



WKF DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS CODE



# WKF DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS CODE



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## PREAMBLE

### 1. OBJECT

These rules describe infringements of the various WKF regulations, determine the sanctions incurred and regulate the organisation and function of the bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these bodies.

### 2. PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE WKF

The following natural and legal persons are subject to the jurisdiction of the WKF under the terms herein established (hereinafter referred to as "the Subjected Parties"):

- a) The President;
- b) Executive Committee members;
- c) Congress participants;
- d) Continental Federations and Associations;
- e) National Federations and Associations;
- f) Regional Federations and Associations;
- g) Persons elected or appointed to a position in any WKF governing institution other than the Congress;
- h) Persons elected or appointed to a position in any WKF supporting institution;
- i) Persons holding an honorary title granted by the WKF;
- j) Organising Committees of WKF competitions;
- k) Officials;
- l) Referees;
- m) Athletes;
- n) Coaches and technical and support personnel;
- o) Any person or any entity affiliated to a National Federation;
- p) Any person or any entity accredited by the WKF.



### 3. DEFINITIONS

**AT:** Appeal Tribunal, competent to deal with appeals of a disciplinary nature, as outlined in Article 24.

**Competitions:** events organised or recognised by the WKF, included on the WKF sports calendar.

**DLCT:** Disciplinary and Legal Commission Tribunal, competent to deal with legal and juridical matters as outlined in Article 19.

**DT:** Disciplinary Tribunal, competent to deal with disciplinary matters as outlined in Article 19.

**Ineligible:** Not affiliated to a member of the WKF or serving a period of suspension.

**Match:** A match organised under the auspices of a Karate federation.

**Participants:** athletes, coaches, referees, members of delegations or other persons accredited for a competition .

**Subjected Parties:** natural and legal persons subject to the jurisdiction of the WKF pursuant to Article 2.



## SECTION I ETHICS

### 4. RELATION TO THE IOC CODE OF ETHICS

This section was drafted on the basis of the IOC Code of Ethics (version 2012). Any possible interpretation will be done in accordance with the meaning and interpretation of the IOC Code of Ethics.

### 5. PRINCIPLES

The WKF and all persons listed in Article 2 above undertake at all times to respect and ensure respect of the following principles:

#### 5.1. Dignity:

5.1.1. Safeguarding the dignity of the individual is a fundamental requirement of Olympism and of the WKF.

5.1.2. There shall be no discrimination between the Participants in on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion,

5.1.3. All doping practices at all levels are strictly prohibited. The provisions against doping in the World Anti-Doping Code shall be scrupulously observed.

5.1.4. All forms of harassment of Participants, be it physical, professional or sexual, and any action causing physical or mental injuries, are prohibited.

5.1.5. All forms of participation in, or support of betting and match-fixing related to the Competitions, are prohibited. All forms of promotion of betting related to the Competitions are prohibited.

5.1.6. Also, in the context of betting, Participants in the Competitions must not, by any manner whatsoever, infringe on the principle of fair play, show non-sporting conduct, or attempt to influence the course or result of a competition, or any part thereof, in a manner contrary to sporting ethics.

5.1.7. The WKF members shall ensure the athletes' safety, wellbeing and medical care in support of their physical and mental equilibrium.

#### 5.2. Integrity:



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- 5.2.1. The WKF officials, WKF members or their representatives shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any form of remuneration or commission, nor any concealed benefit or service of any nature, connected with the organisation of the Competitions.
- 5.2.2. Only gifts of nominal value, in accordance with prevailing local customs, may be given or accepted by the Subjected Parties, as a mark of respect and/or friendship. Any other gift must be passed on to the organisation of which the beneficiary is a member.
- 5.2.3. The hospitality shown by or to the members and staff of the Subjected Parties, and the persons accompanying them, shall not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country.
- 5.2.4. The Subjected Parties shall respect and abide regulations concerning conflicts of interests (ref. Conflict of Interest Regulation).
- 5.2.5. The Subjected Parties shall use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. They must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the WKF or the sport of Karate
- 5.2.6. The Subjected Parties, their agents or their representatives, must not be involved with legal entities or persons whose activity or reputation is inconsistent with the principles set out in the WKF Statutes, Rules and Regulations.
- 5.2.7. The Subjected Parties shall neither give nor accept instructions to vote or intervene in a given manner within the organs of the WKF.

