



Constitution of the International Powerlifting Federation

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CONSTITUTION OF THE

Terminology

INTERNATIONAL

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the terms "General Assembly", "President", "Technical Commission" and such like shall mean the "IPF General Assembly", "IPF President", "IPF Technical Commission" etc.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the terms "him", "his" and "Chair" shall refer to persons of either sex.

1 NAME, OBJECTIVES and STATUS

1.1 Name

The INTERNATIONAL POWERLIFTING FEDERATION hereinafter called "IPF" is an organisation founded in 1972 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States.

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 To be the union of all eligible National Member Federations and Regional Federations in powerlifting throughout the world.
- 1.2.2 To develop standardized Technical Rules.
- 1.2.3 To maintain a system for recognizing and approving records.
- 1.2.4 To establish administrative and technical commissions when considered appropriate.
- 1.2.5 To establish, define, and enforce rules for good governance of powerlifting internationally.
- 1.2.6 To promote, support and encourage clean/doping free powerlifting sport.
- 1.2.7 To produce official bulletins and/or powerlifting publications.
- 1.2.8 To secure other national affiliates (countries).
- 1.2.9 To promote, sanction and supervise international development programs and events, including World Championships and single lift competitions.
- 1.2.10 To maintain a General Assembly of bona fide international representatives.
- 1.2.11 To further the cause of powerlifting and strive for and maintain recognition by the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and FISU.
- 1.2.12 To maintain membership of the Global Association of International Sports Federations and strive for further international memberships.
- 1.2.13 To take part in the IWGA World Games and other Multisport Games of International Multisport Games Organizers as are particularly but not exclusively IMGA (Masters Games), CGF (Commonwealth Games), the FISU Universiade, Special Olympics as well as the International and Continental Games of the Olympic Organizations (ANOC, EOC, OCA, ONOC, PASO, and ANOCA).
- 1.2.14 To work towards gender equality in powerlifting around the globe.
- 1.2.15 To safeguard the integrity of powerlifting, respecting good governance and observing human rights principles as well as operating sustainable development standards and risk management processes.

1.3 Status

- 1.3.1 The IPF is a "not-for-profit" organisation.
- 1.3.2 The IPF is composed of the affiliated National Member Federations governing the sport of powerlifting based on one National Member Federation per country.
- 1.3.3 The members have no interest in the federation's property. The members of this body work in an honorary capacity; the property of the IPF serves solely for the benefit of the sport. Any profits may be supplied only for statutory purposes. The members receive no shares in the profits and are not liable for any losses.
- 1.3.4 The IPF is recognized as a member by the Global Association of International Sport Federations

(GAISF), the International World Games Association (IWGA), the International University Sports Federation (FISU), and the Alliance of Independent Recognized Members of Sports (AIMS) and accepts and recognizes their statutes and objectives.

- 1.3.5 In its activities, the IPF follows the Olympic ideals, principles, and beliefs and maintains the ideals and objectives of the Olympic movement as enshrined in the Olympic Charter, and established in the Olympic Agenda 2020 and its recommendations, the IOC Code of Ethics, the IOC Basic Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, the Olympic Movement Code on the prevention of the Manipulation of Sport Competitions, the IOC Guidelines relating to the creation of an IF Athletes' commission, the IOC Consensus of Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism, the IOC Sustainability strategy, and the IOC Athletes Safeguarding Regulation.
- 1.3.6 As a Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the IPF accepts the Code and all International Standards and recognizes its responsibilities of adopting and implementing anti-doping policies and rules which conform with the Code and International Standards to maintain both the IPF's compliance with the Code and its status as a Code Signatory.
- 1.3.7 The IPF recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland as the only external body for jurisdiction, applying the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration for all disputes. Subject to the exhaustion of all prescribed internal legal remedies, all disputes involving the IPF including, without limitation, disputes relating to the Constitution, By-Laws or other rules of the IPF or arising out of the IPF's actions (or omissions), decisions, or relationships with its National Members Federations, Regional Federations or other affiliates or persons that are subject to its rules shall be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 1.3.8 All political and religious discussions or demonstrations are forbidden within the IPF.
- 1.3.9 The IPF supports all initiatives by powerlifters for peace and understanding.
- 1.3.10 No distinction is made between and no discrimination shall be accepted regarding continents, countries, or individuals for reasons of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or politics.
- 1.3.11 The IPF headquarters is located in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.
- 1.2.12 The Governing law of the IPF is the law of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

