

**CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION**  
**[REVISED 2008, General Assembly Meeting]**

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

Section 2 - Definition

This Federation is a membership Federation and shall have no capital stock. This Federation is one which does not contemplate pecuniary gain of profit to any person, member, or Executive Board Officer and no part of the earnings of this Federation, if there be any earnings, or the assets of this Federation, shall inure to the benefit of any Person, Member, Officer, or Executive Board Officer thereof. The property of the Federation is irrevocably dedicated to Athletic, Charitable, Health and Educational purposes. Furthermore, in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of this Federation, any and all surplus, capital and assets shall be distributed to one or more Funds, Foundations or Federations selected and chosen by the Executive Board of this Federation 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, no part of the net earnings or which inures to the benefit of any person, member, or Executive Board Officer and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

Section 3 -Recognition by the IOC.

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

- A. 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 The World Congress. Sportaccord, Association of Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF), International World Games Association, (IWGA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are Recognized Federations of the IRF.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 - 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. The IRF offers institutes and individuals 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 2 - 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.
- J. To maintain records and disseminate information pertaining to all phases of Racquetball.
- K. To train and certify competent Racquetball Officials.
- 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 3 - Neutrality

The IRF observes strict neutrality on political, social and religious grounds. No discrimination is permitted against any affiliated National Federation or any association, club, or sportsman on political, racial, or religious grounds.

## Section 4 - Headquarters

1. The Headquarters of the IRF is Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.

2. The IRF will be incorporated as a non-profit 501-c-3 corporation under the laws of the USA.
3. The IRF will be incorporated as a non-profit 501-c-3 corporation in the state of Colorado.

#### Section 5 - 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 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, playing rules, will be published in English.

#### Section 6 - Composition of the International Federation

The IRF is composed of full and provisional members who are National Racquetball Federations.

#### Section 7 - Honorary-Presidents and Honorary-Members

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

#### Section 8 - Mutual Recognition of Federations

The National Associations affiliated to the IRF 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

- A. Membership in the International Racquetball Federation
  1. Affiliation and duties

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

## FULL MEMBERSHIP

- a. To be the Racquetball Federation of a Sovereign Nation.
- b. To control IRF Racquetball in the country.
- c. To abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF.
- d. To furnish the IRF with their Constitutions.
- e. Voting power at The World Congress plus participation at The World Championships and Regional Championships.
- f. To pay yearly membership dues as determined by the World Congress.

## PROVISIONAL AFFILIATION

- a. Affiliation open to those Countries that are in preliminary stages of development.
- b. Must be making efforts towards full membership on an ongoing basis.
- c. Have designated a National Headquarters in their Country.
- d. Have passport or meets eligibility criteria for National Players who compete periodically in Racquetball.

## Section 2 - Resignation

A National Federation's Resignation may 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 Federations. The request must be handed in at least six weeks before the end of the fiscal year or otherwise, the National Federation remains a member for the following year with all financial responsibilities:

## Section 3 - Suspension of Membership Rights

A National Federation who or whose clubs, members, and officials have repeatedly failed in its responsibilities towards the International Federation 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 Executive Board. The affiliated National 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 affiliated National Federation can be expelled from the IRF by the IRF World Congress if it:

- A. Brings disrepute to the IRF or to Racquetball in its own Country.

- B. Seriously violates the IRF Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations or The World Congress decisions.
- C. Does not pay the subscriptions and fees owed to the IRF after due notice has been given.
- D. If the National Federation is not the Recognized Governing Body in their Country.

The decision is final.

#### Section 5 - Dissolution

The dissolution of the International Federation shall only be effected by an Extra-Ordinary The 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 Executive Board 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 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 Federation concerned must seek their own settlements. If no such settlement is possible, then the matter must be submitted for decision to the Executive Board to be ratified by the World Congress at the next regularly scheduled The 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 Executive Board. Simple majority is sufficient, with final approval to be confirmed at the next World Congress.
- F. Each full member has one vote.

- G. Provisional members have no vote. Provisional members may be represented at the World Congress, but they will have no vote; however may be granted the right of speaking after approval of the President.

