



WSSF
World Snowshoe Federation

Statutes
November 26, 2022

CHAPTER 1 -GENERAL

For simplicity, only the male form is used in these articles. These statutes apply however similar to representatives of all sexes.

Article 1 Name and Authority

Article 1.1. The World Snowshoe Federation is an independent association composed of national snowshoe organizations having accepted and approved these statutes and having been affiliated to the World Snowshoe Federation as members.

Article 1.2. The name, World Snowshoe Federation, will be abbreviated in all languages as WSSF.

Article 1.3. The WSSF uses the following logograms. It can create other logograms.



Article 2 Languages

Article 2.1. English is the official languages of the WSSF. The statutes and internal rules of the WSSF are written in English.

Article 2.2. All meetings, including those of the Congress, the Executive Committee, commissions and tribunals of the WSSF are conducted in the language agreed on by the participants.

Article 2.3. The word “Snowshoeing” will be used in any language through out all activities of WSSF.

Article 3 Headquarters

Article 3.1. The WSSF headquarters is located in Canada.

Article 3.2. The WSSF is organized in the form of a non-profit corporation.

Article 4 Mission and goals

Article 4.1. The WSSF mission is to promote and conduct the snowshoeing sports practices worldwide. Its goals are:

- a. to promote the sport of snowshoeing and to supervise and direct the development of snowshoeing activities;
- b. to establish and maintain friendly relations with and between member associations;
- c. to support within reasonable and appropriate the objectives of member associations;
- d. to promote the cooperation and mutual understanding between athletes from all countries;
- e. to organize world snowshoeing championships as well as other competitions which are approved by the WSSF Congress;

- f. to establish rules for all snowshoeing competitions sanctioned by the WSSF;
- g. to recognize only those international competitions which comply with the statutes and rules of the WSSF and to ensure that those statutes and rules are observed at such competitions;
- h. to fight against doping in the sport of snowshoeing and implement anti-doping rules in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code to do so;
- i. to serve as the highest authority for protests and other legal questions concerning international snowshoeing competitions sanctioned by the WSSF and for all questions concerning WSSF rules;
- j. to generally promote the sport of snowshoeing as recreational and leisure sport in the interest of all snowshoers and especially as a healthy activity for children and youth;
- k. to take all possible steps to avoid accidents;
- l. to take into consideration the protection of environment;
- m. to become recognized by the IOC as the foremost authority on all snowshoeing practices worldwide.

CHAPTER 2 -MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Article 5 Members

Article 5.1. Federations and national associations of snowshoeing may become members of the WSSF.

Article 5.2 For special case, also single persons may become members of the WSSF.

Article 6 Admission

Article 6.1. Federations and national associations who wish to become members of the WSSF must:

- a. Have their head office in an independent country that is recognized by the international organization of United Nations (UN).
- b. A national snowshoe association can be affiliated as a member if it represents a majority of registered snowshoers in that country. A registered snowshoer is one who has become a member of a snowshoe organization.
- c. Send a request for admission to the WSSF and follow the process and the admission rules laid down by the Executive Committee.

Article 6.2. Strict compliance with the letter and spirit of the provisions of the present statutes and internal rules of the WSSF is a prerequisite to acquire and maintain membership in the WSSF.

- a. Only one national snowshoe association from each country can become a member of the WSSF. That country is recognized by the UN and IOC. That association is generally referred to by the country name.
- b. The Executive Committee decides the acceptance or the rejection of an application for admission.
- c. In the event there are requests for national membership from two or more associations in one country, the association that is recognized by the NOC will be granted national membership.

Article 7 Members rights

Article 7.1. The Federations and national associations admitted as members are eligible for the following rights:

- a. Participate in the Congress and vote on the base of one voice by Federation or national association Member,
- b. Make proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress,
- c. Nominate candidates for the posts of President and all other members of the Executive Committee of the WSSF,
- d. Nominate candidates for the commissions of the WSSF,
- e. Participate in the competitions of the WSSF,
- f. Propose their candidacies to organize competitions,
- g. Exercise other rights flowing from the statutes and internal rules of the WSSF.

Article 7.2. The implementation of the rights above is subject to the other provisions of the statutes and internal rules of the WSSF. Duties and obligations of members

Article 8 Duties and obligations of members

Article 8.1. Federations and national associations admitted as Member must:

- a. Be at all times be in accordance with the statutes and internal rules of the WSSF, of which are considered to be integrated to the statutes and internal rules of admitted member Federations and national associations,

- b. Be financially in good standing with the WSSF,
- c. Actively participate in activities and competitions of the WSSF,
- d. Pay their annual fee by the required due date,
- e. Fight doping, by adopting and implementing the rules and provisions of the world anti-doping code,
- f. Encourage and support a responsible approach snowshoeing that takes into consideration the environmental,
- g. Politically and religiously neutral, the WSSF doesn't tolerate any form of discrimination whatsoever on grounds of ethnicity, sex, language, religion, or for any other reason.

