



**Statutes of the**

**EUROPEAN KARATE FEDERATION**

**(EKF)**



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## **Statutes of The European Karate Federation (EKF)**

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### **ART. 1.- CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS.**

- 1) The European Karate Federation hereafter referred to as "EKF", is a permanent organisation with a legal status, founded on the year 1.963 and is composed of the National Karate Federations of every European Nation.
- 2) The EKF shall be based in the city established by the Executive Committee.
- 3) The EKF has nothing at all to do with matters pertaining to politics, religion or race, and is a non profit organisation.
- 4) The EKF performs its activity on an amateur basis in compliance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter.
- 5) The official languages of the EKF shall be English and French. All official EKF publications must be available in these two languages. Congresses, meetings and sessions must be held at least in English. In the event of disputes, decision shall be based on the English text.
- 6) The EKF is member of the World Karate Federation ("WKF"), and is recognised by the latter as its only representative in Europe. It shall also work closely with other Continental Unions recognised by the WKF, including the Mediterranean Union.
- 7) The EKF has the aim of promoting, organising, regulating and popularising the sport of karate.

### **ART. 2.- ECONOMICAL RESOURCES.**

- 1) The EKF shall pursue its institutional goals by means of revenues deriving from membership and yearly fees, competition entry fees, courses and exams, the organisation of official competitions, the issue of licences and diplomas, bequests and donations, and any other form of income providing it has been approved by the Executive Committee. All the television, radio, film and photographic rights of the EKF championships and other international events organized by EKF are the exclusive property of the EKF. These rights may not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of the Executive Committee, which may delegate its authority to negotiate the sale or utilization of these rights, but which shall support the sole responsibility for the final decision and for the utilization of the income from the sale of the rights.
- 2) The accounting period adopted by the EKF shall coincide with the calendar year. (1st January/31st December).
- 3) The budget, relative variations and the final balance-sheet, approved by the Executive Committee, and the reports of the EKF President, General Treasurer and Board of Auditors, must be approved by the Congress.



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### **ART. 3.- ASSETS.**

- 1) All existing EKF assets must be included in an inventory ledger kept by the General Treasurer and certified by the Board of Auditors.

### **ART. 4.- AFFILIATIONS.**

- 1) Only one National Federation per country is allowed, namely the one recognised by WKF.
- 2) National Federations wishing to be affiliated to the EKF must be an independent organisation in their own country. The President and the other members of the Executive Committee must be democratically elected.
- 3) National Federations wishing to be affiliated to the EKF must send a complete dossier of documentation to the General Secretary together with the relative memberships fee.
- 4) Affiliation shall be deemed provisional when it has been accepted by the Executive Committee. Affiliation shall be considered permanent when it has been ratified by the Congress. Provisionally affiliated National Federations shall enjoy all rights excepting voting rights.
- 5) If a National Federation is not yet recognised by WKF, it may equally apply for affiliation. All relative decisions shall be taken by the Congress, upon proposal of the Executive Committee. If this decision should be favourable, affiliation shall be considered provisional, and shall become permanent following Congress ratification the following year.
- 6) If a country is not included within the geographical limits of a Continental Union, it may ask to be affiliated to the most adjacent Continental Union.
- 7) Affiliated National Federations shall receive the corresponding Diploma.

### **ART. 5.- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.**

- 1) Member countries are entitled to:
  - a) Participate in Congresses in accordance with statutory norms and rules.
  - b) Participate in official competitions in accordance with specific competition rules.
  - c) Enjoy the advantages and benefits provided by the EKF.
- 2) Under the penalty of suspension or expulsion from all international activity, it is the duty of affiliated National Federations to:
  - a) Renew each year its membership in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth by the Executive Committee;



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- b) Abstain from sporting relations with organisations or physical persons not recognised by the EKF or by the WKF.
- c) Abstain from sporting relations with National Federations or physical persons suspended from International Competition.
- 3) In the cases as per letters b) and c) above, disciplinary action may be taken against affiliated National Federations.
- 4) Affiliated National Federations may only be expelled from the EKF through a Congress decision approved with a 2/3 (two thirds) majority, providing that these 2/3 (two thirds) represent at least half plus one of all affiliated National Federations.

