

Statutes

Women in Sports Law (WISLaw)

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.
2. It is governed by Swiss law.
3. Its duration is unlimited.
4. The Association is independent, politically neutral and non-denominational.
5. The Association is domiciled in Switzerland.
6. The official language of the Association is English.

Article 2 Purpose

The Association shall pursue the following aims:

1. Enhance the cooperation of women active in the sports law field at international level through networking events and the holding of regular meetings.
2. Promote women in the sports law sector and those seeking to enter it.
3. Raise awareness of the presence, achievements and role of women in the sports law sector.
4. Take a gender-oriented perspective in the sports law sector, by tackling any kind of discrimination.
5. Facilitate the participation of women in the sports law profession.
6. Play an active role in the sports law sector by empowering its members upon the acquisition of new skills and techniques.
7. Organize an annual General Assembly meeting with all its members.
8. Raise funds / seek sponsorships for a sports law scholarship for a female student or professional seeking support to pursue professional development opportunities, with criteria to be defined at a later stage.
9. 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.
10. The Association’s actions may also include publications and other educational/networking events in sports law, the organization of conferences, webinars and seminars and the attribution of awards.

Article 3 Resources

1. The Association's assets are derived from:
 - a) membership fees;
 - b) donations;
 - c) sponsorship;
 - d) revenues / earnings from the Association's activities and services.
2. The funds shall be used in accordance with the Association's purposes.

Article 4 Members

1. The Association comprises:
 - a) Founding members
 - b) Active members
 - c) Friends of the Association
2. The founding members are:
 - a) Maria Elisa Domínguez González (Argentina)
 - b) Despina Mavromati (Greece)
 - c) Melanie Schärer (Switzerland)
3. The active members
 - a) Membership of the Association is open to all female law students or graduates with an interest in sports law, as well as to professionals with demonstrated experience and knowledge 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.
 - b) Requests to become an active member must be addressed to the Board either by email or via the WISLaw website, along with a short introduction of the candidate. The Board decides on the admission of new members at its discretion without giving reasons.
4. Friends of the Association
 - a) 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.
 - b) Friends of the Association can participate in the Association events.
 - c) The friends of the Association do not have a right to vote at the annual General Assembly.
 - d) The Board is entitled to withdraw the title "friend of the Association" at its own discretion without giving reasons.

Article 5 Membership

1. Membership fees:
 - a) Members are subject to annual membership fees.
 - b) The amount of membership fees is CHF 100 per member and per year.
 - c) The membership fee for full time Students or low-income individuals is CHF 40 per year.
2. Membership ceases:
 - a) For non-payment of annual dues (membership fee).
 - b) On death.
 - c) By written resignation thereby notifying the Board at least six months before the end of the financial year.
 - d) By exclusion ordered by the Board, for just cause and in particular for unethical behaviour or acting against the purpose of the Association. The member whose exclusion is ordered by the Board shall be notified of the Board's proposal for exclusion. The member concerned shall have the right to defend herself by providing written explanations to the Board.
 - e) In all cases the membership fee for the current year remains due. Members who resigned or who are excluded have no rights to any part of the Association's assets.
3. Active members' rights and obligations
 - a) Active members have the following rights:
 - 1) to take part in the General Assembly, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Assembly meeting within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
 - 2) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;
 - 3) to elect the Board members and the Auditor, if required, of the Association;
 - 4) to be informed of the affairs of the Association through the Board;
 - 5) to take part in the events and activities organised by the Association.
 - b) Active members have the following obligations:
 - 1) to pay their membership subscriptions in a timely manner;
 - 2) to be involved in the Association's activities;
 - 3) to support the bodies of the Association if required;
 - 4) to act ethically and with respect towards other active members of the Association.
 - c) The exercise of these rights and obligations is subject to other provisions in these statutes and the applicable regulations.
4. Founding members' rights and obligations

Founding members have all the rights and obligations of active members specified under this article paragraph 3 above. In addition, founding members can:

- a) be part of the Board if desired, subject to election by the General Assembly;
- b) lead special projects;
- c) supervise compliance of the Association objectives;
- d) Upon their resignation from the Board or by the end of term of office, founding members shall obtain an advisory role within the Association and to the Board members, upon their request.

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:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Board
3. Ad-hoc Committee

Article 8 Composition of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is composed by founding/active Members and is the supreme authority of the Association.
2. 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.
3. The General Assembly shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.
4. The Board shall fix the place and date of the General Assembly.
5. At least six (6) weeks in advance, the Board shall inform the members in writing of the form (in-person or online meeting), place and date of the General Assembly as well as the different points of the agenda.
6. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the General Assembly. This convocation shall contain the final agenda, the financial statements, the budget, the information on the Board candidates, if applicable, and any other relevant documents and/or information.
7. The General Assembly is chaired by the current Board President as appointed by the Board.

