WPF World Pickleball Federation
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WORLD PICKLEBALL FEDERATION

Bylaws

As adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 20 November 2026

ADOPTED

By the Extraordinary General Meeting of 20 November 2026: 22 votes for, 1 against, 0 abstentions

IN FORCE

From Saturday 21 November 2026, the day following the meeting

REPLACES

The WPF Bylaws adopted on 3 June 2023

TEXT

The text circulated with the notice of 1 November 2026, with the two changes adopted at the meeting, **highlighted in green**: clause 2.2.5 and the new clause 2.3.10. Nothing else has changed.

Schedule of the changes adopted at the meeting

At the Extraordinary General Meeting on 20 November 2026, the members agreed, with no objection, to take two suggestions from Hellas Pickleball into the Bylaws that were adopted. The other suggestions were deferred for study, and the Board will share its findings with the members.

Clause	Change	Text as circulated on 1 November 2026	Text as adopted
2.2.5	Added: support for Members' relations with Governments and National Olympic Committees	… encourage the formation of new National Federations, strengthen the bonds between them, and resolve disputes between them;	… encourage the formation of new National Federations, strengthen the bonds between them, resolve disputes between them, and support their relations with Governments and National Olympic Committees;
2.3.10	New principle: pickleball for peace and solidarity	(none)	2.3.10 Peace and Solidarity — the use of pickleball as a tool for the promotion of international peace and solidarity, avoiding the exploitation of sport for political, national or non-peaceful purposes, and promoting cooperation among peoples, in the spirit of the Olympic Ideal and the Olympic Truce.

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ARTICLE 1 Name, Seat, and Legal Status

1.1 The body called the 'World Pickleball Federation' ('WPF' or 'the Federation') is organized as a not-for-profit association (its registered legal name is World Pickleball Association NFP, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, doing business as the World Pickleball Federation).

1.2 WPF was established on 11 December 2018 in Illinois, USA, with the intention of regulating, developing, and promoting pickleball internationally.

1.3 WPF possesses legal personality and the capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of property, and to institute and defend legal proceedings.

1.4 Seat and Governing Law. The registered seat of WPF shall be in Riverwoods, Illinois, United States of America. WPF is governed by the laws of Illinois for matters of corporate governance. For sports-related disputes referred to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ('CAS'), WPF and its Members choose Swiss law as the applicable law and accept the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

1.5 Official Language. The official language of WPF is English. A speaker may use another language at meetings, provided interpretation into English is arranged and paid for by that speaker, with notice given to the Chair in advance. French is recognized as a working language for IOC correspondence.

1.6 Definitions. In these Bylaws: 'National Federation in Good Standing' means a National Federation that has no subscription due, is not under suspension and has submitted its Annual Form for the current year; 'Votes Cast' means valid votes for or against a proposal, and excludes blank or void votes and abstentions; 'Notice' means formal notification by email, fax or mail to the address held on record; 'Annual Form' means the form submitted by each National Federation under Clause 3.5; 'Director' means a member of the Board of Directors; 'Country Director' means the senior board member whom a National Federation appoints under Clause 4.2.9 to hold its vote, who is not by that role a Director of WPF; 'Member' means a body admitted to a category of membership under Clause 3.1; 'Commission' means a standing body established under Clause 4.5; 'committee' means a body appointed by the Board under Clause 4.5 for a defined task and period; 'days' means calendar days; and any deadline expires at midnight on that day at WPF's registered seat.

ARTICLE 2 Mission and Objectives

2.1 Key Focus. The key focus of WPF is the governance and administration of pickleball worldwide.

2.2 Purposes and Objectives. The purposes and objectives of WPF are to:

2.2.1 publish and promote these Bylaws and WPF's principles;

2.2.2 govern the game, from an international perspective, in all countries and continents;

2.2.3 promote and popularize pickleball worldwide;

2.2.4 support and encourage the development of pickleball as a sport for all;

2.2.5 encourage the formation of new National Federations, strengthen the bonds between them, resolve disputes between them, and support their relations with Governments and National Olympic Committees;

2.2.6 organize, conduct, and present world pickleball events to world-class standards;

2.2.7 protect the integrity of pickleball through programmes to prevent and fight doping and match-fixing. WPF shall become and remain a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code and shall bind all members, athletes, athlete-support personnel, and officials to the Code and its International Standards;

2.2.8 engage in commercial activities that give direct benefit to the sport;

2.2.9 promote pickleball for inclusion in the Olympic Games and Para Pickleball in the Paralympic Games, and fulfil the role of an International Federation within the Olympic and Paralympic Movements;

2.2.10 enforce the IOC Code of Ethics, the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, and the IOC Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance;

2.2.11 uphold these principles, purposes, and objectives, and take such measures as are necessary to advance the interests of pickleball internationally.

