

Statutes of the Women in Sports Law (WISLaw)

(November 2017 edition)

Article 1 Name, registered office and language

- 1) Under the name of “Women In Sports Law Association (WISLaw), hereinafter “the Association”, exists a non-profit making association governed by the present statutes and, secondly, by articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. This Association is independent, politically neutral and non-denominational. It is governed by Swiss law. Its duration is unlimited.
- 2) The Association is domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 3) The official language of the Association is English.

Article 2 Purpose

The Association shall pursue the following aim(s):

- Enhance the cooperation of women active in the sports law field at international level through networking events and regular meetings.
- Promote women in the sports law sector, in particular, former – or present - elite athletes with legal background wishing to pursue a career in sports law.
- Raise awareness of the presence & role of women in the sports law sector, through an annual evaluation on the participation of women in sports law positions (International Federations, the International Olympic Committee, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the International Council of Arbitration for Sport, law firms, leading sports-law conferences, academic positions, participation in sports-law master programs etc.).
- Take a gender-oriented perspective in the sports law sector, by tackling any kind of discrimination.
- Facilitate the participation of women in the sports law profession.
- Play an active role in the sports law sector by empowering its members upon the acquisition of new skills and techniques.
- Organize an annual meeting with all its members, either at a neutral venue or attached to the annual conferences of other major sports law associations.
- Raise funds / seek sponsorships for a sports law master program scholarship for a female student (ISDE, CIES – FIFA Master or other) based on criteria to be defined at a later stage.

- Create, maintain and foster a networking platform for all WISLaw members in order to encourage business and employment opportunities as well as the exchange of information among WISLaw members.
- The Association's actions may also include the holding of regular meetings, publications and other educational / networking events in sports law, the organization of conferences and seminars and the attribution of awards.

Article 3 Resources

The Association's resources are derived from:

- donations;
- sponsorship;
- membership fees;
- revenues / earnings from the Association's activities and services.

The funds shall be used in accordance with the Association's purpose.

Article 4 Members

1) The Association comprises:

- founding members
- active members
- honorary President, honorary members and friends of the Association

2) The founding members are:

Maria Elisa Dominguez Gonzalez (Argentina)

Despina Mavromati (Greece)

Melanie Schärer (Switzerland)

3) The active members

Membership of the Women in Sports Law Association is open to all women with a legal background in sports law who wish to contribute to the realisation of the goals of the Association. There are no limitations of nationality, age or qualification.

Requests to become an active member must be addressed to the Board, along with a short introduction of the candidate. The Board decides on the admission of new members at its discretion without giving reasons and informs the General Assembly accordingly.

4) The honorary President, the honorary members and the friends of the Association

The title of “honorary President” and “honorary member” may be awarded by the Board to persons who are rendering or who have rendered significant services to the Association.

The title of “friend of the Association” may be awarded by the Board to persons who provide (financial, academic or other) support to the Association that contributes to the fulfilment of the Association’s objectives.

The honorary President, the honorary members and the friends of the Association can participate in the Association without being required to pay the annual contribution.

The honorary President, the honorary members and the friends of the Association do not have a right to vote at the General Assembly. The Board is entitled to withdraw the title of “honorary President”, “honorary member” and “friend of the Association” at its discretion without giving reasons.

Article 5 Membership

1) Membership fees:

Each member will pay a membership fee. The amount of membership fees is CHF 80.- (students or low income CHF 40.-) per member and per calendar year. Members pay the full membership fees up to the membership entry date 31 August and after that date a reduced price of CHF 40.- (excluded from the aforementioned reduction are members that already pay the reduced price of CHF 40.-).

Membership fees will be due on demand for payment and shall be paid within 30 days.

The Honorary President, as well as the honorary members and friends of the Association do not pay annual fees.

2) Membership ceases:

- a) on death;
- b) by written resignation thereby notifying the Board at least six months before the end of the financial year;
- c) by exclusion ordered by the Board, for just cause and in particular for unethical behaviour or acting against the purpose of the Association, with a right of appeal to the General Assembly. Appeals must be lodged within 30 days of the Board’s decision being notified;
- d) for non-payment of dues (membership fee) for more than one year.

In all cases the membership fee for the current year remains due. Members who have resigned or who are excluded have no rights to any part of the Association’s assets.

Article 6 Liability

The Association's financial obligations/commitments can be satisfied only from its assets. The members of the Association shall not be personally liable for the obligations or debts of the Association.

Article 7 Organs

The Association shall include the following organs:

- a) The General Assembly,
- b) The Board,
- c) The Auditor

Article 8 Constitution of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is the Association's supreme authority. It is composed of all the members.

It shall hold an ordinary meeting once each year, upon invitation of the Board. It may also hold an extraordinary session whenever necessary, at the request of the Board or at least of one-fifth of its members.

The General Assembly shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.

The Board shall inform the members in writing of the date of the General Assembly at least six weeks in advance and provide them with the proposed agenda and the relevant documentation.

