

We, the undersigned, present the following package of proposed amendments to the IBF Articles for consideration by the Member Federations at the 2023 IBF General Meeting on October 6, 2023, in Kuwait.

These proposed amendments represent widely accepted governance standards and structures and assure due process, transparency, open dialogue, and decision making. They provide a governing framework that gives voice and authority to Federation members and reforms the Board and annual meeting structure to assure a functioning governing body to provide strategic direction for the future.

These changes are presented as one proposal and we request they be adopted in their entirety so IBF can return to crowning champions and displaying the best of bowling to millions around the world.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Innes, Executive Director
Canadian Tenpin Federation



Ron Griffin
British Tenpin Bowling Association

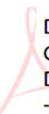


Ulf Sjöblom
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Jan Wiede, President
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Finnish Bowling Federation



Melissa McDaniel, President
United States Bowling Congress

Proposal Package
IBF Articles of Association
Chapters 2, 5, 6, and 7.

Sub package #1

The following proposed change focuses IBF on a smaller number of objectives in its Purpose.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 2 - Name, Headquarters, Purpose, Duration, Resources and Organization

Article 2.2 – Purpose

The purpose of the IBF is among other things:

- to encourage the international development of the sport of Bowling, Tenpin Bowling, Ninepin Bowling and any variations similar to Bowling, and of Para Bowling;
- to promote Bowling and Para Bowling as a sport of international standing and recognition;
- to promote Bowling as a sport for Olympic status, and Para Bowling as a sport for Paralympic status;
- to organize for its member federations:
 - world championships,
 - any major events related to Bowling or Para Bowling with international impact;
- to act as the international federation for Bowling, as well as for Para Bowling in the Olympic Movement and thereby to establish and enforce, in accordance with the Olympic Charter and International Paralympic Committee Handbook the rules concerning the playing of Bowling with the intention to be part of the Olympic Games, and of Para Bowling in the Paralympic Games, and to fulfil in respect of the sport of Bowling, and of Para Bowling the mission and role of an international federation within the Olympic movement, and within the Paralympic movement;
- to encourage and support measures among its competitions and members (and their athletes) that safeguard the integrity of Bowling, and Para Bowling, and protect clean athletes through the fight against doping and the prevention of the manipulation of competitions;
- to encourage and support measures related to the medical care and health of the athletes that participate in IBF competitions;
- to secure the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in these Statutes without discrimination of any kind, such as age, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, disability, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status; and
- to set up any entity which would promote the purposes of IBF.

PROPOSAL...

Delete “among other things” in the opening sentence.

Delete bullets 2, 3, 6, 7, and 9

Change bullet 1 to state:

“to manage the international sport of Bowling, Tenpin Bowling, Ninepin Bowling and Para Bowling;”

Change bullet 4 to state:

“to organize World Championships and other world level events for its member federations;”

Change bullet 5 to state:

“to position the sport of bowling within the Olympic Movement, and operate in compliance within the principles of the International Olympic Committee (hereafter the “IOC”) and other relevant sports association or organizations;”

Change bullet 8 to state:

“to provide an equal opportunity to participate in international bowling competitions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, political or other opinion, or National or social origin.”

NEW ARTICLE...

Upon approval, Article 2.2 – Purpose would state:

The purpose of the IBF is:

- to manage the international sport of Bowling, Tenpin Bowling, Ninepin Bowling and Para Bowling;
- to organize World Championships and other world level events for its member federations;
- to position the sport of bowling within the Olympic Movement, and operate in compliance within the principles of the International Olympic Committee (hereafter the “IOC”) and other relevant sports association or organizations;
- to provide an equal opportunity to participate in international bowling competitions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, political or other opinion, or National or social origin.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

An Organizational Purpose contains the main objectives that are being pursued by an organization. An organization should have clear, focused set of articulated purposes. Too many may cause the governing body to lose sight of the organization’s main objectives.