Article 8.2. Recognize the Arbitration Tribunal (CAS) for sport and ensure that its decisions have a constraining effect on their members (Federations, associations, clubs, directors, officials, members, etc.).

- a. Failure to comply with these obligations may give rise to sanctions.

Article 9 Associate members

Article 9.1. The Federations and national associations in formation and do not necessarily meet the conditions of entry may be admitted temporarily, as associate members.

Article 9.2. Temporary associate member status may be granted for a period.

Article 9.3. In General, associate members have the same duties and obligations as members of the WSSF.

Article 9.4. The Executive Committee sets, case by case, the rights of associate members, in regards to the right of participation and organization of competitions of the WSSF.

Article 9.5. Associate members only have a consulting vote in the congress.

Article 9.6. The Executive Committee decides on the admission of a new associate member.

Article 10 Suspension and exclusion of members

Article 10.1. The Executive Committee may, for legitimate reasons, reprimand Federations and national associations who do not abide by WSSF standards, statutes, decisions and internal rules. Possible sanctions include the suspension of a member or associate member.

Article 10.2. Suspended members have no right to vote in the congress.

Article 10.3. The Executive Committee decides on a case by case basis, if suspended members are entitled to participate and hold competitions of the WSSF.

Article 10.4. Suspension decisions taken by the Executive Committee may be appealed before the Chairman of the Board of appeal, according to the right of appeal provided by these statutes.

Article 10.5. The Congress may decide to exclude a member on a legitimate proposal of the Executive Committee. For clarity, exclusion is defined as cancellation of any type of WSSF membership.

Article 11 Members demission

Article 11.1. A member association can apply at any time to withdraw from membership in the WSSF. Membership ends immediately upon receipt of the application by the WSSF. Membership termination does not alleviate any financial obligations between the member association and the WSSF.

Article 11.2. Member associations must settle their financial obligations to the WSSF within the limits established for that obligation. Annual subscriptions and other fees must be paid when due.

Article 12 Dissolution of a Federation or association national Member

Article 12.1. The dissolution of a Federation or national association member, announced in accordance with the procedure laid down by its own statute and rules, causes immediate and automatic exclusion from the WSSF, without the decision of the Congress.

Article 12.2. All rules for Member demission apply to Members departing for any reason including dissolution of the Federation.

Article 12.3. If, at the time of its dissolution, a Federation or national association is not financially up to date with the WSSF, it will be the duty of the new Federation or national association of the country wishing to join to settle this debt before admission. The Executive Committee is free to overrule this measure.

CHAPTER 3 -ORGANIZATION OF THE WSSF

Article 13 Organization of the WSSF

Article 13.1. The WSSF consists of:

- a. the Congress,
- b. the Executive Committee,
- c. Commissions of the WSSF.

Article 14 The Congress

Article 14.1. The Congress is the highest authority of the WSSF.

Article 14.2. The Congress is composed of:

- a. up to two delegates per Federation or National Association member,
- b. the officers, the president, the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer of the WSSF,
- c. other members of the Executive Committee of the WSSF,
- d. chairmen of committees of the WSSF,
- e. the auditor of the accounts,

Article 14.3. Decisions are finalized by a majority of votes from WSSF members.

- a. Regardless of the number of delegates a WSSF member has it is allocated only one vote.
- b. Only WSSF member votes are considered in the final decision. Advisory votes are not considered.
- c. In the event of a tie, the President of the WSSF is allowed one vote to break the tie.
- d. Decisions can only be voted on if a minimum of 51% of the WSSF members are able to vote either by being present or by proxy. Any method of proxy that enables a timely vote submission is allowed. A timely submission is one that is received within 48 hours of the initial voting call.
- e. The decisions of the Congress are final and can't be appealed. They are applied as soon as their approved, unless otherwise stated in these statutes or special decision of the Congress.

Article 14.4. The Federations and national association's members can be represented by their delegates who, on request, must be able to present a document certifying, with the signature of the president of the national organization, their status as delegate for the Federation or the national association concerned.

Article 14.5. Delegates can only represent a single Federation or association national member.

