INTERNATIONAL
RACQUETBALL
FEDERATION

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION

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ARTICLE I

IDENTITY

Section 1 - Name

The name of this Organization will be the International Racquetball Federation and its official abbreviation is IRF. The International Racquetball Federation will have the Logo shown in the IRF Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOPM).

Section 2 - Definition

The IRF is a Membership Federation and will have no capital stock. It is a 501-c-3 corporation under the IRS laws of the United States of America. The IRF does not contemplate pecuniary gain of profit to any Person, Member, or Board of Director. No part of any potential earnings or assets of the IRF will benefit any Person, Member, Officer, or Board of Director thereof. The property of the IRF is irrevocably dedicated to athletic, charitable, health, and educational purposes. In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the IRF, any and all surplus, capital and assets will be distributed to one or more funds, foundations or federations selected and chosen by the Board of Directors (BOD) of the IRF and conducted solely and exclusively for religious, athletic, health, charitable, or scientific purposes.

Section 3 - Recognition by the IOC

The IRF 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 will be deemed to conflict with or deviate 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), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are recognized by the IRF.

ARTICLE II

MISSION AND PURPOSE

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 participation and competition.

Section 2 - Purpose of the IRF

The IRF is a nonprofit organization designed to offer quality racquetball tournaments worldwide and to foster the development of the sport of racquetball throughout the world. The IRF offers National Racquetball Federations (NRF) an opportunity to join, participate, and contribute to the growth of racquetball. These purposes are fulfilled through its aims and objectives.

Section 3 - Aims and Objectives

A. To perpetuate, improve, and extend the sport of racquetball throughout the world.
B. To stimulate healthy living through racquetball participation.
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, planning, and by 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 worldwide.
E. To encourage and support research projects that will benefit racquetball and its supporters.
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 evaluate valid suggestions on how to improve racquetball worldwide.
I. To establish an international series of racquetball clinics for teaching and coaching.
J. To maintain records pertaining to all phases of racquetball.
K. To train and certify competent racquetball referees and linespersons.
L. To solicit funding and finance improvement in the sport of racquetball.
M. To operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes.
N. To follow and actively support 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 NRF or any association, club, or sportsperson on these grounds.

Section 5 - Headquarters

A. The official seat of the IRF is in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.
B. The IRF exists as a non-profit 501-c-3 corporation under USA law in the state of Colorado.

Section 6 - Languages

All meetings will be conducted in English, but any delegate who has difficulties in expressing their views in English may do so in his or her own language provided that he or she has an interpreter. Every NRF 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 IRF

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

Section 8 - Honorary Past Presidents and Honorary Members

Upon recommendation of the BOD, persons who have rendered exceptional services to the IRF 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 BOD meetings, but will not be allowed to vote.

Section 9 - Mutual Recognition of Federations

A NRF is a member of the IRF in good standing and is solely empowered to control racquetball in their respective country. Therefore, each NRF recognizes that neither it nor any of its members will in any way have relations with non-associated bodies or one of its members. Exceptions may be permitted by the Constitution and By-Laws or with special permission of the IRF President for a limited time period.

ARTICLE III

IRF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership

A NRF can exist as a full or developing member. Each member type must meet specific conditions.

A. Full Membership (voting member at the World Congress)
    1. Must be the NRF of a sovereign nation.
    2. Must have a designated national racquetball headquarters in their country and oversee racquetball therein.
    3. Must abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF.
    4. Must provide the IRF with their Constitutions, Statutes and By-Laws.
    5. Must comply with the requirements set out in point 1 of 'Developing Members'.
    6. Must pay yearly membership dues determined by the World Congress.
    7. Must have an Elite National Racquetball Team.

B. Developing Membership (non-voting member at the World Congress)
    1. Open to countries that are in the preliminary stages of development of: national team members, junior development, coaches, referees, and teachers of racquetball. This status is determined by the IRF BOD.
    2. Must be making efforts towards achieving full membership on an ongoing basis.
    3. Must be the NRF of a sovereign nation.
    4. Must have a designated national racquetball headquarters in their country and oversee racquetball therein.
    5. Must abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the IRF.
    6. Must provide the IRF with their Constitutions, Statues and By-Laws.
    7. Must pay membership dues determined by the World Congress.

All Members must recognize, adopt, and support International Racquetball Federation (IRF) Anti-Doping Rules. Refer to Article XIII.

Section 2 - Resignation

The resignation of a NRF 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 NRF.