2.3 Principles. WPF and its National Federations are committed to:

2.3.1 Sport for All — pickleball for all ages and abilities;

2.3.2 Fair Play — sportsmanship, and competition free of drugs, violence, manipulation, and exploitation;

2.3.3 Harassment-Free Sport — enforcement of the Code of Ethics;

2.3.4 Equal Opportunity — substantive gender equity, including a minimum 40% representation of each gender on all governance bodies, and active programmes for the inclusion of women in coaching, officiating, and leadership;

2.3.5 Environmental Responsibility — sustainable operations;

2.3.6 Non-Discrimination and Ethics — no discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth, age, or other status;

2.3.7 Autonomy and Political Neutrality — WPF shall maintain complete independence and autonomy in its governance, free from political, religious, or economic interference;

2.3.8 Safeguarding — WPF adopts and enforces the IOC Safeguarding Toolkit and a binding Safeguarding Policy protecting athletes from harassment and abuse.

2.3.9 Human Rights and Solidarity — respect for human rights within WPF's activities; promotion of physical and mental health and well-being; and solidarity and social responsibility, including support for the development of National Federations.

2.3.10 Peace and Solidarity — the use of pickleball as a tool for the promotion of international peace and solidarity, avoiding the exploitation of sport for political, national or non-peaceful purposes, and promoting cooperation among peoples, in the spirit of the Olympic Ideal and the Olympic Truce.

2.4 Compliance. WPF and its Members shall comply with the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics (including the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance within the Olympic Movement), the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions. No provision of these Bylaws shall be applied in a way that conflicts with the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter.

ARTICLE 3 Membership

3.1 Categories. WPF recognizes the following categories of membership: (a) National Federations (full voting members); (b) Continental Confederations (administrative bodies, with no voting rights at General Assembly meetings); (c) Affiliate Members (non-voting, including emerging national bodies and Para Pickleball organizations); and (d) Provisional Members (non-voting, pre-recognition candidates).

3.2 One-Federation-Per-Country Rule. Only one National Federation per country may be recognized as a Full Member of WPF: the body that WPF recognizes, applying the criteria in Clause 3.3, on the written recommendation of the Membership Commission under Clause 3.4, as the sole governing body for pickleball in that country. Recognition of a body by the National

Olympic Committee or a national sports authority is taken into account but does not bind WPF, and does not by itself end the membership of an existing Member.

3.3 Admission Criteria. A National Federation applying for membership must satisfy each of the following:

3.3.1 be the sole governing body for pickleball in a country recognized as an independent, sovereign state by the international community, or in a non-state territory recognized by the IOC for sport purposes, as accepted by WPF under Clause 3.4;

3.3.2 operate under a democratic, transparent governance structure with published bylaws, regular elections, and audited finances;

3.3.3 be a legally registered not-for-profit body capable of contracting and being party to legal proceedings;

3.3.4 undertake in writing to be bound by WPF's Anti-Doping Rules and to become a WADA Code signatory;

3.3.5 undertake in writing to observe these Bylaws;

3.3.6 undertake to recognize CAS as the only external judicial authority to which an appeal may be made;

3.3.7 have adopted policies on conflict of interest, gender equity, safeguarding, and athlete representation consistent with these Bylaws;

3.3.8 undertake in writing that, while it is a Member, WPF is the only international federation for pickleball to which it belongs, and that it will not join any other organization claiming to be the international federation for pickleball, other than a body with which WPF has agreed a unification or joint recognition under Clause 4.3.9;

3.3.9 ensure its own bylaws provide for an election or appointment system that guarantees independence from political, religious, or financial pressure.

3.4 Admission Process. Applications are reviewed by the Membership Commission, which makes a written recommendation to the Board of Directors on whether the applicant meets Clause 3.3 and should be accepted as WPF's representative for pickleball in its country. Where more than one body claims that role, the Commission hears each claimant and gives preference to the one that is a Member in Good Standing. The Board may grant Provisional Membership, subject to ratification at the next Annual General Assembly. The Secretary General shall notify every National Federation of each application received, with any recommendation. If five (5) or more National Federations object in writing within thirty (30) days, the application shall be placed on the agenda of the next General Assembly instead of being decided by the Board.

3.5 Ongoing Obligations. Each Member shall:

(a) file its Annual Form and update its profile no later than thirty (30) days before the Annual General Assembly; and, if it is a National Federation, shall also:

(b) continue to satisfy the admission criteria at all times;

(c) pay subscriptions on time;

(d) submit an annual governance report, including audited financials, gender-balance data, athlete-representation data, and anti-doping and safeguarding compliance attestations;

(e) and promptly inform WPF of any material change in its circumstances.

3.6 Suspension, Expulsion, and Reinstatement. A Member may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise sanctioned only after written notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard. Decisions are subject to appeal under Article 11. Between General Assemblies the Board may suspend a National Federation that acts directly against WPF, these Bylaws or the principles in Article 2; the suspension is confirmed or lifted by the next General Assembly, at which the suspended Federation may speak but not vote. While suspended, a National Federation loses

its membership rights, and neither it nor its players may take part in WPF events unless the Board decides otherwise. A National Federation may withdraw by written notice to the Secretary General given no later than thirty (30) days before the Annual General Assembly, taking effect at the close of that Assembly, without prejudice to subscriptions due for the current financial year. A Member may apply in writing for reinstatement no later than ninety (90) days before a General Assembly. Expulsion requires a three-fourths (3/4) majority of Votes Cast at a General Assembly.

