



INTERNATIONAL
MASTERS
GAMES
ASSOCIATION



Constitution

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Part 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 01 Name and Site

The International Masters Games Association, hereinafter known as IMGGA, is a non-governmental, not for profit international association established for an indefinite period with legal status as association in accordance with Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code.

Art. 02 Objectives

The objectives of IMGGA shall be:

- To promote and encourage mature individuals, generally known as Masters, from all over the world to be active, with the awareness that competitive sport can continue throughout life,
- To strengthen and grow the Masters sports movement in partnership with its members, the international federations and other partners.
- To promote friendship and understanding among mature sportspeople, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or sport status.

Art. 03 Non-discrimination

The IMGGA shall allow no political, racial, religious or gender discrimination.

Art. 04 Autonomy of Members

The IMGGA shall not interfere with internal matters of its member federations.

Art. 05 Seat, Governing Law and Financial Responsibility

The IMGGA has its legal seat in Lausanne, Switzerland, and all its relations are governed by Swiss law. Its members, officers and governors shall not have to contribute to its expenses and shall not be liable for its debts.

Art. 06 Emblem

The emblem of the IMGGA shall be five symbolized individuals side by side and holding hands, coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red, all colours in accordance with the colours of the Olympic Rings.

Art. 07 Language

The official language of IMGGA shall be English. Any other language may be used in correspondence or debate only if adequate translation is provided. In case of doubt the English language shall prevail.

Art. 08 Interpretation

If this constitution or any bye-laws, regulations or guidelines, issued by the IMGA or by a host city organising committee (HCOC), need interpretation, the Board of Governors of the IMGA shall have the sole power to interpret such rules.

Part 2 MEMBERSHIP

Art. 09 Members and Associates

The IMGA is an association of International Federations mentioned in Appendix (B), These sports are also referred to as "core-sports" and normally included in the programme of the Games.

Provided the criteria in Article 10 are met, the IMGA may recognise other International Federations as "Associates" (without voting rights).

The IMGA may recognise other sporting and non-sporting organisations (without voting rights).

Art. 10 Admission to membership

International federations applying for membership must meet the following criteria:

- Be recognised by the IOC or member of SportAccord.
- Host own Masters events on a regular basis
- Have more than 500 athletes at own masters championships

Application for membership shall be submitted to the IMGA secretariat at least two month before the next General Assembly at which their application to become an associate sport will be considered.

A sport will remain an associate sport with no voting rights, until it has been represented by more than 500 athletes at three events organised under the authority of the IMGA, upon which they will be put forward as member candidates with full membership at the following General assembly.

Member sports have priority over associate sports on the sports program but the IMGA will seek to assure that associate sports are part of the sports program before non associate and non member sports.

Art. 11 Rights and Obligations of Members

All Members shall have equal rights at IMGA General Assemblies.

All Members are obliged to support IMGA in its efforts to achieve its objectives; to observe the Constitution, by-laws, regulations and guidelines in relation to IMGA activities; to undertake and observe and accept as binding the decisions of the competent authorities within IMGA and in this regards to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, as the only external judicial authority to deal with any appeal or to resolve any litigation, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country, or any other arbitration body.

Art. 12 Resignation

A member federation wishing to withdraw from membership of the IMGA at the end of the current year shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the Board of Governors no later than the 30. September of that year. In no case can a member federation make demands on the assets of IMGA.

Art. 13 Expulsion

If a member federation does not continue to fulfil the current conditions laid down to become a member of IMGA and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the Board of Governors, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the Board of Governors may propose to the General Assembly to expel that federation. The General Assembly shall take its decision after having given the opportunity to the federation to present its case.

Part 3 ADMINISTRATION

Art. 14 Administration

The administration of IMGGA consists of:

- The General Assembly
- The Board of Governors (see art. 30).

Art. 15 General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be the supreme authority of the IMGGA, whose activities shall be subject to its control.

Art. 16 Composition and Presidency

The General Assembly shall consist of delegates from the federations, which are members of IMGGA.

