## **WORLD SNOOKER FEDERATION**

STATUTES



ADOPTED ON THE 5TH OCTOBER 2017

AMENDED ON THE 16TH MARCH 2018 AT THE WSF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AMENDED ON AT  $18^{\text{TH}}$  DECEMBER 2020 AT THE WSF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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#### **CHAPTER I PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES**

#### 1. Objectives

1.1 The World Snooker Federation ("**WSF**") is the official amateur division of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association Limited (a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England, with company registration number 01607454) ("**WPBSA**").

### 1.2 The WSF's objectives are:

- (a) To obtain recognition by the International Olympic Committee (the "IOC") and the International Paralympic Committee (the "IPC") as an IOC-recognised international federation for snooker and billiards ("Snooker") either directly or through an umbrella organisation provided that the Board (as defined below) is satisfied that a suitable IOC compliant umbrella organisation exists;
- (b) To maintain a close liaison with the IOC, the IPC, the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federation ("ARISF"), the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations ("ASOIF"), the Global Association of International Sport Federations ("GAISF"), the International World Games Association ("IWGA") and all other leading Multi-Sport Event organisations (each a "MSE"), in order to obtain optimal recognition for Snooker and the WSF either by working directly with the organisations or through an umbrella organisation as described in Article 1.2(a);
- (c) To seek inclusion of Snooker in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the World Games and all other MSE, as well as to assist all relevant Members (as defined below) with the inclusion of Snooker into regional and/or national MSE;
- (d) To foster, develop, encourage and advance the sport of Snooker (including men's, women's and mixed gender events) in all its forms and in all age groups in every country worldwide;
- (e) To formulate or adopt and implement appropriate policies for the WSF and Snooker more generally in accordance with the IOC-recognised standards for international sports federations, including in relation to discrimination, sexual harassment, equal opportunity, anti-doping and health and safety;
- (f) To host such Snooker open events as it may decide in consultation with the WPBSA and World Snooker Limited (a private limited company incorporated in England, with company registration number 04127833) ("WSL") (but in a way that does not conflict with the events hosted by WPBSA and WSL) and to promote the highest standards at such events;
- (g) To align amateur and professional snooker globally to encourage clear and transparent career development paths for elite performing athletes; and
- (h) To promote understanding and co-operation between the Members and provide support in the development of the sport of Snooker.

# 2. Principles

- 2.1 The WSF is based on the principle of equality and mutual respect between all of its Members and bodies, without regard to race, ethnicity, political opinion or religion.
- 2.2 The WSF is a worldwide representative body of Snooker in relation to the sport being recognised by the IOC and the IPC, in which capacity the WSF shall promote the Olympic and Paralympic Snooker ideals in accordance with the official IOC International Sport Federation recognition procedures and policies.
- 2.3 Without prejudice to Article 2.2 above, the WSF and all Members recognise and accept that:

- (a) WPBSA was established in 1968 and is recognised worldwide by relevant associations and organisations as the controlling body of professional Snooker;
- (b) WPBSA has established and is solely responsible for maintaining, updating and enforcing the rules of Snooker ("Rules"); and
- (c) The WSF recognises the WPBSA as its highest authority in the sport.
- 2.4 All Members hereby agree that the WSF adopts the Rules and (where applicable) the WSF Rules (as defined below).

### 3. Organisation

The WSF is constituted as follows:

- (a) the General Assembly (as detailed at Article 11 below);
- (b) the WSF board of directors (the "Board") (as detailed at Article 21 below);
- (c) the WSF Council (as detailed at Article 30 below);
- (d) any Committee established by the Board pursuant to Article 31 below; and
- (e) the WSF Tribunal (as detailed at Article 32 below).

## 4. Name and Headquarters

The WSF is an Association established and organised in accordance with Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. The WSF Headquarters are located in Lausanne, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland at such address as decided by the Board.