Section 3 - Suspension of Membership Rights

A NRF whose members and officials have repeatedly failed in their responsibilities toward the IRF after written warning, or have acted contrary to the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations or decisions of the bodies of the IRF can be suspended by the BOD. Each NRF will be immediately

informed about such suspension which will be formally submitted to the next IRF World Congress for confirmation.

Section 4 - Expulsion

The decision by the World Congress is final in/with regard to any expulsion. Any NRF can be expelled from the IRF by the World Congress if it:

A. Brings disrepute to the IRF or to racquetball.
B. Seriously violates the IRF Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations or any World Congress decisions.
C. Does not pay the IRF subscriptions and fees owed to the IRF after due notice has been given.
D. Is no longer the recognized governing body of racquetball in its respective country.

Section 5 - Termination of Rights and Duties of Members

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

Section 6 - Arbitration of Disagreements within a Member Federation

In the event of a disagreement, an NRF concerned must seek its own settlements. If no such settlement is possible, then the matter must be submitted for decision to the BOD to be ratified by the World Congress at the next scheduled World Congress Meeting.

Section 7 - Financials and Responsibilities

The financial commitments of the IRF are limited to its assets. The fiscal year of the IRF starts on January 1 ending on December 31 of the same year. For the observance of the established dates in the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations, the "date stamp" is decisive.

Section 8 - Dissolution

The dissolution of the IRF shall only be affected 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 BOD will fulfill the duties of liquidation.

Section 9 - Constitutional By-Laws

A. By-Laws and Regulations are additional prescriptions to the Constitution.
B. For modifications of the Constitution, a qualified (66%, two-thirds) majority is necessary.
C. For modifications of the By-Laws, a simple (50%, plus one) majority is sufficient.
D. Constitution and By-Laws may be changed or amended only by the World Congress.
E. Regulations may be changed or amended by the BOD.

F. Each NRF full member in good standing with the IRF has one vote at the World Congress.
G. A NRF developing member has no vote at the World Congress. Developing members may be represented at the World Congress and may be granted the right of speaking after approval of the President.

ARTICLE IV

COMPONENTS OF THE IRF

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 BOD.

Section 2 - Sections of the IRF

Some major responsibilities for the IRF including but not limited to Rules, Tournament Formats, and Referees are carried out by a Standing Committee named the IRF Technical Committee. The Technical Committee is broken down into three subcommittees: Referee, Format, and Rules. The Technical Committee shall be chaired by a chairperson nominated by the IRF President and confirmed by the IRF Board of Directors. Each Sub Committee will be chaired by a person appointed by the President.

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 IRF

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

A. BOD.
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 the World Championships.
B. The Extra-Ordinary World Congress can be called within three months after the request for such meeting.
C. The BOD should meet at least once a year. The President will call this meeting.
D. The Executive Committee will meet at the request of the President.
E. A Committee will meet at the request of its Chair.

Section 2 - Notice of Meetings

Notice of all regular World Congress meetings will be given by the IRF Secretary General no later than three months before the World Congress meeting. The notice will specify the date, time, and location of the meeting and include an invitation to each NRF to submit items for the agenda. The agenda and relevant documents will be sent out at least two months before the World Congress by the Secretary General. The documents will be sent to the Presidents of all full and developing 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 NRF. The World Congresses are organized by the IRF Secretary General in cooperation with the NRF of the country in which the meeting takes place.

Section 3 - Proposals

Each NRF in good standing and members of the BOD 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 the 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 BOD by the Rules Committee Chairperson preceding the World Congress. The BOD 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 1st 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

Each NRF may be represented by a maximum of one voting delegate, who must be a member of that NRF (if the delegate does not speak English, the delegation is entitled to bring one interpreter at their own expense). Each NRF may nominate a second delegate (reserve) who can serve as a replacement. 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 will be marked. Only the alternate delegate can replace this person and 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 Full Members of each NRF in good standing with the IRF have voting rights at the World Congress. For the elections of the BOD and other agenda items, the members of the BOD may not vote unless no other members from their Member NRF are available to vote. The President of the IRF or his or her substitute has the right to break 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 will be allowed. No NRF 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 BOD and Executive Committee members' positions will be by closed ballot. For a quorum for voting at the World Congress, 50% of the full member countries in attendance at the corresponding IRF World Championships must be present at the World Congress meeting.