Article 14.6. The President of the WSSF leads the Congress. He votes only in the event of a tie. The President shall ensure the proper conduct of the Congress and may, to do so, call to order, or exclude participants disrupting or disturbing debates. Excluded members still have the right to participate in all voting.

Article 14.7. In case of incapacity, temporary or definitive, the President shall be replaced by the Vice-President or another Member of the Executive Committee. This provision applies also in the case of a challenge for a special vote. In such a case, the Presidents replacement inherits all the powers that are incumbent on the President.

Article 14.8. The Congress has jurisdiction assigned by these statutes, in particular:

- a. the approval of the agenda of the Congress,
- b. the adoption and amendment of these statutes,

- c. the election of the President, the Vice-President/s of the WSSF, the Secretary of the WSSF, the Treasurer of the WSSF
- d. the election of other members of the Executive Committee of the WSSF,
- e. the appointment of Auditors of accounts,
- f. appointment of members of the Committee on ethics,
- g. the amount of annual contributions of members, on a proposal from the Executive Committee,
- h. the right to change the organizational structure of the WSSF,
- i. the review and approval of all reports, including reports of the Executive Committee and the various committees of the WSSF,
- j. to grant the discharge of their responsibilities to other organs of the WSSF,
- k. the decision to exclude a Member,
- l. the Declaration of dissolution of the WSSF,
- m. lay down the conditions for admission and accept or reject applications from new members,
- n. define and adopt the internal rules of the WSSF, in exclusion of these statutes,
- o. the awarding, organization and/or management of competitions of the WSSF, assign and remove the status of official organizer recognized by the WSSF,
- p. establish the budget and keep the accounts of the WSSF,
- q. to appoint the members of the various committees of the WSSF, with the exception of the Ethics Committee,
- r. the hearing and the resolution of possible disputes between Member associations and Federations,
- s. the taking of action by penalties for breaches of administrative or sporting to the statutes or the internal rules of the WSSF, including any violations of the anti-doping code of the WSSF,
- t. the suspension of a Federation or association national Member,
- u. the inclusion of Chairmen in the WSSF,
- v. taking decisions for any matter not covered for by the present Statutes.

Article 14.9. The Congress shall meet in ordinary session once every year.

Article 14.10. Only questions proposed by the President, the Executive Committee or the members of the WSSF can be included in the agenda, provided that they fall within the powers of the Congress. Proposals must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least 15 days before the opening of the Congress.

Article 14.11. The Congress may be convened to an extraordinary session at the request of one fifth of the members or at the request of the Executive Committee. In this case it shall meet within 3 months from the date of receipt of the request for the meeting. The points to be treated during the extraordinary session of the Congress are to be submitted with the invitation to the extraordinary session of the Congress.

Article 14.12. The date, place and agenda of the Conference shall be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to the Federations and national associations at least 30 days before the opening of the Congress.

Article 14.13. Minutes of the decisions of the Congress are prepared and published by the Executive Committee.

Article 15 The Executive Committee

Article 15.1. The Executive Committee main task is to manage the Organization and the WSSF on strategic and operational activities. It has the powers which are conferred by these statutes and internal rules of the WSSF, including:

- a. managing operations of the WSSF, respecting the goals defined in these statutes and decisions of the Congress,

- b. to represent the WSSF towards third parties, through its Chairman or any member appointed by the President,
- c. decide the city hosting the headquarters of the WSSF in (country name),

Article 15.2. The Executive Committee consists of the following persons, all elected by the Congress:

- a. The president of the WSSF,
- b. The vice presidents of the WSSF,
- c. The Secretary of the WSSF
- d. The Treasurer of the WSSF
- e. Other WSSF members (3 to 7 in total).

Article 15.3. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee of the WSSF must be presented by Federations or associations national members of the WSSF. They must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee in place, 30 days prior to the opening of the Congress.

Article 15.4. Apart from the positions of President and Vice-Presidents, awarded directly by Congress, the Executive Committee organizes it's self as needed. It appoints from among its members at least a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Article 15.5. The WSSF is validly engaged by the collective signing of any two members of the WSSF.

Article 15.6. The term of Office for new members of the Executive Committee is two years, starting the day after the closing of the conference where they are elected and ending two ordinary Congress meetings later. A renewal of this mandate is possible in case of re-election by the Congress. Terms for renewals will be for one ordinary Congress Meeting in length for each renewal.

Article 15.7. If an executive post becomes vacant, the Congress may, for its next session, elect a replacement for the remaining duration of the mandate.

Article 15.8. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as necessary, on the invitation of the Chairman or at the request of three members of the Executive Committee.

