



**MEDITERRANEAN KARATE  
FEDERATIONS UNION**

**Mediterranean Karate Federations  
Union Statutes**

# MEDITERRANEAN KARATE FEDERATIONS UNION



## MEDITERRANEAN KARATE FEDERATIONS UNION STATUTES

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# MEDITERRANEAN KARATE FEDERATIONS UNION



## ART. 1.- CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

- 1.1 The Mediterranean Karate Federation Union, hereafter referred to as "UFMK/MKFU", is a permanent organization with a legal status founded in the 3rd November 1986 and is composed of the official National Karate Federations of every Country in the Mediterranean basin affiliated to the Continental Unions of Africa, Asia and Europe.
- 1.2 The UFMK/MKFU shall be based in the Country of the elected President, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee.
- 1.3 The UFMK/MKFU has nothing at all to do with matters pertaining to politics, religion and race, and is a nonprofit organization.
- 1.4 The UFMK/MKFU performs its activity on an amateur basis in compliance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter.
- 1.5 The UFMK/MKFU has sole proprietorship of the logo of UFMK/MKFU and its use. All rights for the use of the UFMK/MKFU logo and name for purposes of fabrication or sale of articles bearing the name or logo of UFMK/MKFU (such as flags, medals, diplomas, badges, shields, ties, gadgets, and similar objects) rests exclusively with the UFMK/MKFU.
- 1.6 The official languages of the UFMK/MKFU shall be English and French. All official UFMK/MKFU documents must be published in these two languages. At Congress simultaneous translation shall be provided in English and French. Meetings and Sessions must be held in English and French. In the event of disputes, the decision shall be based on the English text.
- 1.7 The UFMK/MKFU has the aim of promoting, organizing, regulating and popularizing the sport of the Karate in every Country of the Mediterranean basin, of protecting the physical and mental health of the Athletes, of contributing to the development of friendly relations among the National Federations and of defending the interests of Karate throughout the world.
- 1.8 The UFMK/MKFU will organize the Mediterranean Karate Championships in collaboration with its Member Federations. The right to organize the Mediterranean Championships and other official UFMK/MKFU events, shall only be granted to such countries that are able to receive all the eligible participants and delegates on their territory.
- 1.9 The UFMK/MKFU is committed to adopt and implement the World Anti Doping Code.

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## ART. 2.- STRUCTURE

2.1 The UFMK/MKFU is recognized by the WKF/FMK (Statutes, Art. 2, Point 2), with whom the UFMK/MKFU shall work in close co-operation by accepting its general directives and recognizing its supreme authority in all the matters concerning the sport of Karate.

It shall also forward to the WKF/FMK a full biennial report on the competitive, organizational and promotional activities undertaken.

2.2 In Principe, the UFMK/MKFU will only admit as Members National Federations already recognized by the WKF/FMK.

2.3 For the better realization of these objectives, the Statutes of the Mediterranean Federations Union shall conform to the principles of the WKF/FMK.

## ART. 3.- ECONOMICAL RESOURCES

3.1 The UFMK/MKFU shall pursue its institutional goals by means of revenues deriving from membership and yearly fees, competition entry fees, courses and exams, the organization of official competitions, the issue of licenses and diplomas, fees and fines, bequests and donations, radio, television, photographic rights, royalties and any other form of income providing it has been approved by the Executive Committee. All the television, radio, film and photographic rights of the UFMK/MKFU championships and other international events organized from the UFMK/MKFU shall be the exclusive property of the UFMK/MKFU. These rights may not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of the Executive Committee, which may delegate its authority to negotiate the sale or utilization of these rights, but which shall support the sole responsibility for the final decision and for the utilization of the income from the sale of the rights.

3.2 The accounting period adopted by the UFMK/MKFU shall coincide with the calendar year. (1st January/31st December).

3.3 The budget, relative variations and the final balance-sheet, approved by the Executive Committee, and the reports of the UFMK/MKFU President, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and the appointed Auditor must be approved by the Congress.

## ART. 4.- ASSETS

4.1 The UFMK/MKFU Assets is composed of:

- a) reserve funds;
- b) working assets, equipment, investments and real estate;
- c) donations, bequests and similar, subject to acceptance on the part of the Executive Committee.

4.2 All existing UFMK/MKFU assets must be included in an inventory ledger kept by the Assistant General Treasurer and certified by an Auditor.