Article 9 Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly:

1. supervises the activity of the other organs, which it may dismiss, stating the grounds therefore;
2. decides on any modification of the Association statutes;
3. elects the members of the Board, if applicable, pursuant to art. 11 of these statutes;
4. approves the activity report, the financial statements and budget of the Association issued by the Board (unless Auditors have been appointed pursuant to art. 15 of these statutes) and discharges the members of the Board from all liabilities;
5. passes decisions 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;
6. decides on the dissolution of the Association;
7. ratifies exclusions of members as proposes by the Board.

Article 10 Decisions of the General Assembly

1. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority vote of the members present.
2. 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).
3. Each founding/active member has one vote at the General Assembly provided that such member is up-to-date with the payment of contributions four (4) weeks before the date of the General Assembly.
4. Decisions shall be passed by open vote at the in person or online meeting. Voting by correspondence shall not be permitted. Votes are not transferable to another member or a third party. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
5. On items that are not listed in the agenda decisions can be taken, provided two thirds of the present members of the General Assembly decide to do so.

Article 11 Elections

1. Elections within the Association shall be conducted by open vote (including by electronic means).
2. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Guidelines of the Association as approved by the Board and shall be supervised by the Electoral Committee as appointed by the Board.
3. Members have only one vote for each position available.
4. Members eligible to vote are founding/active members who are up to date with the membership fees four (4) weeks prior to the General Assembly.
5. Candidatures for an open Board position available shall be sent to the Board at the latest four (4) weeks before the General Assembly. Eligible as Board member is each founding or active member who is up-to-date with the payment of contributions four (4) weeks before the date of the General Assembly.

6. The official list of candidates must be passed to the members at least fifteen (15) days before the General Assembly at which the members of the Board will be elected. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply when elections take place during an extraordinary meeting.

Article 12 Agenda of the General Assembly

1. The agenda of the (ordinary) General Assembly annual meeting must include:
 - a) approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly;
 - b) the Board's annual activity report;
 - c) approval of the financial statements;
 - d) approval of the budget;
 - e) election of the Board (if applicable);
 - f) election of the Ombudsperson (if applicable);
 - g) appointment of the Auditor (if required), and;
 - h) miscellaneous.
2. Founding and active members may submit written requests of items of the agenda to the Board at least four (4) weeks prior to the General Assembly.

Article 13 The Board

1. 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.
2. The Board is composed as follows:
 - a) By the founding members (if they wish to do so and subject to election by the General Assembly).
 - b) By the active member(s) elected by the General Assembly
3. The Board is composed of at least three (3) and up to seven (7) members.
4. The term of office of the board members elected by the General Assembly shall last for four (4) years and is renewable only once, such term ending on the day of the respective General Assembly meeting.
5. If five (5) positions of the Board become vacant, the Board shall fill at least one position in question until the next General Assembly, when replacements will be elected for the remaining period of office.
6. The members of the Board meet as often as the Association's business requires.
7. 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 members of the Board are exempted from events fees.
8. Decisions by the Board shall be taken by majority of the current members present at the Board meeting. In even of a tie for decision-making purposes, President gets casting vote.

9. The President of the Board is appointed by the Board from its own members for a one-year term.
10. The Board has joint signatory power with a minimum of three signatures.

Article 14 Powers and Tasks of the Board

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

1. to take the appropriate measures to achieve the goals of the Association;
2. to convene the ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies, to set up the agenda and to head the meetings and execute its decisions;
3. to take decisions with regard to admission of new members;
4. to consider disciplinary measures against members;
5. to take decisions with regard to resignation and possible expulsion of members;
6. to ensure that statutes are applied, to draft rules of procedure and guidelines, and to administer the assets of the Association;
7. 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;
8. to make an annual report on the activities of the Association and to present an annual program for the upcoming year;
9. to develop annual financial statements and an annual budget for consideration and approval of the General Assembly;
10. to appoint substitute members of the Board when and if vacancies arise, to enable it to fulfil its functions, until the next General Assembly;
11. to establish ad-hoc committees as necessary and to set up the relevant regulations or guidelines;
12. 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;
13. to prepare amendments to the statutes and to present the relevant requests to the General Assembly;
14. to decide any other matter not explicitly assigned to the General Assembly.

Article 15 The Ombudsperson

The Board may, at its discretion, appoint an independent Ombudsperson on an ad hoc basis, to assist in the resolution of conflicts between members or between members and the Board after conducting the appropriate investigation and having heard both parties to the conflict. Where the Board is a party to the dispute, parties shall agree between them on the appointment of the Ombudsperson.

The Ombudsperson shall refer the matter to the Board for determination in case a conflict could not be resolved amicably.

Article 16 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 (10) days before the General Assembly meeting. In such a case, the General Assembly must elect auditors on proposal of the Board.

Article 17 Financial Year

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

Article 18 Dissolution and Liquidation

1. 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.
2. 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 19 Entry into force

The statutes of the Association have been revised by the Board and come into force, immediately after approval of the General Assembly, on 3 October 2024.

The Board Members