



# THE STATUTES OF AIPS

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## PREAMBLE

The “Association of Sports Journalists” worldwide called “The International Sports Press Association” (hereafter “the Association” or “AIPS”) was established in 1924 in Paris under the name “*Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive*”, the latter’s name being officially abbreviated into “AIPS”. Since 2006, AIPS is established in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. LEGAL STATUS AND NAME

Under the name “The International Sports Press Association” (in French “*Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive*”, officially abbreviated into “AIPS”, there exists a non-profit association governed by the present Statutes (the “Statutes”, also abbreviated “S”), and Bye-Laws (“the Bye-Laws”, also abbreviated “BL”) and by Articles 60 *et. seq.* of the Swiss Civil Code.

### 2. LEGAL SEAT AND HEADQUARTERS

2.1. The legal seat of AIPS is located in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless the Congress decides otherwise.

2.2. The Secretariat and administrative headquarters of the Association shall be located where decided by the Executive Committee.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. The objectives of the Association are:

- a) to bring together, under its auspices, the National Sports Journalists Associations (“NSJA”) of the world;
- b) to encourage and assist with the foundation of National Sports Journalists Associations in countries where such associations do not yet exist;
- c) to recognize and support the authority and autonomy of its member associations;
- d) to promote closer links between its member associations and the sports organizations;
- e) to coordinate and protect the ethical and professional interests of its member associations and their members;
- f) to develop the sporting spirit and solidarity among sports journalists throughout the world and to spread the ideals of fair-play in sports journalism and sports reporting;
- g) to collaborate with organizations having as their objective the promotion of sport on a world-wide basis and to encourage them to facilitate the work of professional sport media;

- h) to collect, collate and circulate information to and among its members and to convey its views and decisions to other organizations;
- i) to establish, maintain, publish and distribute its official publications;
- j) to assist those sports organizations which include Media Commissions or Working groups;
- k) to assist sports events organizing bodies by providing them with the services of AIPS experts for consultation and advice in order to maximize and optimize media services;
- l) further the ideals of the Olympic Movement and to promote the freedom of the sports press.

#### **4. NO DISCRIMINATION**

- 4.1. AIPS makes no distinction between its members with respect to nationality, race, religion, gender, political or philosophical beliefs or opinions.
- 4.2. AIPS actively opposes any form of discrimination whatsoever that could affect or hinder in any way its members' rights to work and travel freely, including in particular into countries which do not maintain appropriate diplomatic relations.

#### **5. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

- 5.1. The official languages of AIPS are English, French and Spanish. Other languages may be used as working languages if so decided by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2. Unless otherwise specified, English will be considered as the working language of AIPS and shall be considered as the prevailing reference if there is any contradiction or difference of any interpretation of any document, including of these Statutes.

#### **6. LIABILITY**

- 6.1. Only the assets of the Association shall be liable for its debts. Such liability shall be exclusive.
- 6.2. The Association's members and their own members, as well as any of the Association's or any of its members' officers, employees or representatives shall not be liable for any of the Association's debts.

## **CHAPTER II – AIPS MEMBERSHIP**

#### **7. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS**

The membership of AIPS shall include legal and natural persons admitted to membership in accordance with the Bye-Laws. There are five (5) categories of members, namely one (1) category with voting rights and four (4) categories without voting rights.

##### **7.1. Members with voting rights**

###### **Member Associations**

AIPS Member Associations are National Sports Journalists Associations (NSJAs) whose statutes and activities comply with those of AIPS. A NSJA is an independent entity, legally organized as a legal person in its country and recognized by, or member of, a continental section, which assembles professional sport journalists and writers, including those writing for

the electronic media, TV and radio sports reporters and commentators, sports photographers and sports freelancers.

There cannot be more than one (1) member association per country. The term “country” refers to an independent state recognized by the international community.

## **7.2. Members without voting rights**

Members without voting rights are AIPS Temporary members, AIPS Individual Card Holders, AIPS Associate members and AIPS Honorary members, as further specified in BL 7.2 – 7.5.