Section 7 - BOD Elections (11 Members)

The Elected BOD shall consist of:

A. Four At Large Members.
B. One Female Vice President.
C. One Elite Athlete.
D. Five Regional Vice Presidents.

The four At Large members and the Female Vice President member will come from nominations from the NRFs in good standing with the IRF. Six months prior to the elections, the Secretary

General will send letters to the Presidents of each NRF in good standing requesting their nominations for these positions. The NRF may nominate more than one At Large Candidate and more than One Female Vice President Candidate. These nominations must be sent back to the Secretary General two months prior to the election date. The nominations must include a letter from the NRF supporting the nomination and a resume that outlines the Candidate's qualifications for the position.

The Elite Athlete nomination will come from the Athletes Commission. The Athletes Commission will meet at the World Championships prior to the elections and nominate their Candidate or Candidates. An Elite Athlete is defined as one who has been a member of their NRF team during the past ten years and competed in the World Championships as a member of that team. The date of the election will be the time frame used for this definition. The Candidates must also have a resume of their qualifications signed by the NRF President. If the Athletes Commission sends more than one name forward the Congress will elect the Athletes Representative to the BOD.

The five Regional Vice Presidents will come from the following Regions: (1) North America (includes Mexico, United States, and Canada), (2) Central America/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 NRF 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 NRF can serve on the BOD. The Athlete selected by the Athlete Commission does not count toward this total. 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 NRF who is nominating the candidate and signed by the President.

Voting for the BOD will be done by closed ballot. The Secretary General will provide the ballots for the election and the scrutinizers 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 a 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 Female Vice President and the Elite Athlete. The Five Regional Vice Presidents must receive 50% of the vote cast by the World Congress to be elected. The eleven people elected will become the IRF BOD. If The Regional Vice President Candidate from one of the Regions does not receive 50% of the vote, or if there are no nominated candidates, then the President may appoint a person from that Region to the BOD.

Section 8 - Executive Committee Elections (5 Members)

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

A. President (Chair of Executive Committee).
B. Vice President.
C. Secretary.
D. Treasurer.
E. One At Large from the BOD.

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 allExecutive Committee Members will come from the BOD. Nominees for each position will have an opportunity to address the BOD 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 exclude one gender, then the remaining At Large position must be of the gender that is not represented.

In order to prevent the complete BOD from changing every four years, the first election process in 2012 was adjusted for both two and four year terms in order to ensure that all officer elections do not take place at the same time. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one At Large position will be elected for four-year terms. If this process does not seat a Candidate, then the President will select the person for the four year term.

There are no limits regarding terms for the BOD or Executive Committee.

Section 9 - Qualified Majority

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

A. Modification of the Constitution.
B. Adoption of New Member Federations, based on the BOD and World Congress approval.
C. Nomination of Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members.
D. Removal of any or all members of the BOD or other bodies of the IRF before the end of their term.
E. Expulsion of a NRF Member.

An exception of the two-thirds majority is for the dissolution of the IRF provided the necessary resolution. It is only possible by four-fifths majority of all NRF Member Countries present at the meeting of the World Congress.

Section 10 - Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, which have been circulated, will be taken as read and no motion or discussion will be allowed on the minutes except in regard to their accuracy. After the confirmation of the minutes they will be signed by the President and the Secretary. Each NRF of the IRF will be at liberty to ask any questions in regard to the content. Such questions will be allowed for purposes of information only and no debate on the policy outlined in the minutes willtake 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 Scrutinizers.
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 (BOD).
P. Any Other New Business.

C. EXTRA-ORDINARY WORLD CONGRESS

Section 1 - Notice and Agenda

An Extra-Ordinary World Congress can be called upon request of 50% of the NRF in good standing with the IRF. Only the requested items appear on the agenda of the Extra-Ordinary World Congress.

D. EXECUTIVE BODIES

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 BOD and the Executive Committee. The BOD voting members must be non-paid

volunteers.

Section 2 - When a Board Member Leaves Office

When a member of the BOD leaves before the end of his or her term, the President selects a substitute member subject to the BOD approval. If an elected member or Chairperson of a committee loses the support of their NRF they must have the support of 80% of the BOD to remain in Office. If that individual wants to run for Office in the next election, they must have written approval from their NRF. The President has the authority to appoint an interim member that will be approved at the next World Congress.

Section 3 - BOD Meetings

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

Section 4 - BOD Responsibility

All members of the BOD will defend the general interests of IRF and the decisions of the BOD, Executive Committee, and World Congress. A BOD member who misses two consecutive meetings that are not excused by the President may be terminated from the BOD by a two thirds vote of the BOD.