3.7 Continental Confederations. The Board may recognize one Continental Confederation for each of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania, subject to ratification by the next General Assembly, provided that its statutes conform to these Bylaws, it has adopted WPF's Code of Ethics, Anti-Doping Rules, Safeguarding Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy, it publishes its accounts, and the national federations that make it up are Members of WPF. Continental Directors are elected under Clause 5.3.3, whether or not a Continental Confederation is recognized for that continent.

ARTICLE 4 Governance Bodies

4.1 Structure. WPF is governed by the General Assembly. The Board of Directors executes its decisions and conducts WPF's affairs between General Assemblies, supported by the Commissions established under Clause 4.5 (including the independent Ethics Commission, Clause 9.2, and the Athletes' Commission, Clause 4.4) and by any committees the Board appoints under Clause 4.5.

4.2 General Assembly. In these Bylaws, 'General Assembly' means the Annual General Assembly ('AGA') or an Extraordinary General Assembly ('EGA').

4.2.1 The General Assembly is the highest authority of WPF.

4.2.2 An Annual General Assembly (AGA) shall be held no later than 15 December each year.

4.2.3 An Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) may be called by the Board at any time, and shall be called on a written request by at least one-fourth (1/4) of the National Federations in Good Standing. The Secretary General issues the notice calling a requested EGA within seven (7) days of receiving the request, and the EGA is held within twenty-eight (28) days of the request and not less than twenty-one (21) days after the notice. If the Secretary General does not issue the notice in time, the requesting National Federations may issue it, and the Secretary General shall provide them the Members' contact details. The request and the notice state the business of the EGA, and no other business may be transacted.

4.2.4 Quorum at any General Assembly is at least one-half of National Federations in Good Standing.

4.2.5 Each National Federation in Good Standing has one (1) vote; no weighting by size or activity applies. Only National Federations in Good Standing vote at a General Assembly.

4.2.6 Business of the AGA includes: minutes; the Board's report; approval of the audited accounts; the strategic plan; admission, suspension, or expulsion of members; election of the Board under Article 5; election of Honorary Life Vice-Presidents (Clause 4.6); approval of any unification or merger (Clause 4.3.9); the Athletes' Commission report; the Ethics Commission report; and appointment of the independent external auditor.

4.2.7 Notice. Notice of every General Assembly, stating the date, time, place or platform and the business to be transacted, shall be sent at least forty-two (42) days before an Annual General Assembly and at least twenty-one (21) days before an Extraordinary General Assembly, to each National Federation, each Director, each Honorary Life

Vice-President, each Country Director, alternate and delegate once appointed, each Continental Confederation and each Affiliate Member. The notice of an Annual General Assembly states the deadline for nominations under Clause 5.3.6. All Members shall receive the agenda and the relevant documents in due time and the minutes after the meeting. Accidental omission to give notice to any person does not invalidate the proceedings.

4.2.8 Proposals. A proposal for the business of an Annual General Assembly, other than one made by the Board, shall be submitted in writing by a National Federation in Good Standing and be seconded by two other National Federations in Good Standing or endorsed by its Continental Confederation, so as to reach the Secretary General by the Closing Date, which the Board fixes and notifies to all National Federations and which falls at least fifty-six (56) days before the meeting. No amendment to a proposal, other than one of wording, may be accepted unless it reaches the Secretary General at least thirty-five (35) days before the meeting; the Secretary General circulates every amendment at least twenty-eight (28) days before the meeting. The Board may propose related amendments.

4.2.9 Country Directors, Delegates and Voting. Each National Federation in Good Standing appoints one Country Director: a senior member of its board with authority to take decisions on its behalf, who holds and casts the Federation's single vote. It may also appoint one alternate who meets the same requirements and votes only in the Country Director's absence, and one further delegate, who may speak but not vote; each must belong to that Federation and be appointed by its competent body. No person may cast a vote for more than one National Federation and there are no proxies. Appointments reach the Secretary General at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting. Continental Confederations, Affiliate Members, Honorary Life Vice-Presidents and Directors may attend and speak, and may not vote unless appointed as a Country Director.

4.2.10 Majorities and Format. Unless these Bylaws provide otherwise, decisions are taken by a simple majority of Votes Cast. Voting may be by electronic means, show of hands or voice; any vote on a person, and any vote requested by a delegate and approved by a simple majority, is by secret ballot. A General Assembly may be held in person, remotely or in hybrid form, using secure electronic means that allow every participant to hear, be heard and vote.

4.2.11 Chair. The President chairs every General Assembly; in the President's absence the First Vice-President, then the Second Vice-President, and failing them the Assembly elects a Chair. The Chair decides points of order and procedure, but not the substance of a proposal without the consent of the Assembly.

4.3 Board of Directors

4.3.1 Composition. The Board consists of thirteen (13) members: a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary General, together with two (2) At-Large Directors (together, the seven (7) ordinary Board of Directors members); five (5) Continental Directors, one for each continent, elected under Clause 5.3.3; and the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, who holds the thirteenth seat ex officio as a full voting member of the Board.