## ARTICLE IV

### Section 1 - Administration of the International 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. Executive Board
  - 2. Committees
    - a. Standing Committees
    - b. Ad Hoc Committees
- C. Control Committee:
  - 1. Auditors

### Section 2 Sections of the IRF

Duties for IRF Rules, Referees, Coaches, Medical, Disciplinary and Junior matters are carried out by Standing Committees. Each Committee will be under the leadership of a Chair person of an Executive Board Member, recommended by the President and approved by the Executive Board. The committees will consist of the chairperson and a minimum of three members. The three members will be proposed by the Chairperson and approved by the Executive Board.

### Section 3 - Officials of the International Federation

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

- A. Executive Board Members
- B. Committee members
- C. Other temporary Officials of the IRF
- D. Ad Hoc Committees

The Executive Board will be elected by The World Congress. The Executive Board approves all Committee members.

## A. LEGISLATIVE BODIES

## Section 1 - Meetings of the Legislative Bodies

The legislative bodies of the IRF meet as follows:

- A. The World Congress: 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.

## Section 2 - Notice of Meetings

Notice of all regular World Congress meetings will be given by the IRF office not later than 3 months before such The World Congress together with the agenda. However, for an Extra-Ordinary World Congress, a notice must be given not later than six weeks before the meeting to all affiliated National Federations. The World Congresses are organized by the IRF office in cooperation with the National Federation of the Country in which the meeting takes place.

## Section 3 - Proposals

All full member Federations in good standing and the Executive Board Members have the right to present proposals. Only written proposals that have been sent to the IRF office not later than six weeks 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 submitted at The World Congress.
- B. Proposals for changing the playing rules shall be submitted to the Executive Board by the Technical Committee preceding The World Congress.
- C. Proposals on modification of the rules shall be submitted to the Executive Board to act upon with final approval by The World Congress. The passage of a changed regulation will take effect on September 1 of the year that it passes.
- 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

Any affiliated National Federation may be represented by a maximum of one delegate, who must be a member of that National Federation (if the delegate does not speak English, the delegation is entitled to bring one interpreter at their own expense). The National Federation may nominate a second delegate (reserve) who can replace the delegate. Only two delegates are entitled to attend the World Congress. 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 him. Any change must be submitted to the Secretary. Controversies will be settled by The World Congress.

## Section 5 - Voting Rights

Only full members of the National Federations have voting rights at The World Congress. For the elections of the Executive Board, the members of the Executive Board may not vote. The President of the IRF

or his or her substitute has the right of the casting vote. Honorary Life Presidents and Honorary Life Members may speak, but have no vote. The voting is executed by IRF voting cards distributed by the Secretary General. Executive Board members may vote if no other members from their Federation are available to vote.

### Section 6 - Voting

For voting at The World Congress, a simple majority of the votes cast, for or against, is required for the adopting of a proposal. In case of a tie, the President will vote to break the tie. No proxies shall be allowed. No National 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. By voting for the elections of the Executive Board, Article 7B is valid. Voting is open ballot unless a secret ballot is requested by one delegate who is entitled to vote. No vote shall be valid unless a quorum representing 50% of the votes of full membership Countries are present for such a vote.

### Section 7 – Elections

A) The current Executive Board shall serve as the Nominating Committee and may bring forth a slate of candidates to the General Assembly for action.

B ) The elections of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents, (5) (Asia, North America, South America, Central America, and Europe), Treasurer, Secretary, plus two female Vice-Presidents for Women's Development, and two (2) Elite Athletes shall occur as part of The World Congress held in conjunction of the same year as the Summer Olympics and the Quadrennial of the IOC. Vacancies occurring between The World Congress will be filled in accordance with the following procedure: At least 20% of the Executive Board must be active Racquetball players. The President of the IRF may appoint a successor from that area of the World now vacant to fulfill the term of the resigned Vice President. All appointments are subject to approval by the Executive Board. A candidate for Office as an Executive Board Member may be nominated only by a full Member Federation. Each candidate must submit a letter from their Federation (on its official letterhead) supporting the candidate's nomination and approved by its Board of Directors. The simple majority of all votes (50% + one) present decides at the first ballot. If a second ballot is necessary, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will drop out until there are only two candidates left and from then on, the simple majority will decide.

