



STATUTES *of* THE INTERNATIONAL MIND SPOORTS ASSOCIATION

Chapter I NAME, OBJECTIVES, HEADQUARTERS

Article 1 Name

The name of the organization shall be “The International Mind Sports Association” and the officially approved abbreviation is “IMSA”.

Article 2 Description

2.1 IMSA is an association of international mind sports federations, founded in Lausanne, Switzerland, on April 19, 2005 by the representatives of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), Fédération Mondiale du Jeu de Dames (FMJD), Fédération Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), and International Go Federation (IGF).

2.2 IMSA is a non-profit organization devoted to mind sports and their educational, scientific, and technical development, incorporated in Switzerland and is subject to Swiss law as an association in accordance with Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.

2.3 IMSA meets regularly and, among the individual members, retains their autonomy and independence.

Article 3 Objectives

3.1 The goals of the International Mind Sports Association are:

- To gather the different mind sports federations to pursue common aims and interests as manifested but not limited to organizing the “World Mind Sports Games” (WMSG) or any other events to be decided upon;
- To obtain, for its members and for WMSG, the recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

3.2 IMSA shall comply with:

- The Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics;
- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) anti-doping code.

Article 4 Offices

4.1 IMSA has its registered office in Lausanne, Switzerland.

4.2 IMSA may also have other offices at locations as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine, or as the business of IMSA may require. In particular, IMSA may have an office at the location of its President.

Article 5 Official Language

The official language of IMSA is English.

Article 6 Symbols

IMSA shall have such symbols as an emblem, a flag, an anthem, a motto “*civilizations varied, wisdom unbounded*”, and the water mixing ceremony. These symbols shall belong exclusively to IMSA. Their design shall be reviewed by the IMSA Executive Committee and ratified periodically.

Chapter II MEMBERS

Article 7 Members

7.1 Members are international mind sports organizations (generally known as International Federations, or IF’s), each governing at least one mind sport. IMSA recognizes only one international sport federation for each sport.

7.2 The members shall comply with the following criteria:

- History – the IF shall be fully operating for a minimum of six years;
- Universality – the IF must have at least 40 national federations on at least 4 continents and be not dependent on any specific language;
- Practicing skilled competitions only – there may be no luck factor in determining the competition outcome;
- Regularly held national, regional, and international competitions;
- Well-established rules governing the practice of each sport and mechanism to ensure the application of the rules;
- Clear and consistent criteria of the eligibility for competitions;
- Compliance with the General Principle of the Olympic Charter and with the IOC Code of Ethics;
- Compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping code;
- Adoption of the principle of the arbitration of the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS).

Further, IMSA reserves all rights to request revision of the application on an individual basis.

7.3 Aspiring federation may submit application to the Secretary General at least 30 days prior to the Executive Committee meeting where the application will be reviewed. The application dossier shall demonstrate satisfaction of each of the criteria as specified in Article 7.2. In some cases, an applicant not in full compliance with all criteria may seek admission as an associate member; see Article 10. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

7.4 Applications shall be subjected to election procedure as specified in Art 12.10.2.

7.5 The Executive Committee may elect to grant an applicant the status of “observer”. This status shall not carry any voting right or speaking privileges except at the invitation of the President.

Article 8 Rights and Obligations of the Members

8.1 A member shall encourage and promote mind sports. A member must also make all possible efforts to contribute to the development of IMSA.

8.2 A member, through its designated delegate, shall be entitled to participating in all elections, and to submitting motions or recommendations relating to the work of the IMSA Executive Committee.

8.3 A member has the right to be included in all IMSA-sanctioned sporting events, except where external sponsors may specify differently.

8.4 A member shall contribute to the IMSA finance by payment of its annual dues and other charges as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

Article 9 Resignation and Termination

9.1 A member may submit its written resignation to the Executive Committee through IMSA President and Secretary General at any time.

9.2 Such resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt by the Secretary General of a notice of resignation signed by the President of the member federation and shall be reported to the next meeting of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The resigning member shall clear all its outstanding liabilities to IMSA.