4.3.2 Gender Balance. Neither gender may constitute less than 40% of the elected Board.

4.3.3 Athlete Representation. The Chair of the Athletes' Commission, described in Clause 4.4, holds the Board seat described in Clause 4.3.1 with full voting rights equal to any other Director. A further member of the Athletes' Commission designated by the Commission may attend Board meetings as a non-voting observer, consistent with Clause 4.4.6(a).

4.3.4 Eligibility. Directors must: be at least 18 years old; not be employed by another international, continental, or national pickleball governing body (or must undertake in writing to resign within ten days of taking office); have no connection to the manufacture, sale, or endorsement of pickleball equipment; be free of any anti-doping or integrity sanction; have at least two years of senior management experience, or one year on a national or continental pickleball board; and pass vetting by the independent Nominations and Election Commission, including a criminal-record check, conflict-of-interest disclosure, and integrity screening.

4.3.5 Conflict of Interest. All Directors shall sign and comply with the WPF Conflict of Interest Policy and recuse themselves from any deliberation in which they have an actual, potential, or perceived conflict.

4.3.6 Role. The Board conducts and oversees the affairs of WPF between General Assemblies. It shall pursue the purposes in Clause 2.2; uphold these Bylaws and execute the decisions of the General Assembly; adopt Regulations, Codes and policies not reserved to the General Assembly; appoint Commission members under Clause 4.5; oversee WPF's administration, finances and risk management; and report to every General Assembly. No Director may bind WPF alone: contracts and financial commitments require two authorised signatories.

4.3.7 Procedures. The President chairs the Board and, in the President's absence, the First Vice-President. The Board meets at least four (4) times a year, in person or remotely. Attendance by more than half of its members is a quorum. Decisions are taken by a simple majority of members present, the Chair having a casting vote in a tie, and are recorded in minutes. A Director with a conflict of interest takes no part in the decision (Clause 4.3.5). The Board may delegate powers in writing, remaining accountable for them.

4.3.8 Attendance and Removal. Each Director shall attend at least eighty per cent (80%) of the Board meetings scheduled in any twelve (12) months. An absence excused in advance in writing by the President (for the President, by the First Vice-President) counts as attendance. If a Director falls below this requirement, the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the other Directors and after giving the Director written notice and fourteen (14) days to respond, propose the Director's removal to the body that elected the Director (the General Assembly; for a Continental Director, the National Federations of that continent at the General Assembly; for the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, the Athletes' Commission), which decides whether the seat is vacated. The Board may also propose to a General Assembly the early termination of the term of office of any Director. A Director may appeal a removal under Article 11, and a vacancy is filled under Clause 5.4.

4.3.9 Unification and Mergers. The Board may negotiate the terms of a unification, merger or affiliation with another international pickleball body and shall report to the National Federations on the negotiations. No such transaction binds WPF until approved by the General Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Votes Cast, at an Assembly convened for that purpose on notice that includes the full text of the proposed agreement.

4.4 Athletes' Commission — Terms of Reference

4.4.1 Establishment and Status. The Athletes' Commission is established under this Article as the representative voice of athletes within WPF governance.

4.4.2 Purpose. To represent the interests, rights, and welfare of pickleball athletes; to advise every organ of WPF; and to ensure athletes participate in decisions that affect them.

4.4.3 Composition. Not fewer than seven (7) members, gender-balanced. At least two-thirds shall be elected by athletes, by secret ballot, at the World Championships; the

remainder may be appointed by the Commission itself to secure balance (para-athletes, continental spread, gender, discipline). Eligible voters and candidates are athletes who have competed in a WPF-sanctioned international event within the preceding four (4) years. At least one member shall be a para-athlete.

4.4.4 Independence and Eligibility. Members act in the interests of athletes generally, not of their National Federation. A member elected to the Board in another capacity vacates their Athletes' Commission seat.

4.4.5 Term of Office. Four (4) years, renewable once. Terms are staggered where practicable.

4.4.6 Powers and Duties. The Commission shall: (a) have its Chair sit on the Board as a full voting member ex officio (Clause 4.3.1); a further Commission member may attend Board meetings as a non-voting observer; (b) nominate athlete members to the Ethics Commission, the Medical and Safeguarding Commission and any anti-doping hearing panel established by WPF; (c) be consulted, with a documented response, before adoption of any rule affecting competition format, eligibility, equipment, anti-doping, prize money, image rights, scheduling, or athlete welfare. Non-consultation is a procedural defect the Commission may raise before the Ethics Commission; (d) maintain and promote the WPF Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, aligned to the IOC Declaration (Clause 7.2); (e) operate an athlete helpdesk and signpost athletes to the Safeguarding Officer; and (f) propose the annual athlete-welfare budget line.

4.4.7 Meetings and Quorum. At least two in-person meetings per year, one held at the World Championships, plus remote meetings as needed. Quorum is a majority of members.

4.4.8 Decision-Making. By simple majority, with the Chair holding a casting vote.

4.4.9 Reporting. The Commission reports to every General Assembly, with a standing agenda item and speaking right, and publishes an annual report.