### **CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP**

### 5. Membership

- 5.1 Membership of the WSF is open to the following:
  - (a) any regional body or entity, regional federation or regional association for Snooker established to represent a regional group of National Federations (as defined below) ("Regional Body") which has been approved by a majority vote of the Board;
  - (b) any duly recognised national governing body for Snooker ("National Federation").
    A National Federation will automatically become a Member where their Regional Body is a Member or otherwise any National Federation which has been approved by a majority vote of the Board;
  - (c) WPBSA and any WPBSA group company;
  - (d) any other entity representing a Snooker stakeholder group which has been approved by a majority vote of the Board; and
  - (e) any person appointed as a WPBSA Director (as defined below) shall automatically be admitted as a Voting Member (also as defined below) for the duration of their appointment.

## 6. Application for Membership

- 6.1 Any application for membership (other than pursuant to Article 5.1(e)) must be sent in writing to the General Secretary by the applicant according to a Board-approved process which has been communicated to the applicant by the General Secretary.
- 6.2 If the Board is satisfied that the applicant meets all requirements to become a member of the WSF, it will grant the applicant membership of the WSF by written notice to the applicant upon which the applicant shall automatically become a member of the WSF (a "Member").
- 6.3 Membership of the WSF confers certain rights upon Members as set out in these Statutes.

#### 7. Voting Members

The only Members who shall have the right to vote at any General Assembly are:

- (a) any Regional Body;
- (b) only in the case where its Regional Body is not a Member at the time of the General Assembly, the National Federations from that region may nominate one representative from their region to vote (for on behalf of the National Federations in that region); and
- (c) each WBPSA Director,

(together the "Voting Members" and each a "Voting Member").

## 8. Financial Charges

- 8.1 Each Member (other than any WPBSA Director) will be charged a mandatory financial charge each year (the "**Annual Subscription Fee**"). The Annual Subscription Fee will be set by the Board annually.
- 8.2 All Members are required to pay their initial and all subsequent Annual Subscription Fee(s) as directed by the Board.
- 8.3 The WSF may also be financed through gifts and bequests from sponsors, Members, and/or third parties.

# 9. Suspension and Termination of Membership

- 9.1 The Board may, in its discretion, suspend a Member's membership for such period of time as it considers fit (taking into account all relevant circumstances leading to the suspension) or terminate a Member's membership:
  - if any such Member has failed to pay in full its Annual Subscription Fee or any other amount due to the WSF;
  - (b) if any such Member has acted in material breach of these Statutes; and/or
  - (c) if any such Member has acted in material breach of any of the Rules or any other applicable rules and regulates promulgated by the Board ("WSF Rules").
- 9.2 A Member whose membership has been terminated ceases to be a Member and loses all its membership rights. To regain its membership, the excluded Member must file a new membership application for consideration by the Board and may only do so once any outstanding sums owed to the WSF have been paid in full.
- 9.3 During a period of suspension, a suspended Member (or, in turn where applicable, any of its members) may not attend or be represented at any meeting of any body of the WSF nor may

it organise any event nor attend or take part in an event recognised by the WSF (as the case may be), unless otherwise approved by the Board.