### **BL 7 – Categories of members**

*There are five (5) categories of AIPS members, namely:*

#### **7.1 AIPS Member Associations**

*AIPS Member Associations are those members as referred to and defined in S 7.1.*

#### **7.2 AIPS Temporary Members**

*A NSJA which has applied for AIPS membership may be granted the status of Temporary Member by the Executive Committee until a final decision on its application has been made by the Congress.*

#### **7.3 AIPS Individual Card Holders**

*The status of AIPS Individual Card Holders may be granted by the Executive Committee to the following individuals:*

*7.3.1 Sports Journalists working in countries in which no NSJA exists;*

*7.3.2 Individual Journalists working in another country than in their own national country, (so-called “expatriates”), subject to the approval of the Member Associations of the concerned countries.*

#### **7.4 AIPS Associate Members**

*The Executive Committee may grant AIPS Associate Member status to individual persons active as media relations officers of sports organizations or to other individual persons whom AIPS deems deserving of such status.*

#### **7.5 AIPS Honorary Members**

*The distinction of AIPS Honorary Member can be bestowed by the Congress on individual persons having performed meritorious service to AIPS and sports journalism around the world. Any Honorary Member applying as candidate for any AIPS office must immediately waive his/her AIPS Honorary Membership before being considered as a candidate.*

## **8. THE AIPS CARD**

AIPS shall issue a personal identification card (“the AIPS Card”), valid for a two-year period renewable once or several times, to individual members of the AIPS Member Associations and Temporary Members, to AIPS Individual Card Holders and to AIPS Honorary Members. The AIPS Card identifies its holder as a professional sports journalist, officially recognized as such by AIPS. An Individual AIPS Card Holder may not hold more than one single card.

## **9. AIPS MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

Subject to S 7.1 and BL 7 above, all other rights and obligations of all AIPS members are set forth in BL 9.

### **BL 9 - AIPS members' rights and obligations**

#### **9.1 AIPS Members' rights**

##### **9.1.1 Member Associations**

*The Member Associations have the following rights:*

- a) To participate at all Congresses with full voting rights, subject to BL 14.1.2 below;*
- b) To elect the President and the members of the Executive Committee;*
- c) To submit proposals, motions or resolutions to the Congress, subject to BL 14.1.2 below;*
- d) To provide AIPS with the list of their individual members entitled to the AIPS Card, subject to AIPS' right to decide, at its discretion, on the non-issuance of any AIPS Card;*
- e) To receive all official communications and publications from AIPS;*
- f) To enjoy any other rights as may be decided by the Congress.*

##### **9.1.2 Temporary Members**

- a) Subject to any contrary decision of the Executive Committee, the Temporary Members may take part to all Congresses without any voting right;*
- b) They may receive all official communications and publications from AIPS.*

##### **9.1.3 Individual Card Holders**

- a) Individual AIPS Member status may also be granted by AIPS upon request from AIPS members for so-called "expatriate", i.e. individual journalists leaving in another country than their own national country;*
- b) Subject to any contrary decision of the Executive Committee, they may take part to all Congresses without any voting rights;*
- c) They may receive all official communications and publications from AIPS.*

##### **9.1.4 Associate Members**

- a) Associate Members may take part to all Congresses without any voting right;*
- b) Subject to any contrary decision of the Executive Committee, they may receive all official communications and publications from AIPS.*

##### **9.1.5 Honorary Members**

- a) The distinction of AIPS Honorary Members may be bestowed by decision of the AIPS Congress from the Executive Committee upon individuals who have performed meritorious service to AIPS and sports journalism around the world.*
- b) The Honorary membership categories are:*
  - Honorary Member;*
  - Honorary Life President;*
  - Honorary Life General Secretary.*
- c) The Honorary Life President, the Honorary Life General Secretary and the Honorary Members may be invited to attend meetings of the Congress or of the Executive Committee at the discretion of the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity.*
- d) Any Honorary Member applying as candidate for any AIPS office must immediately step down from and waive his/her AIPS Honorary Membership before being considered as a*

candidate.