4.4.10 Confidentiality. A member shall not disclose information obtained through their Commission role that is confidential by its nature — including an individual athlete's medical, disciplinary, or personal information; commercially sensitive matters; and Board or Commission deliberations prior to formal publication — except as required by law, ordered by a competent tribunal, or authorized by the Commission. This obligation does not limit the Commission's collective duty under Clauses 4.4.2 and 4.4.6(c)–(d) to advocate publicly, and to publish its views, on matters of general athlete welfare and policy: confidentiality attaches to specific sensitive information, never to the Commission's right to take and state a position.

4.4.11 Conflicts of Interest. A member shall disclose to the Commission any personal, financial, or representational interest that could reasonably affect their impartiality — including a sponsorship or commercial relationship, personal involvement in a disciplinary or eligibility matter before the Commission, or a role held with a National Federation that bears on the matter — and shall recuse from deliberation and voting on it. This is in addition to, and does not replace, the Board-level Conflict of Interest Policy (Clause 4.3.5) and the Commission's own obligations under the general Conflict of Interest Policy (Clause 9.3). A member who raises a good-faith concern about athlete welfare or governance is protected from retaliation under the whistleblower provision at Clause 9.5.

4.4.12 Budget and Resources. WPF shall maintain a dedicated budget for the Commission covering elections, travel, and independent advice, and shall meet the reasonable travel costs of members attending Commission meetings. Inability to pay must not be a barrier to service.

4.5 Standing Commissions. WPF maintains, at minimum: an Executive Commission; an Audit and Finance Commission (chaired by an independent member with financial expertise); an Ethics Commission (a majority of whose members are independent, meaning not a current or recent — within four years — Director, employee, or contractor of WPF or any National Federation); a Nominations and Election Commission (members may not concurrently serve as Directors, and are subject to a one-year post-service cooling-off); a Membership Commission; a Disciplinary Commission (first instance); an Appeals Commission; the Athletes' Commission; a Medical and Safeguarding Commission; a Para Pickleball Commission; and a Gender Equality and Inclusion Commission. The Board may also appoint committees for a defined task and period, and determines their membership, terms of reference and chairs and receives their reports; a committee has no decision-making power unless the Board delegates it in writing (Clause 4.3.7).

4.6 Honorary Life Vice-Presidents. The Annual General Assembly may elect Honorary Life Vice-Presidents for past services to pickleball or to WPF, on a nomination made by the Board, or by a National Federation in Good Standing with the Board's approval, that reaches the Secretary General by the Closing Date (Clause 4.2.8). Honorary Life Vice-Presidents may attend and speak at General Assemblies but do not vote.

ARTICLE 5 Elections and Terms

5.1 Term Length. Directors serve four-year terms aligned with the Olympic cycle. The seven (7) ordinary Board members are elected at the Annual General Assembly held in the year after the Summer Olympic Games, and the Continental Directors at the Annual General Assembly held in the year before the Summer Olympic Games. Directors take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected.

5.2 Term Limits. No Director, including the President, may serve more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms in any one position. The President is limited to two (2) consecutive terms. A four-year cooling-off period applies before re-eligibility once a Director reaches their limit.

5.3 Nomination and Election

5.3.1 A candidate is nominated in writing by a Director of WPF (including a Continental Director and the Chair of the Athletes' Commission) or by the Country Director of a National Federation in Good Standing, and endorsed in writing by a second such person from a different organisation: a nomination and its endorsement may not both come from the Board of WPF, nor both from the same National Federation. A candidate for Continental Director is nominated and endorsed by the Country Directors of two different National Federations of that continent. Each nominator and endorser may support one candidate for each vacant seat and discloses any relationship with the candidate; a Director who nominates or endorses a candidate declares it under the Conflict of Interest Policy (Clause 4.3.5).

5.3.2 The Nominations and Election Commission verifies the eligibility and good standing of every candidate within twenty-one (21) days after nominations close, and publishes the list of eligible candidates, with their nominators, endorsers and statements, at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Assembly. A candidate found ineligible may ask the Ethics Commission to review that finding before the election.

5.3.3 Each Continental Director is elected at the Annual General Assembly by the National Federations in Good Standing of that continent, voting separately by secret ballot. For this purpose each National Federation belongs to the continent of its country under the IOC's continental division (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania). Candidates are vetted under Clause 5.3.2.

5.3.4 Voting at the General Assembly is by secret ballot. The General Assembly elects the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Treasurer and the

Secretary General, each by a separate ballot and in that order, and then the At-Large Directors.

5.3.5 Where there is only one candidate for a position, that candidate is elected by acclamation.

5.3.6 Nominations for an election at an Annual General Assembly close twenty-eight (28) days before the meeting, on the deadline stated in the notice (Clause 4.2.7). Each nomination is accompanied by a brief statement of the candidate's qualifications, and the nominees, their nominators and endorsers and the statements appear on the agenda.

5.3.7 Each candidate has a fair opportunity to present their programme to the General Assembly under rules set by the Board and published with the notice. A candidate for a single office is elected by a majority of Votes Cast; if no candidate obtains a majority, further ballots are held, the candidate with the fewest votes being eliminated after each. When voting for several seats, each Country Director votes for as many candidates as there are vacant seats; a ballot with more or fewer names is invalid, and the seats go to the candidates with the most votes.

