

WORLD GENERAL KARATE FEDERATION (WGKF)

Statutes

TITLE I: NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE

Article 1 – Name and Legal Status

The organisation is established as an international non-profit federation with legal personality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The name of the federation shall be:

World General Karate Federation, abbreviated as **WGKF**

This name must appear on all official documents, publications, communications, and legal records issued by the federation. Where applicable, the designation “**International Federation**” or the abbreviation “**IF**” may be used alongside the official name to clarify the organisation’s purpose and legal standing.

Article 2 – Registered Office

The registered office of the federation shall be located at:

Unit 4 Chase Road, Brownhill, West Midlands, WS8 6JT

The Executive Board may relocate the registered office to another location within England or elsewhere in Europe, when necessary, provided that all required legal filings and publication requirements are completed in accordance with applicable law.

Any change of registered office shall be presented to the General Assembly for formal ratification at its next scheduled meeting.

TITLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Article 3 – Mission and Purpose

The purpose of WGKF is to promote, regulate, and develop Karate and other martial arts at educational, ethical, cultural, and sporting levels.

The federation is committed to fostering physical, mental, and moral development while supporting the overall well-being of its members and participants.

To achieve these objectives, WGKF may undertake initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Promoting and expanding access to Karate and martial arts across all social groups for educational, cultural, recreational, and sporting purposes.
- Supporting the development of national federations, clubs, and associations involved in Karate and martial arts.
- Encouraging high technical standards and organisational excellence within affiliated organisations.
- Promoting physical health, discipline, mental focus, and personal development through martial arts training.
- Supporting martial arts initiatives for individuals with disabilities and older adults.
- Developing youth educational programs aligned with recognised educational standards.
- Organizing non-profit training programs, workshops, seminars, and educational events.
- Conducting any lawful activity that directly or indirectly supports the federation's mission.

Any income generated through ancillary commercial activities must be used exclusively to support the non-profit objectives of the federation.

TITLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Article 4 – Membership Structure

WGKF shall consist of the following membership categories:

- Founding Members
- Full Members
- Provisional Members
- Affiliated Federations
- Authorised WGKF Representatives or Officials assigned specific responsibilities by the Executive Board

The founding members of WGKF are:

- Mrs. Sophie Menchini
- Mr. Mauro Menchini
- Mr. Ken Byrne

Founding members shall retain permanent recognition within the organisation and may continue to serve in leadership positions in accordance with organisational rules.

The federation must maintain a minimum of five Full Members at all times.

Only Full Members shall have full legal voting rights as granted under these statutes.

Article 5 – Recognition of National Federations

When multiple national organisations exist within the same country, the Executive Board may review additional applications carefully before granting recognition.

Before approving new organisations from countries where WGKF already recognizes multiple national bodies, the Executive Board may:

- Consult existing affiliated organisations
- Review organisational relationships
- Evaluate potential conflicts
- Protect existing member rights
- Assess whether affiliation serves the best interests of WGKF

Final approval or rejection shall remain at the sole discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 6 – Member Obligations

All members and affiliated organisations must agree to comply with:

- These statutes
- WGKF regulations
- Policies
- Executive decisions
- General Assembly resolutions
- Official disciplinary rulings

All decisions made by authorised governing bodies shall be considered binding.

Failure to comply with federation regulations may result in disciplinary action, suspension, or expulsion.

Article 7 – Eligibility for Membership

Membership may be granted to:

- Individuals
- National federations
- Associations
- Non-profit organisations
- Other entities that support the mission of WGKF

Organisations applying for membership must demonstrate:

- Proper governance structure
 - Democratic organisational processes
 - Legal compliance
 - Alignment with WGKF objectives
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Article 8 – Membership Applications

Applicants seeking membership must submit a formal application through the official WGKF application process.

The Executive Board shall review all applications and approve or reject them by majority vote.

The decision of the Executive Board shall be final unless otherwise provided under these statutes.

Article 9 – Resignation, Suspension, and Expulsion

Resignation

Members may voluntarily resign at any time by submitting written notice to the President.

Non-Payment

Members who fail to pay required fees within the designated timeframe after formal notice may have their membership terminated.

Suspension

The Executive Board may temporarily suspend members who violate federation rules pending further review.

Expulsion

Expulsion of a Full Member may only be approved by the General Assembly through a two-thirds majority vote.

Members facing expulsion shall be given the opportunity to present their case before a final decision is made.

Automatic Termination

Membership automatically ends in cases involving:

- Death
- Dissolution of an organisation
- Bankruptcy
- Legal invalidation
- Merger or restructuring that eliminates the original entity

Article 10 – Rights Following Termination

Former members, suspended members, expelled members, and their legal successors shall have no claim to federation assets, funds, property, or previously paid membership fees.

Any federation property in their possession must be returned within fourteen (14) days of termination.

Article 11 – Membership Register

WGKF shall maintain an official register of all Full Members in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

This rewrite modernizes and clarifies the original membership provisions while preserving the intent of the original statutes

TITLE IV: MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Article 12 – Membership Fees

The financial operations of WGKF shall be managed under the supervision of the Executive Board and in accordance with approved financial reports.

Revenue may be generated through:

- Membership fees
- Annual affiliation fees
- Event registration fees
- International competitions and events
- Sponsorships
- Donations
- Grants
- Contributions from third parties
- Educational programs
- Other lawful revenue-generating activities aligned with WGKF's mission

All expenditures must remain within approved financial limits and shall be managed responsibly to ensure the long-term sustainability of the federation.

TITLE V: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 13 – Authority of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of all Full Members of WGKF and shall serve as the highest governing authority of the federation.