9.4 The suspension or termination of a Member's membership will be notified by the Board to the other Members.

### 10. Obligations of Members

- 10.1 All Members must (and in the case of any WPBSA Director, only as applicable):
  - (a) remain in good standing (including in good financial standing);
  - (b) encourage its respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies to participate in activities and competitions officially recognised or approved by the WSF;
  - (c) observe and comply with, and be bound by, these Statutes, the Rules, the WSF Rules and any decision issued by the Board or the WSF Tribunal, all of which shall also bind its respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies;
  - (d) agree to promote amicable and courteous relations within the Snooker community, with other Members and their respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies;
  - (e) establish a system for the resolution of disputes by independent arbitrations and promote recourse to and recognise decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport ('CAS') and ensure that said decisions and awards are legally binding for and enforced by them and its respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies;
  - (f) ensure that their policies and programs are in compliance with those of the WSF, including but not limited to ensuring that their governance and management processes produce the following (each of which shall be produced to the Board upon request):
    - (i) up to date statutes and regulations in English, approved by the WSF;
    - (ii) a sports development plan;
    - (iii) an annual report on its activities and annual financial accounts in accordance with international accounting standards;
    - (iv) a database of its respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies and competition results;
    - (v) an anti-doping program in partnership with the relevant authorities; and
    - (vi) such other deliverables as reasonably required by the Board;
    - (g) manage their affairs independently and with no influence from third parties. In particular they must ensure that their officers are either elected or appointed under democratic and transparent processes; and
  - (h) maintain and manage their own affairs in their region(s).

10.2 Non-compliance with these provisions may lead to the intervention of the WSF including sanctioning provided for in these Statutes and/or the Rules and/or any WSF Rules.

#### **CHAPTER III GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### 11. Composition

- 11.1 Each Voting Member has a right to attend, participate in and vote on the resolutions at any General Assembly of the Members as set out in these Statutes. Any Member who is not a Voting Member has the right to attend and speak (only) at any General Assembly.
- 11.2 The Board has the right to invite third parties to attend the General Assembly as observers or presenters.

#### 12. Functions and Powers

The General Assembly only has the following functions and powers:

- (a) to approve the annual report of the Board (being a yearly publication including the WSF's activities, development and financial statement);
- (b) to approve the annual financial report and accounts and to receive the WSF's auditor's report (such auditor to be a qualified, independent accountant);
- (c) to ratify the exclusion of a Member decided by the Board;
- (d) to appoint the WSF's auditors;
- (e) to agree any amendments to the Statutes put forward by the Board in accordance with Article 19; and
- (f) to have such other functions and powers as delegated to it by the Board in writing from time to time.

# 13. Meetings

- 13.1 The WSF shall in each year hold an annual General Assembly as its annual general meeting in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it.
- 13.2 Meetings (including any General Assembly) can be conducted by video conference facility at the discretion of the Board.
- 13.3 The WSF must hold an additional General Assembly at the written request at any time of:
  - (a) the Board; or
  - (b) 20% of the Voting Members acting together, by sending such request to the Board.
- 13.4 The time, date and place of all General Assemblies shall be decided by the Board.
- 13.5 The notice convening the annual General Assembly shall be provided to all Members by the Board at least 21 clear days before the contemplated date of the annual General Assembly. Reasonable notice shall be provided to all Members by the Board in respect of any other General Assembly (given the prevailing circumstances, in particular any timing constraints).
- 13.6 Subject to Article 19, any Voting Member may propose items to put on the agenda for the annual General Assembly by providing notice to the General Secretary at 14 clear days before the date of the annual General Assembly (or as otherwise agreed by the General Secretary).

## 14. Quorum

For any General Assembly to be validly convened and pass resolutions, 5 Voting Members which must include at least two WPBSA Directors must be present in person (which will include virtual attendance in the case of any meeting duly convened by video conference facility). If such quorum is not reached, the Board may convene another General Assembly with the same agenda within thirty (30) days and such General Assembly will be validly convened even if no quorum is then reached.

#### 15. Agenda

- 15.1 The Board shall establish the agenda for each General Assembly. The agenda for each General Assembly must include any items submitted by any relevant Voting Member pursuant to Article 13.6.
- 15.2 The agenda and available supporting documentation shall be provided to all Members in good time before any General Assembly.

## 16. Voting Rights

- 16.1 Each Voting Member shall have one vote. For the avoidance of doubt, no WBPSA Director nor any other Voting Member can cast more than one vote.
- 16.2 A secret ballot (ensuring the anonymity of the voting parties) shall be compulsory for all contested Board elections.
- All other decisions shall be taken by a show of hands, unless the chairperson of the General Assembly requests that voting shall take place by way of a secret ballot.
- All resolutions of the General Assembly shall require a simple majority of the votes cast, unless these Statutes provide otherwise. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.
- 16.5 The chairperson shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- 16.6 If any WPBSA Director would ordinarily have been the nominated representative of a Regional Body, such Regional Body shall nominate another person from its board of directors to exercise such Regional Body's vote instead.

