

**CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION
{ REVISIONS – APPROVED BY THE WORLD CONGRESS, AUGUST 2010}**

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - Name

The name of this Organization shall be the International Racquetball Federation.

The International Racquetball Federation is further referred to as the IRF and the official abbreviation of The Federation is IRF.

The International Racquetball Federation shall have a Logo shown in the IRF Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

Section 2 -Definition

The IRF is a Membership Federation and shall have no capital stock. The IRF is one which does not contemplate pecuniary gain of profit to any Person., Member or Board of Director. No part of the earnings of the IRF, if there be any earnings, or the assets of the IRF, shall inure to the benefit of any Person, Member, Officer, or Board of Director thereof. The property of the IRF is irrevocably dedicated to Athletic, Charitable, Health and Educational purposes. Furthermore, in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the IRF any and all surplus, capital and assets shall be distributed to one or more Funds, Foundations or Federations selected and chosen by the Board of Directors of the IRF and conducted solely and exclusively for Religious, Athletic, Health, Charitable, or Scientific Purposes, and is a 501-c-3 corporation under the IRS laws of the USA.

Section 3-Recognition by the IOC

The International Racquetball Federation is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The IRF accepts and recognizes the Statutes and Aims of the IOC. The general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter are applicable and no provision of this Constitution shall be deemed to conflict with or derogate from these principles.

Section 4 - Other Affiliations

Membership of the IRF in any other Federation must be approved by the IRF World Congress. Sportaccord, Association of Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF), International World Games Association, (IWGA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are recognized by the IRF.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 - Mission of the IRF

The Mission of the IRF is to develop and promote Racquetball worldwide by working with Countries and Organizations to increase competition and participation.

Section 2 - Purpose of the International Racquetball Federation

This is a Non-Profit Organization for Educational purposes designed to foster the development of the Sport of Racquetball throughout the World and to offer quality World Racquetball Tournaments. The IRF offers National Racquetball Federations who desire to join in membership for the advancement of Racquetball, an opportunity to participate and contribute to that growth. These purposes are fulfilled through the aims and objectives.

Section 3 - Aims and Objectives

- A. To perpetuate, improve, and extend the sport of Racquetball throughout the World.
- B. To stimulate the interest of people in healthy sport participation through Racquetball.
- C. To supervise and administer a continuing Racquetball Program for all age groups for the purpose of stimulating interest and developing Athletes through careful preparation and planning, utilizing existing facilities, resources, and coaching.
- D. To unify and coordinate, the efforts of all Agencies interested in promoting Racquetball, and permit all interested parties to have a voice in the development of the Sport in the entire World.
- E. To create and maintain research projects that will benefit all parties interested in Racquetball.
- F. To provide a clearinghouse for the distribution of Coaching Aids, Literature, Films, Research Materials, and Rules collected from sources throughout the World.
- G. To establish an effective means of communication for the transmission of useful ideas whereby Coaches and Athletes will be informed of the latest developments and techniques in Racquetball.
- H. To give prompt attention and consideration to valid suggestions on how to improve the conduct of administration in Racquetball throughout the World.
- I. To establish an International series of Racquetball clinics for Teaching and Coaching.
- J. To maintain records and disseminate information pertaining to all phases of Racquetball.
- K. To train and certify competent Racquetball, Referees and Linespersons.
- L. To raise money and finance improvement in the sport of Racquetball.
- M. To operate exclusively for Educational and Charitable purposes.
- N. To follow and actively support the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and its principles and goals.

Section 4 - Neutrality

The IRF observes strict neutrality on Political, Social and Religious grounds. No discrimination is permitted against any affiliated National Racquetball Federation or any Association, Club, or Sports person on political, racial, or religious grounds.

Section 5 - Headquarters

- A. The Official Seat of the IRF is Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.
- B. The IRF shall be incorporated as a non-profit 501-c-3 corporation under the laws of the USA.
- C. The IRF shall be incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of Colorado.

Section 6 - Languages

All meetings shall be conducted in English, but any delegate who has difficulties in expressing their views in English will have the right to do so in his or her own language provided He or She has an interpreter. Every National Racquetball Federation has the right to correspond in English with the IRF. Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations and all other important documents, such as Minutes of the World Congress and Playing Rules, will be published in English.

Section 7 - Composition of the International Racquetball Federation

The IRF is composed of Full and Provisional members who are National Racquetball Federations.

Section 8- Honorary-Past Presidents and Honorary-Members

Upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, persons who have rendered exceptional services to the International Racquetball Federation or who in general have given exceptional services to Racquetball may be elected Honorary Past President or Honorary Member by The World Congress. The Honorary Past President may attend Board of Directors meetings, but will not be allowed to vote.

Section 9 - Mutual Recognition of Federations

The National Racquetball Federations who are members of the IRF in good standing recognize each other as being solely empowered to control Racquetball in their respective countries. Therefore, they recognize that neither they nor any of their Members will in any way have relations with non-associated bodies or one of their Members, except as may be permitted by the Constitution and By-Laws or with special permission of the IRF President for limited time periods.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 - Membership

Affiliation and duties:

For any member of the IRF, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

A. FULL MEMBERSHIP (Voting Member at World Congress)

1. Must be the Racquetball National Federation of a Sovereign Nation.
2. Must control Racquetball in their Country.
3. Must abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF.
4. Must provide the IRF with their Constitutions, Statues and By-Laws
5. Must pay yearly membership dues determined by the World Congress.
6. Must have an Elite National Racquetball Team

B. DEVELOPING MEMBERSHIP (Non- voting Member at World Congress)

1. Open to Countries who are in the preliminary Stages of Development of: National Team Members, Juniors Development, Coaches, Referees and Teachers of Racquetball. Status to be determined by the Board of Directors.
2. Must be making efforts towards full membership on an ongoing basis.
3. Players must have passports or meets eligibility criteria for National Players who compete periodically in Racquetball.
4. Must have a designated National Racquetball Headquarters in their Country.
5. Must pay membership dues as determined by the World Congress in order to compete in any IRF World Racquetball event.