### Section 8 - Qualified Majority

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

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

- F. Dissolution of the IRF, provided the necessary resolution, is only possible by 4/5 majority of all full Member Countries present at the meeting.

### Section 9 - Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, which shall 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 members 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.

## THE WORLD CONGRESS

### Section 10 - Agenda

The Agenda of The World Congress is as follows:

- A. Notice of meeting
- B. Adoption of Agenda
- C. Appointment of Minutes Keepers and Scrutinizers
- D. Minutes of the last World Congress (Secretary)
- E. Report of the President
- F. Report of the Secretary General
- G. Report of Committees
- H. Admission of new Member Federations and expulsions
- I. Modifications to the Constitution
- J. Modifications to the Constitution By- Laws
- K. Modifications to the Regulations
- L. General proposals
- M. Finances (Treasurer)
- N. Elections: (Executive Board)
  - 1. President
  - 2. Executive Vice President
  - 3. Secretary
  - 4. Treasure
  - 5 Regional Vice Presidents
  - 6. Two Women Vice Presidents
  - 7. Two Athletes
  - 8. Election of Honor Individuals
  - 9. Selection of Auditors
- O. Any other New business.

## EXTRA-ORDINARY WORLD CONGRESS

## Section 11 - Notice and Agenda

An Extra-Ordinary World Congress has to be called upon request of one third of the full Member National Federations in good standing. Only the requested items appear on the agenda of the Extra-Ordinary World Congress.

### B. EXECUTIVE BODIES

#### Executive Board

#### 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 Executive Board for a four year term, and the Executive Board consists of:

- A. President
- B. Executive Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Five Vice Presidents
  - 1. North America (Canada, USA, Mexico)
  - 2. South America
  - 3. Central American/Caribbean)
  - 4. Asia
  - 5. Europe
- F. Two Women Vice Presidents
- G. Two Athletes
- H. Immediate Past President—non voting
- I. Honorary Presidents - non voting
- J. Secretary General-non voting

Executive Committee Members must be non-paid volunteers.

A) When a member of the Executive Board resigns before the end of his term, the President selects a substitute member subject to Executive Board's approval. In urgent cases, the Executive Board has the authority to appoint a substitute member till the next World Congress. The Executive Board can take decisions when more than half of its members are present. In case of urgency, decisions of the Executive Board can be made by telephone, postal mail or email. In the event of an equality of votes, the President has the casting vote. The Executive Board will assemble when the President deems it necessary or upon request of three members. The Executive Board shall assemble usually during The World Congress. In urgent cases, it meets also at other times. All members of the Executive Board shall defend the general interests of IRF and the decisions of the Executive Board.

B) 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 Executive Board to remain in office. If that member wants to run for office in the General Election they must have written approval from their National Federation.

## Section 2 - Decisions by Executive Board in Case of Urgency

In case of urgency, the Executive Board may make decisions which are under the authority of The World Congress, subject to adoption by The World Congress afterwards. Decisions of the Executive Board are made by a majority of the members present at the meeting provided a quorum exists.

## Section 3 - Representation to the Outside

The President or his 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 4 - Committees

The Executive Board may assign the duties of the IRF into different Committees. The Chairperson of a Committee can be replaced by another Executive Board Member when at the time they are absent. The details are settled in the By-Laws.

## Section 5 - Decisions of the Committees

The Committees can make Committee decisions when more than half of the total numbers of Members are present. These Committee decisions must be sent to the Executive Board as recommendations. The Executive Board 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. In case of urgency, decisions of the Committees can be taken by way of a conference call by telephone or by mail. No Committee Member has more than their vote. In the case of a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

## Section 6 - Financial Regulations

- A. The Treasurer establishes annually a budget that observes the total probable income and expenditure of the IRF.
- B. After adoption of the budget by the Executive Board and The World Congress, the Executive Board can work within this frame.
- C. Shifting within this budget is allowed with the permission of the President in consultation with the Executive Board.
- 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 Executive Board
- 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 Rules.

