



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

# World Federation of the Deaf Statutes

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## ARTICLE 1: BACKGROUND

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- 1.1 The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in Rome 1951. The official Statutes of the organisation were adopted by the first WFD General Assembly in Rome, Italy on 23 September 1951.
- 1.2 These Statutes were amended by the WFD General Assembly on the following locations and dates:
- Stockholm, Sweden: 22-23 August 1963
  - Warsaw, Poland: 11 August 1967
  - Espoo, Finland: 20-21 July 1987
  - Tokyo, Japan: 3 July 1991
  - Vienna, Austria: 8 July 1995
  - Montreal, Canada: 18 July 2003
  - Madrid, Spain: 15 July 2007
  - Durban, South Africa: 16-17 July 2011
  - Istanbul, Turkey: 26-28 July 2015
  - Paris, France: 21-22 July 2019

## ARTICLE 2: LOCATION

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- 2.1 The legal seat of the WFD is located in Helsinki, Finland. The operations of the WFD are international in scope.

## ARTICLE 3: STATUS

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- 3.1 The WFD is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation and does not discriminate against any organisation or individual on the basis of abilities, disabilities, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion.

## ARTICLE 4: RELATIONSHIPS

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- 4.1 The WFD shall develop and maintain official relations with the United Nations (UN) and its specialised agencies and organisations. The WFD shall also cooperate with other international organisations promoting the interests of deaf people and international organisations representing people with disabilities.

## ARTICLE 5: FLAG

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- 5.1 The flag of the organisation is white with the WFD symbol at its centre. On the upper left corner are the letters FMS and at the lower right corner WFD (initials in French and English, respectively). The logo consists of three (3) small blue interlaced circles on a white background, surrounded by three (3) large blue concentric circles and five (5) pentacles (red, yellow, green, blue, and black) evenly spaced arranged on the second large concentric circle. Two blue laurels surround the symbol.

## ARTICLE 6: LANGUAGES

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- 6.1 International Sign shall be used at all WFD meetings.
- 6.2 English shall be used for written purposes in all official WFD minutes, reports, documents, correspondence, and informational materials.
- 6.3 The registration written language of the WFD is Finnish.

## ARTICLE 7: AIMS

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- 7.1 In accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

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and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies, the WFD shall develop its activities towards the goal of equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society by deaf individuals in every country.

- 7.2 Accordingly, the WFD works towards the global achievement of human rights for all deaf people. Toward this aim, the WFD:
- a) advocates for full access to society, including education in sign language, by which deaf people can enjoy the same equality and human rights as all other peoples;
  - b) promotes the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members; and
  - c) ensures that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign languages and receive support from their government, local authorities, and communities for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities.

### ARTICLE 8: ACTIVITIES

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- 8.1 The WFD pursues its objectives by guiding and giving support to the activities of its members, and supporting the establishment of new organisations as may be necessary. Specifically, the WFD:
- a) takes initiatives and makes proposals to improve the status of deaf people and makes statements on issues concerning deaf people;
  - b) advocates for the legal recognition of sign language in all countries;
  - c) promotes cultural activities of deaf people and accessibility to cultural services in general;
  - d) provides information and resources;
  - e) increases equal opportunities for full participation of deaf people in society;
  - f) advances the establishment and expansion of Sign Language interpreting services in all countries;
  - g) promotes usage of the latest technologies by deaf people;
  - h) supports the human rights of deaf people;
  - i) participates on the international level in cooperation with key stakeholders, e.g., organisations of the deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, and other persons with disabilities; government officials; and other authorities;
  - j) disseminates scientific and legal materials on the current needs of deaf people in publications and other media;
  - k) distributes and makes UN documents available to all organisations and experts interested in sign language and deaf culture;
  - l) administers development cooperation activities; and
  - m) carries out other actions serving the objectives of the WFD for the advancement of deaf people worldwide.

### ARTICLE 9: SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITIES

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- 9.1 For its activities the WFD shall raise funds through collection of fees from the various membership categories.
- 9.2 The WFD shall establish funds, receive donations, arrange for receipt of legacies, and organise fund-raising campaigns.
- 9.3 The activities of the WFD may not mainly consist of business activities.