- e) *Subject to any contrary decision of the Executive Committee, Honorary Members may take part to all Congresses without any voting right.*

## **9.2 AIPS Members' obligations**

### **9.2.1 General obligations applicable to all categories of AIPS members**

- a) *All categories of AIPS members including all Individual Card Holders and Honorary Members are committed to promote the objectives, principles and values issued by AIPS.*
- b) *All categories of AIPS members including all Individual Card Holders and Honorary Members are bound and committed to comply with AIPS Statutes, Bye-Laws and any other AIPS internal regulations, as amended from time to time.*
- c) *All categories of AIPS Members are committed protect and defend their respective individual members' human rights.*

### **9.2.2 Payment of membership fee and AIPS Card fee**

*All AIPS members and Individual Card holders shall regularly and timely pay the relevant membership fee and AIPS Card fee as determined by the Congress upon proposal by the Executive Committee.*

## **10. ADMISSION, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION PROCEDURES FOR AIPS MEMBERSHIP**

The admission, suspension and termination procedures for AIPS membership are set forth in BL 10.

### **BL 10 – Admission, suspension and termination procedures for AIPS membership**

#### **10.1 Admission Procedure for Members with voting rights**

*Any application for AIPS membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with a file containing the following documents:*

- a) *A certified copy of the applicant's statutes, constitution and bye-laws (if any) as well as a certified excerpt of any publicly available official registry (if any);*
- b) *A certified copy of the minutes of the competent body containing the decision to apply for membership;*
- c) *A certified list of all members of the applicant's Executive Body, with their full identities, addresses and other contact details;*
- d) *A certified copy of the last annual financial report of the applicant;*
- e) *A written confirmation and undertaking that the applicant will pay on demand and without delay any fee due in accordance with the Statutes;*
- f) *A written confirmation and undertaking that the applicant will comply with the AIPS Statutes and AIPS internal regulations.*

*Upon receipt of any application, the Secretariat shall immediately report it to the Executive Committee and shall undertake the necessary investigations in order to gather all appropriate information on the applicant.*

*The Secretariat will send to the Executive Committee, as appropriate and from time to time, progress reports on its work. Once the relevant investigation has been completed, the Secretariat will submit to the Executive Committee a proposal as to a possible admission or non-admission of the concerned candidate, upon which the Executive Committee shall decide*

whether or not to propose the admission of such candidate to the Congress which shall decide on the admission or non-admission.

### **10.2 Admission Procedure for Members without voting rights**

Such admission procedure is set forth in BL.7 7.2-7.5.

### **10.3 Suspension Procedure**

Any Association Member may be suspended from its membership status by the Executive Committee. The grounds for suspension may be:

- a) Failure to comply with provisions of the Statutes, Bye-Laws, AIPS Code of Professional Conducts Standards or any other internal regulations;
- b) Having been two (2) years or more in arrears with AIPS membership fee or AIPS Card fee due by the member to AIPS;
- c) Non-payment of any other liabilities due to AIPS.

The Executive Committee may lift a suspension if it is satisfied that the suspended Member has complied with its obligations.

### **10.4 Termination Procedure**

The membership shall be terminated in the following circumstances:

a) Resignation

Any Member Association may withdraw its membership at any time by submitting a written resignation to the AIPS Secretariat. In such a case, the concerned member remains liable for all outstanding liabilities to AIPS, including the annual membership fee (in its entirety). Any resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt by the Secretariat of a written notice of resignation. Any resignation shall be reported by the AIPS Secretariat or the Executive Committee to the next Congress.

b) Expulsion

Any Member Association may be expelled from the AIPS by the Congress upon proposal by the Executive Committee. Expulsion requires a two-third (2/3) majority of all votes validly cast.

Any Member without voting rights may be expelled from membership by decision of the Executive Committee.

The grounds for expulsion are:

1. Refusal to comply with provisions of the Statutes, Bye-Laws, AIPS Code of Professional Conducts Standards or any other internal regulations;
2. Having been four (4) years or more in arrears with AIPS membership fee or AIPS Card fee due by the member to AIPS;
3. Refusal to pay any other liabilities due to AIPS;
4. Involvement in any illegal activities which could be detrimental to the AIPS' interests or image;
5. Any act or conduct according to which a member has neglected or jeopardized the interests of the AIPS or acted in a way which is unworthy of the AIPS.