## Section 7 - Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board has the responsibility to address the following obligations:

- A. Observance of Constitution and By-Laws
- B. Execution of decisions of The World Congress
- C. Ratification urgent decisions of the office of the Executive Board
- D. Resolution of Regulations and stipulations
- E. Executions of decisions of disciplinary measures
- F. Urgent decisions (to be adopted by The World Congress afterwards)
- G. Pre discussion of matters for The World Congress
- H. Elaboration of proposals
- I. Suspension of membership rights
- J. Approval of Standing Committee members.
- K. Approval of Ad Hoc Committee members.
- L. Preparation of budget and control of finances
- M. Decisions of financial nature out of budget
- N. Agreements (TV, radio, advertising, etc.)
- O. Negotiations with IOC, other Sports Federations and groups
- P. Controller of all Championships of the IRF.
- Q. Serves as Nominating Committee and may present a slate of officers to the General Assembly for the next quadrennial.

#### Section 8 - 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 Executive Committee.

#### Section 9 - Disciplinary Authorities of the Executive Committee

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

#### Section 10 - IRF Office

The Executive Board shall employ a Secretary General who reports to the President. The Secretary General shall attend all Executive Board and The World Congress Meetings. Additional office staff will be hired at the discretion of the Executive Board. Salaries shall be set by the Executive Board

#### Section 11 - Permanent and Temporary Committees

The Executive Board approves Standing and Ad Hoc Committees that are recommended by the President.

### C. CONTROL COMMITTEE

#### Section 1 - Auditors

The Executive Board 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.

## D. ARBITRATION

Members 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.

## E. DISCIPLINE

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

## F. ANNEX

### EXPLANATION

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Relative Majority

The "relative majority", however, is smaller than the simple majority. The relative majority is often practiced at Executive Board 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.

## BY-LAWS

### Section 1 - Meetings

The meetings of the IRF bodies 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 Executive Board Members and other Committee Members concerned

### Section 2 - Duties and Responsibilities of the President

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

- A. 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 and of the Executive Board.

- B. He or she represents the IRF to the outside.
- 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 Board, nevertheless, he cannot sign contracts exceeding the period for which he has been elected.
- D. The President recommends Committee Chairs and Committee Members to the Executive Board for ratification
- E. President appoints Ad Hoc Committees that must be ratified by the Executive Board.

### Section 3 - Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President

The Executive Vice President can 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 or the Executive Board.

### Section 4 - Treasury

The Treasurer of the International Federation is responsible for keeping all financial accounts.

### Section 5-Secretary

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

### Section 6 - Duties and Responsibilities of Committees

Members of the Executive Board conduct the Committees assigned to them according to these By-Laws. The Committees' Chairperson must control their financial matters within the framework of the approved budget. For reallocation inside the budget and other financial changes, they must consult the Executive Board or the President. Each Committee Chairperson will provide The World Congress a short report on his or her activities.

### Section 6 - Exchange of Correspondence

Of all correspondence concerning financial matters, the Treasurer must get a copy.

### Section 7 - Duties of Secretary General

The Secretary General is responsible to the President of the IRF, conducts the day to day affairs of the IRF, but does not have a vote on the Executive Board. He or she is empowered to sign all checks of the IRF in accordance with policies set by the Executive Board.

## **STATUS OF PLAYERS, TRANSFERS, AND QUALIFICATION**

### **A. Status of Players**

#### **Section 1 - Application**

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

#### **Section 2 - Licenses**

All Players and Officials, who participate In international Competition, must be licensed by their National Federation.

#### **Section 3 - Competitions of the International Federation**

All Competitions organized by the IRF such as:

- A. World and Regional Championships, Olympic Tournaments
- B. Junior World and Regional Championships
- C. Tournament of the Americas, Pan Am, European, Asian Championships
- D. World and Continental Club Cups
- E. 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.

#### **Section 4 - Qualification as Participant in the IRF Championships**

Only Players meeting the following qualification requirements can participate in the Championships of the IRF:

- A. Each player participating in an IRF Championship must be under the jurisdiction of a National 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 must be as permitted by the IOC.