### ARTICLE 10: MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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- 10.1 The World Federation of the Deaf shall have the following membership categories:
- a) Ordinary Members (OMs)

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- b) Associate Members (AMs)
- c) International Members (INTMs)
- d) Honorary Members (HMs)
- e) Individual Members (IMs)
- f) Youth Ordinary Members (YOMs)
- g) Youth Individual Members (YIMs)

### **ARTICLE 11: ORDINARY MEMBERS (OMs)**

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- 11.1 Any recognised or registered national organisation of the deaf, with legal status, and that has an established position in its country, its majority of members are deaf persons, and its vision and aims similar to those of the WFD, may apply for Ordinary Member (OM) status.
- 11.2 The WFD Board shall review for approval Ordinary Member applications by eligible national organisations of the deaf.
- 11.3 Ordinary Membership shall be limited to one national organisation of the deaf in each country. The WFD Board shall have the authority to approve exceptions to this Statute, for extraordinary circumstances.
- 11.4 If two or more national organisations of the deaf state that they represent deaf people in a country, the WFD Board shall use “WFD Role in Ordinary Member Conflicts” to determine which of the national organisations has the widest recognition among the deaf population in that country.
- 11.5 Ordinary Members shall inform the WFD Secretariat of any changes to their organisational statutes as well as any deaf leadership changes, for the official WFD record.
- 11.6. Ordinary Members shall be responsible for timely, consecutive-year, and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD.
- 11.7 Any Ordinary Member that has not fulfilled their overdue membership fee within three (3) months of the due date of the fee shall not be permitted to use their voting right in all WFD meetings, nor do they have the right to submit agenda items or participate in the board or award nominations.
- 11.8 If an Ordinary Member has failed to pay their membership fee for over three (3) months after the due date of the fee, the member may be suspended from the WFD. If an Ordinary Member has failed to pay their membership fee for over four (4) years, the member shall be removed from the WFD.
- 11.9 Ordinary Members that have defaulted on their annual membership fees shall be noted in the WFD Board meeting minutes and the General Assembly minutes.
- 11.10. Ordinary Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.

### **ARTICLE 12: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (AMs)**

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- 12.1 Any national or regional organisation that does not meet the criteria to become an Ordinary Member, or cannot become an Ordinary Member because one already exists in their country, shall be encouraged to apply for Associate Member (AM) status.
- 12.2 Associate Members are expected to support the vision and aims of the WFD.
- 12.3 The WFD Board shall review for approval Associate Member applications by eligible organisations.

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- 12.4 Associate members shall be responsible for timely and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD
- 12.5 Upon payment of annual membership fees, Associate Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges during the WFD General Assembly.
- 12.6 If an Associate Member has failed to pay their membership fee for more than three (3) months after the due date of the fee, the Associate Member shall be suspended from the WFD. The further process including the removal of membership shall be governed by the Internal Rules.
- 12.7 Associate Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.

### **ARTICLE 13: INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS (INTMs)**

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- 13.1 International organisations, having legal capacity and applying for International Member (INTM) status, must provide evidence of their international focus, objectives, and activities, and explain how these are in line with the vision and aims of the WFD.
- 13.2 The WFD Board shall review for approval all International Member applications by eligible organisations.
- 13.3 International Members shall be responsible for timely and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD. If an International Member has failed to pay their membership fee for more than three (3) months after the due date of the fee, the International Member shall be suspended from the WFD. The further process including the removal of membership shall be governed by the Internal Rules.
- 13.4 Upon payment of annual membership fees, International Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges during the WFD General Assembly.
- 13.5 International Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.
- 13.6 The WFD shall provide support to and collaborate with International Members towards achievement of mutual goals, e.g., defending rights and benefits and seeking solutions.

### **ARTICLE 14: HONORARY PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

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- 14.1 Honorary Member (HM) status may be conferred upon persons who have served with distinction and dedication on the WFD Board, its committees, expert networks, or having contributed to the benefit of the WFD. The WFD Board shall propose Honorary Member candidates for approval by the WFD General Assembly.
- 14.2 Honorary Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges at WFD Board meetings, the WFD General Assembly, and other WFD activities.
- 14.3 Honorary Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.
- 14.4 Honorary Member status may be declined by the honouree.