1.4 Funds for the reaching of the organizational Objectives

To the fulfilment of the federation's tasks, necessary money is raised by:

- Membership fees from the National Member Federations, athletes, and referees.
- Income from events.
- Event participation fees.
- Fines imposed as sanctions for a breach of any IPF statute or rules.
- Donations.
- Fees.
- Income from advertisements.
- Income from Internet Pay TV.
- Fines imposed as sanctions paid by athletes or National Member Federations as a result of Anti-Doping Rule Violations or other violations of the IPF Anti-Doping Rules.
- Miscellaneous income.

2 EMBLEM AND FLAG

2.1 Emblem

The emblem of the International Powerlifting Federation is the abbreviation "IPF" written in oblique letters of font "Arial" in blue. The letters "IPF" are embraced by a curved blue line on the top and by a curved red line at the bottom. The top of the red line ends with two arms directly under a red bended bar, having three red discs on either end with light red marked distances between the discs. The colours of IPF emblem are defined by the Executive Committee (EC). The emblem is the exclusive property of the IPF.

2.2 Flag

The flag of the IPF is the emblem together with the full name "International Powerlifting Federation" written with the font "Helvetica Italic" in blue. The lettering begins where the two

curved lines of the emblems converge on the right side of the emblem. On the right side of the flag, a stylized globe in light blue and the IPF website address are displayed. The flag is the exclusive property of the IPF.

3 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the IPF is English. All the publications and reports of the IPF are in English. The proceedings of the General Assembly, Executive Committee, and the Commissions are held in English.

4 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Categories of Memberships

4.1.1 Full Member

The membership of the IPF consists of National Member Federations and Regional Federations active in powerlifting. The IPF can recognise only one member (organisation) as a National Member Federation from each country as defined by the IOC glossary. The recognition of a National Federation will be done in agreement with the Olympic Charter and following the rules contained in these statutes. The IPF will inform the NOC of the country in question. The National Member Federations affiliated to the IPF must be independent inside their own country, i.e. must not accept any political or other interference from persons or institutions from outside of the National Member Federation.

National Member Federations must adopt a Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules which comply with and are not inconsistent with the IPF Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, circulars, and all decisions taken by the IPF and its bodies. In case of divergence only the IPF Rules shall apply.

The members of the Executive Committee and the President must be elected democratically by the National Member Federation's members and have the passport or residency of the country concerned. The IPF Executive Committee shall investigate each case of interference into the autonomy of its National Member Federations and take appropriate action according to IPF rules.

The Membership Fee is payable at the latest by the 31st of January of each year. Any National Member Federation, which has not paid its Membership Fee for the current year, cannot participate, or vote in the various meetings of the IPF. Its athletes cannot take part in Events or meetings organised under the rules of the IPF, nor obtain ratification of their records. A reminder letter shall be sent to every National Member Federation, which has not paid its Membership Fee by 15th March. National Member Federations more than two years in arrears with their annual membership fees may be excluded from membership of the IPF by the General Assembly upon proposal from the Executive Committee.

All National Member Federations and their members shall recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland (CAS) as the only external body for jurisdiction, applying the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. However, all internal legal remedies must be exhausted before referring a matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

A new National Member Federation must be affiliated to the IPF before it can be affiliated to its Regional Federation. The IPF respects the autonomy of its National Member Federations with respect to matters that do not have an international dimension, do not breach the IPF Constitution, By-Laws or other IPF rules and do not otherwise negatively affect the IPF.

A National Member Federation cannot be a member of another international organization that is not recognized or approved by the IPF. The National Member Federations affiliated to the IPF shall not be affiliated to any other organization with similar objectives to those of the IPF and, in particular, not to any organization purporting to be, or seeking to become, a worldwide governing body for powerlifting. This restriction shall be explicitly set out in the Constitution of the affiliated National Member Federation. A National Member Federation which joins a competing

international association, or a body declared as such by the Executive Committee shall be suspended if it refuses to respect the recommendations served hereto by the Executive Committee.