Section 2 - Resignation

A National Racquetball Federation's Resignation will be accepted by The World Congress upon written request and after having fulfilled all the fiscal obligations towards the IRF or any of its Member National Racquetball Federations.

Section 3 - Suspension of Membership Rights

A National Racquetball Federation whose Members and Officials have repeatedly failed in its responsibilities towards the IRF after written warning, or has acted contrary to the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations or decisions of the bodies of the IRF can be suspended by the Board of Directors. The National Racquetball Federations will be immediately informed about such suspension which will be formally submitted to the next IRF World Congress for confirmation.

Section 4 - Expulsion

Any National Racquetball Federation can be expelled from the IRF by The World Congress if it:

- A. Brings disrepute to the IRF or to Racquetball in it's the National Federations Country.
- B. Seriously violates the IRF Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations or The World Congress decisions.
- C. Does not pay the IRF subscriptions and fees owed to the IRF after due notice has been given.
- D. Is not the Recognized Governing Body of Racquetball in their Country.

The decision by the World Congress is final in regard to any expulsion.

Section 5 - Dissolution

The dissolution of the International Racquetball Federation shall only be effected by an Extra-Ordinary World Congress called especially for this purpose. The Extra-Ordinary World Congress decides about the disposal of the funds of the IRF, as indicated in Article 1, Section 2 definition. The Board of Directors will fulfill the duties of liquidation.

Section 6 - Termination of Rights and Duties of Members

All rights and duties pertaining to membership cease with resignation or expulsion. An expelled or resigned National Racquetball Federation cannot put forward any claims to the assets of the IRF.

Section 7 - Responsibilities

The financial commitments of the IRF are limited to its assets.

Section 8 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the IRF starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the same year.

Section 9 - Deadline

For the observance of the established dates in the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations, the "date stamp" is decisive.

Section 10 - Arbitration of Disagreements within a Member Federation

In event of disagreement, the National Racquetball Federation concerned must seek their own settlements. If no such settlement is possible, then the matter must be submitted for decision to the Board of Directors to be ratified by the World Congress at the next scheduled World Congress Meeting.

Section 11 - Constitutional By-Laws

- A. By-Laws and Regulations are additional prescriptions to the Constitution.
- B. For modifications of the Constitution, a qualified (66 2/3%) majority is necessary.
- C. For modifications of the By-Laws, a simple (50% + one) majority is sufficient.
- D. Constitution and By-Laws may be changed or amended only by the IRF World Congress.
- E. Regulations may be changed or amended by the Board of Directors.
- F. Each National Racquetball Federation in good standing with the IRF has one vote at the World Congress
- G. Provisional members have no vote at the World Congress. Provisional members may be represented at the World Congress and may be granted the right of speaking after approval of the President.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 - Administration of the International Racquetball Federation

The World Congresses and Committees of the IRF are:

- A. Legislative bodies:
 - 1. The World Congress
 - 2. Extra-Ordinary World Congress
- B. Executive Judicative Bodies:
 - 1. Board of Directors
 - 2. Executive Committee
 - 3. Committees
 - a. Standing Committees
 - b. Ad Hoc Committees
- C. Auditors: Retained by the Board of Directors

Section 2 - Sections of the IRF

Some major responsibilities for IRF functions such as: Rules, Tournament Formats and Seeding and Referees are carried out by Standing Committees. Each Committee will be under the leadership of a Chairperson recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. These Committees will consist of the Chairperson and could be a one member Committee. There will be no limit to the size of a Standing Committee. The President may appoint Ad Hoc Committees to address other IRF issues.

Section 3 - Officials of the International Federation

The officials of the IRF are classified according to their responsibilities and authority:

- A. Board of Directors
- B. Executive Committee
- C. Committee Members
- D. Other Temporary Officials of the IRF

ARTICLE V

A. LEGISLATIVE BODIES

Section 1 - Meetings of the Legislative Bodies

The legislative bodies of the IRF meet as follows:

- A. The World Congress: Meets every two years in conjunction with World Championships
- B. Extra-Ordinary World Congress: According to the Constitution can be called within three months after the request for such meeting.
- C. The Board of Directors should meet at least once a year. The President will call this meeting.
- D. The Executive Committee will meet when it is called to meet by the President.
- E. The Committees will meet when the Committee Chair calls a meeting.

Section 2 - Notice of Meetings

Notice of all regular World Congress meetings will be given by the IRF General Secretary no later than 3 months before the World Congress meeting. The notice will specify the date, time and location of the meeting and include an invitation to National Racquetball Federations to submit items for the agenda. The agenda and relevant documents will be sent out at least 2 months before the World Congress by the Secretary General. The documents will be sent to the Presidents of all National Racquetball Federations and Developing 1 member Countries who are in good standing with the IRF. However, for an Extra-Ordinary World Congress, a notice must be given no later than six weeks before the meeting to all National Racquetball Federations. The World Congresses are organized by the IRF Secretary General in cooperation with the National Racquetball Federation of the Country in which the meeting takes place.