### **ARTICLE 15: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (IMs)**

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- 15.1 Individuals who wish to support the WFD, its vision and aims, may apply for Individual Member (IM) status

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- 15.2 The Individual Member applications are approved upon the arrival of payment of the membership fee.
- 15.3 Individual Members shall be responsible for timely and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD. The Individual Member shall be removed from the WFD, if after three months (3) past the deadline for payment no fee is paid.
- 15.4 Upon payment of annual membership fees, Individual Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges during the WFD General Assembly.
- 15.5 Individual Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.

### **ARTICLE 16: YOUTH ORDINARY MEMBERS (YOMs)**

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- 16.1 Any recognised or registered national youth organisation of the deaf, with legal status, its members are within the age range of 18 to 30, its vision and aims similar to those of the WFD, and it has the support of the national WFD Ordinary Member (OM), may apply for Youth Ordinary Member (YOM) status.
- 16.2 The WFD Board shall review for approval Youth Ordinary Member applications by eligible youth national organisations of the deaf.
- 16.2 Youth Ordinary Membership shall be limited to one youth national organisation of the deaf in each country.
- 16.4. Youth Ordinary Members shall be responsible for timely and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD. If a Youth Ordinary Member has failed to pay their membership fee for more than three (3) months after the due date of the fee, the Youth Ordinary Member shall be suspended from the WFD. If a Youth Ordinary Member has failed to pay their membership fee for over four (4) years, the member shall be removed from the WFD.
- 16.5 Upon payment of annual membership fees, Youth Ordinary Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges during the WFD General Assembly. Further, Youth Ordinary Members shall be entitled to privileges associated with the WFD Youth Section (WFDYS) General Assembly, as determined by the WFDYS Board.
- 16.6 Youth Ordinary Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFD and other privileges as determined by the WFD Board.

### **ARTICLE 17: YOUTH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (YIMs)**

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- 17.1 Individuals within the age range of 18 to 30 who wish to support the WFD and the WFDYS, its vision and aims, may apply for Youth Individual Member (YIM) status.
- 17.2 The Youth Individual Member applications are approved upon the arrival of payment of the membership fee.
- 17.3 Youth Individual Members shall be responsible for timely and full payment of annual membership fees to the WFD. The Youth Individual Member shall be removed from the WFD, if after three months (3) of the due date no fee is paid.
- 17.4 Upon payment of annual membership fees, Youth Individual Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges during the WFD General Assembly and the WFDYS General Assembly.

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- 17.5 Youth Individual Members shall be entitled to receive information from the WFDYS and other privileges as determined by the WFDYS Board.

### ARTICLE 18: EXECUTIVE BODIES

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- 18.1 The executive bodies of the organisation are the meetings of the WFD General Assembly, the WFD Board and the WFD Secretariat.
- 18.2 The decision-making power lies in the WFD General Assembly. The executive body responsible to the WFD General Assembly is the WFD Board elected by the WFD General Assembly. The WFD Secretariat is the administrative body.

### ARTICLE 19: MEETINGS OF THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

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- 19.1 Each national organisation of the deaf is allowed up to two (2) deaf delegates, preferably one male and one female, at meetings of the WFD General Assembly. Any Ordinary Member that has not fulfilled their overdue membership fee within three (3) months of the due date of the fee shall not use their voting right in the WFD meetings.
- 19.2 WFD General Assembly shall be held every four years. The WFD President and the WFD Secretariat shall call the WFD General Assembly at least twelve (12) months in advance by mail or e-mail. The official call shall be accompanied by a proposed Agenda.
- 19.3 The WFD General Assembly shall have the decision-making power when it has been called, according to the Statutes.
- 19.4 Proposals for inclusion in the Agenda of the General Assembly shall be received by the WFD Secretariat at least six (6) months in advance of the General Assembly. The final agenda with attached reports and other materials shall be sent to all Ordinary Members at least two (2) months in advance of the General Assembly.