#### 17. Chair

The chairperson of the General Assembly shall be a WPBSA Director as selected by WPBSA.

# 18. Minutes

- 18.1 Minutes of any General Assembly shall be supervised by the General Secretary and approved by the chairperson of the General Assembly.
- 18.2 The minutes must record all resolutions passed at a General Assembly and where applicable the dates on which they are to come into effect.
- 18.3 Copies of the minutes shall be made available to the Members no later than ten (10) weeks after a General Assembly.

### 19. Amendments to the Statutes

Any amendment to these Statutes may be proposed by either the Board (acting by a simple majority of the Board) or any Voting Member (provided that the majority of the Board agree such Voting Member's proposals) and shall then be subject to agreement by a simple majority of Voting Member votes cast at the next General Assembly. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.

#### 20. Dissolution of the WSF

The WSF can only be dissolved by agreement of a 75% or more of the Voting Members and the agreement of the Board. Should the WSF be dissolved, its assets shall be returned to the not for profit worldwide governing body for Snooker in existence at the relevant time.

#### **CHAPTER IV BOARD**

### 21. Composition of the Board

- 21.1 The maximum number of directors shall be eight (8) comprised of:
  - (a) four (4) appointees of WPBSA who shall act in an executive capacity(the "WPBSA Directors"); and
  - (b) four (4) appointees of the WSF Council, appointed in accordance with Article 30.4 who shall act in a non-executive capacity.
- 21.2 Without prejudice to Article 21.1, WPBSA has, at all times a right to appoint at least four (4) representatives as directors to serve on the Board and such right cannot be amended, removed or replaced without the unanimous consent of all Members.
- 21.3 The WPBSA shall appoint the roles of President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Treasurer.
- 21.4 Each director shall serve for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election (as applicable) provided that no director shall serve more than three consecutive terms (i.e. a maximum continuous term of twelve years).
- 21.5 A director does not represent the interests of a Member and therefore may never vote on behalf of a Member either by proxy or otherwise, except in the case of any serving WPBSA Director who is also in his or her own right a Voting Member.
- 21.6 The appointment of each director is subject to the individual In question satisfying, and continuing at all times while on the Board to satisfy, WSF's "fit and proper person test" (as in force from time to time).
- 21.7 From the serving board of directors the role of Chief Executive Officer may also be appointed by the Board.
- 21.8 The Board may appoint such other positions as it sees fit, including the positions of Sports Director, Anti-Doping Compliance Officer but being under no obligation to appoint such roles from any of the existing directors of the Board or members of the WSF Council.

### 22. Functions and Powers

- 22.1 The Board shall decide on all matters not otherwise reserved to another body of the WSF pursuant to these Statutes. Without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, the Board shall have the following functions and powers:
  - (a) to define the general strategy, business and sport policy of the WSF;
  - (b) to monitor the implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly;
  - (c) to propose items for the agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with Article 15;
  - (d) to propose amendments to these Statutes pursuant to Article 19;
  - (e) to approve the WSF Rules (or variations thereto);

- (f) to appoint and remove members of any Committee established in accordance with Article 31;
- (g) to approve the remuneration of any director on the Board, if applicable;
- (h) to set deadlines for submission of candidacies to positions on the Board and Committees.
- 22.2 A director cannot vote in approving his or her own remuneration.