### **ART. 6.- INDIVIDUALS.**

- 1) The physical persons entitled to be EKF members shall be:
  - a) Athletes.
  - b) Coaches.
  - c) Physicians.
  - d) Referees.
  - e) Officials.
  - f) All members of National Delegations that take part in International Competitions.
  - g) Honorary members.

### **ART. 7.- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUALS.**

- 1) Physical persons are entitled to:
  - a) Participate in EKF activities via respective National Federations.
  - b) Wear the official EKF uniform, complying with relative provisions.
  - d) Be put forward for elective offices and appointments providing they possess the minimal requirements.
- 2) Under the penalty of suspension from all international activity, it is the duty of individual members to:
  - a) Renew each year their membership in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth by the Executive Committee;
  - b) Abstain from sporting relations with organisations or physical persons not recognised by the EKF or the WKF.



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- c) Abstain from sporting relations with organisations or physical persons suspended from International Competition.
- 3) In the cases as per letters b) and c) of point 2 above, disciplinary action may be taken against individual members.

### **ART. 8.- ACCEPTANCE AND OBLIGATIONS.**

- 1) National Federations and individual persons affiliated to the EKF shall undertake to comply with Statutory norms, rules and all provisions issued by the Executive Committee.
- 2) Members shall undertake to work with the utmost loyalty and rectitude in complete compliance with rules governing the sport, maintaining a demeanour commensurate with the activity performed.
- 3) Any member in breach of the conditions as per points 1) and 2) above shall be liable to disciplinary action as set forth herein.

### **ART. 9. - ELIGIBILITY - CANDIDATURES - INCOMPATIBILITY.**

- 1) EKF elective offices may only be held for the first time by EKF members officially put forward as candidates by the respective National Federation provided that they have a minimum of two years membership to EKF at the date of the Congress and the National Federation concerned is up to date with payments due to EKF. Executive Committee members can put forward personally their candidatures to the Executive Committee.
- 2) Persons that have been classed as professionals in any sport or whose principal source of income derives from sporting activity or a related activity may not be put forward for elective offices.
- 3) All candidatures for elective offices must be put forward exclusively by the respective National Federation (except for cases referred in point 1) above to the EKF General Secretary - via air mail or electronic mail or fax - at least 2 (two) months before the date of the Congress.
- 4) The formalities as per the previous points shall also apply to outgoing members.
- 5) The validity of candidatures shall be verified by the General Secretary. Appeals against the decisions of the General Secretary may be filed in the five days following the decision of the Disciplinary and Legal Affairs Commission.
- 6) All candidatures for elective offices must be communicated by the EKF General Secretary to affiliated National Federations at least 3 (three) weeks before the date of the Congress.
- 7) Elective offices and appointments are incompatible with the qualifications of Athlete, Coach and Referee. Should a person in one of these categories be elected



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or appointed, he must immediately give up his previous qualification for the whole duration of his term of office.

- 8) If an appointed member loses the support of his National Federation, the appointment will be immediately forfeited.
- 9) If an elected member or the Chair of a Commission loses the support of his National Federation, he will need to remain in its office the support of the 2/3 (two thirds) of the Executive Committee and subsequently –for the elected member- the support of the 2/3 (two thirds) of the Congress when elections take place. When the elected member has been elected at least two times, this article cannot be applied. The member in question can present himself to re-election in the normal way.
- 10) The members of EC cannot be appointed in Referee Commission, Technical Commission, Medical Commission and Organising Commission.

### **ART. 10. - EKF ORGANS.**

- 1) The organs of the EKF are:
  - a) The Congress.
  - b) The Executive Committee.
  - c) The President.

### **ART. 11. - CONGRESS.**

- 1) The Congress is the supreme organ of the EKF, being given deliberative powers.

It shall decide only on matters included in the agenda when it is convened.

The General Secretary, no later than 1 (one) week after the EC meeting during the Junior and Cadet Championships in February , must invite all affiliated National Federations to present the issues that they wish to include in the Congress agenda, outlining the reasons behind the request. At least 1,5 (one and a half) months prior to the date of the Congress, the General Secretary must send to Executive Committee members the full list of presented topics.

The Executive Committee must then draft the agenda so that the General Secretary may forward the agenda to all affiliated National Federations at least 3 (three) weeks prior to the date of the Congress.

