

STATUTES

Art. 1 Name, Place of Registration and Field of Operation

- 1) Federation Name: "European Powerlifting Congress (EPC)"
- 2) In the eventual case of any contention or dispute in the language these Statues are translated, the English version shall take internal federation priority.
- 3) The EPC is registered in Graz, Austria. It is the union of all it's affiliated eligible athletic federations, clubs, organisations or other groups active in Powerlifting throughout Europe.
- 4) The installation of national branch federations is intended.
- 5) National federations shall be affiliated to the "World Powerlifting Federation" but shall maintain independence in their internal and business affairs.

Art. 2 Federation Purpose and Activities

- 1) The federation is a non-profit organisation.
- 2) The federation will carry out the following activities:
 - a) The promotion, sanction and supervision of competitions and international developmental programs, including European championships in the sport of Powerlifting (Squat, Bench Press, Deadlift) either combined or as a single discipline
 - b) To promote standardised competitive rules
 - c) Maintain an EPC Congress of bona fide international representatives
 - d) Maintain a system for recognising, approving and filing of European records in the above named disciplines
 - e) Establish administrative and technical committees from it's own number
 - f) Produce official bulletins and/or powerlifting publications
 - g) Referee seminars and exams
 - h) Seminars and courses
 - i) Advertising
 - j) Drug testing as appropriate when this is not proceeded by the authorised federal sport council of that country in which the competition is hosted. That authority is only allowed to proceed with drug testing on the condition the national federation of the hosting country is officially recognised by that country's sport organisation.
- 3) Financing will be obtained as follows:
Official funding, voluntary contributions, membership dues, seminar and course fees, advertising, sponsors and other contributions.

Art. 3 Types of Membership

- 1) The membership of the EPC consists of national affiliates active in powerlifting. The EPC recognises only one national federation, club or organisation per country as accepted by the EPC Congress.
- 2) Only those persons who are members of their respective national federation, association or organisation can be considered eligible for membership.
- 3) Members of the federation are classified as full, exemplary and honorary members.
- 4) Full members are those nations that fully participate in federation activities. Exemplary members are those persons that support the federation by fulfilling a work duty or activity. Honorary members are those persons honoured by the federation for extraordinary accomplishments.

Art. 4 Obtaining Membership

- 1) Membership is open to all nations with democratic federation statutes subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Their Constitution and current list of officers are to be filed with the EPC Secretary.

- b) These must conform to all WPF and EPC statutes and laws where applicable.
 - c) Their internal championships must be conducted in full accordance with the WPF technical rules.
 - d) They may not issue permits for competitions other than for their own internal championships.
- 2) Membership is obtained via written application to the EPC. Membership is complete upon approval of application.
 - 3) Approval of full and exemplary members shall be decided by Congress. Reasons for rejection are not bound to obligation.
 - 4) Presentation of honorary membership shall be decided via proposal of the full members or Executive Committee to either Congress or a Special Meeting.
 - 5) Persons in a country without a national WPF and EPC affiliated federation, club or organisation may apply directly to the EPC for membership. The Executive Committee may act alone in deciding approval or rejection. The decision must however be confirmed by Congress.
 - 6) Prior to constellation of the federation membership is agreed upon by the proponents. Membership is complete upon constellation of the federation.

Art. 5 Subscriptions and Fees

- 1) The amount of annual subscription to the EPC shall be determined by Congress. The subscription is payable by January 31 of each year. Any country which has not paid its subscription for the current year cannot participate or vote in the various meetings of the EPC, obtain ratification of their records, nor their members be allowed to enter international championships. A reminder letter shall be sent to every federation which has not paid its subscription by January 31.
- 2) Any country organising an "EPC" international contest is required to sign an Agreement Contract as determined by Congress.
- 3) Any country organising an "EPC" international contest must pay a fee to the EPC in accordance with the scale as determined by Congress.
- 4) Sanction fees are to be paid according to the date prescribed in the Agreement Contract. If payment is not made by the prescribed date the sanction will be automatically voided. In this case a penalty fee of 50% of the sanction fee will be required of the national federation to whom sanction was given. Payment of this penalty fee shall be made within thirty days of the original prescribed payment date. Should payment not be made by this date the rule as in Par. 5:1 shall apply.
- 5) Upon payment of the required fee, the Secretary will issue a permit for the international contest to the organising nation.
- 6) No EPC affiliated nation shall take part in a contest for which the EPC has not issued a permit.

Art. 6 Termination of Membership

- 1) Membership is terminated by either written cancellation via registered mail or expulsion by Congress.
- 2) Termination of membership can be decided by the Executive committee for reasons of:
Failure to pay annual dues. Should the dues be in arrears all membership rights rest until full payment is made.
- 3) The Executive Committee may dismiss or reprimand a member for reasons of bringing the sport and/or federation into disrepute and failure to comply with membership obligations. Appeal may be filed with Congress against dismissal. All membership rights rest until final decision is taken.
- 4) Cancellation of honorary membership may be proposed by the full members or Executive Committee via Congress.