### 5.3. Confidentiality

- 5.3.1. The Subjected Parties shall not disclose information entrusted to them in confidence. The principle of confidentiality shall be strictly respected. Disclosure of other information shall not be for personal gain or benefit, nor be undertaken to maliciously damage the reputation of any person or organisation within or associated with the WKF.

### 5.4. Implementation

- 5.4.1. The Subjected Parties shall see to it that the principles and rules of the WKF Statutes and the present Section of the Disciplinary Regulations are applied.
- 5.4.2. The Subjected Parties shall inform the WKF President, of any breach of the present Section of the Disciplinary Regulations, whom in turn may refer the case to the WKF DLC.



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5.4.3. Violations of this Section shall be sanctioned in accordance with the sanctions listed in Article 7 below.

# SECTION II DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

## Chapter I Substantive provisions: general principles

### 6. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 6.1. Violations of the WKF Statutes, Rules, Regulations and EC decisions, including the ethical principles outlined in article 5, may be sanctioned as provided herein and in the respective provisions of the aforementioned legal documents.
- 6.2. A violation of the Kata and Kumite Competition Rules may also constitute a disciplinary offence, punishable under these Regulations.
- 6.3. Unless otherwise specified, offences and infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally or negligently.
- 6.4. In addition to personal responsibility, National Federations and clubs are accountable, and may be sanctioned accordingly, for the conduct of their competitors, members, officials, supporters and any persons exercising a function within the National Federation or the club and/or during the organisation of a match on behalf of the National Federation or club, irrespective of whether a fault has been committed.
- 6.5. The present Rules do not apply to the exercise of disciplinary authority in terms of anti-doping. Violations of the WKF Anti-Doping Rules are to be dealt with under the procedure herein.
- 6.6. Continental federations and their respective bodies shall apply the present Regulations to their competitions.

## Chapter II Substantive provisions: sanctions

### 7. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- 7.1. The following sanctions may be imposed on a natural person;
  - a) Warning;
  - b) Reprimand;
  - c) Fine;



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- d) Prohibition from participation in competition for a defined period of time
- e) Forfeit of matches
- f) Disqualification
- g) Withdrawal of medals, titles or Dan grading
- h) Suspension or ban from taking part in specifically determined, or all, Karate related activity for a defined period of time, including life bans
- i) Discharge from elected or appointed official positions

7.2. The following sanctions may be imposed on legal persons;

- j) Warning;
- k) Reprimand;
- l) Fine;
- m) Prohibition from participation in competition for a defined period of time
- n) Forfeit of matches
- o) Discharge from official position(s) within the WKF and/or the Continental Federations and/or the Associations;
- p) Withdrawal of recognition of a National Federations;
- q) Withdrawal of recognition of a Continental Federation;
- r) Dissolution of the association with the WKF or its member bodies
- s) Expulsion;
- t) Prohibition on official activity within the WKF for a defined period of time.

## 8. COMMON RULES

- 8.1. Sanctions provided for above in Article 7 may be combined, where deemed appropriate.
- 8.2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of matches or Competitions.
- 8.3. Pending the resolution of a disciplinary matter, the WKF President or the Chairman of the DLC may impose a provisional suspension on those concerned until the case is heard by the DT or the Technical Commission, depending on the case. The DT or Technical Commission will decide whether to keep or to lift this suspension until the final decision.
- 8.4. The DLC is permitted, where appropriate, to impose a partial suspension of the sanction imposed. In doing so, the person or entity is subject to a probationary period of anything from three months to two years. If during the probationary period the sanctioned person commits





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another offence, the suspended portion of the sanction will be served in addition to the sanction imposed for the subsequent offence in accordance with article 8.5.