Section 5 - Decisions by the BOD and Executive Committee

The BOD and Executive Committee may make decisions, which are under the authority of the World Congress, subject to adoption by the World Congress afterwards. Decisions of the BOD and Executive Committee are made only when a quorum exists, six and three members present respectively.

Section 6 - External Representation by the IRF President

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

Section 7 - Committees

The President recommends all Standing Committee members and chairs to the BOD 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 decisions when half of the total number of members is present. These Committee decisions must be sent to the BOD as recommendations. The BOD 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. Decisionsof the Committees can be taken by way of a conference call by telephone, mail, or email 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 BOD and the World Congress, the BOD and Executive Committee will work within the approved budget.
C. Shifting within this budget is allowed with the permission of the President in consultation with the BOD.
D. Signature(s) competencies in financial matters are covered in the Financial By-Laws.
E. All finances of the IRF go via the bank accounts or account of the IRF.
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 NRF who is in good standing with the IRF at the request of the NRF.

Section 10 - Duties of the BOD

The BOD has the responsibility to address the following IRF issues:

A. Monitor compliance of IRF Constitution, By-Laws, and Standard Operating Procedures.
B. Execute the decisions of the World Congress.
C. Recommend the Budget developed by the Executive Board to the World Congress.
D. Evaluate the suspension of Membership Rights.
E. Evaluate the approval of all Standing Members.
F. Approve Developing and Full Member Federations.
G. Approve the locations for the IRF World Championships.
H. Control the IRF World Championships.
I. Pre-discuss matters for the World Congress agenda.
J. Decide upon other matters covered in the Agenda.
K. Approve all Committee reports and recommend items that need to go to the World Congress.
L. Settle disciplinary issues.
M. Hire and evaluate the Secretary General.

Section 11 - General Duties

All duties and international matters that are not especially outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws are under the authority of the BOD.

Section 12 - Disciplinary Authorities of the BOD

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

Section 13 - Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has the responsibility to address the following IRF issues:

A. Prepare budget and control of finances.
B. Administer funds.
C. Make decisions of a financial nature that are not in the budget.
D. Consider urgent issues brought forward.
E. Negotiate with sport federations and groups.
F. Forge agreements with TV, Internet, and advertising.
G. Work with the Secretary General regarding the day-to-day operations of the IRF.
H. Communicate regularly with the BOD regarding all Executive Committee decisions.

Section 14 - IRF Office

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

Section 15 - Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

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

Section 16 - Expenses of the BOD

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

E. AUDITORS

The BOD will 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

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

G. DISCIPLINE

The IRF BOD has the authority to take disciplinary action against any NRF or individual for conduct which the IRF considers to be prejudicial to the interests of the IRF.

H. SPORT SAFEGUARDS

Following Olympic Charter and IOC recommendations, the IRF is committed to establishing processes for the protection of minors, prevention of harassment and abuse, and manipulation of competitions.

I. ANNEX

1. Simple Majority

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

2. Qualified Majority

A qualified majority is a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

3. Relative Majority

A relative majority is smaller than the simple majority. The relative majority is often practiced at BOD 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. Robert's Rules of Order

The latest Rules of Robert's Rules of Order will 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 BOD and Executive Committee are conducted by the President of the IRF. The Secretary will take the minutes containing all decisions recorded for every meeting and will be sent within thirty days to all BOD Members and other Committee Members concerned. The BOD will have fifteen days to review the minutes. After review, the Secretary General will send them to each NRF in good standing. Minutes of the World Congress will be posted on the IRF website after they are approved by the World Congress.

Section 2 - Duties and Responsibilities of the President

A. The President is the Nominal Head of the IRF and presides at all meetings of the Executive Committee, the BOD, and the World Congress. The President will develop the Agenda for the Executive Committee, BOD and World Congress, and 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, BOD, and Executive Committee.
B. The President represents the IRF outside of the IRF.
C. The President or the designated substitute has the right to sign on behalf of the IRF in all matters which have been approved by the Executive Committee and/or BOD.
D. The President recommends all standing Committee Chairs and Committee Members to the BOD 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 will execute the affairs delegated to them by the President, the BOD or Executive Committee. If the President leaves office, the BOD will elect a new President to complete the President's 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 IRF is responsible for keeping all financial accounts. The Treasurer will work closely with the President and Secretary General regarding all financial matters.
B. Before the end of any fiscal year, the Treasurer will present to the Executive Committee, the BOD, and World Congress, 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, BOD, and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary is responsible for meeting the Constitutional deadlines for providing the minutes to the Membership.