Each National Member Federation, and its employees and members are deemed, as a condition of participation or involvement in the sport of powerlifting, to have agreed to and be bound by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules, to have submitted to the authority of IPF to enforce its IPF Anti-Doping Rules, including any *Consequences* for the breach thereof, and to the jurisdiction of the hearing panels specified in Article 8 and Article 13 of the IPF Anti-Doping Rules to hear and determine cases and appeals brought under the IPF Anti-Doping Rules.

4.1.2 **Provisional Member**

A Provisional Member may only compete in International Events by the decision of the IPF Executive Committee or in Regional Events by decision of the Regional Executive Committee. However, once granted permission, a Provisional Member shall have all competition rights, but cannot vote at the General Assembly until they are approved as a full member in good standing. The Executive Committee is authorised to determine the amount of annual membership fee required for a Provisional Member. All countries applying for membership shall provide to the Secretary General a set of basic membership documents. A payment of an annual membership fee shall also be paid to the IPF within 30 days. Once these requirements are fulfilled they will be granted a provisional membership to the IPF subject to ratification at the next General Assembly.

4.1.3 **Membership of Regional Federations**

The IPF recognizes six Regional Federations, one from each region: the African, Asian, European, Oceania, North American, and South American Federations.

Every Regional Federation recognized by the IPF is required to follow the IPF Constitution, By-laws, Technical Rules, and IPF Anti-Doping Rules. As a condition of membership, all Regional Federations agree to and are bound by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules. A decision made by the IPF or by any other Code-compliant Signatory as a result of an anti-doping rule violation shall be recognized and automatically be binding on the IPF and all IPF National Member Federations and Regional Federations.

Regional Federations do not have a right to vote at the General Assembly.

Regional Federations have no authority to either include or exclude a National Member Federation.

Each Regional Federation shall elect an officer at their General Assembly to act as IPF EC member for that region. Such nomination shall only come into force if ratified by the IPF General Assembly. After a National Member Federation affiliates first to the IPF they will then be assigned to the appropriate Regional Federation. Regional Federations shall not be affiliated to any other organisation with similar objectives to those of the IPF or to any other organisation purporting to be, or seeking to become, a worldwide governing body for the sport of powerlifting. The membership of a Regional Federation shall be comprised solely of National Powerlifting Federations that are members of the IPF in the relevant geographical area. These restrictions shall be stated explicitly in the Constitution of the Regional Federations.

Their Constitution and rules of operation must be submitted to the Secretary General who sends them to the Law and Legislation Commission for approval. These must conform to all IPF statutes and rules where applicable. Regional Federations shall adhere to the IPF Constitution, By-Laws, and all other IPF rules and respect all decisions taken by the IPF bodies. In the case of conflict between the IPF Constitution and the Constitution of any Regional Federation or National Member Federation, the terms of the IPF Constitution shall prevail.

All Regional Federations shall recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland as the only external body for jurisdiction, applying the Code of Sports-Related

Arbitration. However, all internal legal remedies must be exhausted before referring a matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Their Events must be conducted in full accordance with the IPF Technical Rules. They cannot issue permits for Events other than their own Regional Events open for two or more nations of that Region and must also be sanctioned by the IPF.

In Regional Events, the Regional Federations have the authority to suspend athletes and officials and take disciplinary actions against them when the circumstances require. They must report these facts to the Secretary General of the IPF, who in turn shall refer the case to the Court of Justice for investigation and a decision. Where the issue is doping related, the procedure shall in all cases be strictly governed by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules. Regional Federations cannot suspend National Member Federations but may propose such an action to the Executive Committee.

Regional Federations agree to, are bound by, and must enforce the IPF Anti-Doping Rules. Any mandatory doping controls carried out during Regional Events must be carried out in full compliance with the IPF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Agency's International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Each Regional Federation must submit the following documents seven days after its General Assembly to the IPF Secretary General:

- Annual Report
- Financial Report including: Balance Sheet, P/L statement, notes etc.
- Auditors' Report and Budget
- Calendar of Events (dates and location)
- Results and Report from all regional Events
- Confirmation from Regional Records Registrar that all records have been updated
- Ranking Lists
- Any other relevant information requested by the IPF.