Section 3 - Proposals

All National Racquetball Federations in good standing and the Members of the Board of Directors have the right to present proposals for the World Congress agenda. Only written proposals that have been sent to the IRF office no later than two months before the meeting (the post stamp on the envelope, or date stamp on email, is sufficient) can be accepted and are subject to the following extra conditions:

- A. Formal proposals on modification of the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF can only be voted upon at the World Congress. All changes to the Constitution become effective immediately.
- B. Proposals for changing the playing rules or modification of the playing rules must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the Rules Committee Chairperson preceding The World Congress. The Board of Directors will act upon these recommendations and make their recommendations to the World Congress for approval
- C. The Passage of a rule will take effect on September One of the year it was passed.
- D. In the case of a formal proposal on the dissolution of the IRF within the fixed term, an Extra-Ordinary World Congress shall be called.
- E. The reasons for proposed changes must accompany any proposal presented for consideration.

Section 4 - Delegates

National Racquetball Federations may be represented by a maximum of one voting delegate, who must be a member of that National Racquetball Federation (if the delegate does not speak English, the delegation is entitled to bring one interpreter at their own expense). The National Racquetball Federation may nominate a second delegate (reserve) who can replace the delegate. Names of the delegate and the reserve must be given to the Secretary before the opening of the World Congress. The first delegate to vote shall be marked. Only the alternate delegate can replace this person. Any change must be submitted to the Secretary. Controversies will be settled by The World Congress. Other persons may attend the World Congress at the discretion of the President.

Section 5 - Voting Rights

Only Members of the National Racquetball Federations in good standing with the IRF have voting rights at The World Congress. For the elections of the Board of Directors, and other agenda items the members of the Board of Directors may not vote unless no other members from their Member National Racquetball Federation are available to vote. The President of the IRF or his or her substitute has the right of breaking a tie. Honorary Life Past Presidents and Honorary Life Members may speak, but have no vote.

Section 6 – Voting

For voting at The World Congress, a simple majority of the votes cast, for or against, is required for the adoption of a proposal. In case of a tie, the President will vote to break the tie. No proxies shall be allowed. No National Racquetball Federation is obliged to vote and any abstentions are not counted and will be considered as absentees. When various proposals about the same matter are to be decided and none get the required majority, a second vote will take place in which the relevant majority decides. Voting is open ballot unless a secret ballot is requested by one delegate or the President who is entitled to vote. All voting for the Board of Directors and Executive Committee members positions will be by closed ballot. A quorum for voting at the World Congress will be 50% of the National Racquetball Federations in good standings present at the World Congress meeting.

Section 7 – Elections: Board of Directors 11 Members

The Elected Board of Directors shall consist of:

- A. Four at Large Members
- B. One Women Vice President
- C. One Elite Athlete
- D. Five Regional Vice Presidents

The Four at Large and the Women Vice President member will come from Nominations from the National Racquetball Federations in good standing with the IRF. Six months prior to the elections, the Secretary General will send letters to the Presidents of the National Racquetball Federations in good standing requesting their nominations for these positions. The National Racquetball Federation may nominate more than one at Large Candidates and more than One Women Vice President Candidate. These nominations must be sent back to the

Secretary General three months prior to the election date. The nominations must include a letter from the National Racquetball Federation supporting the nomination and a resume which outlines the Candidates qualifications for the positions. The Elite Athlete nomination will come from the Athlete's Commission. The Athletes Commission will meet at the World Championships prior to the elections and nominate their Candidate or candidates. The Candidates must also have a resume of their qualification signed by the National Federation President. If the Athlete's Commission send more than one name forward, the Congress will elect the Athletes Representative to the Board of Directors. The Five Regional Vice Presidents will come from the following Regions: (1) North America (includes Mexico, United States and Canada) (2) Central American /Caribbean) (3) South America (4) Asia and (5) Europe. These Regions must be recognized by the IRF. Their nominations (One per Region) must also include a letter from their National Racquetball Federation supporting their nomination and a resume that outlines their qualifications.

All Candidates will have two minutes to address the World Congress prior to the election. Only two individuals from any one National Racquetball Federation can serve on the Board of Directors. The Athlete selected by the Athlete Commission does not count as one of the two on the Board of Directors. All letters of support and resumes must be sent to the Secretary General two months prior to the election.. All letters of support must be on the letterhead of the National Racquetball Federation who is nominating the candidate and signed by the President and Executive Board. Voting for the Board of Directors will be done by closed ballot. The Secretary General will provide the ballots for the election and the scrutineers will count the votes. The Candidates for the Four at Large positions who receive the highest number of votes will be elected. If there are ties, there will be another vote to determine the ones who will be elected. If the tie involves more than one Candidate, then those tied will be in the next vote. The voting will continue until four are elected. The same process will occur for the Women Vice President and the Elite Athlete. The Five Regional Vice Presidents must receive 50% on the vote cast by the World Congress to be elected. The 11 people elected will become the IRF Board of Directors. If The Regional Vice President Candidate from one of the Regions does not receive 50% then the President may appoint a person from that Region to the Executive Board.