# 23. Disqualification of Directors

A director on the Board shall vacate his or her office immediately if:

- (a) he or she ceases to be a director if he or she becomes prohibited by law from being a director; or
- (b) he or she becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his or her creditors generally (or such similar proceedings) in any jurisdiction; or
- (c) he or she becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her property and affairs; or
- (d) he or she resigns his or her office by notice to the General Secretary in writing; or
- (e) he or she shall fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board without just cause in the view of the majority of the other directors; or
- (f) he or she ceases to be a director in accordance with the provisions these Statutes,

provided that any act done in good faith by a director whose office is vacated as aforesaid shall be valid unless, prior to the doing of such act, written notice shall have been served upon the WSF or the register at the Chamber of Commerce has been updated in each case stating that the director has ceased to be a director.

## 24. Directors may delegate

- 24.1 Subject to these Statutes, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under these Statutes:
  - (a) to such person or Committee;
  - (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
  - (c) to such an extent;
  - (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
  - (e) on such terms and conditions;

as they think fit.

24.2 If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.

24.3 The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

## 25. Quorum for Board meetings

- 25.1 The quorum for Board meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than three, and must include at least two WPBSA Directors and at least one director appointed by the WSF Council.
- 25.2 At a Board meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting. If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision to appoint further directors.

# 26. Meetings

- 26.1 The Board shall meet at least once per year. Additional meetings of the Board may be convened at the request of the President.
- The President shall chair the meetings of the Board, or may delegate the role to another Board member.
- 26.3 Each member of the Board shall have one (1) vote. Members of the Board cannot vote by proxy.
- 26.4 All matters shall be decided by a show of hands or verbal votes.
- 26.5 The President shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- 26.6 The passing of resolutions by the Board shall require the approval of a majority of the Board. Board members who abstain from voting will not be counted.
- 26.7 Resolutions of the Board may also be passed by correspondence provided that a majority of the members of the Board accept such resolutions.
- 26.8 Minutes of all meetings shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary.
- 26.9 The President may invite to the Board one or more experts in a consultative capacity.
- 26.10 Board meetings may validly be held via videoconference or conference call when appropriate. Those attending a videoconference or conference call are deemed to be present.

### 27. President and Vice President

- 27.1 The President and Vice President are responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the WSF are observed and for the general supervision of its activities.
- 27.2 The President chairs the General Assembly and the Board and decides on the timing and agendas of Board meetings. The President shall maintain close contact with the Members and with the various constituencies of the WSF in its relationship with other sports, the IOC and other organisations and individuals as appropriate.
- 27.3 The Vice President shall cooperate with the President according to the delegation of duties established by the President.
- 27.4 The President and the Vice President may attend meetings of any Committee.

## 28. General Secretary

- 28.1 The General Secretary reports to the Board and the General Assembly. The General Secretary is appointed by the WPBSA, and attends meetings of the Board.
- 28.2 The General Secretary is responsible for the following:

- (a) the management of the general business of the WSF within the scope of WSF's budget;
- (b) the implementation of the policies and decisions of the Board and General Assembly;
- (c) the promotion of good communications and relations between the Members and other relevant organisations;
- (d) ensuring that the purposes and principles of the WSF are observed and for the general supervision of its activities;
- (e) maintain close contact with the Members and with the various constituencies of the WSF in its relationship with other sports, the IOC and other organisations and individuals as appropriate;
- (f) attend meetings of any Committee;
- (g) the observance of and compliance with these Statutes and the Rules;
- (h) the preparation of the annual report and other publications, and the distribution of all relevant material to Members and other appropriate parties;
- (i) the execution of formal WSF documents other than those that need to be executed by the President;
- (j) the arrangements for taking the minutes of all sessions and meetings of the Board;
- (k) other duties as delegated by the Board.

# 29. Representation of the WSF

The President shall represent the WSF on all appropriate official occasions. In the absence of the President, the Vice President and, if either the President or the Vice President are absent, the General Secretary may represent the WSF.