The IPF President or a person he nominates as his substitute shall be invited to the Executive Committee meetings and the General Assemblies of the Regional Federations. Costs shall be assumed by the IPF.

All Executive Committee and Commissions reports shall be provided when requested by the IPF. The Regional Federations shall post all reports and minutes of General Assembly on their website for transparency and good governance.

5 LEGAL BODIES OF THE IPF

The IPF is composed of the following legal bodies:

- The General Assembly (GA)
- The Executive Committee (EC)
- The Commissions

6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6.1 General Provisions

- The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of the IPF.
- The General Assembly shall meet annually one day before the start of the Classic World Open Powerlifting Championship.
- It is composed of the Officers and other members of the IPF Executive Committee elected in accordance with these Articles, and the delegates nominated by the voting National

Member Federations. EC members have voice only but not the right to vote at the General Assembly.

6.2 Powers

The General Assembly has the power:

- 6.2.1 To admit or exclude any National Member Federation as well as any Regional Federation by means of a two-thirds majority of votes cast.
- 6.2.2 To approve the annual reports for the preceding year.
- 6.2.3 To approve the annual accounts (balance sheet and financial accounts) of the preceding year after having taken into consideration the reports of the auditors.
- 6.2.4 To approve the budget for the following year.
- 6.2.5 To prescribe and amend the Constitution, subject to the Luxembourg Law of non profitable associations, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. A quorum of 2/3 of National Member Federations with full membership status is required to amend the Constitution.
- 6.2.6 To suspend and apply sanctions against National Member Federations or Regional Federations for any violation of the IPF Constitution or By-Laws as well as other applicable rules where competence is not explicitly reserved for another organ, body, or commission of the IPF. An appeal against a decision made by the General Assembly according to this rule may only be filed with CAS.
- 6.2.7 To remove from office by means of a two thirds majority vote, any person who through neglect of duty or misconduct has brought the IPF into disrepute or in any way impaired its function or development.
- 6.2.8 To control the income, expenditures, and the property of the IPF.
- 6.2.9 To call and determine the time and place of extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly.
- 6.2.10 To institute, locate, conduct, and manage all international powerlifting affairs.
- 6.2.11 To establish, define and enforce rules for the government of international powerlifting.
- 6.2.12 To explain, define and interpret any provision of the Constitution.
- 6.2.13 To elect the executive officers of the IPF every four years. To elect executive officers to fill any casual vacancies, which may occur between such election years.

6.3 General Assemblies (GA)

A General Assembly may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary Assembly.

6.3.1 Ordinary General Assembly (GA)

Unless otherwise determined by the GA, the ordinary GA of the IPF will be held once a year to comply with Luxembourg law related to the non-profit associations. Under special circumstances, the Executive Committee may determine an alternative date and location for ordinary GA.

6.3.2 Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA)

Extraordinary General Assemblies of the IPF are scheduled;

- By the General Assembly.
- At the request of the President.
- At the written request of two thirds of the members of the IPF.

6.3.3 Notices

Not less than ninety (90) days' notice must be given of any annual GA and not less than thirty (30) days' notice must be given of any Extraordinary General Assembly of the IPF. The Secretary General will send by email a notice and an agenda to all National Member Federations. The abovementioned documents will be placed simultaneously on the IPF website at www.powerlifting.sport

A notice sent to the last email address known to the Secretary General complies with this requirement.

The official agenda for the General Assembly must be received by all members at least thirty (30) days before the General Assembly takes place. Items not on the agenda cannot be considered by the General Assembly.

6.4 Order of Business

The President presides as Chair at any General Assembly. If the President is not present, the Vice President shall preside in his absence. If neither are present, the eldest member of the EC shall preside over the General Assembly.