- 2) The following are entitled to take part in the Congress:
  - a) Affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights;
  - b) The Executive Committee;
  - c) The Board of Auditors;



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- d) The Commissions;
- e) The Honorary President(s) and Honorary Member(s);

Members not up to date with the payment of membership fees may not take part in the Congress. Participation in the Congress is also denied to those on whom an ongoing penalty has been inflicted.

- 3) National Federations affiliated in accordance with statutory norms and rules are entitled to 1 (one) vote.

Each National Federation may be represented by up to 2 (two) persons, who must be in possession of a proxy signed by the President of the National Federation except if the delegate is the own President. Each Federation may also have its own interpreter.

A National Federation may delegate by way of proxy as above on another to represent it. No representative may have more than 2 (two) votes, this including his own Federation's vote.

- 4) The Congress shall be called by the Executive Committee and convened by the President of the EKF, via the General Secretary, at least 3 (three) weeks before the date of the Congress, via a circular specifying the place, date and time of the Congress, the agenda and the list of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights at this date.
- 5) The Disciplinary and Legal Affairs Commission shall be responsible for monitoring powers and voting rights. Any disputes arising must be submitted to the opinion of the Congress.
- 6) The Congress shall be deemed valid at the first call if at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one half) plus 1 (one) of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights are present or represented, or at the second call, an hour later, if at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  (one third) of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights are present or represented.
- 7) The Congress shall be chaired by the EKF President or, in his absence, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.
- 8) Barring the terms of Articles 25 and 26, Congress resolutions shall be valid if they represent the simple majority of votes cast at the time of voting, excluding abstentions.

For the election of President, Executive Committee and Board of Auditors offices (all one round), the simple majority shall suffice. If there is a tie in voting, a second ballot shall be held.



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- 9) Depending on the decisions of the Congress President, voting shall be by a show of hands and recount or by roll-call, unless  $\frac{1}{4}$  (one quarter) of the National Federations present request for a secret ballot. All elections must be held by secret ballot, as well as all deliberations concerning an individual member.
- 10) The Ordinary Congress shall meet once yearly on the occasion of the Senior European Championships in the city where these take place.

The Ordinary Congress shall approve (or otherwise) the technical and financial report relating to the previous year's activity.. The financial report must be accompanied by the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounting and administrative situation of the EKF. The two reports must be given to affiliated National Federations before the Congress.

The Ordinary Congress shall also decide on other matters included in the agenda. Also the following matters must be at least included in the agenda:

- a) Affiliation of new National Federations.
- b) Information on the following year's European Championships and designation of the relative organisations.

The Ordinary Congress shall have the final say on all matters relating to Karate as presented by National Federations, and on any other topic of a general nature, and it shall define the guidelines for EKF activity.

- 11) The Ordinary Congress shall elect, with separate, successive votes, via a secret ballot:
- a) The President (every six years).
  - b) 10 (ten) members of the Executive Committee (every four years).
  - c) The 3 (three) members of the Board of Auditors (every two years).
- 12) The Extraordinary Congress shall meet:
- a) Upon the written and justified request of at least half plus one of the members of the Executive Committee.
  - b) Upon the written and justified request of at least half of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights. (For this the voting rights at last Congress celebrated will be taken into account.)

Providing it complies with the terms and procedures for the validity of Congresses as set forth herein, the Extraordinary Congress may be called at the same time as an Ordinary Congress.

The Extraordinary Congress must take place within three months of the date of the request.



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The resolutions and decisions of the Extraordinary Congress shall have the same validity as those of the Ordinary Congress.

- 13) The Extraordinary Congress may deal with all matters normally handled by the Ordinary Congress, and in addition it may decide on proposals to dissolve the EKF.
- 14) The President of the Congress shall decide on the number and duration of addresses granted to participants.

### **ART. 12.- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, 10 (ten) elected members and 1 (one) member coopted by the Executive Committee.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall be in power for a four-year term of office, and may be re-elected indefinitely.
- 3) In its first meeting, to take place no later than forty eight (48) hours after been elected, the Executive Committee shall appoint from among its members, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2 (two) Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary, the General Treasurer, and the Assistant General Treasurer.
- 4) Providing the provisions of article 9 herein are complied with, former EKF Presidents shall by rights be life members of the Executive Committee without voting rights.
- 5) The Executive Committee shall direct and administer EKF activity, draw up programmes in accordance with the directives approved by the Congress and see that they are enacted in order to achieve institutional goals.