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## **ART. 5.- RECOGNITION AND AFFILIATIONS**

- 5.1 The National Karate Federations of every Country in the Mediterranean basin whose Olympic Committee is recognized from the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") may be affiliated to the UFMK/MKFU, and which are already affiliated to their own Continental Union.
- 5.2 Only 1 (one) National Federation per Country shall be allowed, namely the one recognized from the National Olympic Committee or from the Highest Sports Authority of that Country and admitted by the WKF/FMK.
- 5.3 National Federations wishing to be affiliated to the UFMK/MKFU must be an independent organization in their own Country. The President and the other Members of the Executive Committee must be democratically elected and must be in possession of the nationality of their own native Country.
- 5.4 National Federations wishing to be affiliated to the UFMK/MKFU must send a complete dossier of documentation and in possession of a visa from their National Olympic Committee or from the Highest Sport Authority of their Countries to the General Secretary together with the relative memberships fee.
- 5.5 Affiliation shall be deemed "provisional" when it has been accepted by the Executive Committee. Once accepted, and only then, the Executive Committee will decide on submission of the application to the Ordinary Congress. Provisional affiliation will automatically expire 2 (two) years after the Executive Committee has granted it. Only the Executive Committee is empowered to award any extension to any provisional membership which has so expired.  
Provisionally affiliated National Federations shall enjoy all rights, excluding voting rights. Once ratified by the Ordinary Congress, the affiliation shall be considered "permanent" and shall confer the right to vote 2 (two) years after the Congress at which it were ratified.
- 5.6 Affiliated National Federations shall receive the corresponding Diploma.

## **ART. 6.- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES**

- 6.1 Each member Federation must pay each year to the Treasurer before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the year an annual membership fee as fixed by the Executive Committee.

If the membership fee is not paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March but is paid subsequently in the current financial year then a surcharge as set by the Executive Committee is applicable. If the payment is not made in the current financial year a further surcharge as set by the Executive Committee is applicable.

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- 6.2 Member Countries, i.e. the affiliated National Federations; which already paid their annual membership fees as fixed by the Executive Committee, shall be entitled to:
- Participate in Congresses in accordance with statutory norms and rules;
  - Participate in official competitions in accordance with specific competition rules;
  - Enjoy the advantages and benefits provided by the UFMK/MKFU.
- 6.3 Under the penalty of suspension or expulsion from all international activity, it shall be the duty of affiliated National Federations to:
- Renew each year its memberships in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth from the Executive Committee;
  - Abstain from sporting relations with Organizations or physical Persons not recognized from the WKF/FMK or from the UFMK/MKFU or from the Continental Unions;
  - Abstain from sporting relations with affiliated National Federations or physical Persons suspended from international competitions.
- 6.4 In the cases as Letter b) and c) above, disciplinary action may be taken against affiliated National Federations.
- 6.5 If the affiliated National Federations are expelled from the WKF/FMK, their subsequent expulsion from the UFMK/MKFU will be automatic.

## **ART. 7.- INDIVIDUALS**

- 7.1 The physical Persons entitled to be UFMK/MKFU Members through the National Federation are:
- The Athletes;
  - The Coaches;
  - The Physicians;
  - The Referees;
  - The Officials;
  - all Members of National Delegations that take part in international competitions;
  - Honorary President(s), Honorary Member(s) and former UFMK/MKFU President(s).

## **ART. 8.- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUALS**

- 8.1 Physical Persons UFMK/MKFU Members shall be entitled to:
- participate in UFMK/MKFU activities via respective National Federations;
  - wear the official UFMK/MKFU uniform, complying with relative provisions about the matter;

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c) be put forward for elective offices and appointments providing they possess the minimal requirements.

8.2 Under the penalty of suspension from all international activity, it shall be the duty of individual Members to:

- a) renew each year its memberships in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth from the Executive Committee;
- b) abstain from sporting relations with Organizations or physical Persons not recognized by the WKF/FMK or by the UFMK/MKFU or by the Continental Unions.
- c) abstain from sporting relations with Organizations or physical Persons suspended from international competition activities.

8.3 In the cases as Letter b) and c) above, disciplinary action may be taken against individual Members.

## **ART. 9.- ACCEPTANCE AND OBLIGATIONS**

9.1 National Federations and individual Persons affiliated to the UFMK/MKFU shall undertake to comply with statutory norms, Rules and Regulations and all provisions issued from the Executive Committee.

9.2 Members shall undertake to work with the utmost loyalty and rectitude in complete compliance with rules governing Sport, maintaining a demeanour commensurate with the activity performed.