At all Annual General Assembly meetings of the IPF the following will be the order of business:

1. Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Minutes of the last General Assembly
4. President's Report and approval
5. Vice President's Report and approval
6. Treasurer's Report and approval
7. Budget and approval
8. Auditors' (internal and external) report and approval
9. Secretary General's Report and approval
10. Commissions' Reports and approvals
11. Regional Reports and approval
12. Action on proposed amendments
13. Elections
14. New Member Applications
15. Delinquent Nations
16. Hall of Fame
17. Any Other Business
18. Adjournment

6.5 Voting Procedure

6.5.1 At all meetings of the IPF, unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution, a proposal shall be passed if supported by a simple majority of the valid votes cast.

6.5.2 Abstentions shall not be counted.

6.5.3 In the event of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

6.6 Procedures

The following are the procedural rules for meetings of the General Assembly:

6.6.1 The Standing Orders of the IPF are the supreme document for all GA meetings except when they are against the provisions of the Constitution. In such cases, the Constitution prevails.

6.6.2 A motion to table is debatable only when a time to debate is fixed by a simple majority of the GA.

6.6.3 All proposals to amend the Constitution must be submitted to the President, the Secretary General, and the Chair of the Law and Legislation Commission at least ninety days (90) prior to the date of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee, a National Member Federation, and a Regional Federation can submit amendments to the Constitution. The Secretary General shall send out all proposed amendments to the National Member Federations, at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the GA.

6.7 Credentials

The following are required:

National Member Federations may designate a maximum of two delegates to all General Assemblies, preferably the President and the Secretary General. Delegates other than the President and Secretary General must present a written authorization from their National Member Federation no later than at the opening of the Annual or Extraordinary GA.

7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

7.1 Titles

The titles of the executive officers of the IPF are: President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Member. There shall be no more than two Executive Committee members from any one nation. A member of a Regional Executive Committee cannot hold a regional and an IPF officer function as President, Vice President, Secretary General or Treasurer. Only the regionally elected Executive Member can hold a regional and an IPF officer function.

7.2 Executive Committee

Members:

- The President
- The Vice President
- The Secretary General
- The Treasurer
- A Male Athlete Speaker
- A Female Athlete Speaker
- The Chair of the Women's Commission
- The Chair of the Technical Commission
- The Chair of Medical Commission
- The Chair of the Youth Commission
- Six members elected by the Regions (One member per region). Such election shall only come into force if ratified by the IPF General Assembly.
- The Executive Committee may appoint to the Executive Committee two additional Chairs from existing commissions.

Vacancies. In the event of the death, resignation, or in case of inattention to duty, by recommendation of the Court of Justice, the various offices are to be filled as follows:

- President: The Vice President shall succeed the President until the next General Assembly. At this General Assembly, the presidential successor shall be elected.
- Vice President: The Executive Committee shall appoint a successor to serve until the next GA. At this General Assembly, the Vice President's successor shall be elected.
- Secretary General and Treasurer: The Executive Committee shall appoint a successor to serve until the next GA. At this General Assembly, the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected.

7.3 Quorum

There shall be at least a quorum of five members. In the event of an impasse (stalemate), the President shall cast the deciding vote.

7.4 Powers of the Executive Committee

The EC shall be the governing body of the IPF between General Assemblies and shall have the following powers, without limitation:

- 7.4.1 To maintain a running control of the expenditure of the IPF, in accordance with the budget approved by the General Assembly.
- 7.4.2 To prepare a budget for the forthcoming year for presentation and approval by the General Assembly.
- 7.4.3 To appoint the non-executive officers. The EC shall also have the power to remove a non-executive officer from his/her position.
- 7.4.4 To administer the IPF Development Fund.
- 7.4.5 To amend the IPF Anti-Doping Rules upon consultation with the Anti-Doping Commission and on prior approval from the World Anti-Doping Agency.