Section 8-- Elections: Executive Committee 5 Members

Immediately after the World Congress, the Board of Directors will meet to elect the Executive Committee which shall consist of:

- A. President (Chair of Executive Committee)
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. One Other Member from the Board of Directors

Election will take place in the order listed. The Secretary General will conduct the election for the President. Once the President is elected the New President will conduct the remainder of the elections. Nominations for all Executive Committee Members will come from the Board of Directors. Nominees for each position will have an opportunity to address the Board of Directors regarding their qualifications for the office they are seeking. There must be a male and a female on the Executive Committee. If the first four positions do not include a Male or Female, then the At Large position must be of the gender that is not represented. The length of the terms will be as follows: In order to prevent the complete Board from changing every four years, the first election process will have Two and Four year terms. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and One at Large position will carry a Four year term. The individual at Large who receives the most votes from

the World Congress will be a four year position. If this process does not seat a Candidate, then the President will select the person for the Four year term. The remainder of the positions on the Board of Directors will be two year terms. The election for these positions will take place at the next World Congress two years later. The same election procedure will be conducted to elect the Board of Directors who leave after two years. All elections after the initial elections will be for four year terms. There are no limits regarding terms for the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

Section 9 - Qualified Majority

For the following decisions, a two thirds majority of the votes of all National Racquetball Federations taking part in the World Congress is required:

- A. Modification of the Constitution
- B. Adoption of New Member Federations, based on Board of Directors approval and The World Congress approval.
- C. Nomination of Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members,
- D. Removal of any, various or all members of the Board of Directors or other bodies of the IRF, before the end of their term,
- E. Expulsion of a National Racquetball Federation Member

Exception of the 2/3 majority:

Dissolution of the IRF, provided the necessary resolution, is only possible by 4/5 majority of all National Racquetball Federations Member Countries present at the meeting of the World Congress.

Section 10 - Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, which have been circulated, shall be taken as read and no motion or discussion shall be allowed on the minutes except in regard to their accuracy. After the confirmation of the minutes they shall be signed by the President and the Secretary and the National Racquetball Federations of the IRF shall be at liberty to ask any questions in regard to the content. Such questions shall be allowed for purposes of information only and no debate on the policy outlined in the minutes shall take place.

B. THE WORLD CONGRESS

Section 1 - Agenda

The Agenda of The World Congress is as follows:

- A. Notice of meeting
- B. Adoption of Agenda
- C. Appointment of Scrutineers
- D. Minutes of the last World Congress (Secretary)
- E. Report of the President
- F. Report of the President Emeritus
- G. Report of the Secretary General

- H. Report of Committees
- I. Admission of new Member Federations and expulsions
- J. Modifications to the Constitution
- K. Modifications to the Constitution By- Laws
- L. Modifications to the Regulations
- M. General proposals
- N. Finances (Treasurer)
- O. Elections: (Board of Directors)
 - 1. Four At Large Members
 - 2. Women Vice President
 - 3. Five Regional Vice Presidents
 - 4. One Elite Athlete (Elite Athlete is defined as one who has been a Member of their National Racquetball Federation Team in the past ten years and competed in the Elite World Championships as a member of that team). The date of the election will be the time frame used for this definition
 - 5. Election of Honor Individuals, President Emeritus
- P. Any other New Business.

C. EXTRA-ORDINARY WORLD CONGRESS

Section 1 - Notice and Agenda

An Extra-Ordinary World Congress has to be called upon request of 50% of the National Racquetball Federations in good standing with the IRF. Only the requested items appear on the agenda of the Extra-Ordinary World Congress.

D. EXECUTIVE BODIES

Board of Directors/ Executive Committee

Section 1 - Composition and Principals

The general management of the IRF is under the control of The World Congress and is in the hands of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors voting Members must be non-paid volunteers.

The Board of Directors consists of:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Five Regional Vice Presidents

1. North America (Canada, USA, Mexico)
 2. South America
 3. Central American/Caribbean)
 4. Asia
 5. Europe
-
- F. One Women Vice President.
 - G. One Elite Athlete
 - H. President Emeritus—non voting
 - I. Honorary Presidents - non voting
 - J. Secretary General-non voting

The Executive Committee consists of:

- A. President (Chair)
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. One member from the Board of Directors

Section 2- When a Board Member leaves office

When a member of the Board of Directors leaves before the end of his term, the President selects a substitute member subject to Board of Directors approval. If an elected member or Chairperson of a committee loses the support of their National Federation they must have the support of 80% of the Board of Directors to remain in Office. If that individual wants to run for Office in the next Election they must have written approval from their National Racquetball Federation.

The President has the authority to appoint a substitute member that will be approved at the next World Congress.

Section 3- Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors shall assemble during The World Congress and at least one time between World Congresses. The Board of Directors will assemble when the President deems it necessary or upon request of three members. The Board of Directors can make decisions when more than half of its members are present. Decisions of the Board of Directors and the Executive can be made by telephone, postal mail or email. In the event of a tie vote, the President breaks the tie.

Section 4- Board of Directors Responsibility

All members of the Board of Directors shall defend the general interests of IRF and the decisions of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and World Congress. A Board of Director who misses two consecutive meetings that are not excused by the President, they may be terminated from the Board of Directors by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors

Section 5 - Decisions by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee

The Board of Directors and Executive may make decisions, which are under the authority of The World Congress, subject to adoption by The World Congress afterwards. Decisions of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee are made only when a quorum exist in their respective bodies. For the Board of Directors a quorum would be 6 members present and a quorum for the Executive Committee would be 3 members present.