Sub package #2

This set of proposals allows members to vote virtually and removes proxy voting.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 5 – General Meeting

Article 5.2 – Composition and Attendance

The General Meeting is composed of the authorized delegates of the Members. Each Member in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the General Meeting by one delegate, who can be accompanied by one individual (without any voting right).

The President of the General Meeting is the President of the Committee, chairs the General Meeting, but shall not have any voting rights. In the absence of the President, the General Meeting shall be chaired by the first Vice President of the Committee, subsidiarily by the second Vice President, or more subsidiarily by a member of the Committee.

The Vice Presidents, the members of the Committee and the Associated Members may attend the General Meeting, but shall have no voting rights, except if acting as a proxy on behalf of a Member or the delegate of a Member.

The external Auditor is invited to the General Meeting, without any voting right.

PROPOSAL...

Delete “except if acting as a proxy on behalf of a Member or the delegate of a Member sentence” from paragraph 3.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 5 – General Meeting

Article 5.6 – Quorum

One third (1/3) of the Members shall be present or duly represented for a vote to be validly carried out. Votes on the disbandment of the IBF require a presence quorum of four fifths (4/5) of the Members.

If the quorum is not met, the General Meeting shall be reconvened in six weeks and no quorum shall be necessary for this meeting.

PROPOSAL...

Delete “or duly represented” from the first paragraph.

Delete “a presence” and replace with “an in person”

Delete the last paragraph.

Upon Approval, Article 5.6 would state:

One third (1/3) of the Members shall be present for a vote to be validly carried out. Votes on the disbandment of the IBF require an in person quorum of four fifths (4/5) of the Members.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 5 – General Meeting

Article 5.8 – Ballot, number of votes and majority

Each Member, present or represented via proxy at the General Meeting, is entitled to one (1) vote. Voting and elections shall take place by a show of hands or electronic means unless a secret ballot is requested by a majority of the Members present.

Decisions of the General Meeting are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast, unless a majority of two-thirds (2/3) or higher is required by the Statutes.

PROPOSAL...

Delete “or represented via proxy”

Add “,either in person or virtually”

Upon Approval, Article 5.8 would state:

“Each Member present, either in person or virtually, at the General Meeting, is entitled to one (1) vote.”

Decisions of the General Meeting are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast, unless a majority of two-thirds (2/3) or higher is required by the Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

Attending the World Bowling Congress and representing one’s Federation is an important duty of a delegate. In exercising one’s right to vote as a fully informed delegate, the Member must be present, in person or virtually, to hear the arguments and comments of fellow Members before voting on a matter before the delegation. In addition, the use of proxies carried by one Member on behalf of one or more Members gives undue influence to the Member who is present and dilutes (lessens) the voting power of a fellow Member who is present.

Lastly, the provision in the current Articles that allows a General Meeting to be conducted later, without quorum, is contrary to due process, Roberts Rules, international laws and customs, and IOC standards. Therefore that provision has been eliminated.

Sub package #3

This set of proposals changes the composition of the Executive Board, how members are elected to and removed from the board, the quorum of a board meeting and creates term limits.

PRESENT ARTICLES...

Chapter 6 – Committee

Article 6.1 – Composition

The Committee is composed of the following members :

- a) The President;
- b) The first Vice President;
- c) The second Vice President;
- d) The President of each Zone Organization;
- e) The delegate of each Zone Organization, whose members' number is 15 or more;
- f) A representative of the athletes;
- g) The CEO;
- h) A representative of Para Bowling.

The members of the Committee are in charge for four years. Re-election is possible.

The Committee is organized as it sees fit.

PROPOSAL...

Delete Article in its entirety and replace with the following:

“The Executive Board is comprised of the following members:

- a) Eight Zone Representatives appointed by their respective Zone
 - 1. Each zone receives one representative
 - 2. Zones with 15 or more Federations receive one extra representative
- b) Three Athletes appointed by the Athlete Committee
 - 1. Each athlete must come from a different zone.
 - 2. At least one athlete must be male, one must be female and one must be a Para Athlete”

Upon Approval, “Committee” will be changed to “Executive Board” in the Statues.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal maintains Zone representation and with proportionality among the Zones. The Proposal gives more voice to the Athletes (consistent with IOC standards) and assures the Athletes represent the Zones and the different athlete communities.