9.3 Any Member in breach of the conditions as Points 9.1 and 9.2 above shall be liable to disciplinary action as set forth herein Statutes.

## **ART. 10.- ELIGIBILITY - CANDIDATURES - INCOMPATIBILITY**

10.1 Election or appointment to the UFMK/MKFU's offices is open exclusively to the Persons who have been officially put forward as Candidates by the National Federation of their own Country ("Permanent Member") and who have a minimum of 2 (two) years' membership to the UFMK/MKFU at the date of the Congress. However, Executive Committee current Members have the right to apply personally without their National Federation approval.

10.2 The following persons cannot be elected members of the UFMK/MKFU Executive Committee:

- a) The employees of the National Federation members of the UFMK/MKFU, for the duration of their work contract plus 2 (two) years after the termination of their contract.
- b) Those who are hired to perform a specific work for the UFMK/MKFU, either individually or as active partners or board members of a company, for the

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duration of the contract plus 2 (two) years after its fulfillment or the delivery of the work.

- c) Merchants or producers of sports items and their shareholders, partners, administrators and members of the board of sports companies and any kind of commercial company which activity is within the realm of commerce, or manufacture, of any kind of sports items or services pertaining to sports.

Any individual while in elected office becoming in breach of above limitations will forfeit any elected position held. The decision of exclusion will be taken by the UFMK/MKFU Executive Committee.

- 10.3 All candidatures for elective offices shall be put forward exclusively from the respective National Federation to the UFMK/MKFU's General Secretariat office - via air mail, via fax or via e-mail- at least 3 (three) months before the date of the Congress. The validity of candidatures shall be verified from the UFMK/MKFU's General Secretary. Appeals against the decisions of General Secretary shall be filed in the 5 (five) days following the decision to the Disciplinary and Legal Affairs Commission.
- 10.4 All candidatures for elective offices shall be communicated by the UFMK/MKFU's General Secretary to affiliated National Federations at least 2 (two) months before the date of the Congress.
- 10.5 The candidates for election must stand with respect to the ethics and principles of the UFMK/MKFU and not attempt to procure votes by offering incentives to the UFMK/MKFU Members. Any candidate found offering incentives to obtain votes will forfeit his eligibility for the candidature of the office.
- 10.6 Elective and appointment offices shall be incompatible with the roles of Athletes. Should an athlete be elected or appointed, he must immediately give up his previous roles for the whole duration of his term of office.
- 10.7 In order to be eligible as UFMK/MKFU Executive Committee President or Member, by election, co-option or as permanent Member, the candidate's age must not have exceeded, or going to exceed, 70 (seventy) years by the end of the year of election or co-option. An elected Member passing the age limit will be able to complete the entire term for which the Member is elected. The Honorary President(s) will not be subject to any age limitation.  
For Sport Director and Permanent Commission Chairman or Member the age limit is 65 (sixty five) years and they will automatically leave the position on the 31st December of the year that the Person reaches the age limit.
- 10.8 Any Country cannot be present in the Executive Committee with more than 1(one) Member, this without counting the President, the co-opted Member(s) and the former UFMK/MKFU President(s).  
Any Country cannot be present in each Permanent Commission with more than 1(one) Member.

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Any Country cannot be present in all the 9(nine) Permanent Commissions with more than 5(five) Members.

10.9 The office of UFMK/MKFU President is incompatible with all elective and appointment offices of the UFMK/MKFU, with that of President of the WKF/FMK or of the Continental Unions.

The Members of the Executive Committee cannot be appointed to the Permanent Commissions.

10.10 The members of the Executive Committee cannot be appointed to the Refereeing Commission, the Technical Commission, the Medical Commission and the Organisation Commission.

10.11 All Executive Committee members must hold the citizenship of the country of their National Federation.

## **ART. 11.- ORGANISATION**

11.1 The organization of the UFMK/MKFU is:

- a) The Congress;
- b) The Executive Committee;
- c) The President.

## **ART. 12.- CONGRESS**

12.1 The Congress is the supreme Organ of the UFMK/MKFU, being given deliberative powers. It shall decide only on matters included on the Agenda when it is convened.

The General Secretary, at least 3 (three) months before the date of Congress, must invite all affiliated National Federations to present the issues that they wish to include in the Congress Agenda, outlining the reasons behind the request. At least 2 (two) months prior to the date of the Congress, the General Secretary must send to Executive Committee Members the full list of presented topics. The Executive Committee must then quickly draft the Agenda so that the General Secretary may forward the Agenda to all affiliated National Federations at least 1 (one) month prior to the date of the Congress.