## **CHAPTER III – RESOURCES**

### **11. RESOURCES**

11.1. The Association's resources are drawn from:

11.1.1. **Membership fees**

Each Member Association or Associate Member shall pay an annual membership fee, the amount of which is determined for a period of two (2) years by the Congress upon proposal from the Executive Committee.

Membership fees must be paid by 31 March of each year. Under exceptional circumstances, the Executive Committee may grant a payment extension provided that the member submits its request in advance based on serious and justified reasons.

Except for Honorary Members, each AIPS member shall pay an annual membership fee the amount of which will be determined for a period of two (2) years by the Congress upon proposal from the Executive Committee.

11.1.2. **AIPS Card fee**

Except Honorary Members, all Individual Card Holders, regardless of the AIPS Membership category to which they belong, shall pay the amount of the AIPS Card fee as determined for a period of two years by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Committee. The AIPS Card fee for individual members of Association Members or Temporary Members may, if not paid directly by the concerned Members, be collected by their respective Member Associations or Temporary Members and forwarded to AIPS.

11.1.3. **Other resources**

Any other resources authorized by law, including in particular but without limitation, donations, legacies, sponsorship and public subsidies.

11.2. All resources shall be used in accordance with the Association's objectives. The AIPS Executive Committee may provide support and financial assistance to its Member Associations or to the Continental Sections, in which case it shall be entitled to receive in advance audited accounts from the potential beneficiaries.

## **CHAPTER IV – GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL BODIES**

### **12. THE LEGAL BODIES**

The legal bodies of the Association are:

- a) The Congress;
- b) The Executive Committee;
- c) The Auditor.

### **13. CONGRESS**

The Congress is the Association's supreme authority. It includes all AIPS Members Associations.

The Congress is held in principle every year but at least every two years. It may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of either the Executive Committee or at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Members



Associations entitled to voting rights.

## **14. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE CONGRESS**

The Congress has the following functions and powers:

- a) To decide on the admission and exclusion of Member Associations;
- b) To elect the President, all members of the Executive Committee except ex-officio members, as well as the Auditor;
- c) To vote on the annual reports of the President and the Executive Committee;
- d) To take note of the Auditor's report;
- e) To vote on the financial statements and accounts;
- f) To discharge the Board and President for their activities every two (2) years;
- g) To vote on the budget;
- h) To set the amount of the membership fees and of the AIPS Card fee;
- i) To supervise the activity of all other legal bodies, which it may dismiss;
- j) To decide on motions and proposals from the Executive Committee or from Member Associations;
- k) Subject to article S. 16.1b below, to decide on the location of the next Congress;
- l) To adopt and amend the Statutes and to decide on the Bye-laws;
- m) To decide on the dissolution of the Association.

Procedures relating to the AIPS Congress are set forth in BL14.

### **BL 14 – Procedures relating to the AIPS Congress**

#### **14.1 Agenda**

*The Executive Committee is responsible for summoning the Congress, stating the place, date and time of the meeting to the members. This summons will be sent by electronic, fax or post. This will take place at least three (3) months prior to the commencement of the Congress.*

#### **14.2 Quorum, majorities, decisions**

##### **14.2.1 Quorums**

*A resolution may be validly voted only when the majority of all Member Associations with voting rights are present or validly represented.*

##### **14.2.2 Voting rights**

*Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote. Subject to BL 14.2.2 below, members of the Executive Committee do not have any right to vote.*

*No vote by proxy shall be allowed at the Congress.*

*In order to exercise its voting rights, any Member Association shall have paid in full, prior to the Congress, any and all of its liabilities towards the AIPS, including but not limited to its membership fee and AIPS Card fee.*

*A secret ballot shall be compulsory for all elections and for the dissolution of the AIPS.*

##### **14.2.3 Decisions**

*All other decisions shall be taken by a show of hands or by electronic vote, unless the Chair of the Congress or at least one fifth (1/5) of the Member Associations present or represented requests a secret ballot.*

*All decisions of the Congress shall require the simple majority of the votes cast unless the*

*Statutes or Bye-Laws provide for another qualified majority. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.*