9.3 The Executive Committee may expel a member if it is considered to have harmed IMSA. In this case, the decision must be approved by a 3/4 (three quarters) majority of the remaining members.

Article 10 Associate Members

10.1 Prospective federations that do not satisfy the universality requirement and/or are not yet fully in compliance with all the quantitative criteria stipulated in Article 7.2, may seek a transitional membership as an Associate Member.

10.2 An associate member shall encourage and promote mind sports. An associate member must make all possible efforts to contribute to the development of IMSA.

10.3 An associate member may request to participate in all IMSA events as either a regular participant or with a demonstration event, subject to the determination and approval of the Executive Committee.

10.4 An associate member shall contribute to the IMSA finance by payment of its annual dues and other charges as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee

Article 11 Recognition of a National Mind Sport Association (NMSA)

An organization that uniquely represents mind sports in a nation or a region may seek IMSA recognition of its representative status. The Executive Committee determines approval or rejection of the recognition status based on the criteria that the NMSA in question must be organized under the prevailing laws of the nation or region; that it must include most, if not all, of the mind sports represented by the IMSA members; and that it satisfies *ad hoc* criteria as may be set forth by the Executive Committee.

Chapter III ADMINISTRATION

Article 12 The Executive Committee

12.1 Each founding IF may designate 1 (one) delegate to the Executive Committee. Specifically the founding members include WBF, FIDE, FMJD, and IGF.

In addition, all member IF's may designate 1 (one) additional delegate to the Executive Committee.

12.2 The Executive Committee shall, subject to these Statutes, be empowered to act in all matters on behalf of IMSA.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year during its term of office. Subject to the authority of the Executive Committee, the President and the Secretary General shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of IMSA.

The Executive Committee may appoint an executive director and may appoint one or more advisers where necessary.

12.3. The maximum number of people who may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee is 3 (three) per IF member, including any interpreters. For the sake of these

Statutes, all Executive Committee delegates shall be counted with the other people representing the member federation to which they belong.

12.4. A delegate of one IF member may not vote in the name of another member. If specifically requested to do so, a delegate may speak on behalf of another member only at the invitation of the president or the chairman.

12.5. All delegates other than the president, chairman, or secretary-general of the member federation shall send to the Secretariat (if time permits) but in any case bring with them a letter of authority, signed by one of the three officers referred to above.

12.6. Meeting calling notice

12.6.1 All proposals to modify the Statutes of IMSA should reach the Secretariat so as to be included in the Agenda of the Executive Committee meeting, at least 2 (two) months before the date on which the Executive Committee meeting will take place.

12.6.2 At least 2 (two) months before the date of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat shall send a formal calling notice to all members that shall contain a request for any items that any member may wish to have included on the agenda to be sent to the Secretariat within 2 (two) months before the meeting.

12.6.3 At least 1 (one) month before the Executive Committee meets, the Secretariat shall circulate the agenda as prepared by the Officers and /or the Executive Board and including the items referred to in paragraph 12.7 below.

12.6.4 Any proposals for subsequent amendment of the agenda shall be sent in writing to the Secretariat at least 1 (one) month before the meeting.

12.6.5 Together with the agenda, the Secretariat shall circulate details of any membership applications and a brief description of the results of any investigations made by the Secretariat. Objections to or reservations held regarding such membership applications should be communicated immediately to the Secretariat together with the reasons for such objection or reservation.

12.7 Program and Agenda

12.7.1 The agenda for the Executive Committee shall contain the following items:

- a) Opening of the meeting
- b) President's remarks
- c) Adoption of the agenda
- d) Roll Call (by the Secretary General)
- e) Minutes of the previous meeting
- f) Reports on organization of World Mind Sports Games
- g) Financial matters

- h)** Budget for forthcoming year and planned IMSA events
- i)** New membership applications
- j)** Elections (as necessary)
- k)** Items presented for information
- l)** Date and place of next meeting

12.7.2 All items requiring a decision to be made by IMSA must be in writing in the form of a resolution.

12.7.3 No resolution shall be discussed in the absence of the delegate who proposed the resolution or his/her substitute.