12.2 The following shall be entitled to take part in the Congress:

- a. affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights;
- b. the Executive Committee;
- c. the Sport Director;
- d. the Chairmen of the Permanent Commissions;
- e. the Honorary President(s) and Honorary Member(s);
- f. National Federations with provisional affiliation.

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Observers may be invited to the Congress by the President, with the right to speak only upon the authorization of the President.

Members not up to date with the payment of membership fees shall not take part in the Congress. Participation in the Congress shall be also denied to those on whom an ongoing penalty has been inflicted.

12.3 Affiliated National Federations in accordance with statutory norms and rules shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote.

Each National Federation may be represented by up to 2 (two) Persons, who must be in possession of a proxy signed from the President of the same National Federation. Each Federation may also have its own interpreter.

12.4 It is forbidden for a National Federation to give a proxy to another National Federation or to a delegate who has a different citizenship than the one of the Country of the National Federation, even if he is a Member of that National Federation.

12.5 The Executive Committee's Members cannot represent any National Federations, either directly or for proxy.

12.6 The Congress shall be called by the Executive Committee and convened by the President of the UFMK/MKFU, via the General Secretary, at least 1 (one) month before the date of the Congress, via a circular specifying the place, date and time of the Congress, the Agenda and the list of the affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights and of the provisional National Federations at this date.

12.7 The Disciplinary and Legal Commission shall be responsible for monitoring powers and voting rights. Any disputes arising shall be submitted to the opinion of the Congress.

12.8 The Congress shall be deemed valid at the first call if at least 1/2 (half) of affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights are present or at the second call, an hour later, if at least 1/3 (one-third) of affiliated National Federation in possession of voting rights are present.

12.9 The Congress shall be presided over by the UFMK/MKFU President or, in his absence, by the 1st Vice-president or in absence of the latter by a Vice-president to be selected following the order in which they were ranked.

The Congress Secretary shall be the General Secretary of the UFMK/MKFU, or, in his absence, the Assistant General Secretary.

12.10 Barring the terms of Articles 27 and 28 as set forth herein, Congress resolutions shall be valid if they represent the simple majority of votes cast at the time of voting, excluding abstentions and blank or spoiled votes.

For the election of Executive Committee, the simple majority shall suffice. If there is a tie in voting, a second ballot shall be held.

In case of one more tie in voting, will be elected the oldest.

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- 12.11 Depending on the decision of the Congress President, voting shall be by a show of hands and recount or by roll-call, unless 1/2 (half) of the National Federations present request for a secret ballot.  
All the elections must be held by secret ballot.
- 12.12 For the positions to be elected where there is the same number of candidates as positions, the election may take place by acclamation, one candidate at a time.
- 12.13 The Ordinary Congress shall meet every 2 (two) years in the occasion of Senior Mediterranean Championships and in the City where these take place.  
The Ordinary Congress shall approve the technical and financial report relating to the previous biennial activity, drafted by the Executive Committee and presented by the President.  
The Ordinary Congress shall also decide on other matters included on the Agenda.  
Also the following matters shall be at least included on the Agenda:
- affiliations of new National Federation;
  - information on the future activity and designation of the relevant organizations.
- The Ordinary Congress shall have the final say on all matters relating to Karate as presented from the National Federations, and on any other topic of a general nature, and it shall define the guidelines for the UFMK/MKFU's activity.
- 12.14 Every 6 (six) years, to coincide with the Senior Mediterranean Championships, the Ordinary Congress shall elect, via secret ballot the President.  
Every 4 (four) years, to coincide with the Senior Mediterranean Championships, the Ordinary Congress shall elect, via secret ballot the 10 (ten) Members of the Executive Committee.  
On proposal of the Executive Committee, the Ordinary Congress shall unanimously elect the Honorary President and the Honorary Members.
- 12.15 The Extraordinary Congress shall meet:
- Upon the initiative of the President, when the same considers it necessary;
  - Upon the written and justified request of at least 50% + 1 (half plus one) of the Members of the Executive Committee;
  - Upon written and justified request of at least 50% (half) of the affiliated National Federations in possession of voting rights.
- Providing it complies with the terms and procedures for the validity of Congress as set forth herein Statutes, the Extraordinary Congress may be called at the same time as an Ordinary Congress.  
The Extraordinary Congress must take place within 3 (three) months of the date of the request.  
The resolutions and decisions of the Extraordinary Congress shall have the same validity as those of the Ordinary Congress.