5.3.8 The results are published, with the number of votes polled for each candidate, on the WPF website within fourteen (14) days. A complaint about an election is lodged with the Ethics Commission within seven (7) days of the announcement and decided before the Directors take office, subject to appeal under Article 11.

5.4 Vacancies. A casual vacancy among Directors is filled by interim Board appointment (for a Continental Director, of a person from that continent) until the next General Assembly election, at which the appointee or another candidate stands for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the office of President falls vacant, the First Vice-President acts as President until the next General Assembly election.

ARTICLE 6 Financial Management and Transparency

6.1 Subscriptions. Annual subscription rates are proposed by the Board and confirmed by the AGA.

6.2 Financial Year. The WPF financial year closes on 31 December.

6.3 Audited Accounts. Annual financial statements are audited by an external, independent auditor appointed by the AGA, and published on the WPF public website within thirty (30) days of approval.

6.4 Audit and Finance Commission. Composed of at least three members, a majority independent of the Board, with at least one member holding a recognized financial qualification. It reviews internal controls, audit findings, and related-party transactions, and reports annually to the AGA.

6.5 Conflicts and Loans. No loan, advance, gift, or other financial benefit may be made by WPF to any Director, Officer, or related party. Related-party transactions must be disclosed to the Audit and Finance Commission and approved only with conflicted persons recused.

6.6 Compensation and Expenses. Directors serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for documented, pre-approved expenses. An annual compensation and expense report is published.

6.7 Indemnification and Insurance. To the extent permitted by the law of its seat, WPF indemnifies its Directors, Officers, Commission members and staff against costs, liabilities and awards arising from actions brought against them for acts within the scope of their duties for WPF. WPF shall maintain Directors' and Officers' liability insurance and general liability insurance at all times.

6.8 Financial Controls. WPF prepares its accounts under the 'true and fair view' principle in accordance with applicable law and a recognised accounting standard, and the General Assembly approves a multi-year financial plan. Binding financial and contractual obligations require two authorised signatories. Policies on travel, accommodation, allowances, per diems and benefits for officials are adopted, and the total of such payments is shown separately in the annual financial statements. Duties are segregated so that no one person controls a transaction from start to finish.

6.9 Risk, Audit and Procurement. The Board maintains an internal-control and risk-management policy covering financial, integrity, safeguarding, data-protection and third-party risks, and the Audit and Finance Commission presents an annual internal audit report to the General Assembly. Major commercial and procurement contracts, other than events, are awarded by open tender under published criteria and approved under the contract-management rules in Clause 6.8.

6.10 Transparency. WPF maintains a regularly updated public website showing its vision, mission and strategy; its organisational structure; the list of its Members; its elected officials and management; its Bylaws, regulations and policies; its main activities and decisions; its annual audited financial statements; and the procedures for awarding events. An annual activity report is published.

6.11 Awarding of Events. The requirements and the process for awarding WPF events are transparent and impartial and are published in advance, and the assessment includes sustainable-development criteria (human rights, gender equality, environment and legacy).

ARTICLE 7 Athlete Rights and Representation

7.1 Athletes' Commission. Established under Clause 4.4.

7.2 Athlete Rights. WPF guarantees every athlete under its jurisdiction the rights set out in the IOC Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration as amended from time to time, including the rights to: safe sport; fair selection; clean sport; freedom of expression consistent with Rule 50.2; commercial-expression rights consistent with Rule 40 of the Olympic Charter; representation; and due process in disciplinary matters.

7.3 National Federation Athlete-Selection Independence. National Federations must manage athlete selection with total independence, resisting political, religious, or financial pressure. External interference must be reported to WPF.

7.4 Safeguarding. WPF applies zero tolerance to breaches of safeguarding principles. WPF and every National Federation shall implement a Safeguarding Policy aligned with the IOC Safeguarding Toolkit, including a confidential reporting channel and an independent investigation procedure. WPF publishes a safe-sport strategy, designates a qualified, trained Safeguarding Officer as the point of contact for any safeguarding concern, prohibits the exploitation of young athletes and respects the rights of the child.

7.5 Insurance and Health. Event insurance covering death and serious injury is mandatory for all athletes at WPF events, and event organisers shall obtain adequate insurance cover. WPF adopts rules for the protection of athletes' physical and mental health.

7.6 Education. WPF runs mandatory prevention and education programmes for athletes, their entourage and officials, covering their rights and responsibilities, ethics and non-discrimination, safe sport, health risks, anti-doping and the manipulation of competitions.

ARTICLE 8 Anti-Doping (WADA Compliance)

8.1 Code Adoption. WPF shall become and remain a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (in its current and any successor version), adopts the Code, the International Standards, and the Prohibited List in full, and binds all members, athletes, athlete-support personnel, officials, and event organizers under its jurisdiction.

8.2 Anti-Doping Rules. WPF maintains Anti-Doping Rules conforming to the WADA Code and the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories (ISCCS), and runs anti-doping prevention and education programmes in line with the International Standard for Education.