### **B. International Transfers**

#### **Section 1 - Transfer Cards**

Players cannot transfer from one Federation to another without a valid International transfer card. A valid card must have the confirmation of the old and the new national federation, 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 and as to Federation.

#### Section 3 - Refusal of International Transfers

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

#### Section 4 - Transfer Without a Transfer Card

Any Player moving from one National 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 Federation may apply to the IRF for a new Player's license. The IRF will inform the old Federation about 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 Federation concerned shall be penalized and the Player suspended.

### **INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS**

#### Section 1 - Permission for International Competition

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

#### Section 2 - Referees International Games

International Competition must be officiated by Referees and Linespersons holding the IRF license whose participation is agreed to by his National Federation. Referees and linesperson for Competitions in the IRF Championships must be from other Countries than those playing the game.

#### Section 3 - IRF Tournament Reports

Reports of all IRF recognized tournaments/games must be distributed as follows:

- A. Organizer
- B. IRF Office

## C. Participating Federations

### Section 4 - Games with Non-Affiliated Players

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

### Section 5 - 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 Federation or club of such Federation can have a team play under this name. The descriptions "National" team, "National Junior" team, "National Selection" team, etc., are the exclusive right of the National Federations. The description "International All-Star" team can only be used after previous authorization by the President of the IRF.

### Section 6 - Names of International Tournaments and Cups

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

### Section 7 - Organization of International Matches

Only the National Federations or clubs with their approval are authorized to organize International Games and Tournaments.

## **FINANCIAL RULES**

### General Financial Regulations

#### Section 1 - Administration

The IRF Treasurer administers the financial matters according to the Constitution.

#### 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 Board.
- B. The Chairperson of the Committees cannot sign in financial matters.

- C. Statements of all bank accounts must be sent immediately to the Treasurer.

#### Section 4 - Income of the International Federation

The income of the International Federation consists of:

- A. Subscription fee of a New National Affiliated Federation as fixed by The World Congress
- B. The annual subscriptions of the National Affiliated Federations as fixed by The World Congress (due January 1 of the current season)
- C. IRF Tournament
- D. TV 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 President decides about the investment of the liquid resources of the IRF and of the IRF assets provided he informs the Executive Board and The World Congress afterwards.

#### Section 6 - TV and Advertising Rights

The President and Secretary General are authorized to negotiate TV and advertising contracts for the IRF Championships. They can delegate this authorization to another person. The TV and advertising rights from National and International games belong to the Organizing National Federations, nevertheless, the National Federation of the visiting team is the exclusive owner of the television rights from the games played by their national team abroad, but for their own territory only.

#### Section 7 - TV, Radio, and Advertising Rights

All the TV, radio, and advertising and licenses rights in and outside the organizing country of the IRF Championships are the exclusive property of the IRF and all revenues from these rights go to the IRF in as far no other regulations are established in these By-Laws. An exception may be granted the organizer for selling of souvenirs in his own Country, upon an application to the IRF.

### **COMPETITION RULES**

- A. General Matters

## Section 1 - Responsibilities of the Technical Committee

All IRF Competitions must be played according to the Competition rules, which are controlled by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee examines the rule matters in connection with IRF activities in the playing season, and forwards the correspondence proposals to the Executive Board. Special care and attention shall be given to IRF official Competitions.

## Section 2 - Application range

These Competition rules apply to all Games, Players, Referees, and Officials in all Championships and Tournaments of the IRF.

## Section 3 - International Playing Rules

For all International Competitions, the official IRF playing rules shall be applied.

## Section 4 - Tournament Format

The World Championships format will be that format adopted by The World Congress, or as modified by the Technical Committee, approved under extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Executive Board.

## Section 5 – Recognition of the International Professional Racquetball Organization

The IRF officially recognizes IPRO as the official Coaching and Officials certification organization of the IRF.

### B. IRF Championships

## Section 1 - World Championships System

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

## Section 2 - The Schedule of Games of the World Championships

The Organizing National Federations prepare the game schedules for the various IRF Championships both Senior and Junior according to the IRF regulations (the schedule configuration based on the placing from the previous Championships). The Organizers will propose the dates, places, and times of the games.