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- 12.16 The Extraordinary Congress may deal with all matters normally handled by the Ordinary Congress, it shall decide on the proposals to amend the Statutes and in addition on the proposals to dissolve the UFMK/MKFU.
- 12.17 The President of the Congress shall decide on the number and duration of the speaking time granted to the participants.
- 12.18 The Congress may delegate powers to the Executive Committee.
- 12.19 Any decision of the Congress, including decisions on amendments to the Statutes, comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the Congress upon proposal of the President.
- 12.20 Minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the Congress are established under the authority of the President.

## **ART. 13.- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 13.1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, who shall preside over it, and at least 10 (ten) Members elected in proportion to the number of affiliated Countries for each of the three Continental.
- 13.2 In the Executive Committee the equal opportunity to women and men must be assured.
- 13.3 The Executive Committee will have the right to co-opt a number of additional female Members in the event that after the elections the number of women Members of the Executive Committee, in the Committee's own opinion, is considered insufficient for female representation. The Executive Committee will have also the right to co-opt 1 (one) additional Member. The term of the co-opted Member(s) will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee, who may at any time revoke the co-option(s). These co-opted Members are appointed with simple majority of the Executive Committee Members and once co-opted will enjoy full membership and voting rights until the next ordinary election.
- 13.4 The Executive Committee shall be in power for a 6 (six) year term for the President's office and for a 4 (four) year term for the office of the elected Members. All may be re-elected indefinitely.
- 13.5 In its first Meeting, to take place no later than 2 (two) days after being elected, the Executive Committee, by proposal of the President, shall appoint from among its elected Members the 1st Vice President, 2 (two) Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary, the General Treasurer, and the Assistant General Treasurer.  
The Executive Committee, upon proposal of the President, appoints the Sport Director, who coordinates the Permanent Commissions.  
The Executive Committee, upon proposal of the President, may revoke and subsequently reappoint any of these positions.

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13.6 Providing to the provisions of Article 10 herein Statutes former UFMK/MKFU Presidents shall remain Executive Committee member for life, without voting rights.

13.7 The Executive Committee shall lead, manage and administer UFMK/MKFU's activity, draw up programs in accordance with the directives approved by the Congress and assure that they are enacted in order to achieve institutional goals.

In particular, it shall:

- a) call Congress, establishing the relative Agenda;
- b) draft the technical and financial report on the previous biennium activity, to be submitted to the approval of Congress;
- c) approve the budget relative changes and the final balance-sheet, to be submitted to the approval of Congress;
- d) create, restructure and remove Commissions;
- e) approve and amend the Rules and Regulations;
- f) decide upon the provisional affiliation of National Federations, to be submitted to Congress ratification;
- g) decide on the suspension of international activities of National Federations that have not paid their annual fees;
- h) confer and repeal appointments offices including that of the Sport Director;
- i) administer available funds;
- j) monitor compliance with the Statute, Rules and Regulations and issued norms;
- k) issue provisions pertaining to recognition, affiliations and memberships;
- l) decide upon the amounts of fees and charges;
- m) designate the Honorary President and the Honorary Members, to be proposed to Congress;
- n) grant amnesty and remission and establish the limits of these measures;
- o) grant distinctions;
- p) ratify or not urgent provisions issued by the President;
- q) decide upon other matters included on the Agenda.

13.8 The Executive Committee shall be convened by the President at least 1 (one) time yearly in an ordinary session or, at the written and justified request of the majority of its Members, in an extraordinary session.

13.9 A Meeting shall be deemed valid if the majority of Committee Members are in attendance. Decisions shall be taken on a simple majority basis. In the event of a tie in voting, the President or Acting Meeting's Chairman shall have the casting vote. No proxies are allowed.

13.10 When for any reason a Meeting of the Executive Committee cannot take place, the necessary decision may be taken following an exchange of faxes or e-mails.

13.11 The minutes of all Meetings and other proceedings of the Executive Committee are established under the authority of the President.