8.3 Testing and Investigations. WPF authorizes WADA, the International Testing Agency, and other Code-compliant Anti-Doping Organizations to conduct testing, intelligence-gathering, and investigations.

8.4 Results Management and Sanctions. Conducted in accordance with the WADA Code, with appeals exclusively to CAS. WPF may delegate testing and results management to the International Testing Agency or another Code-compliant organisation. WPF's anti-doping programme shall be independent of, and free from any real or perceived conflict of interest with, WPF's commercial, sporting and governance functions, and hearing panels are operationally independent of the Board.

8.5 Therapeutic Use Exemptions. Granted in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

8.6 National Federation Obligations. Every National Federation shall become a signatory to the WADA Code, or be subject to a national anti-doping organization that is itself a Code signatory. Failure is grounds for suspension.

ARTICLE 9 Ethics, Integrity, and Conflict of Interest

9.1 Code of Ethics. WPF adopts and enforces a Code of Ethics modelled on the IOC Code of Ethics, applicable to all members, Directors, Officers, employees, athletes, officials, and contractors.

9.2 Ethics Commission. An independent Ethics Commission of at least five (5) members, a majority of whom have not currently or recently (within four years) held office, employment, or a remunerated contract with WPF or any National Federation. The Chair shall be a qualified jurist. The Commission has investigative jurisdiction, may impose interim measures, and reports to the General Assembly. The mission and composition of the Ethics Commission, its rules of procedure for potential breaches, the measures and sanctions available and the appeals process are published.

9.3 Conflict of Interest Policy. Mandatory disclosure, recusal, and registration of interests applies to all Directors, Officers, Commission members, and senior staff.

9.4 Manipulation of Competitions. WPF applies zero tolerance to the manipulation of competitions. WPF enforces the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions as amended from time to time. Match-fixing, betting on one's own matches, and misuse of inside information are sanctionable offences. WPF runs prevention and education programmes on competition manipulation.

9.5 Whistleblower Protection. A confidential reporting channel is maintained, with no retaliation against good-faith reporters.

9.6 Anti-Corruption. WPF adopts and publishes an anti-corruption policy covering bribery, extortion, sextortion, fraud, money laundering and collusion; it may form part of the Code of Ethics.

9.7 Compliance. The Board designates a person to monitor the implementation of the ethical principles and rules and to receive reports under Clause 9.5. Due diligence and integrity checks are made before any election or appointment to a governing body, and WPF adopts a Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures that apply to all.

ARTICLE 10 Disciplinary Procedures

10.1 First-Instance Authority. The Disciplinary Commission has jurisdiction over breaches of these Bylaws, regulations, and codes of conduct, over anti-doping matters where first-instance authority is delegated to it, and over competition-manipulation matters.

10.2 Due Process. Every respondent receives: written notice of the charges; access to the evidence; reasonable time to prepare a defence; the right to legal representation; the right to be heard, in person or in writing; and a reasoned written decision.

10.3 Sanctions. Sanctions range from a warning to expulsion, and may include financial sanctions, event bans, and periods of ineligibility.

10.4 Appeals. An internal appeal lies to the Appeals Commission within twenty-one (21) days. After internal remedies are exhausted, a final appeal lies to CAS under Article 11. No person may sit on both the Disciplinary Commission and the Appeals Commission, and neither includes a serving Director.

10.5 Provisional Measures. The Disciplinary Commission may impose a provisional suspension where the integrity of the sport is at risk, subject to expedited review.

ARTICLE 11 Dispute Resolution and Arbitration (CAS)

11.1 Internal Exhaustion. All internal appeals, complaints, and dispute-resolution processes within WPF must be fully exhausted before referral to CAS.

11.2 CAS as Sole External Authority. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Bylaws, WPF's regulations, or a decision of any WPF organ, shall be submitted exclusively and finally to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, under the Code of Sports-related Arbitration. CAS decisions are final and binding, subject only to recourse before the Swiss Federal Tribunal under Swiss law.

11.3 Scope. CAS jurisdiction extends to disputes between WPF and its members, among members, between WPF and athletes, coaches, officials, or license-holders, and to all anti-doping, eligibility, and integrity matters.

11.4 Carve-Out. Internal corporate-governance disputes governed by the law of WPF's seat (for example, statutory rights between WPF and its members in their corporate capacity) may be brought before the competent courts of the seat, unless the parties expressly submit to CAS.

11.5 Mediation. Parties are encouraged to attempt CAS mediation before commencing arbitration, where the dispute is suitable for that process.

11.6 Persons Subject to WPF Jurisdiction. Every National Federation, and every person who takes part in a WPF event or acts under the authority of WPF or of a National Federation (including players, coaches, officials, organisers and holders of any role in WPF), accepts these Bylaws, WPF's right to decide and to sanction under them, the exhaustion of internal remedies, CAS as the only competent authority external to WPF, the final and binding nature of CAS decisions, and the duty not to hinder their application. A National Federation is responsible for persons acting under its auspices, and the consequences of a National Federation not being in Good Standing extend to them.