### **14.3 Chair, conduct of meetings, minutes**

#### **14.3.1 Chair**

*The Congress is chaired by President. At any time, the President may authorize any other member of the Executive Committee to chair the Congress. If the President is not present and has not delegated chairmanship, the Executive Committee shall appoint one (1) of the Vice-Presidents to chair the Congress. Should none of the above persons be available, the Congress shall elect one of the members of the Executive Committee to act as Chair at the Congress.*

#### **14.3.2 Conduct of meetings**

*The Congress is to be held in a location accessible to the representatives of all Member Associations.*

*The selection of the location for any AIPS Congress is subject to the undertaking, by the Member Association of the country of location, to organize the Congress to the satisfaction of AIPS. To that effect, the relevant Member Association shall establish an Organizing Committee which shall cooperate and liaise with the Executive Committee and AIPS Secretariat. On behalf of AIPS, the Executive Committee shall enter into an agreement with the Organizing Committee setting out clearly the respective obligations of AIPS and the Organizing Committee, including all financial matters. In particular, the Organizing Committee shall be responsible to provide at its own costs accommodation and hospitality to the members of the Executive Committee and of the Secretariat, AIPS Honorary Members and one delegate from each Member Association. The Organizing Committee shall also be responsible for providing at its own costs the necessary venues for holding meetings of the Congress and of the Executive Committee.*

*Each Member Association is entitled to send a second delegate at its own costs. Candidates for election to the Executive Committee may be invited to attend the Congress at their own costs upon approval by the Secretariat. Only the accredited representative duly announced at the Commencement of the Congress by the Member Association may vote.*

*Each Member Association shall be responsible for confirming its delegate's right to represent and vote for it in the Congress. To that effect, the relevant Member Association shall confirm its delegate's power in the official accreditation form by its own official signature and stamp. The official program of the Congress may not exceed three (3) working days, except extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Executive Committee.*

*The right to submit proposals, motions and resolutions to the Congress belongs exclusively to the Member Associations and to Executive Committee members.*

*All motions, proposals and nominations of candidacies must be received by the Secretariat written in one of the official languages at the latest 3 (three) months before the first day of the Congress. Documents not received by the Secretariat on the due date shall be considered void and shall not be submitted to the Congress.*

*The Congress agenda, together with written reports from the President, General Secretary and Treasurer, as well as motions and proposals from the Executive Committee or from Member Associations, as well as nominations for candidacies to the Executive Committee, must be submitted by the Secretariat to the Member Associations not later than five (5) weeks before the first day of the Congress.*

*A delegate of a Member Association may not vote for another Member Association.*

*A member of the Executive Committee may vote on behalf of a Member Association if he/she is the only delegate from such Member Association in attendance at the Congress.*

### 14.3.3 Virtual Meetings

*Upon the approval of the Executive Committee, the Congress may be held by teleconference, by videoconference, by another means of communication or a combination thereof. In such cases, the Congress may vote by correspondence, including email or other electronic means.*

### 14.3.4 Minutes

*Minutes of the Congress shall be drawn by the Secretary General or his/her designee and signed jointly by the Secretary General and the President.*

*The Minutes of the meetings of the Congress shall be prepared in the 3 (three) official languages of AIPS and circulated by the Secretariat. No correction or alteration to the Minutes will be accepted unless written notification has been received and acknowledged by the Secretariat within two (2) months from the date of circulation of the Minutes to the members.*

*The Minutes of any Congress must record all decisions and resolutions passed at the Congress and, where applicable, the dates on which they are to come into effect. If no such date is mentioned, any decision of the Congress shall enter into force immediately.*

## **14.4 Elections**

*The Congress elects those members of the Executive Committee who are eligible to such office as set forth in BL 15 hereafter.*

*The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a period of four (4) years, except for the four (4) ex-officio Vice-Presidents who are appointed by their respective Continental Sections.*

*Only candidates presented by fully paid-up Member Associations may be elected to the Executive Committee. The Member Associations may only present the candidature of one member, such candidature being admissible for no more than two positions on the Executive Committee.*

*Only Professional Sports Journalists who are simultaneously members of a Member Association and holders of valid AIPS Cards are eligible.*

*Any candidature is personal and individual. Only professional journalists may be candidates for any position.*

*The members of the Executive Committee are eligible for reelection for one or several terms provided their candidature is submitted by their Member Association.*

## **15. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the AIPS President and 23 (twenty-three) members chosen in accordance with the procedure set forth in the AIPS Bye-Laws.