8.5. The otherwise applicable sanction may be increased in the case of repeat infringement (second or further offence). A repeat infringement occurs if a subsequent sanction has to be imposed within five years of a previous offence. If the repeat offence is of a similar nature to the first offence, this will be treated as an aggravating circumstance mandating a higher increase in sanction than a mere repeat offence not of a similar nature.

8.6. If several sanctions are pronounced against a person or entity as a result of more than one offence, the DLC, at its discretion, may increase the sanction imposed for the most serious offence.

## 9. EXECUTION OF SANCTIONS

9.1. The body that imposes the sanction decides the scope and terms of it and, where applicable, the time limits for payment of any fine.

9.2. National Federations are jointly liable for fines imposed on their referees, officials and team delegation members, regardless of whether the person has left the National Federation after the fine was imposed. The same applies *mutatis mutandis* to clubs in respect of their competitors and team delegation members.

9.3. Fines must be paid to the WKF bank account no later than three (3) months after receipt of the notification of the imposed sanction.

9.4. Should the person or entity fined not pay within the time limit set in the preceding paragraph, payment due will incur a twenty per cent (20 %) per annum interest each twelve month delay and cause prohibition from participation in Competitions until the entire fine.

9.5. Disqualification will be applied to the WKF and/or other competitions immediately following the notification of such disqualification.

9.6. If a coach or competitor participates in a match while he is suspended or disqualified, his results will be forfeited and the sanction will be doubled or restart, as decided by the body which imposed it.

9.7. Suspension commences the day after receipt of the written notification of the sanction unless decided otherwise by the decision making body.



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- 9.8. The forfeit of a match, a reversal of results or an adjustment of the ranking of a competition must be notified to the competitor (s) concerned by the WKF Representative of the respective Competition, if such sanctions are imposed during the course of such competition, or by WKF, if such sanctions are imposed after the end of the competition.

### 10. NON-OBSERVANCE OF SANCTIONS

- 10.1.** Anyone who fails to observe sanctions imposed by the WKF bodies or the Court of Arbitration for Sport shall:

**10.1.1.** be fined for failing to comply with a decision;

**10.1.2.** in the case of failure to pay a fine, be granted a final deadline by the Chairman of the DLC in which to pay the amount due;

**10.1.3.** be warned and notified that, further failure to comply with a decision of the WKF bodies may result in suspension or disqualification from competition for a period of time or indefinitely until the relevant decision is complied with.

### 11. LIMITATION PERIODS

- 11.1. Unless specifically otherwise specified herein, offences committed during a competition may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two years. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.

11.2. Anti-doping rule violations may not be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed.

11.3. Prosecution for corruption is not subject to a limitation period.

11.4. The Limitation period runs as follows:

11.4.1. from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

11.4.2. if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;

11.4.3. if the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.



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### 12. ADOPTING DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS TAKEN BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- 12.1. The WKF President may, either *ex officio* or at the request of an affected person, decide whether and to what extent disciplinary decisions taken by other organisations (for instance, the IOC, a Continental Federation or a National Federation) are to be applied worldwide.
- 12.2. The authority that issued the decision shall submit to the WKF all documentation relating to the case, and if issued in another language than English: together with a translation into English, if requested by the WKF.
- 12.3. The decision may be adopted and extended worldwide if it complies with general principles of law and the WKF Statutes, Rules and Regulations.
- 12.4. In the absence of a decision by WKF to adopt and extend a decision worldwide, such decision may apply only within the territory (or, in the case of event organisers such as the IOC, to the competitions) controlled by the authority that issued the decision.

### Chapter III

#### Substantive provisions: offences

### 13. VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE 5

- 13.1. Any conduct contrary to, or in violation of, the Ethics provisions listed herein in Article 5 will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article 7.

