



Founded 1984

WORLD COUNCIL OF JU-JITSU ORGANIZATIONS
“Founded to guide and assist the growth of Ju-Jitsu internationally”

CONSTITUTION

Revised November 2004

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ARTICLE 1. FORMATION

1.1 NAME

The name shall be the World Council of Jiu-Jitsu Organizations here in after referred to as the World Council.

1.2 ORIGIN

The World Council was officially formed in 1984 with the first World Championships held in Canada, bringing together under one banner National Jiu-Jitsu Organizations for the development of Sport Jiu-Jitsu and participation in World Competition. The official language of the World Council is English.

1.3 OBJECTS

The objects of the World Council are:

- a) to support the development, promotion, and teaching of jiu-jitsu throughout the world without bias to race, creed, gender or religion;
- b) to provide a world forum for all member countries to meet and participate in jiu-jitsu competition in a spirit of friendship;
- c) to promote the sharing of knowledge and skills between member countries;
- d) to provide a grading authority and recognition for achievement in Jiu-jitsu;
- e) to provide the administration and coordination of activities consistent with achieving these objectives;
- f) to represent jiu-jitsu and in particular Sport Jiu-Jitsu, as a World Body.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the World Council shall consist of Members, Associate Members and Honorary Life Members.
- b) The Constitution, the Bylaws and the Code of Practice of the World Council shall bind all members.

2.2 QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- a) Member – The National Jiu-Jitsu Organization of any country may apply to become a member of the World Council and subject to providing satisfactory evidence of their standing may be accepted for membership. Evidence may include a copy of their Organizations Constitution.

- b) Associate Member – Where there is no national organization within a country or where the national body does not seek membership, then another jiu-jitsu organization may apply to represent that country. (Refer to Article 2.3 (d) below).
- c) Additional Associate Members – Where the political or geographical situation is such that a country is divided into different areas, then with the consent of a Country's Director the World Council may accept more than one member jiu-jitsu organization.
- d) Honorary Life Member – The World Council may in congress award Honorary Life Membership to an individual person for exceptional services to the World Council.

2.3 ACCEPTANCE FOR MEMBERSHIP

- a) The world Council shall have the right to question each prospective member and may reject an application for membership where the World Council is of the opinion that the application does not satisfy the requirements of the World Council.
- b) Where it is determined to approve an application for membership, the President shall as soon as practicable notify the applicant and request payment within 90 days of the sum payable by a member as joining fee and/or subscriptions.
- c) On payment the country shall be entered in the Registry of members and if accepted as a member organization, refer Article 2.2 d) below, invited to nominate a Director to the World Council.
- d) Where the World Council is satisfied with an application for membership, and there is no existing member organization and no challenge to the standing of that Organization, then the World Council will accept the Organization as a member in preference to Associate Member. Should this be challenged at a later date then the World Council may, at that time, review the membership.

2.4 MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENTS NOT TRANSFERABLE

A right, privilege or obligation that a member has by reason of being a member of the World Council is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another member or person, and terminates upon cessation of the members membership.

2.5 RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A member organization that has paid all amounts payable or outstanding to the World Council in respect of their membership may, by giving not less than six months notice in writing to the President of their intention to resign and upon the expiration of the period of notice the member will cease to be a member.

2.6 SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) Where the World Council is of the opinion that a members ceases to be able to comply or has either refused or persistently neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws or Codes of Practice of the World Council, or acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the World Council, the following may apply:
- b) The World Council may suspend the member for a specific period or expel the member from membership of the World Council.
- c) The member may appeal to the Congress of the World Council against the proposed suspension or expulsion, in which case the member shall be given the opportunity to state their case orally or in writing or both, and the members present shall vote on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.

2.7 REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- a) The President shall establish and maintain a register of members, specifying the country, organization name, nominated director (for a member organization) or nominated representative (for an associate member organization), contact address, telephone, and mail address, together with the date on which the organization became a member. This register shall also record the attendance of the organization at Congress.
- b) Details contained in the register shall be available to the Directors.