### ARTICLE 20: FUNCTIONS OF THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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- 20.1 The WFD General Assembly shall have the following functions:
- a) Review and accept on submitted reports by the WFD Board on activities of the WFD;
  - b) review and accept submitted audited financial reports and to discharge the WFD Board and auditors from liability for the accounts;
  - c) develop action plans for future activities;
  - d) review and give new policy guidelines for the WFD;
  - e) consider and vote on all submitted recommendations, motions and proposals;
  - f) consider and approve amendments to the WFD Statutes;
  - g) decide on limits for annual membership fees;
  - h) elect members of the WFD Board;
  - i) adopt recommendations for the appointment of an auditor, and a deputy auditor;
  - j) determine the site of the next World Congress of the WFD; and
  - k) confer Honorary Membership upon deserving individuals.
- 20.2 Delegates attending the WFD General Assembly shall be responsible for their own travel and other expenses.
- 20.3 International Sign shall be used for communication within the WFD General Assembly. All delegates shall assume responsibility for acquiring a working knowledge of International Sign.

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## **ARTICLE 21: VOTING AT THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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- 21.1 Any Ordinary Member that has not made full payment of their membership fee within three (3) months of the due date of the fee shall not use their voting right in WFD meetings. Each Ordinary Member is entitled to one (1) vote.
- 21.2 Voting may be done via electronic voting, by show of hands, or, if requested, by ten (10) or more Ordinary Members, by secret ballot.
- 21.3 All questions except proposals for amendments in the Statutes or for the dissolution of the WFD shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the valid votes cast. Amendments to the Statutes shall require two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes of members present and entitled to vote.
- 21.4 In the event of a tied vote (on all matters except elections), the chair shall re-open debate and then call for a new vote from the WFD General Assembly. In the event of a second tied vote, the motion shall fail.
- 21.5 In the event of a tied vote during Board elections, the chair shall call for a new vote from the WFD General Assembly. Voting processes for each candidate position shall continue until there is a majority vote.
- 21.6 All motions, including failed motions, shall be recorded in the WFD General Assembly minutes.

## **ARTICLE 22: EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

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- 22.1 The WFD shall convene an extraordinary meeting when the WFD Meeting so decides, or when the WFD Board considers justified, or when at least one tenth (1/10) of the Ordinary Members entitled to vote so demand, to address issues that require immediate attention.
- 22.2 The final agenda with attached reports as well as the meeting call shall be sent to all WFD Ordinary Members at least one (1) month in advance by mail or e-mail.
- 22.3 All motions, including failed motions, shall be recorded in the WFD extraordinary meeting minutes.

## **ARTICLE 23: THE WFD BOARD**

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- 23.1 The WFD General Assembly shall elect two WFD Board officers (President and Vice President) and up to nine (9) and no less than five (5) WFD Board members. No two (2) WFD Board members or officers shall have the same nationality.
- 23.2 Members entitled to vote shall be eligible to submit nominations for WFD Board positions. Ordinary Members shall provide evidence of their commitment to travel and subsistence support for their nominees, if elected to the WFD Board. Such commitment involves meetings of the WFD Board and its standing committees.
- 23.3 In the election of WFD Board Members, the WFD General Assembly shall take into consideration the United Nations (UN) principles of gender equality and regional balance.
- 23.4 The WFD President shall open the meetings of the WFD General Assembly and presides over the WFD Board meetings.
- 23.5 If the WFD President is not available, the WFD Vice President shall open meetings of the WFD General Assembly and the WFD Board. The President and/or Vice President may designate this role to another member of the WFD Board should the Vice President also not be available.

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- 23.6 The WFD Board Members shall serve only for the good of WFD. Members of the WFD Board are elected for a four-year term, and may be re-elected.
- 23.7 The WFD Board Members shall perform various duties as determined by the WFD Board.
- 23.8 Where the President, Vice President or Board members of WFD have been requested to attend international conferences in their WFD capacity then they shall primarily serve as official representatives of the WFD. These WFD representatives do so with the understanding that they do not represent their national organisation of the deaf (Ordinary Member) or other organisations. The WFD President may also designate other qualified individuals to represent the WFD at international or national meetings.