### 14. VIOLENT CONDUCT

- 14.1. Any action, attitude or public statement displaying an improper use of physical or emotional force in order to injure, intimidate or defame the WKF, its guests or any of the persons listed in Article 1 herein is considered a violent conduct which shall be sanctioned in accordance with the seriousness of the violation.
- 14.2. Violent conduct in connection with a competition or in general a Karate activity shall be sanctioned with a minimum suspension of two months. Sanctions shall be imposed on the persons involved and/or the National Federation or club accountable for such actions.
- 14.3. If such incidents irremediably compromise the normal course of a match, the team held responsible for the public's conduct shall be additionally sanctioned with forfeiture of the match.
- 14.4. Harassment, insults, verbal or physical abuse by a coach, competitor, team delegation member, official to or against a competitor or any other team member or official



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present, shall be sanctioned with suspension for one or more matches or exclusion from the tournament depending on the seriousness of the violation.

- 14.5. All Subjected Parties as well as Organising Committee of a WKF-sanctioned event must deal courteously and considerately with the WKF, its officials, referees, participating team delegations and guests. Any commentary or remark expressed publicly through the media, detrimental to the image or the reputation of the WKF and its institutions or any of its officials is considered violent conduct.

### 15. INELIGIBILITY

If an competitor takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team or National Association will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of CHF 6,000 (six thousand swiss francs).

### 16. FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION

- 16.1. Anyone who, in karate-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a fine.
- 16.2. If the perpetrator is a competitor, a suspension of at least six months will be imposed.
- 16.3. If the perpetrator is a WKF, Continental or National Federation official, a ban on taking part in any karate-related activity for a period of a minimum of twelve months will be imposed.
- 16.4. An association may be held liable for an infringement as defined in Article 16.1 committed by one of its officials and/or competitors. In such a case, an expulsion from a competition may be imposed in addition to a fine for the association concerned.
- 16.5. A club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in Article 16.1 committed by one of its officials and/or competitors. In such a case, an expulsion from a competition may be imposed in addition to a fine for the association concerned.

### 17. CORRUPTION

- 17.1. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of the WKF, a match official, a competitor or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite violation of the regulations of WKF will be sanctioned:
- 17.1.1. with a fine of at least CHF 10,000 (ten thousand Swiss francs) and/or;
- 17.1.2. with a ban on taking part in any karate-related activity, and/or;



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- 17.1.3. with a ban on entering any competition area.
- 17.2. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
- 17.3. In serious cases and in the case of repetition, a ban from karate-related activity may be imposed for life.
- 17.4. In any case, the DLC will order the confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for karate development programmes.

## 18. DOPING

Doping is prohibited. Doping and anti-doping rule violations are defined in the WKF Anti-Doping Rules and sanctioned in accordance with the WKF Anti-Doping Rules and/or the WKF Disciplinary and Legal Rules.

## SECTION III ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE

### Chapter I Substantive provisions: The DLC

## 19. COMPETENCE OF THE WKF DISCIPLINARY AND LEGAL COMMISSION (DLC)

- 19.1. The WKF Disciplinary and Legal Commission (“DLC”) is competent in juridical and disciplinary matters related to WKF and its members.
- 19.2. In legal matters, upon demand of the WKF President, the DLC can give advice on any juridical incidents or matters of WKF interest. The WKF DLC is competent to deal with the conflicts that may arise regarding the interpretation and the application of the WKF Statutes. The DLC is also competent to resolve all conflicts between National Federations, between WKF and National Federations, and officials and National Federations and/or the WKF. The DLC is competent in all of the international domain on both the World and Continental level.
- 19.3. In juridical matters there will be a DLC Tribunal in accordance with Article 21.2 of the WKF Statutes.
- 19.4. In disciplinary matters, the goal of the WKF DLC is to adjudicate all disputes arising from the Rules and other regulations related to the sporting activities and any unethical behaviour of WKF members, except those conferred to the Technical or Referee Commissions.



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In disciplinary matters, there will be a Disciplinary Tribunal of first instance (DT) – which will be the Technical Commission for those cases conferred to the said Commission – and an Appeal Tribunal (AT).