PRESENT ARTICLES...

Chapter 6 – Committee

Article 6.3 – Meeting and Agenda

The Committee meets as often as necessary and at least once a year. The Committee is convened by the President or upon request made to the President by at least five of its members.

The meeting may for any reason be met and held electronically or telephonically unless a majority of the members of the Committee requires a physical meeting.

The invitation to the meeting and the agenda shall be sent by email or registered mail by the President at least three weeks before the date of the meeting. The President is also in charge of the agenda.

PROPOSAL...

Delete the first sentence of paragraph one and replace with the following:

“The Executive Board meets as often as necessary and at least four times a year. At least one Executive Board meeting per year must be held in person.”

Delete the second paragraph and replace with:

“The Executive Board may meet in person, by telephone, or virtually as long as all members can hear one another and participate in the meeting.”

Add a new paragraph to state:

“The Executive Board can act by written resolution in between meetings or in lieu of an in person meeting.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal sets the expectation that the Executive Board meet regularly and one meeting per year (calendar) be in person. Regular meetings assure the Board is actively engaged and regularly conducts the business of the IBF in a participatory manner. Written resolutions between meetings to conduct necessary business is a best practice.

PRESENT ARTICLES...

Chapter 6 – Committee

Article 6.4 – Quorum

Four voting members of the Committee, representing at least three ZOs shall constitute a quorum of the Committee. If the quorum is not met, the Committee shall be reconvened in two (2) weeks and no quorum shall be necessary for this meeting.

PROPOSAL...

Delete and replace with:

“Six voting members of the Executive Board, with at least one being an officer, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal simplifies the quorum definition and assures a majority of the duly elected Board members be present to lawfully conduct business. Unless a quorum is present the Board cannot act which is consistent with international standards, Roberts Rules, and best governing practices.

PRESENT ARTICLES...

Chapter 6 – Committee

No Present Articles

PROPOSAL...

Add a new Article, Officers, to state:

“The Officers of the Executive Board will be:

- a) President
- b) First Vice President
- c) Second Vice President

The officers will be elected by a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Board where a quorum exists.

A sitting Zone President cannot be an officer of the Executive Board. Should a Zone President be elected as an officer, he or she must resign as the president of the zone.”

PROPOSAL...

Add a new Article, Terms and Term Limits, to state:

“Multiple terms may be served either consecutively or intermittently, but all Executive Board members are subject to a lifetime maximum of eight years on the Executive Board. Terms for each position are as follows:

- a) President – Two year terms with a maximum of two terms
- b) Vice Presidents – Two year terms with a maximum of four terms
- c) Board Members – Four year terms with a maximum of two terms”

PROPOSAL...

Add a new Article, Resignations, Removals and Vacancies, to state:

- a) Resignation. A member of the Executive Board may resign from the Board by providing written notice of resignation to the President or, in the case of the President, to the Board.
- b) Removal.
 - 1) A Board Member may be removed with or without cause by a majority vote of the balance of the Executive Board.
 - 2) Any board member who has two consecutive unexcused absences or three cumulative unexcused absences per four year term from an Executive Board meeting shall be automatically removed.
 - a. The President may excuse a board member's absence.
 - b. The President may offer a hybrid virtual option for the excused member.
- c) Vacancies. Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
 - 1) By the Executive Board for any officer position;
 - 2) A Zone Organization fills vacancies of its representatives
 - 3) Athletes fill a vacancy of the athlete representatives;

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

These changes follow best practices regarding defined terms, term limits, resignation and removal procedures, and accountability for active participation and attendance of the governing board. The Executive Board is highest authority of the IBF and members are expected to be focused, and accountable to those they represent. Term limits foster focus, assure that one does not serve too long or “for life” and provide for greater participation and new ideas from the Federations, Zones, and Athletes. Implementation of this Proposal will allow for staggered terms of Board members to assure continuity.