### **ARTICLE 24: VACANCIES AND REPLACEMENT OF WFD BOARD MEMBERS**

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- 24.1 Should the WFD President die, retire or become incapacitated, the WFD Vice President shall act as President and serve until the next WFD General Assembly. Upon the Vice President assuming the President position, the Board at its next meeting shall then appoint a Vice President from among the remaining members of the Board.
- 24.2 Should the WFD Vice President die, retire or become incapacitated, the WFD Board at its next meeting shall appoint a Vice President from among the remaining members of the Board.
- 24.3 Should a WFD Board vacancy occur, apart from the President and /or Vice President, the person to fill that vacancy shall be appointed in a meeting of the WFD Board in a timely manner.
- 24.4 If a WFD Board Member is absent from two consecutive WFD Board meetings without valid reason, the Board member may be removed from the Board by a unanimous vote of the Board Members present.

### **ARTICLE 25: MINUTES OF THE WFD BOARD MEETINGS**

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- 25.1 The WFD Secretariat shall send draft minutes of WFD Board meetings to all WFD Board Members within two (2) months after each meeting. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the draft minutes, WFD Board Members shall provide their feedback on the minutes with the WFD Secretariat. The draft minutes shall be revised and then finalised for approval at the following WFD Board meeting.

### **ARTICLE 26: WFD SECRETARIAT**

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- 26.1 The WFD Secretariat, as directed by the WFD Board, shall implement decisions made by the WFD General Assembly.
- 26.2 The WFD Secretariat shall report to the WFD Board and works under the direction of the WFD President.
- 26.3 The WFD President shall define the objectives of the work of the Secretariat, subject to approval by the Board.
- 26.4 Members of the WFD Secretariat have no voting privileges at WFD Board meetings as well as at the WFD General Assembly.

### **ARTICLE 27: FINANCE COMMITTEE (FC)**

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- 27.1 The WFD Board, at its first Board meeting of the new term, shall establish a Finance Committee (FC).

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27.2 The Finance Committee shall be composed of at least two (2) WFD Board members with the option of a nonvoting member who is not a WFD Board Member.

27.3 The Finance Committee shall provide support to the WFD Board and the WFD Secretariat in administration of the WFD finances.

### ARTICLE 28: OTHER COMMITTEES

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28.1 The WFD Board may establish any other committees deemed necessary, to operate under the WFD Board's supervision, at any time and for any period of time.

### ARTICLE 29: REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

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29.1 In response to the request by at least three (3) Ordinary Members in good standing in a geographical region, the WFD Board may establish a Regional Secretariat. Such Ordinary Members are expected to:

- a) establish Internal Rules; and
- b) take responsibility for financial and moral support for the activities of their Regional Secretariat.

29.2 An official name for the Regional Secretariat shall be subject to the WFD Board approval. The administrator of a Regional Secretariat shall be called the Regional Director.

29.3 The aims and activities of each Regional Secretariat shall be in compliance with those outlined in [Article 8](#) of the WFD Statutes.

29.4 The Regional Directors of each Regional Secretariat shall cooperate with and report to the WFD Secretariat. In the event of mismanagement, the WFD Board may request the Ordinary Members of the Regional Secretariat to remove the Regional Director and appoint a new Regional Director.

29.5 Ordinary Members shall not be a member of more than one (1) Regional Secretariat.

29.6 Regional Directors shall be entitled only to observer privileges at WFD Board meetings, at the discretion of the WFD President.

29.7 The WFD Board may close down or restructure a Regional Secretariat after consultation with the members in the region.

### ARTICLE 30: REGIONAL COOPERATING MEMBERS

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30.1 The WFD Board may, upon request, recognise in a geographical region where no Regional Secretariat exists, a regional association or federation of Ordinary Members as a Regional Cooperating Member.

30.2 The aims and activities of each Regional Cooperating Member shall be compatible with those outlined in [Article 8](#) of the Statutes.

30.3 All Regional Cooperating Members are independent entities but shall cooperate with and report to the WFD Secretariat.

30.4 Regional Cooperating Members shall be entitled only to observer privileges at WFD Board meetings, at the discretion of the WFD President.

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### **ARTICLE 31: WFD YOUTH SECTION (WFDYS)**

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- 31.1 Within the WFD, the WFD Youth Section shall maintain its own elected WFDYS Board and WFDYS internal rules, subject to the approval by the WFD Board.
- 31.2 The WFDYS President or designated WFDYS Board Members shall be entitled only to participatory privileges at WFD Board Meetings and the WFD General Assembly.
- 31.3 The WFDYS shall hold its General Assembly every four (4) years to run parallel with the WFD General Assembly.
- 31.4 The WFD Secretariat shall send official information on youth-related issues to both WFD Ordinary Members and WFD Youth Ordinary Members.