Section 6 - Representation to the Outside The IRF by The IRF President

The President or his or her substitute represents the IRF on all external matters. The signature authority regarding financial matter is fixed in the Financial By-Law. The signature authority of the IRF is settled by the By-Laws.

Section 7 – Committee

The President recommends all Committee Members and chairs to the Board of Directors for approval. A Chairperson of a Committee can be replaced by another member when they are absent. The term for a Committee will be for two years from the date of approval.

Section 8 - Decisions of the Committees

The Committees can make Committee decisions when half of the total numbers of Members are present. These Committee decisions must be sent to the Board of Directors as recommendations. The Board of Directors will send their recommendations to the World Congress for final approval, if needed. The Committees of the IRF decide by simple majority vote. Financial adjustments by the Committees within their budget must be approved by the President in consultation with the Secretary General. Decisions of the Committees can be taken by way of a conference call by telephone, mail or electronic mail vote.

Section 9 - Financial Regulations

- A. The Treasurer submits an annual budget that observes the total probable income and expenditure of the IRF.
- B. After adoption of the budget by the Board of Directors and The World Congress, the Board of Directors and Executive will work within this budget that has been approved.
- C. Shifting within this budget is allowed with the permission of the President in consultation with the Board of Directors.
- D. Signature(s) competencies in financial matters are covered in Financial By-Laws.
- E. All finances of the IRF go via the bank accounts or account of the IRF and are subject to the same regulations as decided by the Board of Directors.
- F. The Annual Accounts together with the report of the Auditors will be reported to The World Congress for approval.
- G. All further details will be covered by the Financial By-laws
- H. IRF Financial Information will be sent to a National Racquetball Federation who is in good standing with the IRF. This information must be requested by the National Racquetball Federation

Section 10 - Duties of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the responsibility to address the following IRF issues.

- A. Monitor compliance of IRF Constitution, By Laws, and Standard Operating Procedures.
- B. Executes the decisions of the World Congress
- C. Recommends the Budget developed by the Executive Board to the World Congress.
- D. Suspension of Membership Rights
- E. Approval of all Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
- F. Approve Provisional and Full Member Federations
- G. Approves the locations for the IRF World Championships
- H. Controller of all IRF World Championships
- I. Pre discussions of matters for the World Congress agenda
- J. Decides upon other matters covered in the Agenda
- K. Approves all Committee reports and recommends item that need to go to the World Congress
- L. Settles Disciplinary issues
- M. Hires and evaluates the Secretary General

Section 11- Duties of the Executive Committee

- A. Preparation of Budget and control of finances
- B. Administer Funds
- C. Decisions of a financial nature that are not in the budget
- D. Consider urgent issues brought forward.
- E. Negotiations with Sport Federations and groups
- F. Agreements with TV, Internet and Advertising
- G. Work with Secretary General regarding the day to day operations of the IRF
- H. Communicates regularly with the Board of Directors regarding all Executive Committee decisions

Section 12 - General Duties

All duties and matters of International aspects that are not especially outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws are under the authority of the Board of Directors

Section 13- Disciplinary Authorities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the duty to settle conflicts for which it is competent according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF.

Section 14 - IRF Office

The Board of Directors may employ a Secretary General who reports to the Board of Directors. The Secretary General must attend all Executive Committee, Board of Directors and World Congress Meetings. Additional office staff will be hired at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Salaries shall be set by the Board of Directors. The job description for the Secretary General is in the Standard Operating Procedures of the IRF.

Section 15 – Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

The Board of Directors approves all Standing Committees that are recommended by the President. All Ad-Hoc Committees are appointed by the President and do not need Board of Directors approval.

Section 16 – Expenses of The Board of Directors

All expenses of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee are to be covered by the Individual or the National Racquetball Federation nominating the Board of Director. There are two exceptions to this: (1) The President and Secretary General expenses will be paid and will be included in the annual budget and (2) Expenses accounted for in the budget approved by the World Congress.

E. AUDITORS

The Board of Directors shall hire Auditors for a four year period. The Auditors will examine the Treasury of the IRF and the accounts of the past financial year and present annually a written report and discharge proposal to The World Congress.

F. ARBITRATION

National Racquetball Federation of the IRF shall not be permitted to bring before the Court of Justice disputes with the IRF, and Membership of the IRF shall involve Members in renouncing the right to take a dispute to court. Any dispute shall be referred to The Court of Arbitration as recognized by the IOC.

G. DISCIPLINE

The IRF Board of Directors shall have the authority to take disciplinary action against any National Federation or Individual for conduct which the IRF considers to be prejudicial to the interests of the IRF.

H. ANNEX

1. Simple Majority

By "simple majority" is understood a majority of at least one vote more than 50% of the votes. The abstentions are not counted and will be considered as absentees. The same applies to a ballot that is invalid or blank.

2. Qualified Majority

By "qualified majority" is understood a majority that differs from a simple, statutorily laid down, majority. The qualified majority is 2/3 majority of the votes cast.

3. Relative Majority

The "relative majority", however, is smaller than the simple majority. The relative majority is often practiced at Board of Directors elections, e.g. by the following regulation: The candidate who polls most votes is elected. However, in case this candidate declines the nomination, the candidate who achieves the second most votes is not automatically elected, but the voting has to be repeated.