NEW CHAPTER...

Upon Approval, Articles 6.2, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 would be renumbered

Upon Approval, Chapter 6 would be renamed “Executive Board” and state:

Article 6.1 – Composition

The Executive Board is comprised of the following members:

- a) Eight Zone Representatives appointed by their respective Zone
 - 1. Each zone receives one representative.
 - 2. Zones with 15 or more Federations receive one extra representative.
- b) Three Athletes appointed by the Athlete Committee
 - 1. Each athlete must come from a different zone.
 - 2. At least one athlete must be male, one must be female, and one must be a Para Athlete.

Article 6.2 – Officers

The Officers of the Executive Board will be:

- a) President
- b) First Vice President
- c) Second Vice President

The officers will be elected by a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Board where a quorum exists.

A sitting Zone President cannot be an officer of the Executive Board. Should a Zone President be elected as an officer, he or she must resign as the president of the zone.

Article 6.3 – Terms and Term Limits

Multiple terms may be served either consecutively or intermittently, but all Executive Board members are subject to a lifetime maximum of eight years on the Executive Board. Terms for each position are as follows:

- a) President – Two year terms with a maximum of two terms
- b) Vice Presidents – Two year terms with a maximum of four terms
- c) Board Members – Four year terms with a maximum of two terms

Article 6.4 – Meeting and Agenda:

The Executive Board meets as often as necessary and at least four times a year. At least one Executive Board meeting per year must be held in person. The Committee is convened by the President or upon request made to the President by at least five of its members.

The Executive Board may meet in person, by telephone, or virtually as long as all members can hear one another and participate in the meeting.

The invitation to the meeting and the agenda shall be sent by email or registered mail by the President at least three weeks before the date of the meeting. The President is also in charge of the agenda.

The Executive Board can act by written resolution in between meetings or in lieu of an in person meeting.

Article 6.5 – Quorum

Six voting members of the Executive Board, with at least one being an officer, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board

Article 6.6 – Resignations, Removals and Vacancies

- a) **Resignation.** A member of the Executive Board may resign from the Board by providing written notice of resignation to the President or, in the case of the President, to the Board.
- b) **Removal.**
 - 1) A Board Member may be removed with or without cause by a majority vote of the balance of the Executive Board.
 - 2) Any board member who has two consecutive unexcused absences or three cumulative unexcused absences per four year term from an Executive Board meeting shall be automatically removed.
 - a. The President can excuse a board member's absence
 - b. The President may offer a hybrid virtual option for the excused member.
- c) **Vacancies.** Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
 - 1) By the Executive Board for any officer position;
 - 2) A Zone Organization fills vacancies of its representatives
 - 3) Athletes fill a vacancy of the athlete representatives;

Sub package #4

This proposal creates standing committees.

PROPOSAL...

Add a new Chapter, Committees, to state:

7.1 Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of IBF will have a minimum voting strength of five. Each Zone appoints a committee member for each Standing Committee. Committee appointments are for two years. The Standing Committees are:

- a) Finance/Audit. The Finance/Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving annual budget along with reviewing independent audits
- b) Competitions. The Competitions Committee recommends tournament sites selections to the Executive Board for approval and has delegated authority from board to:
 - 1) Add additional athletes to the Committee which are appointed by Athletes Committee
 - 2) Adopt tournament rules
 - 3) Establish standard operating procedures and standards.
- c) Athletes. The Athletes Committee represents the interest of the athletes
- d) Governance (Legal & Legislative). The Governance Committee may add additional athletes to its Committee which are appointed by Athletes Committee and is responsible for:
 - 1) Submitting nominations to committees
 - 2) Reviewing and recommending changes to statutes and policies
 - 3) Establishing policies and procedures for Inclusion in sport (Diversity/Women)

7.2 Other Committees - The President may establish other IBF committees with approval of the Executive Board.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal aligns the Committees to the Zones, allows for proportional representation, allows for “experts” or most qualified to engage in the varying needs of the organization. The Proposal also allows for the work of the organization to be delegated to a committee structure and the Executive Board to serve in a policy making, strategic, and oversite role. The Proposal aligns with the focused purposes of the IBF and represents usual functions served by committees in profit and not for profit organizations.