19.5. In the framework of the competence of the DLC as defined in the WKF Statutes and the present Disciplinary Regulations, the terms of reference of the DLC are:

19.5.1. To deal with disciplinary matters beyond those where the Referee or Technical Commission has jurisdiction, such as what is not covered by the application of the competition rules. This would include, for example, but would not be limited to, disciplinary offences in relationship with the opening and closing ceremonies, incorrect behaviour of delegation members inside or outside the competition area, or any behaviour that is considered contrary to the good sportsmanship.

19.5.2. To impose disciplinary measures upon any Subjected Party in the form of verbal or written warnings, impose sanctions or penalties in application of these Rules, or measures of suspension from participation in WKF sanctioned events in accordance with Article 7 of the present rules. Nevertheless, this role will be in first instance of the Technical Commission in those proceedings over which it has jurisdiction, according to their own Rules and the present Code.

19.6. The DLC may apply the WKF Rules denying access to competition areas or to the stadium to those individuals or delegations that refuse to accept the WKF Rules or the Executive Committee instructions.

19.7. The DLC Chairman, or a member appointed by the Chairman, will survey the opening and closing ceremonies and will present a written report on any incorrect attire, attitude or misbehaviour arising in these ceremonies.

19.8. The DLC Chairman will receive and register all disciplinary claims not concerned with the competition development except when the claim is presented by the Chairman of the Referee Commission.

19.9. The DLC meetings will be convened and called for by the Chairman, or upon request of a Disciplinary Tribunal (DT) panel.

19.10. In the case of a serious offence committed by competitors or referees during a competition, the Chairman of the Referee Commission may impose an immediate suspension. The issue will be immediately transmitted to the DLC Chairman.



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- 19.11. The DLC can proceed with any investigation, interview or correspondence for the purpose of obtaining necessary information prior to taking any appropriate action.
- 19.12. In case the facts made available to the DLC would have been done so by a coach, the DLC Chair will transfer the case without delay to the Chair of the Technical Commission, who can then proceed with any investigation, interview or correspondence for the purpose of obtaining necessary information prior to taking any appropriate action.
- 19.13. The DLC will act as an appeals body in the event that a National Federation withdraws recognition from one of its members who has been elected or appointed as a member of a WKF Committee or Commission and the member in question appeals to the DLC. The DLC will ask for the documents justifying the recognition loss, and will send a report to the WKF Executive Committee, who will make the final decision on the matter.
- 19.14. The DLC is not a body for appealing the sanctions imposed by National Federations.

## 20. COMPOSITION OF THE WKF DLC

- 20.1. The DLC is headed by a chairman appointed by the Executive Committee. The DLC Chairman must be a WKF member. The seat of the DLC is the same as that of the WKF Headquarters.

### **In Legal Matters**

- 20.2. For each case, the DLC Chairman will appoint a panel of either one or three judges that will form the DLC Tribunal (DLCT). If a single judge is appointed, he or she must be a member of the WKF. In the case of a three-judge panel, at least one of the judges must be a member of the WKF. The Chairman of the DLC will appoint from among the three judges a President of the DLCT who will preside over the case concerned.

### **In Disciplinary Matters**

- 20.3. The DLC will act in disciplinary matters either on its own initiative or upon request of the Executive Committee or of any Subjected Party or of a third party. In these latter cases, the DLC Chairman will decide upon the acceptability of the request.
- 20.4. Notwithstanding article 20.3, when the facts constituting elements of an infringement were committed by coaches, the DLC Chair will immediately inform the Technical Commission Chair of the report, who will proceed in compliance with the present Code, acting as a DT as of when the report is received.



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- 20.5. For each case not included in article 20.4, the DLC Chairman will appoint a panel of one or three judges that will form the Disciplinary Tribunal (DT). If a single judge is appointed, he or she must be a member of the WKF. In the case of a three-judge panel, at least one of the judges must be a member of the WKF. The Chairman of the DLC will appoint from among the three judges a President of the DT who will preside over the case concerned. The Chairman may appoint one Investigator, not belonging to the Tribunal, in charge of a preliminary inquiry.
- 20.6. For those cases affecting coaches, the Technical Commission will become a DT, taking responsibility for the entire procedures of the first instance, adhering to the DT rules and procedures contained in the present Code.