Section 6 - Duties and Responsibilities of the Female Vice President

A. Maintain contact and dialogue with female racquetball players in each NRF who is an active member of the IRF. This can be accomplished by personal contact and email communication.
B. Establish a Female Commission that includes members from NRF worldwide.
C. Promote the development of women's racquetball and establish opportunities for new female players to be involved with the IRF.
D. Work closely with other female sports authorities in IRF member countries in promoting females in sport.
E. Prepare annual reports for the BOD regarding females in racquetball.
F. Generate income through fund raising and sponsorships that will be used specifically for female development.

Section 7 - Duties and Responsibilities of the President Emeritus

The BOD 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 can serve for four years after he or she leaves office and will have the following duties:

A. Will serve the IRF by facilitating a smooth transition of the Presidency.
B. Will be allowed to represent IRF in duties outside the IRF.
C. May receive tasks as designated by the President.
D. Reports to the President and is invited to attend all BOD meetings.
E. Will submit a report to the BOD regarding all of his or her activities.

Section 8 - Duties and Responsibilities of Committees

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

A. The Technical Committee shall have oversight for the following subcommittees.

1. Referee Committee: examines all matters regarding the refereeing of IRF International Tournaments. The committee will make recommendations to the

BOD regarding the issues for improving the quality and quantity of international referees and linespersons. The Chairman of this Committee will be responsible forevaluating referees and linespersons at all IRF World Championship tournaments.This Committee will also make recommendations to the BOD regarding the process for certification of international referees and linespersons.

2. Format 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 BOD 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 theIRF World Championship tournaments immediately after each tournament and submit their report to the BOD so the report can be reviewed at the next BOD meeting. The BOD approves all formats that are used at the IRF World Championships. Changes in the format must be approved at least six months priorto the World Championships.

3. Rules Committee: examines all matters related to the IRF playing rules. The Committee will make recommendations to the BOD regarding rule changes or new rules. The Committee will send their report to the BOD three months prior tothe World Congress meeting. The BOD will send all recommendations to the NRF so that they can be reviewed one 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 the Secretary General

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

Section 11 - Conflicts of Interest

Officers and Board members shall act in the best interests of the IRF and avoid situations where personal, professional, or financial interests conflict with those of the organization. Any actual or potential conflict must be promptly disclosed to the Board, and the members concerned shall abstain from discussion and voting on related matters.

ARTICLE VII

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PLAYERS

Section 1 - Application

These By-Laws apply to all IRF international competitions and participating players therein.

Section 2 - Competitions of the IRF

The competitions approved by the IRF are:

A. World Championships
B. Junior World Championships
C. Senior World Championships
D. Continental and Regional Championships
E. Olympic Chain Events
F. International, Continental, and Regional Multisport Games or Events

Section 3 - Qualification as a Participant in IRF World Championship Events

Only players meeting the following qualification requirements can participate in any IRF Championship competition:

A. Each player participating in an IRF competition must come under the jurisdiction of a NRF affiliated with the IRF.

B. If an individual player wishes to represent a country that does not have a NRF in existence or in good standing, an exception can be made on a case-by-case request basis subject to IRF agreement.

C. To be eligible for participation in an IRF competition, players must meet one of the following requirements:
   - Prove citizenship of the country represented by producing a valid passport from that country
   - Produce an approved eligibility status I.D. of their country and a letter from their National Olympic Committee or National Sport Authority

Section 4 - Olympic Eligibility

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

ARTICLE VIII

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

Section 1 - Transfer Documents

Players cannot transfer from one National Racquetball Federation (NRF) to another without a valid international transfer document. The valid international transfer document must identify both the old NRF and the new NRF, the signature of the player, and the IRF's signed confirmation of transfer. It will become effective as of the date of the official IRF confirmation of transfer.

Section 2 - Move without a Transfer Document

In the instance of a player who:

1. Desires to move from one NRF to another;
2. Meets the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3 of Article VII;
3. But does not possess an international transfer document;

He or she must not have participated in official IRF international competitions (Article VII, Section 1) representing the original country in the past 18 months (calculated from the final day of the last competition) before being permitted to play for a new country.