Article 15.9. During the meetings, each Member of the Executive Committee has one vote, the president's vote being decisive in case of a tie.

Article 15.10. It is not possible to be represented by a third party, at sessions of the Executive Committee. On the other hand, on the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Executive Committee may well participate in the sessions and decisions by telephone, video conferencing, or any other means to express their opinion.

Article 15.11. Depending on the issues to be addressed, the Executive Committee can invite Presidents of commissions of the WSSF or any other person able to provide the Executive Committee with their experience, skill, or knowledge of the addressed issue. These people have no other than an advisory vote on decisions to be taken.

Article 16 The Commissions of the WSSF

Article 16.1. The WSSF has the following standing committees:

- a. the Committee on ethics,
- b. the Board of Appeal.
- c. the Medical Commission

- Article 16.2. When it needs to be advised and assisted in its task, the Congress may, in an ad-hoc manner, appoint committees made up of people with specialized skills.
- Article 16.3. Members of the WSSF commissions have, identical to that of the Executive Committee, 2-year terms for their 1st term, and 1 year terms thereafter. The committees mandate created ad-hoc ends with the mandate of the Executive Committee and other committees.
- Article 16.4. Typically, each Committee consists of at least three members, including a President, elected by the Congress.
- Article 16.5. Members of Committees are elected by Congress. It may at any time decide to appoint new members or replace one or more members of commissions for the remaining term of Office.
- Article 16.6. In the case of a tie during a Committee vote, the vote of the Chairman of the Committee is validated.
- Article 16.7. Commissions are free to organize as they think and will decide, within the limits of these statutes and internal rules of the WSSF, how they work. They meet however at least once between each ordinary Congress and draw up a report of their activities and decisions for the Congress.
- Article 16.8. The Congress of the WSSF is informed of all decisions of the committees of the WSSF.
- Article 16.9. If the President or any member of Congress of the WSSF wants to, they may attend meetings of the commissions. Their opinions on issues dealt with by these commissions are only advisory.
- Article 16.10. In case of a, temporary or permanent incapacity of the President of a commission, he replaced by another Member of the Committee appointed by the Congress. In such cases, the replacement of the President has all the powers that are incumbent on the Chairman of the Committee.

Article 19 Ethics Committee.

- Article 19.1. The Ethics Committee examines any violation or potential violation of the code of ethics.
- Article 19.2. It may also decide by itself to examine cases that seem it to go in counter to the rules of the ethics code of the WSSF.
- Article 19.3. In addition, it provides, if necessary, to the Congress changes to the ethics code of the WSSF (internal rules).
- Article 19.4. The Congress elects a Chairman from among the Ethics Board members elected by the Congress.

Article 20 Board of appeals

- Article 20.1. The Board of Appeals prepares the internal rules governing appeals and proposes them to the Executive Committee for approval.
- Article 20.2. The Board of Appeals, via its Chairman, receives appeals filed against the sanctions imposed by the Congress or any other instance of the WSSF.
- Article 20.3. For each appeal that is submitted, the Chairman of the Board of Appeals forms the WSSF appeals court empowered to judge the appeal and decides its structure and its members, according to the internal rules of the WSSF.

CHAPTER 5 -JURIDICAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 21 Sanctions and rights of appeal

Article 21.1. Non abidance, sportingly or administratively, of the statutes and internal rules of the WSSF will most likely to lead to sanctions. The severity of the sanctions will depend on the nature of offenses.

Article 21.2. The Congress decides to apply or not any sanctions. However, it may delegate this task to a different instances operating on behalf of the WSSF.

Article 21.3. The penalties that may be taken include, but are not limited to the following penalties:

- a. a fine (financial),
- b. the prohibition to organize or participate in official competitions of the WSSF,
- c. the withdrawal of medals, trophies, points, or prizes,
- d. a suspension,
- e. exclusion, under the terms of these statutes.

Article 21.4. It is possible to appeal against decisions of the WSSF. Congress establishes a Court of appeals.

Article 21.5. Decisions of the Congress, the highest authority of the WSSF, are subject to an appeal.

Article 22 The Court of Appeals of the WSSF

Article 22.1. Appeals concerning purely sporting decisions of arbitrators, officials or competition juries are processed according to the rules of sports competitions of snowshoeing and may, in no case, be subject to an appeal to the Court of appeal.

Article 22.2. Members of the Court of appeal may, but not necessarily, be part of the Board of Appeal. However in no case shall they be part of the Executive Committee or another instance having already participated in the case.

Article 22.3. The Court of Appeals is the final arbitrator on any dispute involving sporting competitions. All Members must agree to the authority of the Court of Appeals.