Sub package #5

This set of proposals helps create financial transparency.

PRESENT ARTICLES...

Chapter 7 – Auditor

Article 7.1 – Composition

The financial year end accounts of the IBF shall be audited by an external auditor as shall be determined by the General Meeting.

PROPOSAL...

Delete and replace with:

“An Independent audit will be conducted every two years and published on the website at least 30 days in advance of the IBF General Meeting. The Finance/Audit Committee will recommend an auditor to the Executive Board for approval.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal sets a more realistic and cost effective expectation relating to an outside audit by an independent qualified auditing firm. The Proposal also allows for transparency of the IBF's finances which in turn empowers the Zones and Federations and Athletes to raise questions and concerns about budget, spending, and policy of the IBF.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 7 – Auditor

Article 7.2 – Audit Standard

The IBF must submit its accounts to a full audit by the external auditor of international standing. The IBF must submit its accounts to a limited audit by the external auditor of international standing if the majority of the General Meeting so requests.

PROPOSAL...

Delete and replace with:

“Failure to publish annual financial reports or independent audit will result in automatic removal of the CEO and board officers from the board.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal establishes accountability for the preparation and publication of the annual financial reports and the independent audit. This again allows the Zones, Federations, and Athletes to have insight into the finances of the organization which they support through their annual dues.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 7 – Auditor

Article 7.3 – Financial year and accounts

The financial year of IBF shall start on January 1 and end on December 31.

A copy of the financial year end accounts of the IBF shall be provided to:

- a) each Member;
- b) each Zone Organization;
- c) each member of the Committee;
- d) Each Associated Member, subject to the sole discretion of the Committee.

PROPOSAL...

Delete the second sentence and items a-d and replace with:

“The CEO is responsible for getting financial reports:

- a) Sent monthly to the Finance/Audit Committee and the Executive Board.
- b) Published annually and placed on the IBF website before May 1.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal makes clear what is the fiscal year, when financial reports are due to be published, and to whom.

PRESENT ARTICLE...

Chapter 7 – Auditor No Present Articles

PROPOSAL...

Add a new Article, Payment of Fees, to state:

“Federations must submit fees directly to its Zone and to IBF yearly. Failure to pay its yearly fees will result in the Federation being ineligible for Zone and IBF competition until all fees are paid.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE...

The Proposal clarifies and makes uniform the payment of annual dues to the IBF. The Proposal also makes clear the responsibility to pay dues and consequences if not paid, rests with the Federations.

NEW CHAPTER...

Upon Approval, Chapter 7 would be renumbered Chapter 8 and renamed “Finances and Fees”

Upon Approval, Chapter 8 would state:

Article 8.1 – Composition

An Independent audit will be conducted every two years and published on the website at least 30 days in advance of the IBF General Meeting. The Finance/Audit Committee will recommend an auditor to the Executive Board for approval.

Article 8.2 – Financial year and accounts

The financial year of IBF shall start on January 1 and end on December 31.

The CEO is responsible for getting financial reports:

- a) Sent monthly to the Finance/Audit Committee and the Executive Board.
- b) Published annually and placed on the IBF website before May 1.

Article 8.3 – Failure to Act

Failure to publish annual financial reports or independent audit will result in automatic removal of the CEO and board officers from the board.

Article 8.4 – Payment of Fees

Federations must submit fees directly to its Zone and to IBF yearly. Failure to pay its yearly fees will result in the Federation being ineligible for Zone and IBF competition until all fees are paid.