### ***BL 15 – Procedure relating to the constitution of the Executive Committee***

*The Executive Committee shall comprise*

- a) The President;*
- b) The First Vice-President;*
- c) Four (4) other Vice-Presidents;*
- d) Four (4) ex-officio Vice-Presidents, namely the Presidents of the Continental sections;*
- e) The Secretary General*

- f) *The Treasurer;*
- g) *Twelve (12) other members.*

*The members of the Executive Committee are individuals and independent, acting in the interests of the AIPS. They perform their duties without compensation. Each Member Association is responsible for the payment of the travel costs of those members of the Executive Committee whom they have presented for election. Under exceptional circumstances, an elected member of the Executive Committee may apply with the Executive Committee in advance for the reimbursement of all or part of specific justified travel costs; the Executive Committee shall decide at its full discretion. The members of the Executive Committee must not accept any position which can be in contradiction with their function as an elected member or presents conflicts of interests with the AIPS. Any individual who is directly involved in the matter to be decided should abstain from taking decisions in this specific matter and may be requested to leave the room for the time of the decision-making process.*

*The mandate of the President is for one term of four (4) years renewable once or several times. If the President, for any reason, is unable to perform his/her activities, the first Vice-President automatically takes over the presidency and acts as "Interim President" until the following Congress, at which time an election for the office of President shall be held. Should the first Vice-President be unable for any reason, to assume the office of Acting President, he/she is to be replaced by the other Vice-President having received the highest number of votes at the Congress election of that particular term. An election for the office of first Vice-President shall be held at the following Congress.*

*If, for any reason, the Secretary General and/or the Treasurer is unable to carry out his/her office, an interim person will temporarily take over such offices until the following Congress, upon which an election for such offices shall be held.*

*Should a member of the Executive Committee fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee or the Congress without having been excused for a valid reason, the Executive Committee may decide, at its discretion, that the members office will be terminated; in such a case, an election for that particular position shall take place at the next congress.*

## **16. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 16.1. The Executive Committee has the following powers:
  - a) To conduct the activities of the Association and manage its resources in accordance with the applicable law, the statutes and applicable Bye-Laws;
  - b) To convene the ordinary and extraordinary congresses;
  - c) To ensure the enforcement of the Statutes and AIPS Bye-Laws;
  - d) To administer the assets of the Association;
  - e) To appoint a Secretary General;
  - f) To adopt and amend internal regulations (except this Statutes and Bye-Laws)
  - g) To exercise all powers and perform all duties not attributed by law or by the Statutes or AIPS Bye-Laws to another organ.
  - h) To delegate all or part of its powers to one or more of its members, to members of AIPS Commissions, to members of the AIPS Secretariat or Administrations, or to third legal or individual persons.
- 16.2. The Executive Committee may delegate powers to one or more of its members to members of the AIPS Secretariat, to other entities or third persons.
- 16.3. Procedures relating to the Executive Committee are set forth in the AIPS Bye-Laws.

### ***BL 16 – Procedures relating to the Executive Committee***

### **16.1 Meetings and decisions**

*The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year, before the Congress as the case may be.*

*Meetings of the Executive Committee may also be convened by the President, whenever he/she deems it necessary or at the request of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Committee.*

### **16.2 Quorum, majority, decisions**

*The quorum required for a meeting of the Executive Committee is one half (1/2) of its members.*

*Each member of the Executive Committee has one (1) vote. Decisions and resolutions should be passed by a majority of the votes cast. The President has the casting vote in a case of a tie.*

*No vote by proxy shall be allowed at meetings of the Executive Committee.*

*If the circumstances so require, a resolution or decision may be submitted by the President to a vote by correspondence, including fax or electronic mail, as well as by videoconference if available to all members.*

### **16.3 Chair, minutes**

*The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the President. At any time, the President may authorize another member of the Executive Committee to chair a meeting. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the first Vice-President shall chair the meeting. Should the first Vice-President be unable, for any reason, to chair the meeting, the Executive Committee shall appoint a chairperson for the meeting.*

*Minutes of the meetings shall be signed jointly by the Secretary General and the President.*

## **17. SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Executive Committee appoints the Secretary General and is responsible for prescribing the terms, conditions and requirements of the appointment. The Secretary General is required to prepare and to be present during the meeting of the Congress, the Executive Committee, so as to report to or to advise the members of those bodies whenever necessary.