2.8 ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES

The President shall be responsible for the issue of certificates, which may include Organization (Country) Affiliation and Financial membership and Grading Recognition. Certificates remain the property of the World Council who may request they be returned on cessation of membership of the organization.

ARTICLE 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a) A Board of Directors shall administer the affairs of the World Council.
- b) Each member organization shall nominate one person, who meets the criteria for nomination, to represent their country on the Board of Directors. The Directors shall ensure that the Constitution, Bylaws and Codes of Practice, meet the needs of the World Council.
- c) The Board of Director shall elect or appoint a President and Vice-President, and such other appointments determined appropriate by the World Council for the effective administration of the World Council.
- d) Without limiting the authority of the Board of Directors they shall administer the affairs of the World Council and do shall lawful things as are necessary of incidental to the pursuit of any or all of the Objects or any other thing, deed or act which may be conducive to the progress of the World Council.
- e) The Board of Directors shall agree on the country to host the World Jiu-Jitsu Convention and Championships, and the Rules and Regulations for the Championships, which shall be defined in the By-laws of the World Council.
- f) The Board of Directors shall receive and consider applications for membership to the World Council, from the President, in accordance with Article 2 (Membership).
- g) The Board of Directors shall consider for approval Dan Grading Certificates to be issued by the World Council with the consent of a member organization to which the individual who would be receiving the Certificate belongs.
- h) The Board of Directors may consider and award Dan grade rankings in jiu-jitsu on behalf of the World Council with the consent of a member organization to which the individual who would be receiving the Grading belongs.

3.2 QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS

- a) To qualify for nomination to the Board of Directors a person at the time of nomination represent the organization of a member country and have the authority to participate in the decisions necessary for the effective administration of the World Council in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The person shall not be less than twenty-one years of age.
- b) The Board of Directors may reject a nomination where they consider that the person is not appropriate and request that an alternative person be nominated.
- c) Once accepted a person shall remain a Director unless they resign or are removed either by the country organization they represent or by the Congress.
- d) If a Director is unable to attend Congress or meeting, then a delegate, who meets the above criteria, may be nominated to attend in their place.

ARTICLE 4 OFFICE BEARERS

4.1 PRESIDENT

- a) The President shall be elected or appointed from the Board of Directors and at the discretion of the Directors, the President shall hold Office for a three-year term or until the next Congress, at which time the person may be reappointed for a further term or terms.
- b) The President shall preside at all meetings of the World Council, at which the President is in attendance. The President as Chief Executive, shall supervise the work and activities of the World Council and shall perform such duties as usually pertain to this Office.
- c) The President shall sign all documents for the World Council required to be signed by the President, keep the minutes of all meetings or Congress of the World Council and ensure that these minutes are signed by the Chairperson of the meeting or by the Chairperson of the next succeeding meeting, and shall prepare such reports as are required by the Board of Directors.
- d) Except where a Treasurer has been appointed, the President shall maintain all records required by Article 6 (Finance) and present to each meeting a financial statement of the affairs of the World Council.
- e) Notwithstanding the above responsibilities, the President may, while retaining accountability, delegate responsibility to other elected or appointed Office Bearers.

4.2 VICE-PRESIDENT

- a) The Vice-President shall be elected or appointed by the Board of Directors and at the discretion of the Directors shall hold office for a three-year term or until the next Congress, at which time the person may be reappointed for a further term or terms.
- b) The Vice-President shall be an active managing Officer of the World Council under the supervision and the direction of the President and shall be responsible for those duties as delegated by the President or the Board of Directors.

4.3 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Board of Directors shall have the power at any time and from time to time fill any casual vacancy among the Office Bearers. An Office Bearer so appointed shall hold office for the balance of the current term.

4.4 REMOVAL OF AN OFFICE BEARER

The Board of Directors may remove any Office Bearer from their appointment before the expiration of the member's term of office, where the member is not fulfilling the responsibilities of the appointment, in which case the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.4 (Casual Vacancies).

4.5 PATRONS

The Board of Directors may extend invitations and appoint Patrons to the World Council. The Patron shall not have voting rights in the business of the World Council.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS

5.1 CONGRESS

The Congress of the World Council shall be held to coincide with the World Jiu-Jitsu Championships. The business to be conducted at the Congress shall be as detailed within Article 5.5 (Conduct of Meetings).