## Section 3 - Nomination of Referees

The Referees are under the direct supervision of the IRF Technical Committee Chairperson who is appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board.

## Section 4 - Organization of the IRF Championships-Directorates

Every IRF Championship is conducted by its Directorates. The Directorates shall be responsible for:

- A. The control with regard to the eligibility of the Players
- B. Organizing matters
- C. Notification of Referees and Linespersons appointment
- D. Disciplinary cases
- E. Doping matters
- F. Cups, medals, diplomas
- G. Selection of the best players

#### Section 5 - Report on the IRF Championships

The Chairperson of each Directorate shall bring to the next World Congress a brief report on the IRF Championships entrusted upon him or her and they are responsible to bring a summary of all televised games complete with dates, times, and countries where transmissions took place.

#### Section 6 - Information by the Organizing Federation

The Organizing National Federation shall communicate all information with respect to the IRF Championships to be organized by them to the participating Federations and the Executive Board in due time, according to the regulations. The organizing Federation shall send to all participating Federations and the IRF, a closing report with complete documentation. The statistics shall be done according to the IRF standards.

#### Section 7 - 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 Juniors are established in Section 2 of the Junior By-Laws.

### B. JUNIORS

#### Section 1 – Duties Of The Junior Committee

The Junior Committee examines all matters connected with the Junior Championships of the IRF and with the promotion of young players and presents the corresponding proposals to the Executive Board.

#### Section 2 - Junior Age for World Championships

Age is determined as of January 1 of each calendar year. Age divisions in Boys singles, Girls singles, Boys doubles, and Girls doubles are as follows:

- A. 18 & Under
- B. 16 & Under
- C. 14 & Under
- D. 12 & Under
- E. 10 & Under
- F. 8 & Under (multi-bounce)
- G. 8 & Under (regular)

## C. SENIORS

### Section 1: Senior Age for World Championships

Age is determined as of the first day of the tournament.

A. Seniors	35+
B. Veteran Seniors	40+
C. Masters	45+
D. Veteran Masters	50+
E. Golden Masters	55+
F. Senior Golden Masters	60+
G. Veteran Golden Masters	65+
H. Advanced Golden Masters	70+
I. Super Golden Masters	75+
J. Super Golden Masters	80+
K. Super Golden Masters	85+
L. Super Golden Masters	90+

## D. WHEELCHAIR

- A. Novice Division
- B. Intermediate Division
- C. Open Division
- D. Junior Division

## E. REFEREES

### Section 1 - Responsibilities of the Referee Committee

The Referee Committee examines all matters connected with the refereeing of matches of the IRF and the Referees of the Affiliated National Federations on an International level.

### Section 2 - International Referees and Linespersons

The International matches of the IRF are conducted by Referees and Linespersons with an International license.

### Section 3 - International Referees Seminar

Upon proposal of the Chairperson from the Referees Committee, there will be organized Central and Regional International seminars for Referees with an International license. The Referees Chairperson settles the details. At the end of a Referee seminar, the Candidates should pass a theoretical and a practical examination to show their abilities and they should submit to a physical examination.

## F. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### Section 1 - Duties for Coaching

The Coaches Committee examines all matters in connection with the education of Coaches and development of coaching methods in the field of International Racquetball.

#### Section 2 - Rules Control

The Technical Committee examines all matters connected with official rules of the IRF and their interpretation. He studies development of the games and prepares alterations or amendments of the rules and submits these to the Executive Board.

#### Section 3 - Official Rules

The Official rules are approved by the World Congress and may be reviewed at The World Congress. Modification or amendments of the rules as approved by the World Congress shall be distributed to the affiliated Federations.

### **H. 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

For all Championships, the Organizer is obliged to take care of all medical arrangements according to the health care and doping rules in the Regulations.

#### 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 Federations and the organizers of IRF Championships make every effort to have proper insurance.

#### Section 4 - Doping Control Procedure

The IRF accepts the IOC guidelines on doping and will confirm 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 Games for a period of two years, a second offense by the same player shall mean his suspension for all International games 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 Games 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 Games 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.