Art. 7 Rights and Duties of Members

- 1) Members have the right to participate in all federation activities and use it's property.
- 2) Federation capital and property shall be administered by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is obliged to present a report of such to Congress.
- 3) Nomination of competitors and teams to international competitions is made by each national federation.
- 4) In the interest of the federation members are required to support the federation and reject all that might harm it's esteem or lead to it's demise. They are required to uphold the statutes, rules and decisions of the federation bodies. Full members are required to promptly pay their annual dues as determined by Congress.
- 5) The right of vote, active or passive, at Congress is given to the full members only.

Art. 8 Federation Bodies

Bodies of the federation are the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Finance Secretary.

Art. 9 EPC Congress

- 1) The EPC Congress is the governing body of the EPC.
- 2) The EPC Congress shall meet annually one day before the start of the European Powerlifting Championships Men's Open division if they are held separately from other age and sex divisions.
- 3) All members must be given written invitation to the Congress as well as Special Meetings a minimum of two weeks in advance of Meeting. The agenda must be followed as written.
- 4) Congress consists of a maximum of two delegates from each national affiliate. However, only one vote per country is permitted.
- 5) Proposals to Congress must be presented in writing to the President a minimum of twenty one days prior to the Meeting.
- 6) All proper decisions taken, exempting those of proposal for a Special Meeting, must have been regarding those matters scheduled on the agenda proper.
- 7) At all annual Congress meetings the following ill be the order of business:
 - a) Roll call
 - b) President's address
 - c) Minutes of the last Congress
 - d) Treasurer's report
 - e) Secretary's report
 - f) Committee reports
 - g) Regional reports
 - h) Elections
 - i) Action on proposed amendments
 - j) New member applicants
 - k) Delinquent nations
 - l) Future Championships
 - m) Other business
 - n) Adjournment
- 8) All members have the right to attend Congress. Only the full members have the right to vote. Each member (nation) shall have one vote. The Executive Committee shall vote among themselves and present their common vote via the President. Voting members may give their right of vote to another member via proxy. Proof of proxy must be presented to the President.

- 9) Congress has the right of decision when a quorum of a minimum of half the full members or their representatives (Par. 9:8) are present. Should less than half be present Congress shall be postponed thirty minutes with the same agenda without regard to the number of members present.
- 10) Voting and decisions taken at Congress are decided in general by simple majority. Decisions that change a statute or dissolve the federation require a qualified majority of a minimum of two thirds of the proper votes given
- 11) The President shall preside over Congress. In his hindrance The Vice President shall take his place. In the case of both being hindered the members present shall appoint a chairman within it's membership.
- 12) A Special Meeting may be called by a minimum of three Executive Committee members, by Congress or by written and grounded proposal from a minimum of two thirds majority of the full members or by requirement of the Finance Secretary within thirty days.

Art. 10 **Duties of Congress**

The duties of Congress are:

- a) To admit any national affiliate eligible under the constitution by means of a simple majority of votes cast.
- b) To prescribe and amend the Constitution, Bylaws or Technical Rules by means of a two thirds majority of the votes cast.
- c) To impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution or Bylaws.
- d) To remove any suspension or penalty previously imposed.
- e) Collecting of reports.
- f) Decisions on proposals.
- g) Election, hiring and dismissal of the Executive Committee and Finance Secretary.
- h) Determination of the amount of annual dues.
- i) Presentation or termination of honorary memberships.
- j) Decision on dissolution of the federation.
- k) Discussion and decision on matters assigned to the agenda.

Par. 11 **The Executive Committee**

- 1) The Executive Committee is comprised of five officers: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Technical Officer.
- 2) The officers of the Executive Committee may not be members of any other powerlifting federation or organisation other than those within the "World Powerlifting Federation".
- 3) Any full member may propose an EPC member in good standing for an Executive Committee position.
- 4) The Executive Committee may co-opt an electable member for the position of an Executive Committee officer leaving his position before his legislature is finished. This decision must be ratified at the next following Congress.
 - a) In the event of death, resignation or removal from office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed this office until the next Congress where a new President shall be elected.
- 5) The legislative period of the Executive Committee shall be four years. This period ends with the election of a new Committee. Committee members may be re-elected.
- 6) The Executive Committee and Congress shall be called in writing by the President via the Secretary.
- 7) The Executive Committee has the right of decision when a minimum of three members are present. However, decisions may only be taken if the other officers cannot be reached by telephone or telecommunication and in the case of immediacy.
- 8) The Executive Committee makes it's decision by simple majority vote. The President or Chairman shall abstain from voting except in the case of a tie.
- 9) The duties of a member of the Executive Committee terminate by death, expulsion, end of legislative period or resignation.