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- 13.12 If for any reason a position should become vacant in the Executive Committee, the said position shall be filled by the Candidate who obtained the highest number of votes among the non-elected provided he obtained at least 1/2 (half) the votes of the last elected Candidate. Should there be no Candidate in this condition, the Executive Committee may proceed to co-opt a Member in accordance with the terms of Article 10 herein Statutes. The co-opted Member shall remain in office until the following Congress, when regular elections shall be held.
- 13.13 At the request of the Executive Committee, meetings will also be attended by the Chairmen of the Permanent Commissions (without voting rights) for matters directly concerning them.
- 13.14 The President and Members of Executive Committee shall offer their own services free of charge.  
The travel, accommodation costs and other expenses, as well as the relative allowances from the Executive Committee members shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Rules and Regulations.

## **ART. 14.- PRESIDENT**

- 14.1 The President or other Member(s) of the Executive Committee appointed by the President shall represent the UFMK/MKFU in the International Organizations and in relations with outside parties.
- 14.2 The President shall be responsible for the day to day running of the UFMK/MKFU and answering to the Congress and to the Executive Committee.
- 14.3 The President shall convene and chair the Executive Committee, after having drafted the relevant Agenda, and shall monitor the implementation of approved resolutions.
- 14.4 The President shall convene and chair the Congress, barring exceptions expressly specified herein Statutes.
- 14.5 In emergency situations, the President may take decisions normally attributed to the Executive Committee or to the Congress except to submit his decisions to the ratification of the Executive Committee or of the Congress in its subsequent Meeting. However, the Executive Committee must be informed immediately of any possible steps to be taken.
- 14.6 In the event of a temporary absence, the President may delegate some or all of his functions and powers to the 1st Vice President.
- 14.7 In the event of the President's resignation or permanent absence, his powers shall be taken over by the 1st Vice President, that, together with the Executive Committee, shall continue to carry out ordinary administration until the next Congress, to be convened and held in accordance with the terms and procedures for the validity of Congress as set forth herein Statutes.

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In the event of absence of the 1st Vice President, the other Vice Presidents shall take his place according to the principle firstly of seniority of office and secondly of age.

## **ART. 15.- VICE PRESIDENTS**

15.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after the elections, shall appoint from among its elected Members, on proposal of the President, the 1st Vice President and 2 (two) other Vice Presidents.

15.2 The Vice Presidents shall provide the President with assistance for all functions and shall replace him upon in the occasions as set forth herein Statutes in accordance with the relevant procedures.

15.3 The Executive Committee may assign special duties to the Vice Presidents providing they are not in contrast with the provisions herein Statutes.

## **ART. 16.- GENERAL SECRETARY**

16.1 The Executive Committee, in its first Meeting after elections, shall appoint from among its elected Members, on proposal of the President, the General Secretary.

16.2 The duties of the General Secretary shall be:

- a) to execute the decisions taken by the Executive Committee;
- b) to maintain relations with WKF/FMK, with the Continental Unions, with the affiliated National Federations and with outside parties;
- c) to provide to drawing up and to care of the minutes of Executive Committee Meetings and of Congress activities, to forward -within 1(one) month- to the affiliated National Federations.

16.3 At each Meeting of the Executive Committee the General Secretary must present an up to date report on the UFMK/MKFU situation.

## **ART. 17.- ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY**

17.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after elections, shall appoint from among its elected Members, on proposal of the President, the Assistant General Secretary.

17.2 The duties of the Assistant General Secretary shall be:

- a) to assist the General Secretary and replace him in the event of absence or impediment;
- b) perform any other Secretarial duty asked of him by the Executive Committee.

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## **ART. 18.- GENERAL TREASURER**

18.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after elections, shall appoint from among its elected Members, on proposal of the President, the General Treasurer.

18.2 The duties of the General Treasurer shall be:

- a) to keep the accounts books in order;
- b) to draw up in advance the Administrative Rules and Regulations to be brought before to the Executive Committee for its approval.

18.3 At each Meeting of the Executive Committee the General Treasurer must present an up to date report on the UFMK/MKFU situation.

## **ART. 19.- ASSISTANT GENERAL TREASURER**

19.1 The Executive Committee, in its first meeting after elections, shall appoint from among its elected Members, on proposal of the President, the Assistant General Treasurer.

19.2 The duties of the Assistant General Treasurer shall be:

- a) to assist the General Treasurer and replace him in the event of absence or impediment;
- b) to provide to the up keep of the property inventory;
- c) perform any other Administrative duty asked of him by the Executive Committee.

## **ART. 20.- FINANCES, ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING**

20.1 Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the General Treasurer is responsible for the liquid assets of the UFMK/MKFU and the regular keeping of the accounts.