The General Assembly is chaired by one of the members of the Board, who is appointed by the Board.

Article 9 Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly:

- a) supervises the activity of the other organs, which it may dismiss, stating the grounds therefore;
- b) decides on any modification of statutes;
- c) elects the members of the Board as well as the Auditors, if requested pursuant to art. 14 para. 2 of these Statutes;
- d) approves the annual report, the accounts and budget of the Association issued by the Board (unless Auditors have been elected pursuant to art. 14 para. 2 of these Statutes) and to adopt resolutions discharging the members of the Board from all liabilities;
- e) passes resolutions on matters which are by law or by the articles of Association reserved to the General Assembly or validly submitted to it by the Board;

f) decides on the dissolution of the Association.

Article 10 Voting Rights at the General Assembly

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority vote of the members present. In case of deadlock, the member of the Board that is chairing the General Assembly shall have the casting vote.

Decisions concerning the amendment of the Statutes and the dissolution of the Association must be approved by a two-third majority of the members present (abstention shall not be taken into account).

Each founding and active member has one vote at the General Assembly, provided that such member is up-to-date with the payment of contributions on the date of the General Assembly and holds the status of a member for at least two years in case of active members.

Resolutions shall be passed and elections shall be made by open vote. Voting by correspondence shall not be permitted. Votes are not transferable to another member or a third party. Voting by proxy is excluded.

On items that are not listed in the agenda resolutions can be taken, provided two thirds of the present members of the General Assembly decide to do so.

Members may submit written requests of items of the agenda to the Board until 4 weeks prior to the General Assembly.

Article 11 Agenda of the General Assembly

The agenda of the ordinary annual session of the General Assembly must include:

- approval of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly
- the Board's annual Activity Report
- the report on the accounts
- approval of the budget
- approval of reports and accounts
- election of the Board and, if requested, the Auditor
- miscellaneous business

Article 12 The Board

The Board constitutes itself. The Board is authorized to carry out all acts in order to fulfil the objectives of the Association. It has the most extensive powers to manage the Association's day-to-day affairs.

The Board is composed of at least 3 and up to 9 members elected by the majority by the General Assembly. Each member's term of office shall last for 4 years and is renewable once, such term ending on the day of the respective ordinary General Assembly. The founding members are excluded from the aforesaid limitation to two terms.

The members of the Board meet as often as the Association's business requires.

The members of the Board work on a volunteer basis and as such can only be reimbursed for their actual expenses and travel costs. For activities beyond the usual function, each member of the Board is eligible for appropriate compensation.

The Board has joint signatory power with a minimum of three signatures.

Article 13 Powers and Tasks of the Board

The functions of the members of the Board are, *inter alia*:

- to take the appropriate measures to achieve the goals of the Association;
- to convene the ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies, to set up the agenda and to head the meetings and execute its decisions;
- to take decisions with regard to admission of new members as well as the resignation and possible expulsion of members;
- to ensure that Statutes are applied, to draft rules of procedure, and to administer the assets of the Association;
- to manage the affairs of the Association and to represent the Association vis-à-vis third parties in accordance with the organisational rules and policies established;
- to make an annual report on its activities and those of the Association and to present an annual program for the upcoming year;
- to develop an annual budget, statement of account and balance sheet for consideration of the General Assembly;
- to inform the General Assembly on people who obtained the title of "Honorary President", "honorary member" and "friend of the Association";
- to appoint substitute members for the Board when vacancy existing until the next General Assembly;
- to establish sub-Boards and to set up the relevant regulations;
- to decide on expenses within the budget that has been approved by the General Assembly. Within its own competence the Board decides on expenses not surpassing CHF 10,000/Association year;
- to prepare amendments to the Statutes and to present the relevant requests to the General Assembly;
- to decide any other matter not explicitly assigned to the General Assembly.

Article 14 Auditors

The Association renounces a limited audit in accordance with article 69b of the Swiss Civil Code in connection with article 727a of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

However, each founding or active member has the right to demand a limited audit no later than ten days before the meeting of the General Assembly. In such a case, the General Assembly must elect auditors on proposal of the Board.

Article 15 Financial Year

The financial year shall begin on 1 July and end on 30 June of each year. The accounts of the Association will be established on June 30 each year.

Article 16 Dissolution and Liquidation

The Association will be dissolved a) by vote of the majority of 2/3 of the present members of the General Assembly (abstentions shall not be taken into account) or b) in the circumstances provided for by the law.

In case of dissolution of the Association, the Board must proceed to its liquidations. The available assets, after payment of all debts of the Association, should be transferred to a non-profit organisation pursuing public interest goals similar to those of the Association.

Article 17 Entry into force

The Statutes of the Association have been revised by the Board on 30 September 2017 and come into force, after approval of the General Assembly, on 16 November 2017.

The founding & Board Members

Maria Elisa Dominguez Gonzalez

Despina Mavromati

Melanie Schärer