5.2 SPECIAL OR EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

A Special or Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the President or upon the requisition in writing of not less than three (3) Directors. The requisition is to state the reason for the meeting and be signed by those Directors, and to be handed or sent by certified mail to the President.

5.3 NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- a) The President shall ensure that notification is given to all Directors not less than six months prior to a Special or Extraordinary General Meeting, the notification to be either communicated to the Directors directly by telephone, sent by prepaid post, or by electronic mail to the Directors address.
- b) The notification of a meeting shall specify the type of meeting, the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- c) As the Congress will always be held to coincide with the World Jiu-Jitsu Championships it may be assumed that this will occur on the day following the final events, unless planned otherwise.

5.4 QUORUM

The Congress and all other meetings to which the required notice has been given shall proceed on the numbers present. However if less than five (5) Directors are in attendance then voting shall be delayed until the views of all Directors have been sought on an issue, this shall be by the motion and an explanation being distributed by prepaid post or electronic mail and Directors having the opportunity to vote by return prepaid or by electronic mail.

5.5 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- a) All meetings of the World Council shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and follow the generally accepted procedure for the conducting of Meetings.
- b) Items for the Agenda should be forwarded to the President four (4) months before the Congress of meeting. The Agenda should then be forwarded to each Director two (2) months before the date of Congress or meeting. With leave of the Chairperson and the Directors present, other items may be raised for inclusion on the agenda at the start of the Congress or meeting. However subject to a ruling of the Chairperson, these may be discussed only after all other matters are concluded.

- c) Subject to the matters to be discussed at a Congress or meeting, a number of observers may be permitted to attend for all or part of the proceedings. With the permission of the Directors, the Chairperson may invite observers to express a view on an issue under discussion.

5.6 VOTING AND DECISIONS

- a) Except where the Constitution otherwise requires, any resolution arising at a Congress or meeting of the World Council, which is not decided by a consensus of all Directors attending, shall be determined by a majority of Directors present at the meeting being entitled under the rules to vote on accordance with this Article. In the event of an equality of votes on any resolution, the resolution shall be lost. The Chairperson shall be entitled to only one vote. Resolutions arising at a special or extraordinary meeting must be put to a postal vote unless the resolution would be carried or lost on the number of Directors in attendance.
- b) A declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the World Council, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- c) The Chairperson may, with the consent of the majority of Directors present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting on any matter that is considered to substantially affect all Members until such time as all Directors have been given the opportunity to confer with their Organizations. In this situation a vote by postal ballot shall occur.
- d) Except where the Constitution provides for a postal ballot, all votes shall be given personally or by proxy but no Director may hold more than one (1) proxy, except the President who may hold two (2) proxies.
- e) A Director or proxy is not entitled to vote at any meeting unless all money due and payable by the organization has been paid.
- f) Honorary Life Members and Patrons shall not have voting rights in the business of the World Council. However they may attend the Congress and all meetings of the World Council.

5.7 APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES

- a) Each Director shall be entitled to appoint another person as proxy by notice given to the President prior to the commencement of the Congress or meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.
- b) The notice appointing the proxy is to be signed and dated by the Director shall clearly set out the full name and address of the Director appointed and the full name and address of the Person to whom the proxy is awarded. The notice shall also state the date of the meeting and if desired, whether the proxy is authorized to vote in favour of or against a particular resolution.

5.8 ADJOURNMENT

- a) The Chairperson of a meeting with the consent of the majority of Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place. No business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- b) The time and place of the adjourned meeting shall be set prior to the adjournment.

5.9 ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL)

Where practical communication will be by electronic mail and all Directors or member organizations will be required to provide and maintain an email address. A member country that does not have access to email may request special exemption to this provision through a request to the President.