## **18. AIPS SECRETARIAT**

- 18.1. The Secretariat is established in order to assist the Executive Committee, the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer in the performance of their duties as well as for the day-to-day management of the AIPS. The Secretariat is placed under the authority and the supervision of the President. Upon proposal of the President, the Executive Committee appoints the members of the Secretariat and determines their duties.
- 18.2. If, for any reason, the President is unable to carry out his duties as far as the direction and/or the supervision of the Secretariat is concerned, he/she shall be replaced as long as necessary by the Secretary General or, in case of the latter's incapacity, by the Treasurer.
- 18.3. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the proper management of the Secretariat and will report to the Executive Committee about the latter's activities.

## **19. TREASURER. FINANCIAL AND AUDIT MATTERS**

### 19.1. Financial year

The financial year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### 19.2. Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

A Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee composed of the Treasurer, acting as chairman, and three (3) other members chosen among the AIPS members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's responsibility regarding financial matters is limited to his sharing over and participating to the activities of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

The Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall have direct oversight responsibilities for internal control, internal audit, and compliance with the AIPS Statutes, Bye-Laws and other regulations, policies and procedures. The Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall report to the Congress and to the Executive Board.

The members of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall have appropriate experience in audit, compliance, finance, management and administration.

The members of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall not serve on other committees or hold another position within the Headquarters or Secretariat.

The Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee may issue internal regulation setting forth its organization and processes compatible with established auditing principles and standards for approval by the Congress.

### 19.3. External Auditor

The annual accounts of AIPS shall be audited by an external independent professional auditor. The auditor shall be appointed by the Congress for a period of two (2) years. The mission of the external auditor shall be to audit the AIPS's annual accounts and to submit its report to the Congress based on the accounts and other financial documents prepared under the responsibility of the Executive Committee and available to the auditor at least two (2) months prior to the Congress.

## **20. APPOINTMENT OF AIPS DELEGATES**

The AIPS Executive Committee may appoint qualified specialized sports journalists as AIPS Delegates for specific tasks or missions on behalf of AIPS in order to promote and foster the principles, aims and interests of AIPS within some specific sports. Such AIPS Delegates will liaise and cooperate with the respective sports associations and events organizing bodies and report to the AIPS Executive Committee on their activities.

## **21. COMMISSIONS**

The AIPS Executive Committee may establish temporary commissions, committees and/or subcommittees for particular purposes. The Executive Committee shall then appoint the chair and members of such entities and define their terms of reference. At any time, the Executive Committee is entitled to terminate any such committees, subcommittees and commissions. All the commissions shall report to the Executive Committee.

## **22. AIPS CONTINENTAL SECTIONS**

22.1. The AIPS may recognize as an AIPS Continental Section an independent, autonomous, non-profit established legal person whose members shall exclusively be AIPS Member

Associations in the countries of the relevant continent. The recognition of an AIPS Continental Section as such with the ensuing rights and benefits is subject to the approval, by the AIPS Executive Committee, of the said Continental Section's Statutes.

22.2. The objectives of AIPS Continental Sections shall be to promote the principles and values of AIPS in their respective continents.

22.3. Procedures relating to the AIPS Continental Sections are set forth in the AIPS Bye-Laws.

## ***BL 22 – Procedures relating to AIPS Continental Sections***

### **22.1 Duties of the Continental Sections**

*In order to foster and develop the promotion of the principles and influence of AIPS, the Continental Sections shall at all times include in their documents and other material a clear reference to the fact that they are Continental Sections of AIPS.*

*Furthermore, the Continental Sections shall enhance and improve the effectiveness and value of the AIPS Card as the only universally recognized professional card for sports journalists.*

### **22.2 Representation towards world and international sports bodies and the press organization of world or intercontinental events**

*The representation of sports journalists' organizations in the world's sports bodies and the press organizations of world or intercontinental events always remains under the exclusive responsibility of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may delegate such function to a Continental Section at its discretion if it deems it appropriate.*

### **22.3 Continental Sections Congresses**

*Continental Sections may hold their Congresses on the day preceding the AIPS Congress, at the same location.*

## **23. DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS MATTERS**

The Executive Committee shall constitute a Disciplinary and Ethics Commission which is in charge of all the disciplinary and ethics matters, pursuant to BL 24. In this regard, the Executive Committee may adopt regulations, including if necessary the AIPS Code of Discipline and Ethics.