12.7.4 Urgent matters, including matters brought forward from meetings of the Executive Committee, and which the Executive Committee approves by a simple majority, must be placed on the agenda and discussed provided that 50% (fifty per cent) of the delegates present and voting agree to do so.

12.7.5 Papers/documents for information, discussion, or decision shall not be read to the Executive Committee. They shall be distributed or circulated among the members prior to the meeting. The author may then elaborate on any points he believes necessary, with permission of the president or chairman. The paper/document may then be discussed and the author questioned by the delegates during such period of time as the president or chairman, subject always to the overriding authority of the Executive Committee, decides.

12.8 Minutes

12.8.1 The minutes of the meetings shall be circulated by the Secretariat under the direction of the Secretary-General and after approval by the President within 2 (two) months of the meetings.

12.8.2 No correction of or alteration to the minutes shall be accepted unless written notification has been received and acknowledged by the Secretariat within 2 (two) months of the date of circulation of the minutes to the members.

12.9 Quorum

12.9.1 The quorum for general business of the Executive Committee shall be 2/3 (two thirds) of the members.

12.9.2 The quorum for business entailing changes in these Statutes or the suspension or expulsion of members or the dissolution of the IMSA shall be at least 75% (seventy five per cent) of the Executive Committee members.

12.10 Voting

12.10.1 Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote.

12.10.2 The voting majorities required are:

a) For acceptance of new members or associate members, dissolution, changes in Statutes: at least 75% (seventy five per cent) of all members present and voting.

b) For other matters: more than 50% (fifty per cent) of voting members.
President's vote breaks all ties.

Article 13 The President

13.1. The Executive Committee shall elect the President.

13.2. The newly elected President takes office after the close of the meeting.

13.3. The term of office of the President shall be 4 (four) years.

13.4 The President is eligible for re-election.

13.5. The President shall preside over every meeting of the Executive Committee. If the President is absent or unable or unwilling to preside, then the Executive Committee shall elect one of its members to preside over the meeting as Chairman.

Article 14 The Officers

14.1 The Executive Committee shall elect from its member federations a Deputy-President, a Secretary General, and a Treasurer, in addition to the President. The Executive Committee may elect one or more Vice President(s).

14.2 Each member IF must have at least one officer.

14.3 The term of office of the Officers shall be 4 (four) years.

Chapter IV FINANCES

Article 15 Financial Matters

15.1 The resources of the IMSA shall be made up of members' and associate members' annual dues or charges, gifts and donations, sponsorships grants, and any other resources such as income from the World Mind Sports Games or other events organized by IMSA.

15.2 The Executive Committee shall set up regulations and guidelines for the finances and shall determine these regulations at the Executive Committee meeting.

Chapter V SPECIAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 16 Interpretations

The authority for interpreting any dispute arising out of these Statutes, or the By-Laws appertaining thereto, shall reside in the President, who shall seek the advice of the Executive Committee before making a final decision.

Article 17 Modifications

Notwithstanding Article 12.9 (quorums), these Statutes may be modified only by an Executive Committee meeting.

Article 18 Dissolution

18.1 The intended dissolution of IMSA shall require an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee at which the proposed dissolution shall be the sole item on the agenda.

18.2 If there is any property upon the dissolution of the IMSA, the Executive Committee shall decide as to how such residual property is disposed of, such disposal including distribution of the residual property among the members of the IMSA or application to other purposes including charity.

Article 19 Arbitration

In addition to other provisions of the Statutes, any dispute arising on the occasion of, or in connection with, the IMSA events shall be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in accordance with its Statutes and Regulation to the exclusion of any national court. The parties to such dispute shall undertake to implement in good faith the arbitral award rendered by the CAS.

Article 20 Honorary Members

An official or person who has rendered significant services to IMSA may be granted the title of “Honorary President”, “Honorary Member”, or other appropriate title, on a proposal approved by the Executive Committee.

Article 21 Final Declarations

No discussion or votes by IMSA shall affect in any way the freedom and independence of any member, who shall, in all cases, retain complete independence and control falling within the field of its activity.

These Statutes have been modified and approved by the IMSA Executive Committee in June 2017. They became effective on July 1, 2017, and replaced all previous versions.