In particular, it shall:

- a) Call Congresses, establishing the relative agenda.
- b) Draft the technical and financial report on the previous year's activity, to be submitted to the approval of Congress.
- c) Approve the budget, relative changes and the final balance-sheet, to be submitted to the approval of Congress.
- d) Decide upon the provisional affiliation of National Federations, to be submitted to Congress ratification.
- e) Approve and amend rules and regulations.
- f) Confer and repeal appointments.
- g) Administer available funds.



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- h) Monitor compliance with the Statutes, Rules and issued Norms.
  - i) Issue provisions pertaining to affiliations and membership.
  - j) Decide upon the amounts of fees and charges.
  - k) Designate the Honorary President and Honorary Members, to be proposed to Congress.
  - l) Grant amnesties and pardons and establish the limits of these measures.
  - m) Consider urgent provisions issued by the President.
  - n) Decide upon other matters included in the agenda.
- 6) The Executive Committee shall be convened by the President at least twice yearly in an ordinary session or, at the written and justified request of the majority of its members, in an extraordinary session.
- 7) Meeting shall be deemed valid if the majority of Committee members are in attendance. Decisions shall be taken on a simple majority basis. In the event of a tie in voting, the President or acting chairman shall have the casting vote. No proxies are allowed.
- 8) If for any reason a position should become vacant in the Executive Committee, the Committee may proceed to co-opt a member in accordance with the terms of article 9 herein. The co-opted member shall remain in office until the following Congress, when regular elections shall be held.
- 9) Executive Committee meetings may also be attended by the Chairmen of the permanent Commissions (without voting rights) for matters directly concerning them at request of Executive Committee.
- 10) The WKF President will be ex officio full EKF –EC member.

### **ART. 13.- PRESIDENT.**

- 1) The President shall represent the EKF in International Organisations and in relations with outside parties.
- 2) To be eligible as EKF President is necessary to have passed 1 (one) 4 (four) years term as elected EKF-EC member.
- 3) He shall be responsible for the running of the EKF and answer to the Congress and the Executive Committee.
- 4) He shall convene and chair the Executive Committee, after having drafted the relative Agenda, and shall monitor the implementation of approved resolutions.



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- 5) He shall convene and chair the Congress, barring exceptions expressly specified herein.
- 6) In emergency situations, the President may take decisions normally attributed to the Executive Committee. These decisions shall however be submitted to the ratification of the Executive Committee in its subsequent meeting.
- 7) In the event of a temporary absence, the President may delegate some or all of his powers to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.
- 8) In the event of the President's resignation or permanent absence, his powers and title shall be taken up by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President until the Congress where general elections take place, to be convened and held in accordance with the terms and procedures for the validity of the Congress as set forth herein.

In the event of the absence of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, the other Vice Presidents shall take his place according to the principle of seniority.

### **ART. 14. - VICE PRESIDENTS.**

- 1) The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its members the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and the 2 (two) other Vice Presidents.
- 2) The Vice Presidents shall provide the President with assistance for all his functions and shall replace him upon on the occasions as set forth herein in accordance with the relative procedures.
- 3) The Executive Committee may assign special tasks to the Vice Presidents providing they are not in contrast with the provisions herein.

### **ART. 15. - SECRETARY GENERAL.**

- 1) The Executive Committee, in its first meeting, after the elections, shall appoint from among its Members the Secretary General.
- 2) To be appointable as EKF Secretary General is necessary to have passed 1 (one) 4 (four) years term as elected EKF-EC member.
- 3) The Secretary General is in charge of the secretariat work and relations with the National Federations, as well as with third parties.

### **ART. 16. - ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL.**

The Executive Committee, in its first meeting, after the elections, shall appoint from among its Members the Assistant Secretary General.

### **ART. 17. - GENERAL TREASURER.**



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The Executive Committee, in its first meeting, after the elections, shall appoint from among its Members the General Treasurer.

### **ART. 18. - ASSISTANT GENERAL TREASURER.**

The Executive Committee, in its first meeting, after the elections, shall appoint from among its Members the Assistant General Treasurer.