20.2 The Executive Committee will appoint an independent qualified accountant, or a firm of qualified accountants, who will be given the task of auditing annually the accounts of the UFMK/MKFU and reporting to it on them. For each Ordinary Congress, the appointed accountant will moreover provide a succinct report on the audit of the UFMK/MKFU accounts. This report will also indicate whether the accounts have been kept in a regular manner and in accordance with the Statutes of the UFMK/MKFU.

## **ART. 21.- PERMANENT COMMISSIONS**

21.1 The UFMK/MKFU, in order to achieve its statutory goals by means of effective operational services, has been created in principle a minimum of the following 9 (nine) Permanent Commissions:

- a) Anti Doping Commission;

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- b) Athletes Commission;
  - c) Disciplinary and Legal Commission;
  - d) Gender Equity Commission;
  - e) Medical Commission;
  - f) Organization Commission;
  - g) Refereeing Commission;
  - h) Sports Commission;
  - i) Technical Commission.

21.2 The Commissions must cooperate with each other and, in addition, they must oversee relations with the analogous Commissions of the WKF/FMK and the Continental Unions.

The Sport Director appointed by the Executive Committee coordinates them.

21.3 Each Commission shall be composed of a Chairman that presides over it, and a minimum of 2 (two) Members from different continentals who are to be appointed by the Executive Committee, by proposal of the President, during the course of its first Meeting.

21.4 The Commissions are independent from any other Commission. However, two or more Commissions may carry out their work together, should the importance of the questions to be discussed require it.

21.5 Immediately following each Meeting -at least 1 (one) a year- the Commissions must send a copy of the minutes covering the work they have done to the Executive Committee, through the intermediacy of their own Chairman.

The Executive Committee shall give final approval of all the decisions reached by the different Commissions.

21.6 The duration of the term of office of the Commissions shall be of 4 (four) years. If for any reason a position should become vacant in the Commissions, the Executive Committee shall immediately fill such vacancies, in accordance with the above mentioned Point 3 of this article.

21.7 The Chairman and the Members of the Commissions shall offer their own services free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs and the possible allowances -which shall be limited to official Meetings and convocations, shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Rules and Regulations.

21.8 The Chairman and the Members of the Commissions cannot act in another activities contradict to their functions in this commission.

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## **ART. 22.- RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 22.1 The Executive Committee, in accordance with the terms set forth in Article 13, Point 7), Letter e) herein Statutes, and in order to achieve the aims of the UFMK/MKFU, shall issue the Rules and Regulations
- 22.2 The Permanent Commissions as per Article 21 above shall help to prepare the Rules and Regulations in their own sphere of activities.
- 22.3 All Rules and Regulations must be in accordance with the herein Statutes.

## **ART. 23.- HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

- 23.1 Based upon a proposal of the Executive Committee, the Ordinary Congress shall elect the Honorary President and the Honorary Members by acclamation. They shall be chosen among Members who, with selfless commitment, have made a significant contribution to the spread of Karate in the World and acquired special merits within the UFMK/MKFU.
- 23.2 Is not possible to have more than 2 (two) Honorary Presidents in the same time.
- 23.3 The Honorary President is entitled to attend, without voting right, Congress and Executive Committee meetings.
- 23.4 The Honorary President and Honorary Members shall make up the UFMK/MKFU's Honorary Board.

## **ART. 24.- PRIZES AND REWARDS**

- 24.1 The Star for Sporting Merit has been created with a view to honoring National Federations and individuals who have distinguished themselves through the performance of activity to popularize and improve the sport of Karate.
- 24.2 There are 3 (three) types of Stars for Sporting Merit:
- a) Gold: for the Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members, for National Federations and Individuals that have worked at least 20 (twenty) years;
  - b) Silver: For National Federations and Individuals that have worked at least 15 (fifteen) years;
  - c) Bronze: For National Federations and Individuals that have worked at least 10 (ten) years.

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24.3 The Stars for Sporting Merit are accompanied by the corresponding Diploma and, for Individuals, by the special membership card and the badge.

## **ART. 25.- DAN GRADES**

25.1 The UFMK/MKFU shall only recognize Dan Grades conferred officially to their Members by affiliated National Federations.

