise.

## **ARTICLE 35 FINANCES, LIABILITY**

1. The Board of Directors and its President are authorised to make expenditures to an extent on which they agree, within the limits of the budget approved by the General Assembly.
2. Members of IMMAF shall not be financially liable, toward IMMAF and third parties, beyond their annual membership fee.
3. The financial year of IMMAF shall run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.
  4. The President, the Board of Directors, the CEO of the IMMAF Administration, and any other appointed signatory must follow standard international financial business practices in all matters.
  5. IMMAF will not take responsibility for any Member liability, financial or other.
  6. IMMAF and its bodies accept no liability, financial or other, towards Members. The burden of proof for establishing any liability of IMMAF and its bodies rests with the Member.

## **ARTICLE 36 FINANCIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1. The Financial Audit Committee consists of three members, elected by the General Assembly, who are not members of the Board of Directors or of the IMMAF Administration.
2. The Committee oversees and audits the financial activities of IMMAF, and reports to every Ordinary General Assembly.
3. The Committee may intervene with its recommendations to the Board of Directors, whenever it deems necessary.
4. An audit will be carried out at least once per year, with the understanding that additional audits may be carried out at intervals as deemed necessary.
5. All administration and any financial matters of IMMAF are subject to auditing.
6. All financial documentation is to be submitted as requested by

the Committee. 7. The Committee is allowed to visit Board of Directors meetings but has no vote.

8. The Committee handles nominations for the Nomination Committee and presents its proposal at the General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER 7 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 37 STATUTES INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS**

1. The General Assembly decides how these Statutes are to be interpreted.
2. When the General Assembly is not in session, the authority for settling any dispute arising out of the interpretation of these Statutes shall reside with the Board of Directors, which shall seek the advice of the IMMAF Arbitration Committee before its decision.
3. These Statutes may only be amended by the Ordinary General Assembly, or an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for that purpose. Decisions are reached by two thirds of the votes cast.
4. Amendments to these Statutes take effect immediately upon the decision of the General Assembly.
5. After amendments to these Statutes, they shall be distributed to all Members by email and posted on the IMMAF website.

### **ARTICLE 38 DISSOLUTION**

1. The intended dissolution of IMMAF shall require an Extraordinary General Assembly at which the proposed dissolution shall be the sole item on the agenda. The decision is reached by two-thirds of the votes cast.
2. Any assets remaining after the dissolution of IMMAF shall, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, be applied to the furtherance of any objectives of IMMAF as determined by the General Assembly at, or before, the time of dissolution.
3. If effect cannot be given to the foregoing provisions, they shall be given to a charitable organisation. Under no circumstances shall they be paid to, or distributed among, the officers or Members of IMMAF