### **ART. 19. - BOARD OF AUDITORS.**

- 1) The Board of Auditors shall be made up of 3 (three) members elected by the Congress, and shall hold office for a period of 2 (two) years.
- 2) In their first meeting the 3 (three) Members shall elect their Chairman.
- 3) The 3 (three) Members of the Board of Auditors may not hold elective offices or appointments in the EKF and cannot be members of the Executive Committee, as well as have different nationality of EC members.
- 4) The Board of Auditors must be invited to report to Congresses and may be invited to report to Executive Committee meetings.
- 5) Former EC members will not be eligible for the Board of Auditors until a period of 4 (four) years has passed since they left the EC.

### **ART. 20. - PERMANENT COMMISSIONS.**

- 1) Disciplinary and Legal Affairs Commission.
- 2) Financial Commission.
- 3) Medical Commission.
- 4) Organising Commission.
- 5) Public Relations and Protocol Commission.
- 6) Referee Commission.
- 7) Technical Commission.

### **ART. 21. - RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

- 1) In accordance with the provisions of Art. 12, point 5, letter e), and to further the aims of the EKF, the Executive Committee shall approve and amend Rules and Regulations.
- 2) The Permanent Commissions as per Art. 20 above shall help to prepare the Rules and Regulations in their own sphere of action.



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- 3) All Rules and Regulations must be in accordance with the herein statutes.

### **ART. 22. - HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBERS.**

- 1) Based upon a proposal of the Executive Committee, the Ordinary Congress shall elect the Honorary President and Honorary Members by acclamation. They shall be chosen among members of the EKF who, with selfless commitment, have made a significant contribution to the spread of Karate in Europe and in the World and acquired special merits within the EKF.
- 2) The Honorary President is entitled to attend, without voting rights, Congresses and Executive Committee meetings.
- 3) The Honorary President and Honorary Members shall make up the EKF Honorary Committee. They shall be given the corresponding membership card and a special Diploma.

### **ART. 23. - PRIZES AND REWARDS.**

- 1) The Star for Sporting Merit has been created with a view to honouring National Federations and individuals that have distinguished themselves through the performance of activity to popularise and improve the sport of Karate.
- 2) There are 3 (three) types of Stars for Sporting Merit:
  - a) Gold: For National Federations and individuals that have worked for the good of Karate for at least 20 (twenty) years, for the Honorary President and Honorary Members.
  - b) Silver: For National Federations and individuals that have worked for the good of Karate for at least 15 (fifteen) years.
  - c) Bronze: For National Federations and individuals that have worked for the good of Karate for at least 10 (ten) years.
- 3) The Stars for Sporting Merit are accompanied by the corresponding Diploma and, for individuals, by a special membership card and a badge.

### **ART. 24. - PRINCIPLES OF SPORTING JUSTICE.**

- 1) The Disciplinary and Legal Affairs Commission, of whom to the Article 20, point 1), herein Statutes, may take the following disciplinary actions against Federations and physical Persons:
  - a) Warning
  - b) Disapproval



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- c) Suspension
- d) Disqualification for up to 5 (five) years
- e) Expulsion

The expulsion of affiliated National Federations must be ratified by the Congress, as set forth in Article 5, point 4), herein Statutes.

- 2) Disciplinary action may also include the handing out of fines. The minimum fine must correspond to the membership fee (for National Federation) or to the registration fee (for Individuals).

### **ART. 25. - AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES.**

- 1) Proposals to amend the Statutes may be put forward by the Executive Committee or by affiliated National Federations having voting rights. In the case of National Federations, proposals must be presented to the Executive Committee by at least half plus one of all affiliated National Federations having voting rights.
- 2) Proposals to amend the Statutes must be approved by at least 2/3 (two thirds) of affiliated National Federations having voting rights present and represented at the Congress.

### **ART. 26. - DISSOLUTION.**

- 1) The proposal to dissolve the EKF must be presented to the EKF by at least 2/3 (two thirds) of affiliated National Federations having voting rights.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall then call the relative Extraordinary Congress in compliance with the procedures as set forth herein.
- 4) The proposal to dissolve the EKF must be approved at the Extraordinary Congress by at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of affiliated National Federations having voting rights.
- 4) Should the EKF be dissolved, its assets must be divided among affiliated National Federations having voting rights in proportion to the number of years that each Federation has been affiliated.

**“These statutes have been drafted by Professor Giuseppe Pellicone and approved by the EKF Congress in May, 1996”.**