Section 3 – NRF Refusal of International Transfers

After meeting the requirements in Section 2 of this Article VIII, should a NRF decline to grant a player a requested international transfer, the player concerned has the right to appeal to the IRF with supporting reasons and evidence. The IRF will investigate the appeal and make the final determination.

The 18-month or 36-month waiting periods are the IRF standards for international transfers. With respect for NRFs, nullification of internal contracts between players and their national federations does not come under the scope of the rule. The existence of contracts in force (including obligations, benefits afforded, and other relevant matters) will be taken into account when investigating an appeal.

Section 4 - Offenses against International Transfer Rules

In the case of a player competing under an invalid international transfer document or without an executed international transfer document, the NRF concerned will be penalized and the player suspended, the length of which will be determined by the IRF BOD.

Section 5 – Transfers Beyond Initial Move

An athlete can compete for another NRF after satisfying the 18-month waiting period described in Section 3 of this Article VIII unless an earlier letter of release is provided by the original NRF for which they competed.

In the event that an athlete desires to change countries beyond an initial move, a 36-month waiting period will be in effect unless an earlier letter of release is provided by the NRF for which they most recently competed.

Section 6 – Conflicts of Interest

As with any deliberation or appeal relative to IRF governance, if an appeal to an IRF executive body is made by a player or by an NRF regarding an international transfer, individuals involved in deliberation as part of an investigative process must first consider Article VI, Bylaws, Section 11, relative to whether a conflict of interest may exist.

ARTICLE IX

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

Section 1 - Permission for International Competition

All international competitions between IRF National Racquetball Federations need permission of each NRF involved.

Section 2 - IRF Tournament Reports

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

A. Local Organizing Committee
B. IRF Secretary
C. Each participating NRF

Section 3 - Tournaments with Non-Affiliated Players

No international racquetball tournament involving players of unaffiliated organizations may be played without the approval of both the IRF President and the NRF where the games will be played.

Section 4 - Failure to Send a Team

If a recognized NRF fails to send a team or players to the Junior or IRF World Championships, the IRF BOD can approve qualified citizens from that country to compete in these events.

Section 5 - Description of Selected Teams

The name "International" Team, "IRF" Team, or "Regional" Team (European Team, etc.) is the exclusive right of the IRF. No NRF 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 NRF. The description "International All-Star" team can only be used after prior 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 NRF (World Cup, European Cup, World Tournament, Continental Tournament, etc.,) may be permitted only by the IRF.

Section 7 - Organization of an International Tournament

Only the NRF or clubs with approval are authorized to organize international racquetball tournaments and must be approved by the Executive Committee of the IRF.

Section 8 - Rules and Regulations

The IRF Rules and Regulations are contained in the IRF Format Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE X

FINANCIAL BY-LAWS

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 IRF, 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 IRF money according to the budget and decisions of the Executive Committee and the BOD.
B. Committee chairpersons 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 IRF

The income of the IRF consists of:

A. Subscription fee of a NRF as fixed by the World Congress.
B. The annual subscriptions of each NRF as fixed by the World Congress (due January 1st 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 Assets

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

Section 6 - TV, Internet, and Advertising Rights

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

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 World and Junior World Championships will be that which is adopted by the BOD, or as modified by the Technical Committee, and approved by the BOD.

ARTICLE XII

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1 - Schedule

A. The World Championships are organized every two years.
B. The World Junior Championships are organized every year.

Section 2 - Organization

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 appoint a Tournament Operational Director. This position may be split into two positions if the Tournament Director wishes. 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 in the IRF SOPM.

Section 3 - Nomination of Referees

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 World 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 BOD immediately following 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 for the IRF Championships

The qualification of a player for the IRF Championships has been established in Article VII, Section 4. The age limits for Junior, Senior, and Wheelchair are located in the IRF SOPM.

ARTICLE XIII

MEDICAL AND DOPING REGULATIONS

All Members must recognize, adopt, and support IRF Anti-Doping rules (see Membership, Article III, Section 1). Refer to International Racquetball Federation (IRF) Anti-Doping Rules on IRF website home page, www.internationalracquetball.com.

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- **ARISF**: Association of Recognized International Sports Federations.
- **BOD**: Board of Directors.
- **ID**: Identification / Eligibility status document.
- **IOC**: International Olympic Committee.
- **IRF**: International Racquetball Federation.
- **IRS**: Internal Revenue Service (United States tax authority).
- **IWGA**: International World Games Association.
- **NRF**: National Racquetball Federation.
- **WADA**: World Anti-Doping Agency.

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INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION – IRF
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