4. Quorum

A fixed number of members of a committee, who must be present before the members can conduct valid business. For the Board of Directors that number is 6 and for the Executive Committee , 3. For the World Congress 50% of the National Racquetball Federation Members in good standing and present at the World Congress meeting. Developing Members are non voting members.

5. The latest Rules of Robert's Rules Of order shall govern all meetings. The Vice President will act as the Parliamentarian at all IRF meetings

ARTICLE VI

BY-LAWS

Section 1 - Meetings

The meetings of the IRF Board of Directors and Executive Committee are conducted by the President of the IRF. The Secretary shall take the minutes containing all decisions recorded for every meeting, to be sent within 30 days to all Board of Directors Members and other Committee Members concerned. The Board of Directors will have 15 days to review the minutes. After review they will be sent to National Racquetball Federations with current paid memberships by the Secretary General. Minutes of the World Congress will be posted on the IRF Web site after they are approved by the World Congress.

Section 2 - Duties and Responsibilities of the President

The President of the IRF has the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. The President is the Nominal Head of the IRF and presides at all meetings of the Executive Committee, The Board of Directors and the World Congress. The President will develop the Agenda for the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and World Congress. He or She looks after the execution of the decisions in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations as well as the execution of the decisions of The World Congress, of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- B. He or She represents the IRF outside of the IRF.
- C. The President or his Substitute has the right to sign on behalf of the IRF in all matters, which have been approved by the Executive Committee and or Board of Directors..

- D. The President recommends all standing Committee Chairs and Committee Members to the Board of Directors for ratification.
- E. The President appoints all Ad Hoc Committees.

Section 3 - Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President

The Vice President will replace the President of the IRF in his or her absence and He or She shall execute the affairs delegated to them by the President, the Board of Directors or Executive. If the President leaves office, the Board of Directors will elect a new President to complete the Presidents term of office. The Vice President will serve as the IRF Parliamentarian for all IRF meetings

Section 4 – Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer of the International Federation is responsible for keeping all financial accounts. The Treasurer will work closely with the President and Secretary General regarding all financial matters.
- B. The Treasurer shall present to the Executive, the Board of Directors and World Congress, before the end of any fiscal year, a proposed operating budget for the ensuing year.

Section 5-Secretary Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of all The World Congress , Board of Directors and Executive meetings. The Secretary shall meet the Constitutional deadlines for providing the minutes to the Membership.

Section 6 - Duties and Responsibilities of the Women Vice Presidents

- A. Maintain contact and dialogue with Women Racquetball Players in every National Racquetball federations who are active members of the IRF. This can be accomplished by personal contact and also with electronic mail communications.
- B. Establish a Women's Commission that includes Members from National Racquetball Federations in the World.
- C. Promote the development of Women's Racquetball and establish opportunities for new Women Players to be involved with the IRF.
- D. Work closely with other Women's sports Authorities in IRF Member Countries in promoting Women in sport.
- E. Prepare annual reports for the Board of Directors regarding Women in Racquetball.
- F. Generate income through fund raising and sponsorships that will be used for Women's development.

Section 7- Duties and Responsibilities of the President Emeritus:

The Board of Directors may recommend to the World Congress that the immediate Past President can be voted by 2/3 majority as a President Emeritus. The President Emeritus will have the following duties:

- A. The President Emeritus will serve the IRF by facilitating a smooth transition of the Presidency.
- B. The President Emeritus shall be allowed to represent IRF in duties outside the IRF.
- C. The President may designate specific tasks to the President Emeritus.
- D. The President Emeritus reports to the President and is invited to attend all Board of Directors meeting.
- E. The President Emeritus will submit a report to the Board of Directors regarding all His or Her activities.
- F. The President Emeritus can serve for four years after He or She leaves office.

Section 8- Duties and Responsibilities of Committees

All Committee meetings will be called by the Committee Chairperson. Each Committee Chairperson will provide the Board of Directors all Committee recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and forwarded to the World Congress if necessary. The Committee Chairperson will also send a written report and a copy all minutes to the Board of Directors. Committees can correspond and vote by telephone, teleconference or email. Budgets for all Committee expenses will be included in the annual Budget.

A. Referee Committee:

This Committee examines all matters regarding the refereeing of IRF International Tournaments. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the issues for improving the quality and quantity of International Referees and Linesperson s. The Chairman of this Committee will be responsible for evaluating Referees and Linespersons at all IRF World Championship Tournaments. This Committee will also make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the process for certification of International Referees and Linespersons.

B. Technical Committee

This Committee examines all matters related to the Format that will be used at IRF International Racquetball Tournaments. The Committee will also keep records regarding the seeding procedure that is used at the IRF World Championship Tournaments. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the status of the format and seeding procedures used at the IRF World Tournaments. The Committee will review the seeding and format procedure of the IRF World Championship Tournaments immediately after each Tournament and submit their report to the Board of Directors so the report can be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors approves all Formats that are used at the IRF World Championships. Changes in the format must be approved at least 6 months prior to the World Championships.

C. Rules Committee

This Committee examines all matters related to the IRF Playing Rules. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding Rule changes or new Rules. The Committee will send their report to the Board of Directors Three months prior to the

World Congress meeting. The Board of Directors will send all recommendations to the National Racquetball Federations so they can be reviewed 1 month prior to the World Congress. The World Congress approves all IRF Rule changes

Section 9- Exchange of Correspondence

The Treasurer must receive a copy of all correspondence related to financial matters of all Committees.