Article 22.4. Legal disputes not falling in the category of a sporting event dispute falls under the jurisdiction of the country an event is held in.

Article 22.5. For other legal disputes, not involving sports event decisions which can not be resolved with the WSSF, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will be the legal body to handle arbitration. This process will only be initiated if the matter can not be resolved with the WSSF directly; therefore discussions with WSSF's key stakeholders have occurred, and where the appeal process has been followed as required and indicated in the WSSF statutes. CAS will be the last resort if these other efforts resulted in a continued dispute. The WSSF board officers, specifically WSSF President and Vice President, have to be advised in writing that CAS will be engaged before CAS is contacted; in addition WSSF President and Vice President are to be cc'd on the arbitration request to CAS.

CHAPTER 4 -FINANCIAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 23 Non-profit Organization

Article 23.1. The WSSF is a non-profit corporation. It is committed to its goals and their development, particularly in ensuring to obtain financial resources for its activities, but it does not search for profit and does not have any financial surpluses redistributes.

Article 23.2. Any compensation or reimbursement of expenses for persons or organizations working for the WSSF must be appropriate, justified and in relation to the objectives of the WSSF.

Article 23.3. The WSSF's resources can only be used for the pursuit of goals set out in these statutes.

Article 24 Financial resources

Article 24.1. The WSSF's financial resources are composed of :

- a. Members fees,
- b. fines in accordance with the respective regulations,
- c. revenues related to events and competitions of the WSSF,
- d. income derived from the exploitation of the WSSF, for example marketing and television rights,
- e. donations, grants, and other miscellaneous revenue.

Article 25 Fees

Article 25.1. Members and associate members are required to pay an annual fee, whose amount is fixed by the Congress.

Article 25.2. Fees are due for the entire calendar year regardless of the date admission, suspension, demission or revocation of a Member.

Article 26 Rights

Article 26.1. The WSSF is the exclusive holder of diffusion rights by means of images, sounds, or other information supports, media, broadcast live or pre-recorded, in full or as extracts, of official competitions of the WSSF.

Article 26.2. The WSSF also holds exclusively rights licensing, marketing and other rights associated with official competitions, including the marks and logos of the WSSF.

Article 26.3. On the decision of the Executive Committee, these rights may be transferred to third parties.

Article 27 Accounting

Article 27.1. The Congress is responsible for keeping the accounts of the WSSF.

Article 27.2. The accounting year of the WSSF begins on the 1st of September and ends on the 31st of August.

Article 27.3. Accounts are established in Canadian Dollars (CAD) and abide by actual accounting standards in Canada, the country seat of the WSSF. The Congress however reserves the right to establish accounts in a different currency if the financial interests of the WSSF or the international situation should require it.

Article 28 Account Reviewal

Article 28.1. The WSSF accounts are reviewed annually by an auditor appointed by the Congress. It is free to propose the Auditor, as well as his Deputy, among the

representatives of the Federations and associations national members or to appoint an independent.

Article 28.2. The Auditor reports on annual basis its verification. This report is submitted to Congress, or directly addressed to members.

Article 28.3. The auditor and his deputy's mandate last two years ending at the end of the Congress after their appointment. In case the auditor fails, temporarily or permanently, to meet his commitments the deputy replaces him.

Article 29 Responsibilities

Article 29.1. Only available resources can ensure commitments of the WSSF towards third parties.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 30 Referenda and elections

Article 30.1. Unless this is has been specified otherwise, the following provisions are valid for the elections and referenda during Congress, Executive Committee (internally), the committees and courts of appeal of the WSSF:

- a. the referenda are held on a hands up basis, unless a member with voting right requires a secret ballot,
- b. elections are held by secret ballot,
- c. decisions are taken by an absolute majority of casted votes (50% + 1), a quorum is required; non-valid votes and abstentions do not count,
- d. a person is elected in the first round if he obtains an absolute majority; in the following rounds, a simple majority is sufficient,
- e. It is not possible to be represented by a third party or other.

Article 31 Dissolution

Article 31.1. The Congress is the only organ able to pronounce the dissolution of the WSSF. A quorum is required for this and the decision is taken by an absolute majority of cast votes. The dissolution proposal must be included in the agenda of the prior session and sent to everyone, otherwise it can not be put to the vote.

Article 31.2. Financial resources or other still available after disbursement costs incurred by the dissolution will be intended for the IOC. IOC will be required to use these resources for an organization for youth or the protection of the environment or other similar purposes.

Article 31.3. Any remaining financial resources will be redistributed to members before dissolution.