- 7.4.6 To establish the Commissions and Working Groups and operationally independent disciplinary panels as specified in the IPF Anti-Doping Rules, and to appoint the Chair and other members of each Commission, Working Group and panel established under this rule.
- 7.4.7 To invite the Chairs of the Commissions and Working Groups for discussion of issues that fall within the competence of their particular Commissions and Working Group.
- 7.4.8 To negotiate and sign contracts.
- 7.4.9 To implement and monitor the Strategic Plan.
- 7.4.10 To prepare and finalize the Calendar of Events.
- 7.4.11 To vary the composition of Events on the Calendar of Events. The EC may also establish new Events. The EC shall inform the Annual General Assembly of the Calendar of Events as well as the host countries and cities.
- 7.4.12 To negotiate at its sole discretion the participation of Powerlifting as a sport in Multisport Games and events, particularly but not limited to the events and organisations listed under Article 1.2.13.
- 7.4.13 To determine the creation, deletion, and modifications of the By-Laws.
- 7.4.14 To appoint Commissions and Working Groups, and panel and determine their function, responsibilities, and objectives.
- 7.4.15 To appoint the Chairs and the members of the Commissions and the Working Groups.

The Executive Committee members have duties and responsibilities as specified in the Constitution and By-Laws. Any misconduct or negligence by a member not solved by the Executive Committee, shall be forwarded to the Court of Justice for review and decision.

The IPF shall hold IPF officials harmless from undue actions from third parties including civil lawsuits connected to their IPF work, as long as their work conforms to the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and EC decisions.

7.5 Election of the IPF Officers

7.5.1 Elections

Elections of all executive officers will be held every four years at the General Assembly. Election is by a simple majority, i.e. the person who has obtained the highest number of valid votes is elected. When two or more candidates obtain an equal number of votes, another ballot shall be held. If after the second ballot there is still a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote. Elections shall be held by secret ballot. The General Assembly shall select two scrutineers that will be approved by the GA to collect, inspect, and count the votes. The tally of the votes shall be reported to the Secretary General and the Chair of the GA.

7.5.2 Valid Vote

A valid vote is one that conforms with all stated requirements. To determine the outcome of each election, only valid votes are counted. The following shall not be counted as valid votes and are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority:

- Abstentions
- Blank votes
- Votes for more or fewer candidates than the number required.
- Votes declared void by the scrutineers whose decision shall be final, e.g., unintelligible votes.

7.5.3 Term of Office

The term of office for all Executive officers of the IPF shall be four years and the mandate of all officers, even those who were elected between General Assemblies, shall expire at the electoral General Assembly. All Executive Officers shall be eligible for re-election. A person may be nominated for IPF office by any National Member Federation.

Prior to the candidate being elected as an officer, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Law and Legislation Commission shall determine, whether the candidate for office is in good standing with the IPF. If a dispute arises between the Executive Committee and any of the candidates on the matter of the candidate's standing or behaviour in the IPF the matter shall be referred to the Court of Justice.

Nominations of candidates for IPF office shall be received by the President, the Secretary General and the Chair of the Law and Legislation Commission, latest ninety (90) days prior to the date of the General Assembly, where the election shall take place. Later nominations shall not be accepted, except there is no nomination for an office. All nominations must be posted on the IPF website at least sixty (60) days prior to the GA.

8 NON-EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

8.1 Titles

The titles of the non-executive officers of the IPF are: Championships Secretary, Internal Auditor, Newsletter Editor, Media Officer, Internet Officer, Paraspport-delegate, Sustainability Officer, Integrity Officer, Records Registrar, Referee's Registrar and Mediator.

8.2 Appointment and Rights

The Executive Committee shall appoint non-executive officers taking into consideration the gender ratio. By invitation of the President they may attend meetings of the Executive Committee but without vote and with voice only on matters relating to their respective offices.

9 FINANCIAL YEAR

The accounting period of IPF is from January 1st to December 31st.

10 COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

10.1 General Provisions

The Commissions and Working Groups act as consultative bodies to the Executive Committee.

In carrying out their functions each Commission and Working Group shall respect eventual rules decided by the Executive Committee. The Chair of each Commission and Working Group shall co-ordinate the proper running of activities and write reports on those activities to the Executive Committee.

11 AUDITORS

11.1 Internal Auditor

The internal auditor shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years.

11.2 External Auditor

The annual financial statement shall be audited by an external auditor appointed by the Executive Committee. The external auditor shall be a licensed and practicing accountant that shall be independent from the IPF. He is responsible for auditing the accounts in compliance with the Constitution of the IPF and By-Laws as well as all pertinent rules. All audits should follow good governance principles and international accounting standards.