The president of the Board of Governors shall preside. If the president is not present, the Board of Governors shall decide who shall chair the meeting. The Board of Governors shall also participate in the General Assembly.

Art. 17 Delegates and Observers

Associate members and recognised organisations may attend the General assembly with a maximum of two delegates each.

The Board of Governors may authorize others to attend part or all of the General Assembly as observers.

Art. 18 Ordinary General Assembly

Delegates shall meet annually in an ordinary General Assembly, preferably held at the same time and place as the SportAccord General Assembly.

Art. 19 Extraordinary General Assembly

Delegates shall meet in an extraordinary General Assembly when the annual General Assembly or the Board of Governors so decide, or when at least one fifth of the member federations submit a demand in writing to the Board of Governors, giving reasons therefore.

Art. 20 Convening Notice and Agenda

The Board of Governors shall send out a convening notice at least 4 months before the date of the General Assembly. The convening notice shall call for member federations to submit by letter, or fax any specific proposals for inclusion in the agenda, as well as names of candidates for positions in the Board of Governors, if applicable. This letter, or fax must be received by the Secretariat of IMGGA not later than three months before the date of the General Assembly. The Board of Governors shall send out the agenda for the General Assembly not later than two months before the date of the Assembly. Where possible, reports and any observations on the agenda items shall be sent out with the agenda.

Art. 21 Agenda for General Assembly

The agenda for an ordinary general assembly shall include

- Opening of the session

- Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority
- Appointment of scrutineers (if needed)
- Approval of the minutes of the last general assembly
- President's and Board of Governor's report
- Accounts, financial report and auditor's report
- Approval of the accounts for the last fiscal year
- Place and date of next general assembly
- Report on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon
- Proposals from member federations and from Board of Governors
- Where appropriate, alterations to the Constitution
- Where appropriate, elections
- Any other business.

Any other item, which a member federation or the Board of Governors may wish to bring up for discussion and/or decision, may be added to the agenda subject to art. 21.

Art. 22 Proposals from member federations

A member federation may submit in writing to the Board of Governors proposals to be included in the agenda of the General Assembly or to be discussed under an existing agenda item. The reasoning behind each proposal must be submitted with the proposal.

If a proposal is received at the IMGA headquarters at least 3 months before the date of the next General Assembly, it will be included in the agenda for that Assembly. Proposals received after that date will be included in the agenda for the following General Assembly.

Art. 23 Proposals from the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors may include any proposal that it considers appropriate, in the agenda, which is sent out not later than two months before the General Assembly. Also the Board of Governors may submit a proposal to the General Assembly at any time provided it relates to an item on the agenda.

Art. 24 Alterations to the Constitution and elections

The Constitution may only be altered by the General Assembly every four years, in the year following the World Masters Summer Games.

Elections to the Board of Governors shall be carried out in the same meeting.

Art. 25 Auditing of Accounts

IMGA's accounts shall be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the Board of Governors. Subsequently the account may be inspected by a representative of a member federation. The fiscal year shall run from 1. January till 31. December.

Art. 26 Quorum

Except for the provisions of article 38, the decisions of the General Assembly shall be valid irrespective of the number of member federations represented.

Art. 27 Voting

Irrespective of the number of delegates representing it when voting, each member federation shall be entitled to one vote only. Members of the Board of Governors have one vote each.

Art. 28 Majorities

Subject to the provision of paragraph 2 of this article and of article 33, decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken on the basis of a clear majority of the votes cast. Abstentions, blank, spoiled and invalid votes will not be counted. In the case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidates obtaining the smallest number of the votes cast in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains a clear majority of the votes cast.

Alterations to the Constitution shall be carried only if they obtain two thirds of the votes cast, abstentions and invalid votes do not count.