### **CHAPTER V THE WORLD SNOOKER FEDERATION COUNCIL**

## 30. The WSF Council

- 30.1 The WSF Council is a committee. Its role shall be to;
  - (a) promote and coordinate the development and activities of Snooker with the relevant territories (as directed by the Board);
  - (b) deal with matters of common interest of any Regional Body and/or National Federation and bring them to the attention of the Board; and
  - (c) support the Board and provide input on all relevant matters.
- 30.2 The WSF Council will be composed of one representative from each Regional Body (as determined by that Regional Body) which is a Member.

- 30.3 In the case where a Regional Body is not a Member, the National Federations from that region may nominate a representative from their region to become a representative of the WSF Council until such time as the Regional Body is admitted as a Member.
- 30.4 Four (4) representatives from the WSF Council shall be nominated to serve on the Board by a majority of members of the WSF Council. One of these four (4) representatives must be the current chairperson of the WSF Council.
- 30.5 Members of the WSF Council may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms (of four years).

#### 31. Committees

- 31.1 The Board may establish Committees for particular purposes.
- 31.2 The Board shall appoint the chairperson and members, define the terms of reference and decide the date when any such Committee shall make its report. Any such Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members, including the chairperson. The Board may remove any Committee member by a two-third (2/3) majority of the Board.
- 31.3 The appointment to any Committee is honorary and carries no remuneration. Reasonable expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a member of such Committee shall be met by the WSF.

#### CHAPTER VI WSF TRIBUNAL AND COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

#### 32. WSF Tribunal

- 32.1 Subject to Article 33.3, if there is any dispute between the WSF and any Member or between two or more Members which arises from any alleged infringement of these Statutes or of any WSF Rules or as regards any interpretation of these Statutes, the matter shall be referred to the WSF Tribunal to resolve the dispute. The WSF Tribunal shall be comprised of three persons appointed by the Board who shall act on an arm's length basis from the Board.
- 32.2 Subject to the right of appeal under Article 33, any decision of the WSF Tribunal shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

### 33. Court of Arbitration for Sport

- Any decision of the WSF Tribunal may be appealed to CAS for full and final resolution in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 33.2 Any dispute between any Member and the WSF which falls outside the jurisdiction of the WSF Tribunal shall be settled definitively by the CAS in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 33.3 Provided both the WSF and the other party or parties agree in writing, any dispute (excluding violations of any anti-doping regulations) may bypass the WSF Tribunal and be submitted directly to CAS and settled definitively by the CAS in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 33.4 The parties concerned acknowledge and agree that the seat of the CAS is in Lausanne, Switzerland, and that proceedings before the CAS are governed by Swiss Law.

### **CHAPTER VII GENERAL**

### 34. Official Language

- 34.1 English shall be the official language of the WSF.
- 34.2 Official documents, Minutes, Agendas, and publications shall be in English.

#### 35. Official Communications

Decisions rendered or notices given by a body of the WSF or its Members may be communicated by any appropriate mode of communication, including but not limited to the use of electronic networks, and shall be binding upon delivery.

#### 36. Financial Matters

- 36.1 The WSF's financial year shall be from 1 January to 31 December.
- 36.2 The WPBSA shall appoint a Treasurer in accordance with Article 21.3.
- 36.3 The Treasurer shall ensure that WSF adopts and operates good financial governance and produces regular and timely financial information including at least an annual financial report and annual accounts. The Treasurer shall arrange for WSF's accounts to be audited in accordance with international accounting standards each year by an independent qualified external auditor.

## 37. Scope, Conflicts of Rules and Omissions

- 37.1 These Statutes and the WSF Rules shall apply to all persons and bodies involved in the activities of the WSF by virtue of their involvement, including without limitation the Members (and their respective members, officers, officials, players and other constituent individuals and bodies).
- 37.2 Should there be any conflict between the Statutes and the WSF Rules, the Statutes shall prevail.
- 37.3 Should there remain any omission in the Statutes, they shall be interpreted in a manner compatible to the fullest extent with Articles 1 and 2 of these Statutes.