- 10) An Executive Committee member may only be dismissed via written and proper proposal to Congress or call for a Special Meeting for this purpose.
- 11) Executive Committee officers may resign at any time. Their resignation must be presented to the Executive Committee. In the case of resignation of the entire Executive Committee, their resignation shall be submitted to Congress. Resignation will become effective upon the date of resignation. The departing officer must present to the President or Vice President all relevant information, documents and material in his possession concerning his office position within two weeks of the date of his resignation.

Art. 12 Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for administering the federation. It is responsible for all duties and obligations not covered in the Statutes or assigned to other federation bodies. The following duties fall within its field of responsibility:

- a) Construction of the years calendar of events and presentation of reports as well as giving financial account.
- b) Preparation of the annual Congress Meeting.
- c) Call to Congress and Special Meetings.
- d) Administration of federation funds, capital and property.
- e) Hiring and dismissal of federation employees.

Art. 13 Special Obligations of Single Executive Committee Officers

- 1) The President is the highest federation officer. He is responsible for representing the federation. He presides over Congress and the Executive Committee. In the case of immediacy he may act alone in making decisions that fall within the responsibilities of Congress or the Executive Committee. These decisions, however, require post confirmation from the Executive Committee.
- a) The President is an "ex officio" member of all Committees.
- 2) Federation documents and declarations shall be signed by the President.
- 3) The Vice President shall support the President in his duties of administration and represent him whenever necessary. He shall have such duties assigned to him by the President and have the power to perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the latter to attend.
- 4) The Secretary shall support the President and Vice President in their administrative duties, especially outwardly, with bureaucratic departments and third persons. He is responsible for protocolling Congress, the Executive Committee and Special Meetings. He shall conduct all official federation correspondence.
- 5) The Treasurer is responsible for administering federation funds and capital. He shall:
 - a) Collect all monies due to the EPC and deposit same in the name of the EPC.
 - b) Sign all checks, notes and drafts together with the President or one other Executive member.
 - c) Pay all bills approved by the duly authorised officer or Congress.
 - d) When requested, hand over to the Finance Secretary for audit or other purposes, all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to his office.
 - e) Present an audited balance sheet to Congress.
 - f) Collect annual membership dues and any fees.
 - g) Be responsible for issuing invoices.
 - h) Collecting any penalty fees.
- 6) The Technical Officer is responsible for upholding the competition rulebook. He shall keep a file of all national and international referees and is responsible for arranging their participation at competitions. He is responsible for examining candidates for international referee qualification. He may not act alone in deciding who may be examined for international qualification (Art. 13:7).
- 7) The EPC is allowed to administer international referee exams in behalf of the WPF. The following process shall be followed for candidates wishing to take their international referee exam:
The national federation of the referee candidate shall make a proposal to the EPC Congress. The EPC President shall in turn make a proposal to the WPF Executive Committee. Should the proposal be approved, the EPC Technical Officer shall be obliged to administer the exam.

Should the Technical Officer be hindered, the exam may be given by an international referee approved by the WPF Executive Committee.

Art. 14 Finance Secretary

- 1) A Finance Secretary (auditor) shall be elected by Congress for the period of the Executive Committee's legislature. Re-election is possible.
- 2) The Finance Secretary is responsible for controlling federation monetary affairs and auditing the books. He shall report to Congress.

Art. 15 Settling Disputes

- 1) All disputes within the federation shall be decided by the Executive Committee. All parties shall be heard either in writing or verbally for reasons of:
 - a) Bringing the EPC, WPF or sport of powerlifting into disrepute.
 - b) Acting in a manner that is contrary to the best interests of the EPC or WPF.
 - c) Contravening any of the provisions of the Constitution.
 - d) Dishonourable behaviour.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall decide by simple majority. It shall decide by best conscience and will.
- 3) Appeals against a decision may be lodged with the President within thirty days of the written notification of the decision upon which the appeal is based. The appeal will be presented to the next following Congress. Decisions regarding membership status will be upheld until Congress makes final decision on the matter. Financial penalties will be suspended until Congress reaches its decision.

Art. 16 Dissolvement of the Federation

- 1) Dissolvement of the federation may only be decided at a Special Meeting called for this purpose and only by a vote of minimum two thirds majority of the proper votes given.
- 2) Reasons for the proposal must be presented via registered mail to the President.
- 3) This Special Meeting must decide the liquidation of federation funds, capital and property. The services of an independent liquidator or adjudicator must be remanded and decision taken as to whom this is prescribed after all accounts have been settled. These funds and property must, as far as it is possible and permitted, fall to a similar organisation (according to law).
- 4) The last Executive Committee must report this dissolvement to the proper authorities in writing within four weeks of the decision taken. The dissolvement must be publicised according to § 26. (Austrian law)