ARTICLE 12 Gender Equity and Inclusion

12.1 Principle. Pickleball has equal representation of men and women on the field of play.

12.2 Governance Targets. Neither gender may constitute less than 40% of the Board, of any standing Commission, or of WPF's senior professional leadership. Progress is reported annually to the General Assembly and published.

12.3 Inclusion. WPF prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, age,

disability, or other status. Para Pickleball is recognized as integral to WPF's mission and is represented in governance.

12.4 Eligibility Framework. Athlete-eligibility regulations, including those concerning sex categories, shall be evidence-based, proportionate, and aligned with the IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations.

12.5 Para Pickleball. WPF, in coordination with the International Paralympic Committee, promotes the development of Para Pickleball and maintains a Para Pickleball Commission with athlete representation.

ARTICLE 13 Amendments

13.1 These Bylaws may be amended at an Extraordinary General Assembly, upon notice given in accordance with Clause 13.2, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Votes Cast.

13.2 A proposal by the Board to amend these Bylaws shall be circulated in full to all Members at least twenty-one (21) days before the Extraordinary General Assembly at which it is to be considered. The Secretary General issues the notice within twenty-one (21) days of the Board’s decision.

13.3 An amendment takes effect on the day following the General Assembly at which it is adopted, unless the resolution of adoption states otherwise.

13.4 The Bylaws and the regulations are reviewed at least once every four years and are published on the WPF website.

ARTICLE 14 Dissolution

14.1 WPF shall not be dissolved except at a General Assembly specially convened for that purpose, by a four-fifths (4/5) majority of Votes Cast.

14.2 On dissolution, after satisfaction of all liabilities, WPF's residual assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations that qualify as tax-exempt under the laws of the seat and pursue purposes substantially similar to WPF's, with priority given to the IOC, the IPC, or an IOC-recognized successor International Federation for pickleball, as determined by the dissolving General Assembly. No part of the assets may be distributed to any Director, Officer, or member as a private benefit.

14.3 Notice of a proposed dissolution, with the proposed plan for settling liabilities and distributing assets under Clause 14.2, shall be circulated to all Members at least sixty (60) days before the General Assembly convened for that purpose. This Article also applies to a merger or unification after which WPF would cease to exist.

ARTICLE 15 Applicable Law and Language

15.1 Applicable Law. Matters of corporate governance are governed by the laws of the State and country of WPF's registered seat. For sports-related disputes referred to CAS, WPF and its Members choose Swiss law and the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

15.2 Language. English is the official language (Clause 1.5). If the English text of these Bylaws is inconsistent with any translation, the English text prevails.

15.3 Severability. The invalidity of any provision does not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall be construed to give effect to the original intent to the maximum extent the law permits.

15.4 Effective Date. These Bylaws take effect on the Effective Date defined in Clause 16.1 and supersede the WPF Bylaws of 3 June 2023.

ARTICLE 16 Transitional Provisions

16.1 Adoption and Effective Date. These Bylaws take effect on adoption by the General Assembly by the majority required under the 2023 Bylaws (the 'Effective Date') and supersede the 2023 Bylaws from that moment.

16.2 Board Structure. From the Effective Date the Board of Directors consists of thirteen (13) members, as provided in Clause 4.3.1:

- **16.2.1** five (5) officers: the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General;
- **16.2.2** two (2) At-Large Directors;
- **16.2.3** five (5) Continental Directors, one for each continent, elected under Clause 5.3.3; and
- **16.2.4** the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, who holds the thirteenth seat ex officio with full voting rights.

16.3 Directors in Office. Directors in office at the Effective Date continue in their seats for the remainder of their terms. A seat not filled at the Effective Date is filled under Clause 5.4.

16.4 Interim Bodies. Within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date the Board shall appoint an interim Nominations and Election Commission, none of whose members is a Director or a candidate, and an interim Athletes' Commission of at least five (5) athletes, gender-balanced and including a para-athlete, nominated by National Federations and by athletes. The Chair of the interim Athletes' Commission holds the Board seat under Clause 4.3.1 until the first election under Clause 4.4.3, which takes place at the first World Championships held after the Effective Date. The Board shall constitute the other Commissions in Clause 4.5 within ninety (90) days after the Effective Date.

16.5 Continuity. Decisions of the Board of Directors taken before the Effective Date in accordance with the 2023 Bylaws remain in force to the extent that they are consistent with these Bylaws.

16.6 First Elections. For the first Annual General Assembly after the Effective Date, a notice given, and nominations received, before the Effective Date in accordance with the 2023 Bylaws or a resolution of the Board remain valid, and the Board may fix the remaining election dates by resolution, provided that the list of eligible candidates is published at least seven (7) days before the meeting.

16.7 Gender Balance. The minimum in Clauses 4.3.2 and 12.2 applies to the Board from the close of the first ordinary Board election held under Clause 5.1 after the Effective Date. Until then the Board reports to each General Assembly on progress towards it.

16.8 Other International Bodies. A National Federation that is a Member on the Effective Date, or that applied before it, and that also belongs to another international pickleball body, is not required to meet Clause 3.3.8 until the Board decides otherwise, and in any case not before the completion of unification talks.