Section 10 - Duties of Secretary General

The Secretary General reports to the Board of Directors of the IRF, conducts the day to day affairs of the IRF, but does not have a vote on the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. He or She is empowered to sign all checks of the IRF in accordance with policies set by the Board of Directors. Detailed duties are listed in the IRF Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE VII

STATUS OF PLAYERS

Section 1 - Application

These By-Laws apply to all International IRF Competition and the participating Players.

Section 2 - Licenses

All Players and Officials, who participate in IRF World Championships or other approved IRF International Tournaments, must be approved by their National Racquetball Federation.

Section 3 - Competitions of the International Federation

All Competitions approved by the IRF such as:

- A. Elite World and Regional Championships, Olympic Tournaments
- B. Junior World and Regional Championships
- C. Pan American, European and Asian Championships
- D. Other events of the IRF are considered to be "Competitions of the International Federation". All Players, Coaches, Referees, and Officials that participate in these games are under the jurisdiction of the IRF.
- E. All IOC approved events

Section 4 - Qualification as Participant in the IRF Championships

Only Players meeting the following qualification requirements can participate in any IRF World Championship event.

- A. Each player participating in an IRF Championship must be under the jurisdiction of a National Racquetball Federation affiliated to the IRF.
- B. To be eligible for participation in an IRF Competition, each Player must prove Citizenship of the Country represented by producing a valid passport from that country, or by documentation from their Olympic Committee or National Sports Authority.
- C. Each Player participating must produce an approved eligibility status I.D. of their country, under the eligibility rules as governed by the IRF.

Section 5 - Olympic Eligibility

For Olympic Games, the eligibility of Players will be determined by the IOC.

ARTICLE VIII

International Transfers

Section 1 - Transfer Cards

Players cannot transfer from one National Racquetball Federation to another without a valid International transfer card. A valid card must have the confirmation of the old and the new National Racquetball Federations, the signature of the Player and finally the IRF confirmation and will become valid from the day of the official IRF registration.

Section 2 - Temporary Limited Transfer

International transfer may be limited as to duration.

Section 3 - Refusal of International Transfers

Should a National Racquetball Federation refuse to give a Player the International transfer, the Player concerned shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors with supporting reasons and all evidence. The Board of Directors will investigate the appeal and make the final decision.

Section 4 - Transfer Without a Transfer Card

Any Player moving from one National Racquetball Federation to another for any reason without an International transfer card will have to establish 18 months permanent residence in the Country of his/her new Federation before being permitted to play. After this period of time, His/Her new National Racquetball Federation may apply to the IRF for a new Player's license. The IRF will inform the old National Racquetball Federation of the decision.

Section 5 - Offenses Against the Transfer Rules

In the case of a Player playing under an invalid transfer card or without a transfer card, the National Racquetball Federation concerned shall be penalized and the Player suspended.

ARTICLE IX

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

Section 1 - Permission for International Competition

All International Competitions between IRF National Racquetball Federations need permission of the National Racquetball Federations involved.

Section 2 – Referees for International Racquetball Tournaments

International Competition should be officiated by Referees and Linespersons who have IRF Certification and whose participation is agreed to by His or Her National Racquetball Federation. Referees and Linespersons for Competitions in the IRF Championships must be from other Countries than those playing in the match .

Section 3 - IRF Tournament Reports

Reports of all IRF recognized Racquetball Tournaments must be distributed as follows:

- A. Local Organizing Committee
- B. IRF Secretary
- C. Participating National Racquetball Federations

Section 4 - Tournaments with Non-Affiliated Players

No International Racquetball Tournament involving players of unaffiliated organizations may be played without the approval of the National Racquetball Federation where the games will be played and the IRF President.

Section 5-Failure to Send a Team

If a Recognized National Racquetball Federation fails to send a team or Players to the Junior or Elite IRF World Championships, the IRF Board of Directors can approve qualified Citizens from that Country to compete in these events.

Section 6 - Description of Selected Teams

The name "International" Team, "IRF" Team, or "Regional" Team (Europe Team, etc.) is the exclusive right of the IRF. No National Racquetball Federation or club of such Federation can have a Team or Individual play under this name. The descriptions "National" team, "National Junior" team, "National Selection" team, etc., are

the exclusive right of the National Racquetball Federations. The description "International All-Star" team can only be used after previous authorization by the President of the IRF.

Section 7 - Names of International Tournaments and Cups

Tournaments and Cups with names of Geographical areas exceeding territory of a National Racquetball Federation (such as World Cup, European Cup, World Tournament, Continental Tournament, etc.,) may be permitted only by the IRF.

Section 8 - Organization of International Tournament

Only the National Racquetball Federations or clubs with their approval are authorized to organize International Racquetball Tournaments and must be approved by the Executive Committee of the IRF.

ARTICLE X

FINANCIAL BY-LAWS

General Financial Regulations

Section 1 - Administration

The IRF Treasurer administers the financial matters according to the Constitution and By Laws.

Section 2 - Currency

In all financial matters of the International Federation, the U.S. Dollar serves as official basic currency for all calculations.

Section 3 - Signature Competence

- A. The President, Treasurer, and the Secretary General have the right to distribute the IRF money on the bank accounts according to the budget and decisions of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors
- B. The Chairperson of Committees cannot sign in financial matters.
- C. Statements of all bank accounts must be sent to the Treasurer of the IRF.