12 JUDICIAL BODIES

Judicial bodies of the IPF are as follows:

- The General Assembly
- The Anti-Doping Commission
- The TUE Commission
- The Doping Hearing Panel
- The Court of Justice
- The Court of Appeals
- The Ethics Commission

13 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of any IPF decision-making body shall avoid any situation that could lead to a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest. Any actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest must be declared, and action taken by the individual to remove him/herself from the situation where a conflict may arise. It is the personal responsibility of each person to avoid any case of conflict of interest. The conflict of interest must be reported and sent to the Secretary General.

Any officer who violates this principle shall be referred to the Ethics Commission.

14 PARTICIPATION IN NON-COMPLIANT ANTI-DOPING EVENTS

Any athlete, coach, referee or official who competes or participates in an International Powerlifting or Bench Press event not organised, sanctioned, or approved by the IPF shall not be permitted to take part in any IPF international, regional or national event for a period of 12 months from the date of that non-approved event.

Any athlete, coach, referee or official that participates in any competition or Event which is organized by a Sporting Body, Federation or Organisation that has not received recognition from the World Anti-Doping Agency and is thus non-compliant with the Code and International Standards shall be automatically rendered ineligible and shall not be permitted to take part in an authorized National or International Powerlifting or Bench Press Event for a period of 12 months from the date of the last non-compliant Event. Should the athlete, coach, referee or official participate in an unauthorized Powerlifting or Bench Press Event prior to the lapse of the 12 months, he/she may be sanctioned with a period of ineligibility of an additional 12 months from the date of the non-compliant Event. In the case of a second infringement for such participation, the period of ineligibility may be a maximum of 24 months. The decision to extend the period of ineligibility will be at the sole discretion of the Anti-Doping Commission.

15 THE IPF ANTI-DOPING RULES

As a Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code, IPF fully accepts, implements and enforces the Code and its International Standards and as a condition of membership, all IPF Member Federations (both National and Regional) agree to and are bound by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules, the World Anti-Doping Code, and its International Standards. The IPF Anti-Doping Rules shall thus apply to:

- IPF, including its board members, directors, officers, specified employees, and Delegated Third Parties and their employees, who are involved in any aspect of Doping Control.
- each IPF National Member Federations, including their board members, directors, officers, specified employees, and Delegated Third Parties and their employees, who are involved in any aspect of Doping Control.
- the following Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons:
 - all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are members of IPF, or of any National Member Federation, or of any member or affiliate organization of any National Member Federation (including any clubs, teams, associations, or leagues).

- all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who participate in such capacity in Events, Competitions and other activities organized, convened, authorized or recognized by IPF, or any National Member Federation, or by any member or affiliate organization of any National Member Federation (including any clubs, teams, associations, or leagues), wherever held.
- any other Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel or other Person who, by virtue of an accreditation, a license or other contractual arrangement, or otherwise, is subject to the authority of IPF, or of any National Member Federation, or of any member or affiliate organization of any National Member Federation (including any clubs, teams, associations, or leagues), for purposes of anti-doping.
- Athletes who are not regular members of IPF or of one of its National Member Federations but who want to be eligible to compete in a particular International Event.

16 MATTERS NOT COVERED

The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on all matters that are not expressly provided under this Constitution.

17 VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Dissolution of the IPF shall only be possible by a decision of the General Assembly. For this purpose, a written request stating the reasons for such dissolution shall be handed over to the Executive Committee. After discussion of the request, the Executive Committee will then put the request on the agenda of the next General Assembly. For the dissolution to become valid, a three-quarters majority of all votes cast is required. In the event of such dissolution of the IPF and provided the IPF still holds assets, and having covered any liabilities, the General Assembly shall also decide to whom to transfer the remaining assets. These assets shall, if possible and permitted, be transferred to an organisation having the same or similar interests compared to the IPF or allocated to charitable causes.

18 MISCELLANEOUS

In these Articles, unless the context requires another interpretation:

- Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa.
- Words importing the masculine gender only or neuter shall include the feminine gender.
- Words importing persons shall include corporations.

19 ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

So adopted by the IPF Extraordinary General Assembly 24.3.2021.