The General Assembly shall be chaired by:

1. The President
2. In the President's absence, the General Secretary
3. In their absence, the Vice President
4. If none are present, the most senior Executive Board member present

Article 14 – Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall have authority over matters including:

- Approval and amendment of the statutes
- Election and removal of Executive Board members
- Appointment or removal of auditors or commissioners where required
- Approval of annual reports and financial statements
- Dissolution of the federation
- Expulsion of members
- Approval of major structural changes
- Any other matters specifically assigned under these statutes

Article 15 – Annual General Meeting

A regular General Assembly meeting shall be held during the WGKF World Championships or at another officially designated location.

Notice of the meeting must be provided to all Full Members at least **60 calendar days in advance** via official communication channels.

The notice must include:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Agenda
- Relevant supporting documents where necessary

Any proposal submitted by at least one-fifth of Full Members must be included on the agenda.

Article 16 – Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be called when:

- Requested by at least three Executive Board members

- Requested by at least one-fifth of Full Members
 - Required due to urgent organisational matters
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Article 17 – Voting Rights

Each Full Member shall have:

- One vote
- Equal voting rights

Members may appoint another Full Member as proxy through written authorisation.

No member may hold more than two proxy votes.

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Article 18 – Voting Requirements

Unless otherwise required by law or these statutes:

- Decisions shall be approved by simple majority
 - Abstentions and invalid votes shall not count toward totals
 - In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote
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Article 19 – Amendments to the Statutes

Amendments require:

- A quorum of two-thirds of Full Members present, or represented
- Approval by two-thirds majority vote

If quorum is not reached, a second meeting may be held where decisions may proceed according to applicable legal requirements.

Changes involving WGKF's mission or purpose require approval by four-fifths of votes cast.

Article 20 – Meeting Minutes

All General Assembly decisions shall be documented in official meeting minutes signed by:

- The President
- The General Secretary

These records shall be maintained at the registered office and made available to authorised members upon request.

TITLE VI: ADMINISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION

Article 21 – Executive Board Structure

WGKF shall be governed by an Executive Board consisting of at least three members.

The number of board members must always remain lower than the total number of Full Members.

Board members may be elected from within or outside the membership where permitted by law.

Article 22 – Term of Office

Executive Board members shall serve a term of **four years** and may be re-elected.

Board members remain in office until successors are officially appointed.

Their term may end through:

- Resignation
 - Removal
 - Death
 - Legal disqualification
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Article 23 – Board Officers

The Executive Board shall appoint from among its members:

- President
 - Vice President(s)
 - Treasurer
 - General Secretary
 - Any additional officers deemed necessary
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Article 24 – Board Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet upon:

- Request of the President
- Request of two board members
- Organizational necessity

Notice shall be provided at least **15 days in advance** unless urgent circumstances require shorter notice.

Meeting notices must include the agenda.

Article 25 – Board Decision-Making

The Executive Board may only make decisions when a majority of members are present or represented.

Decisions shall be made by majority vote.

In case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

All decisions must be recorded in official minutes.

Article 26 – Administrative Powers

The Executive Board may take all actions necessary to manage WGKF except matters reserved exclusively for the General Assembly.

The Board may:

- Delegate administrative duties
 - Create committees
 - Appoint advisors
 - Establish operational policies
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Article 27 – Property and Major Transactions

The Executive Board may not authorize major property transactions, mortgages, or major asset sales without approval from the Board of Directors or General Assembly where required.

Article 28 – Legal Representation

WGKF may be legally represented by:

- The Executive Board collectively
 - Authorised officers acting within delegated authority
 - Official representatives appointed for specific legal matters
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Article 29 – Daily Management

The Executive Board may appoint individuals responsible for daily operational management.

Their authority must be clearly defined.

Article 30 – Liability Protection

Board members and appointed officers shall not be personally liable for federation obligations unless misconduct, negligence, or unlawful conduct is proven.

Article 31 – Financial Oversight

Where legally required, the General Assembly may appoint an independent auditor, commissioner, or financial reviewer to oversee financial compliance.

TITLE VII: INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 32 – Internal Regulations

Additional operational procedures, policies, technical regulations, competition rules, and disciplinary procedures may be established through internal regulations.

These regulations must remain consistent with these statutes.

TITLE VIII: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Article 33 – Sources of Funding

WGKF may receive financial support through:

- Donations
- Sponsorships
- Grants
- Membership dues
- Bequests
- Event revenues
- Educational programs
- Lawful fundraising initiatives

All funds must be used to advance the federation's mission.

Article 34 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on **January 1** and end on **December 31**.

Article 35 – Accounting and Financial Reporting

WGKF shall maintain proper accounting records in accordance with applicable laws governing non-profit organisations.

Annual financial statements shall be prepared and submitted for approval by the General Assembly.

Where legally required, financial reports shall be filed with appropriate regulatory authorities.

TITLE IX: DISSOLUTION

Article 36 – Dissolution Procedure

A proposal to dissolve WGKF may be submitted by:

- The Executive Board
- At least one-fifth of Full Members

All dissolution procedures must comply with applicable legal requirements.

Article 37 – Approval of Dissolution

Dissolution requires the same quorum and voting thresholds required for amendments to the federation's mission.

Article 38 – Appointment of Liquidators

If dissolution is approved, the General Assembly shall appoint one or more liquidators to oversee the process.

Article 39 – Distribution of Assets

Upon dissolution, remaining assets must be transferred to organisations with similar non-profit purposes, consistent with applicable law.

No assets may be distributed for private gain.

FINAL PROVISION

Article 40 – Governing Law

Any matter not specifically addressed in these statutes shall be governed by applicable laws regulating international non-profit organisations.

These statutes shall take effect immediately upon formal approval by the appropriate governing authorities.