ARTICLE 6. FINANCE

6.1 FUNDS – SOURCE

- a) Fees, subscriptions and charges shall be decided upon each Congress of the World Council and without limiting the source of funds shall include: fees both Members and Associate Members, Membership joining fees, and competition entry fees.
- b) The Congress may decide to structure fees to provide incentive options for early or on-time payment. Incentives by way of a discount on fees where paid as one payment covering membership for a full period between World Championships; and where memberships fees are paid in annual instalments no later than 30th April each year.
- c) All money received by the World Council shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the World Council's bank account.
- d) The President shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

6.2 UN-FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION

Members who have not paid their membership subscription by the due date shall be deemed to be un-financial and shall not be entitled to any of the rights or privileges under the rules of the Constitution.

6.3 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- a) Subject to any resolution passed by the Congress the funds of the World Council shall be used in pursuance of the Objects of the World Council in such manner as the Directors determined and shall be accounted for by the President, who shall maintain an appropriate set of books of account.
- b) The President and one other Director shall sign all cheques or withdrawals jointly. However, the Board of Directors may agree on an amount limit for which a second signature is not required.

6.4 REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE EXPENSES

- a) Subject to the determination and approval of the Congress and clause (b) the Office Bearers shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all approved reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their responsibilities.
- b) Approval for reimbursement of reasonable expenses will only relate to expenses incurred since the previous Congress and appropriate receipts or records clearly identifying the purpose of the expenses shall cover all expenses.

6.5 ASSETS

- a) Subject to each individual purchase being approved by the Congress, the World Council may purchase and hold assets of its own. All purchases and assets shall be in the name of the World Council.
- b) All property pertaining to the World Council that may be held by Directors and without limiting the extent including all records, stationery, books, badges, correspondence and other documents, shall upon request of the President be made available for inspection or returned to the World Council.

6.6 BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

- a) The President shall maintain correct accounts and books that show the financial affairs of the World Council and the particulars usually shown in books of accounts of a like nature.
- b) The President shall ensure that all monies received by the World Council and all assets acquired therewith are identified separately.
- c) The President shall arrange for a Balance Sheet and a Statement on Income and Expenditure to be presented to each Congress and at such other times as requested by the Directors.

6.7 MEMBERS' LIABILITIES

The liability of a member of the World Council to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the World Council or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the World Council is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership.

ARTICLE 7. CUSTODY AND INSPECTION OF BOOKS, ETC

- a) Except where the Constitution otherwise requires, or as provided by clause c) below, the President shall keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books and other documents relating to the Administration or the World Council.
- b) The records, books and other documents of the World Council provided for above shall be open to inspection by any Director of the World Council at any reasonable time.
- c) The President or a Director designated by the Congress shall retain records pertaining to the history of the World Council in safe custody.

ARTICLE 8. COMMON SEAL

The President shall provide for the safe custody of the seal, which shall only be used by the authority of the Board of Directors, and the President plus one other Director shall sign every instrument to which the seal is affixed.

ARTICLE 9. INDEMNITY FOR DIRECTORS

- a) Each member organization of the World Council is accountable for ensuring appropriate arrangements have been made in respect to the protection of players and representatives involved in activities of the World Council.
- b) The World Council shall take appropriate action to ensure adequate cover is provided for both the Directors and the Office Bearers while lawfully acting on behalf of the World Council. This shall indemnify the Directors and the Office Bearers against all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which result from the Director of Office Bearer carrying out all lawful duties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Congress.
- c) No Director of Office Bearer shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other Director or Office Bearer.

ARTICLE 10. BYLAWS AND CODES OF PRACTICE

- a) The Board of Directors may develop or approve for adoption Bylaws and Codes of Practice in accordance with the Objects of the World Council.

- b) The Bylaws of the World Council shall provide the rules, regulations and standards to be followed in respect to competition and contest, together with any other matter deemed appropriate as in accordance with the Objects of the World Council.
- c) The Codes of Practice shall provide statements of policy and rules of conduct.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- a) The Constitution may be amended by special resolution at a Congress at which notice has been given to all Directors, specifying the intention to propose a special resolution to amend the Constitution.
- b) Both a sixty percent majority of Directors and three out of five continents (or sixty percent where less than five continents in which Directors are entitled to vote) must pass the special resolution.