### **Common Rules**

- 20.7. The Chairman of the DLC may ask each Continental Federation and/or National Federation to supply a list of judges competent in juridical and/or sporting matters. The judges need not be WKF members. However, in any three judge panel there must be at least one WKF member. For exceptional cases, the Chairman may appoint one or more judges that are not on the list.
- 20.8. The Chairman of the DLC manages the Commission and cannot be member of a DT. The Chairman's responsibility is to control the development and regularity of the procedures, and to take appropriate measures to insure the fair operation of the process.
- 20.9. The members of a DT or an AT cannot take part in any instance or case in which they have any personal interest and/or which involves in any way, their federation, family members or relatives, or persons having a direct link or involvement with them. In such a case, it is incumbent on the DT /AT member/s concerned, to declare the interest and/or the connection to the Chairman of the DLC as well as to the Chairman of the DT or AT and to withdraw for the case.

## **21. COMPETENCE OF OTHER BODIES TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS**

- 21.1. The Continental Federations are competent to impose sanctions at the continental level provided that the matter does not fall within the competence of a WKF body. For this purpose, they must adopt the same procedural provisions as provided herein.
- 21.2. Associations may impose sanctions only in and for their regional competitions.





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- 21.3. National Federations are competent to impose sanctions at the national level in accordance with their own regulations provided that the matter does not fall within the competence of a WKF body.

### **Chapter II Procedural provisions**

#### **22. JURIDICAL PROCEDURE**

##### **Time limit to lodge a claim or appeal**

- 22.1. Except for appeals pursuant to Article 10.5 of the WKF Statutes, disputes of a legal or juridical nature must be presented before the DLC within 21 (twenty one) calendar days of the facts giving rise to the dispute, notification of the facts giving rise to the dispute or the time when the interested person had or should have had actual knowledge of the facts giving rise to the dispute.
- 22.2. The DLC shall decide on the admissibility of any claim pursuant to Article 21.2 of the WKF Statutes or appeal pursuant to Article 2.1 paragraph two of the WKF Statutes.

##### **Procedure**

- 22.3. The DLCT, once appointed for a case, appoints one of its members as secretary, studies the dossier, transmits it to the parties concerned, requests an answer if deemed necessary, and fixes a reasonable deadline for the procedural stages.
- 22.4. Any person implicated in a case submitted to the DLC shall be immediately informed. Such person may make his/her observations if he/she deems it necessary to do so. If the person in question is a legal person, the DLC will inform its representative. Such representative may make his/her observations if he/she deems it necessary to do so.
- 22.5. The merits of the case will be decided solely on the written submissions of the interested party(ies).
- 22.6. The case language will be English.
- 22.7. The applicable legislation will be the one of the country where the WKF domicile is registered.
- 22.8. The DLCT will decide by majority vote. In case of a tie, the President of the DLCT will have a casting vote. The deliberations will take place at a DLCT meeting, or if the three DLCT members agree, by telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.



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### **Notification**

- 22.9. Notification of the outcome will be sent to those concerned in such a manner that receipt can be proven. In cases of address difficulties, it will be considered sufficient that notification is sent to the National Federation(s) of those concerned and/or posted on the official website of the WKF.

### **23. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

- 23.1. The DT, once appointed for a case, appoints one of its members as secretary, studies the dossier, transmits it to the parties concerned, requests an answer, and fixes a reasonable deadline for the procedural stages.

#### **Procedure**

- 23.2. Any person implicated in a case submitted to the DLC shall be immediately informed. Such person may make his/her observations if he/she deems it necessary to do so. If the person in question is a legal person, the DLC will inform its representative. Such representative may make his/her observations if he/she deems it necessary to do so.

- 23.3. The language will be English.

- 23.4. The applicable legislation will be the one of the country where the WKF domicile is registered.

#### **Notification**

- 23.5. The information exchanged between the parties and the Tribunal may be through all modern media including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.