### **ARTICLE 32: WORLD CONGRESS OF THE WFD AND THE WFDYS YOUTH CAMP**

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- 32.1 The World Congress of the WFD and the WFDYS Youth Camp shall convene every four (4) years in conjunction with the WFD General Assembly. The World Congress consists of meetings of scientific commissions as well as other meetings.
- 32.2 All bids and organising activities to do with the WFD Congress and the WFDYS Youth Camp shall adhere to WFD Board-approved guidelines as stipulated in the WFD Internal Rules.

### **ARTICLE 33: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE WFD**

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- 33.1 International conferences of the WFD between World Congresses may be organised by an Ordinary, International, or Associate Member in good standing.
- 33.2 Bids to host International Conferences shall be reviewed and voted upon by the WFD Board, provided that the bid was supported by the OM of the country in which the bid seeks to host the conference.

### **ARTICLE 34: FINANCIAL RECORDS**

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- 34.1 All finances of the WFD, including accounting, records management, and audits, shall be organised by fiscal year, from 1 January to 31 December.
- 34.2 Grouping of all WFD membership categories is based on the criteria to be determined by the Board, following international best practice.
- 34.3 The WFD Board shall recommend a certified public auditor and a deputy auditor for appointment by the WFD General Assembly.
- 34.4 The auditor shall examine all financial records and accounts and prepare the yearly report to be attached to the final agenda for the WFD General Assembly.
- 34.5 All WFD accounts shall be balanced and finalised by the end of February. The auditor shall complete the audited report by 1 April.

### **ARTICLE 35: SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**

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- 35.1 The WFD President and the WFD Vice President shall serve together as the official signature authority on behalf of the WFD. The WFD Board may designate up to two (2) other persons, one of whom shall be authorised to act as co-signatory with the WFD President or WFD Vice President.

## **ARTICLE 36: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

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- 36.1 Amendments, if any, to the WFD Statutes shall be considered only at the WFD General Assembly or an extraordinary meeting and shall require two-thirds (2/3) approval by members entitled to vote.
- 36.2 Proposals for amendments to the WFD Statutes shall be submitted to the WFD Secretariat at least six (6) months prior to the incoming WFD General Assembly.
- 36.3 After careful review by the WFD Board, the WFD Secretariat shall send all proposed amendments along with the WFD Board recommendations to all Ordinary Members entitled to vote at least two (2) months before the WFD General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 37: ENFORCEMENT**

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- 37.1 These WFD Statutes, including any and all amendments, shall take effect upon recordation in the register of associations by the Finnish Patent and Registration Office, in terms of Finnish Association Act, No 503 of 26 May 1989.

## **ARTICLE 38: DISSOLUTION**

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- 38.1 A proposal for the dissolution of the WFD shall be submitted by the WFD Board or by a joint proposal from two-thirds (2/3) of Ordinary Members entitled to vote.
- 38.2 Voting on such a proposal shall be carried out at the WFD General Assembly or an extraordinary meeting. Motions for dissolution must receive three fourths (3/4) approval by members who are both present and entitled to vote.
- 38.3 In the event of dissolution, the WFD shall transfer all its funds and other assets to a public organisation with the aims similar to those of the WFD and in accordance with instructions from the WFD General Assembly after its final decision.

## **ARTICLE 39: WFD ARCHIVES**

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- 39.1 Storage of archives, legal documents, and memorabilia shall be maintained at the current WFD secretariat, or at any other place to be determined by the WFD Board.

## **ARTICLE 40: UNFORESEEN CASES**

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- 40.1 In the event of unforeseen cases or situations not covered by the WFD Statutes, the WFD Board shall have the right to make decisions within its jurisdiction and in accordance with the WFD Statutes, WFD internal rules and the law. Such decisions shall be submitted for ratification at the WFD General Assembly or Extraordinary meeting.

## **ARTICLE 41: DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS**

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- 41.1 Juridical disputes shall be resolved according to Finnish Law.

## **ARTICLE 42: PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS**

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- 42.1 WFD memberships obtained before amendments to these WFD Statutes shall remain until expiration.