Section 4 - Income of the International Federation

The Income of the International Racquetball Federation consists of:

- A. Subscription fee of a National Racquetball Federation as fixed by The World Congress
- B. The annual subscriptions of the National Racquetball Federations as fixed by The World Congress (due January 1 of the current year)
- C. IRF Tournaments
- D. TV and Internet rights of all IRF Championships
- E. Revenue from the advertising rights of all IRF Championships

- F. Revenue share of the Olympic Games
- G. Proceeds from the IRF assets
- H. Fines
- I. Proceeds from Official Publications
- J. Revenues from the license from emblems rights, advertising pool, etc.
- K. Incidental revenue
- L. Donations
- M. Sponsorships

Section 5 - Investment of the Liquid Resources and of the Assets

The Executive Committee decides about the investment of the liquid resources of the IRF and of the IRF assets provided they inform the Board of Directors and The World Congress afterwards.

Section 6 – TV, Internet and Advertising Rights

The President and or Secretary General are authorized to negotiate TV Radio, Internet and advertising contracts for the IRF Championships. These contracts must be approved by the Executive.

ARTICLE XI

COMPETITION RULES

Section 1 - Responsibilities of the Rules Committee

All IRF Competitions must be played according to the IRF Rules.
 These rules apply to all Games, Players, Referees, and Officials in all IRF World Championships and approved Tournaments of the IRF.

Section 2- Tournament Format

The IRF World Championships format for the Elite World and Junior World Championships will be that format adopted by Board of Directors, or as modified by the Technical Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII

IRF World Championships

Section 1 - World Championships

The Elite World Championships of the IRF are organized every two years.
The World Junior Championships of the IRF are organized every year.

Section 2- Organization of the IRF World Championships

All IRF World Championships are under the direction of the IRF Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will be appointed by the Secretary General. The Tournament Director will then appoint a Tournament Operational Director. This position may be split into two positions if the Tournament Director wishes to do so. The Tournament Director is responsible for all aspects of the Tournament and works closely with the Local Organizing Committee. The Local Organizing Committee responsibilities are located in the bid contract. All specific duties for the IRF Tournament Director, IRF Operations Director and the Local Organizing Committee are located in the IRF Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

Section 3 - Nomination of Referee

The Referees and Linespersons are under the direct supervision of the IRF Referee Committee Chairperson. The IRF Operations Director will be responsible for assigning the Referees and Linespersons for the IRF World Championship Tournaments.

Section 4- Report on the IRF Championships

The IRF Tournament Director will provide updated information regarding the planning and progress of all IRF World Championship Tournaments. The Tournament Director will send a written report to the Board of Directors immediately after all World Championship Tournaments. The report should be complete with all details of the World Championship Tournament. The report must include a financial statement for the Tournament.

Section 5 - Qualification Requirements to the IRF Championships

The qualification of a player for the IRF Championships has been established in Section 4-Status of Players. The age limits for Junior, Senior and Wheelchair are located in the IRF Standard Operating Procedure Manual

ARTICLE III

MEDICAL AND DOPING REGULATIONS

Section 1 - Duties of the Medical Committee

The Medical Committee examines the matters of the health of the Players, the medical research in Racquetball, collects medical statistics and information on prevention and medical care, rehabilitation from injuries and support on health control, rehabilitation, hygiene instructions, and examines protective equipment. The Medical Committee is also responsible for Conferences and Seminars for Team Doctors, as well as publication of results

from Conferences and other pertinent information. The Committee coordinates doping control during Championships according to WADA doping rules.

Section 2 - Medical Arrangements for Championships

The National Racquetball Federation and or the Local Organizing must provide medical arrangements according to the contract that is signed with the IRF.

Section 3 - Insurance of Participants

The IRF is not responsible for insurance of Players and participating Officials and Spectators, however, it is recommended that the National Racquetball Federations and or the Local Organizing Committee for IRF Championships make every effort to have proper insurance.

Section 4 - Doping Control Procedure

The IRF accepts the IOC guidelines on doping and will conform to the IOC doping procedure for the Summer Games and as amended. The IRF further accepts and recognizes The World Anti Doping Association as the International Anti Doping Organization and agrees to all provisions of this Organization both procedural as well as disciplinary.

Section 5 - Sanctions with Doping

In the case of a positive result or the refusal of doping control, the following penalties shall apply as final:

- A. A Player with a positive test is automatically suspended for the rest of the Championship and no replacement for him is allowed.
- B. The points of a Team obtained with a doped player are not valid.
- C. A Player with a positive test on dope shall be suspended from all International Racquetball Tournaments for a period of two years; a second offense by the same player shall mean His /Her suspension for all International Racquetball Tournaments for life.
- D. If a positive doping test is found after the next game or games commenced, the Player shall be suspended immediately for the rest of the Tournament and the points of a team obtained with a doped Player are not valid. The following International Racquetball Tournaments are valid unless the Player has been tested again and found positive.
- E. A positive doping test on the last day may change the announced result of the Championships.
- F. A positive result in doping for anabolic steroids will result in suspension from all International Racquetball Tournaments for a period of four years. A second offense shall result in suspension for life.
- G. A doped Player shall not be awarded a medal.
- H. However in all positive doping cases the recommendations of WADA shall have precedence over any disciplinary action by the IRF.
- I. The IRF may choose to accept or choose not to accept the recommendations of a National Olympic Committee anti doping Committee sanctions of an IRF Athlete who tests positive for banned drugs under WADA.