25.2 Recognition of the Dan Grade shall be accompanied by the awarding of the corresponding Diploma.

## **ART. 26.- PRINCIPLES OF SPORTING JUSTICE**

26.1 Sporting Justice must uphold the norms contained in the Statutes and in the Rules and Regulations, ensure that the concept of "fair play" is adhered to by all and do all in its power to combat "unsportsmanlike behavior", the use of banned substances, physical and verbal violence and corruption.

26.2 Disciplinary action taken by sporting authorities may be contested, the right to defend one's position shall be safeguarded and passed judgments may be reversed.

26.3 The Disciplinary and Legal Commission, of whom to the Article 21, Point 1), Letter c) herein Statutes, may take the following disciplinary actions against Federations and physical Persons:

- a) Warning;
- b) Disapproval;
- c) Suspension;
- d) Disqualification for up to 5 (five) years;
- e) Expulsion.

The expulsion of affiliated National Federations must be ratified by the Congress.

26.4 A National Federation may be excluded from the UFMK/MKFU for one of the following reasons:

- a) By majority decision of the Congress;
- b) For omission of payment of the membership fees for 2 (two) years. In this case the decision may be taken by the Executive Committee;
- c) By decision of the DLC, and after approval of the Executive Committee.

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26.5 The UFMK/MKFU expressly prohibits their National Federations, and their components, from the double affiliation with any karate organization as it may be determined by the UFMK/MKFU Executive Committee to be a dissenting organization.

National Federations and their Members are prohibited from having sporting relationships with these dissenting organizations not recognized by the WKF/FMK and with any organization that is determined by the UFMK/MKFU to act contrary to the interest of the WKF/FMK, or with a Member Country of the WKF/FMK which National Federation is suspended due to non payment of fees or for disciplinary reasons.

26.6 Disciplinary action may also include the handing out of fines. The minimum fine must correspond to the membership fee (for National Federations) or to the registration fee (for Individuals).

26.7 The Executive Committee shall reserve the right to grant amnesties and remissions: in the case of the former, pertinent to disciplinary violations for which the relative procedures are still pending; in the latter for penalties which have not been completely served.

Amnesty and remission shall be of an absolutely general nature. For each "Olympic Cycle" no more than 1(one) amnesty and 1(one) remission may be granted.

26.8 The amnesties, pardons and remissions given can be specific, partial or of an absolutely general nature.

26.9 Affiliated Members and Individuals shall commit themselves to accept no Authorities other than the UFMK/MKFU, the WKF/FMK or the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") of the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") for the resolution of disputes of any nature connected to activities carried out in the ambit of the UFMK/MKFU.

## **ART. 27.- AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

27.1 Proposals to amend the Statutes may be put forward by the Executive Committee or by affiliated National Federations having voting rights. In the case of National Federations, proposals must be presented to the Executive Committee by at least  $1/2 + 1$  (half plus one) of all affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

27.2 The Executive Committee shall call the relative Extraordinary Congress in compliance with the terms and procedures as set forth herein Statutes.

27.3 Proposals to amend the Statutes must be approved by at least  $2/3$  (two thirds) of affiliated National Federations having voting rights present at the Congress.

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27.4 Changes in these Statutes become provisionally effective upon approval of the Executive Committee and finally upon ratification by the Congress.

27.5 For anything that is not covered by these Statutes, the Executive Committee may take action the necessary decisions which must then be submitted for ratification to the next Congress.

## **ART. 28.- DISSOLUTION**

28.1 The proposal to dissolve the UFMK/MKFU must be presented to the Executive Committee by at least 4/5 (four fifths) of affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

28.2 The Executive Committee shall call the relative Extraordinary Congress in compliance with the terms and procedures as set forth herein Statutes.

28.3 The proposal to dissolve the UFMK/MKFU must be decided from the Extraordinary Congress with the majority of at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of the votes of affiliated National Federations having voting rights.

28.4 Should the UFMK/MKFU be dissolved, its assets must be divided among affiliated National Federations having voting rights in proportion to the number of years that each Federation has been affiliated.

## **ART. 29.- TRANSITIONAL DISPOSITIONS**

29.1 These Statutes will be in effect immediately after their approval by the UFMK/MKFU Congress, with exception to any paragraph that may, in the opinion of the Executive Committee infringe on the existing rights of elected officials under the previous existing Statutes, in which case the Executive Committee will make such dispositions as in their opinion is deemed required, and determine the necessary transition period for any such remedy.

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The present Statutes have been approved by the UFMK/MKFU Congress in Toledo SPAIN on 9 September of the year 2016 on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Karate Championships for Seniors