#### **Hearing**

- 23.6. Except for urgent matters, a sanction may not be imposed before the person concerned has had the opportunity to be heard and to present his/her case. In general, the proceedings will be presented in writing. However, the President of a DT may decide to call those concerned in person to appear before the Tribunal.

- 23.7. The DT shall evaluate the evidence, take into consideration the specific conditions under which the events occurred, the previous conduct of the person(s)/or institution(s) concerned and all other relevant circumstances in order to determine whether, and to what extent, a sanction is required.



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- 23.8. At their own request, those concerned will have the right to be heard alone or through a lawyer or a third party nominated by the accused. Parties shall be responsible for, and bear the expenses of, their respective lawyers, representatives, experts, witnesses etc.
- 23.9. If a hearing is organised under these Regulations, the DT may make the organisation of such hearing dependent upon the parties paying to WKF reasonable administrative costs to be determined by the DLC.
- 23.10. The Tribunal will decide by majority vote. In case of a tie, the President of the DT will have a casting vote. The deliberations will take place at a DT meeting, or if the three DT members agree, by telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.
- 23.11. As a general rule the members of a DT panel will make every effort to resolve all matters at hand within a reasonable time, that with exception to justified cases, this cannot exceed 3 (three) months for the first instance and 3(three) months for the appeal.
- 23.12. The minutes will be signed by the President of the DT. When the DT decides to have hearings these will not be public.

### **Notification of the outcome**

- 23.13. At the end of the deadline granted for the exercise of the right to be heard, or following the hearing at which the right to be heard was also exercised orally, the DT will take its decision which will be notified to the concerned parties. This decision will indicate the deadline for appeal and the appeal process, specifically mentioning the competent institution to revise the decision taken.
- 23.14. Notification of the outcome shall be given directly to the parties concerned. Notice will be sent to those concerned in such a manner that receipt can be proven. In the event that the contact details of the person concerned are not known to the WKF or in the case of other address difficulties, it will be considered sufficient that notification is sent to the National Federation(s) to which those concerned are affiliated or a member of. However, in cases of urgency, in particular when the facts may cause scandal, the DT can abbreviate the procedure and render its decision on site.
- 23.15. Decisions may be published on the WKF official website and/or the official WKF publications.



## SECTION IV

### APPEALS

#### 24. APPEALABLE DECISIONS IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

- 24.1. It is possible to appeal the decision of a DT. Any appeal must be addressed to the General Secretary (by registered letter, e-mail or fax) within the 10 (ten) days that follow the receipt of said decision or notification of the decision in accordance with Article 23.14.
- 24.2. The appeal must contain the reasons that justify the appeal. The appellant must deposit a sum of CHF 500 (five hundred Swiss francs) at the WKF General Treasury. This sum will be reimbursed to the appellant in the case of a favourable decision and will be updated from time to time by the WKF Executive Committee.
- 24.3. The appeal will not suspend the DT decision, except when the AT decides so, upon justified and grounded request of the appellant.
- 24.4. Decisions imposing a reprimand, a warning, a fine of up to CHF 5,000 (five thousand Swiss francs) or a combination thereof, are final and not subject to appeal.

#### 25. THE APPEALS PANEL AND PROCEDURE

- 25.1. The DLC Chairman will appoint a panel composed of 1 (one) or 3 (three) judges, who were not involved in the first DT panel, and will appoint a President. They will form the Appeal Tribunal (AT).
- 25.2. The procedure to be followed will be the same as for the first instance.

#### 26. APPEALS TO THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

- 26.1. Decisions of the DLCT and the Appeal Tribunal may be appealed exclusively before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, within twenty-one (21) days following receipt of the decision. Unless agreed otherwise by the parties, the CAS Panel will be composed of three arbitrators and the language will be English.



## **SECTION V**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **27. ENTRY INTO FORCE**

27.1. These Disciplinary Regulations were approved by the WKF Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and entered into force on the same day.

27.2. These Disciplinary Regulations can be amended by a decision of the WKF Executive Committee.

#### **28. TRANSITIONAL MEASURES**

28.1. Any case that has been brought before the WKF DLC before these regulations come into force shall be assessed according to the previous regulations.