Art. 29 Date of taking effect

Elections and decisions of the General Assembly shall take effect immediately, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

Art. 30 Management

The IMGA shall be managed by a Board of Governors, consisting of a minimum of twelve members and a maximum of eighteen members, as follows:

- One President proposed by either a Member Federations (IFs) or any member of the Board of Governors and elected by the General Assembly. If the president comes from a member federation this federation must approve the appointment.
- A minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve members proposed by the IFs and elected by the General Assembly. Of those members at least two shall be elected from the Winter Sports Federations.
- A minimum of three and a maximum of five members proposed by the Board of Governors and elected by the General Assembly; each representing expertise, knowledge, and continuity within the interest areas of IMGA

The names of the candidates must be received at the Secretariat no later than 3 months before the General Assembly.

If one or more positions for election are vacant 3 months before the General Assembly, the Board of Governors can propose candidates for election to those vacancies at the General Assembly.

Apart from the above mentioned Governors, the future organising cities have the right to nominate a person to attend the board meetings without voting rights.

The CEO, employed by the Board of Governors, shall take part in the meetings of the Board of Governors without voting rights.

Art. 31 Election of the Board of Governors

The members of the Board of Governors shall be elected for a four years period.

Members of the Board of Governors are eligible for re-election. Only candidates, who have been nominated by their federation or the Board of Governors, at least 3 months before the General Assembly are eligible.

In case of casual vacancy, an election for the balance of the term shall take place at the next General Assembly.

Art. 32 International Organisation

The Board of Governors shall itself attribute different functions to its members.

Art. 33 Decisions

Decisions of the Board of Governors shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast; Abstentions, blank, spoiled and invalid votes will not be counted. In the case of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

Art. 34 Duties of the Board of Governors

The duties of the Board of Governors shall be:

- to take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the objects laid down in art. 2 of the Constitution,
- to ensure the execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly,
- to appoint city(ies) in charge of the organisation of the next IMGA Masters Games,
- to monitor the progress of the preparations for future IMGA Masters Games and take necessary steps to ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of IMGA Masters Games,
- to approve the proposed sports programme of the IMGA Masters Games,
- to ensure that drug testing is carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations in the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC)
- to ensure compliance with the overall guidelines related to the organisation of IMGA Masters Games,
- to seek organisers for future IMGA Masters Games and to negotiate with them
- to grant IMGA patronage, upon such terms and conditions as it may consider appropriate, to Masters sport events,
- to appoint a professional auditor, who shall audit the IMGA accounts
- to appoint the CEO of IMGA
- to appoint Honorary positions within the IMGA
- to introduce and amend bye-laws, regulations and guidelines in relation to all matters, subject to the authority of the IMGA,
- to carry out any other duty not specifically attributed to the General Assembly.

Art. 35 Board of Governors meetings

The Board of Governors shall meet at least once a year, preferably on the occasion of the SportAccord Assembly and/or on the occasion of an IMGA Masters Games. It may also make decisions by correspondence.

Art. 36 Representation

As a general rule, the IMGA is only bound by the signature of its President in conjunction with the signature of the CEO or of another member of the Board of Governors. In the case of the incapacity of the President, the longest serving member of the Board of Governors may replace him/her. If several members have served the same period of time, the oldest of them shall be the replacement.

Art. 37 Duties of the CEO

The CEO is responsible for the day to day administration. The CEO reports to the Board of Governors and seeks their advice and opinion as necessary.

Part 4 DISSOLUTION

Art. 38 Dissolution

A quorum of two thirds of the member federations must cast votes for a decision about dissolution to be valid.

The dissolution of the IMGA can only be effective, if carried by four fifths of the votes cast by member federations representing an extraordinary General Assembly, specifically convened for this purpose. Abstention and invalid votes do not count.

Art. 39 Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Board of Governors shall realise the assets of the IMGA, which shall be donated to the IOC to promote the Masters athletes' movement.

Art. 40 Exceptions

In no circumstances shall any member federation have any claim to any share whatever in the assets and any member federation ceasing to be affiliated shall forfeit any claim to any asset of the IMGA.

APPENDIX (A) General Rules governing IMGA Masters Games

A. Organisation

As a general rule, IMGA Masters Games take place every four years in one city and its surroundings. They can also be organised by more than one city, situated in one or more countries, provided these cities are in close proximity to each other.