## ***BL 23 – Disciplinary and Ethics proceedings***

### **23.1 Disciplinary and Ethics Commission**

*The Executive Committee may be assisted in disciplinary matters by a Disciplinary and Ethics Commission composed of one (1) chairman and three (3) members appointed by the Executive Committee.*

*The members of the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission shall be independent and impartial in the performance of their functions. They shall not sit in any other AIPS internal body or hold any other function within the AIPS.*

*The Disciplinary and Ethics Commission (i) may receive complaints, (ii) investigate cases transmitted to it and (iii) submit recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Disciplinary and Ethics Commission remains entirely free to decide that the complaint is unfounded or insufficiently serious and does not require any further action. This decision cannot be appealed.*

*Any member or any person elected or otherwise appointed within the AIPS can submit complaint*

*to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission in relation to the non-respect of ethical principles including breaches of this Statutes.*

### **23.2 Measures**

*In case of any violation of the ethical principles and/or breach of this Statutes or any other internal regulations, the following measures or sanctions may be applied by the Executive Committee, upon recommendation by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission:*

- a) warning*
- b) reprimand*
- c) financial fine*
- d) temporal suspension*
- e) final exclusion*
- f) downgrading or demotion of a specific function*
- g) withdrawal of honorary title or distinction.*

### **23.3 Right to be heard**

*Any person or entity who/which is subject to a disciplinary or ethics proceedings has the right to be heard before a measure or sanction is imposed on it.*

## **24. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The decisions of the AIPS are final.

Any disputes relating to their implementation or interpretation shall be resolved solely by the Executive Committee.

Final decisions rendered by any AIPS legal bodies may be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute definitively in accordance with the Code of Sports-related arbitration. The time limit for appeal is twenty-one (21) days after the reception of the decision.

## **25. EXTRAORDINARY EVENT CLAUSE**

In case of occurrence of events or circumstances of exceptional nature which are outside the control of the Association, the Executive Committee may decide exceptional protective and/or preventive measures aiming at preserving the possibility to maintain the activities of the Association, the exercise of the members rights pursuant to the Statutes and/or other regulation of the Association and the reputation and image of the Association.

Protective and preventive measures may include the temporary suspension of the exercise of rights of members or officials implicated in the exceptional circumstances at stake, irrespective of any violations by the concerned members or representatives thereof of their respective obligations under the Statutes and/or other rules.

Protective and preventive measures may be maintained (to the extent required or adequate, as issued or as amended from time to time) by the Executive Committee as long as required by the circumstances. They must be lifted partially or totally, as soon as reasonable adequate in view of the evolution of the circumstances having led to the issue of the measures.

## **26. AMENDMENTS TO THE AIPS STATUTES OR BYE-LAWS**

Any amendment to the Statutes or Bye-Laws requires the following majority of votes cast by Member Associations at the Congress:

- Two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast if the amendment concerns the AIPS Statutes;
- The majority of the votes cast if the amendment concerns the AIPS Bye-Laws.



## **27. LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

The President legally represents the AIPS in all official circumstances. The AIPS shall be validly bound to third parties by the joint signature of the President and the Secretary General or member specifically designated by the Executive Committee.

## **28. DISSOLUTION**

The dissolution of AIPS may be decided by the Congress by a majority of three-quarter (3/4) of all Member Associations in attendance at the Congress.

## **29. TRANSITION**

These Statutes and Bye-Laws shall come into force immediately following the Congress at which they are adopted.

These revised Statutes have been approved by the 85<sup>th</sup> Congress held in Seoul (South Korea) on 11 May 2023 and supersede all previous version.