B. Choice of Host City

The host city (ies) for the next IMGA Masters Games shall be chosen by the Board of Governors preferable five years before the said IMGA Masters Games.

C. Sports

The sports program of IMGA Masters Games shall be in accordance with the IMGA guidelines for each event.

All sports are held subject to facilities being available.

All sports must be held in accordance with the rules and authority of the relevant international federation.

Each International federation, governing a sport being on the programme of the games, shall designate a technical delegate, who shall be responsible for the overseeing the competition within the limits, set by the Board of Governors.

The HCOC has the option of selecting additional sports to compliment the core program. Those sports should be selected on the basis of the facilities available and the strength of those sports at masters' level in that country and internationally.

The optional sports must have the final approval by the Board of Governors.

D. Participation

It is the goal of the IMGA Masters Games to promote participation and to be inclusive of all, who want to compete. Because of the level of interest however, it may become necessary to limit participation by some measure. Such limitation shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. In principle, the participation from the host nation should not exceed 60% of the total numbers.

E. Principle

At IMGA Masters Games, participation and friendship among participants are much more important than athletic performances, and this principle should be emphasised as much as possible.

F. Sanction fee

Upon being awarded an IMGA Masters Games, the HCOC shall pay to the IMGA a sum to be determined by the Board of Governors in order to confirm its right to organise those IMGA Masters Games.

G. Intellectual rights

All rights on the names (WMG, PAMG, APMG, EMG, IMGA), the emblem, the motto, etc., belong to the IMGA, but the HCOC shall have the right to use them on conditions laid down by host city contract and guidelines.

H. Advertising and sponsorship

The opportunities to display advertising and to conclude sponsorship contracts may be restricted by the Board of Governors, both for the organising committee and for the participants. Major or naming rights sponsorship secured by the HCOC for a World

Masters Games shall not be included in the title of the event unless approved by the Board of Governors.

I. No representation

The participants participate as individuals. They do not represent any country, region or city. There are no national anthems and no national flags (for example at victory ceremonies).

J. Clothing

All participants compete in the clothes that are common for their particular sport.

K. Multiclub teams

Participants from different clubs and countries may unite to form multiclubs or multinational teams. More than one team from each country can compete in the same sport category.

L. Costs

Participants shall pay for their own transport and accommodation to compete in any IMGA Masters Games.

M. Fees

All participants shall pay to the HCOC the stipulated games registration fee and separate starting fee for each sport in which they participate. The amount of these fees shall be set by the HCOC and be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

N. Medals and certificates

Winners, second and third places of each competition shall receive the Master's medals in gold, silver and bronze. All participants shall receive a certificate of participation.

O. Conditions of participation

All participants shall meet the age qualification and abide by the competition rules laid down by their respective international sports federations, or, where appropriate, by the national sports federation of the host country, as well as by the IMGA and the Board of Governors.

P. Related activities

The HCOC shall organise for the participants, apart from the sports competitions, different activities such as cultural and social events, sightseeing and tourism.

APPENDIX (B)

Member Federations

- Badminton World Federation (BWF),
- International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF),
- International Biathlon Union (IBU),
- International Basketball Federation (FIBA),
- International Canoeing Federation (ICF),
- International Cycling Union (UCI),
- International Football Federation (FIFA),
- International Hockey Federation (FIH),
- International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF),
- International Orienteering Federation (IOF),
- International Rowing Federation (FISA),
- International Skating Union (ISU),
- International Ski Federation (FIS),
- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF),
- International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF),
- International Triathlon Union (ITU),
- International Weightlifting Federation (IWF),
- World Archery Federation (WA),
- World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC),
- World Curling Federation (WCF),
- World Squash Federation (WSF)

Associate Members

- World Taekwondo (WT),
- International Floorball Federation (IFF),
- International Life Saving Federation (ILS),
- World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF),
- Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB),
- World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)

Recognised Organisation

- Confederation of Australian Sport