



INTERNATIONAL  
MASTERS  
GAMES  
ASSOCIATION

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# Constitution

Adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> April, Bangkok 2018

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## Part 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Art. 01 Name and Site

The International Masters Games Association, hereinafter known as IMGA, is a non-governmental, not for profit international association established for an indefinite period with legal status as association in accordance with Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code.

### Art. 02 Objectives

The objectives of IMGA shall be:

- To strengthen and grow the Masters sports movement in partnership with its members, the international federations and other partners.
- To promote and encourage mature individuals, generally known as Masters, from all over the world to be active, with the awareness that competitive sport can continue throughout life.
- To promote friendship and understanding among mature sportspeople, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or sport status.
- To work with the IOC to explore possibilities to encourage International Sports Federations to focus on the development of masters' sport.

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### Art. 03 Non-discrimination

The IMGA shall allow no political, racial, religious or gender discrimination.

### Art. 04 Autonomy of Members

The IMGA shall not interfere with internal matters of its member federations.

### Art. 05 Seat, Governing Law and Financial Responsibility

The IMGA has its legal seat in Lausanne, Switzerland, and all its relations are governed by Swiss law. Its members, officers and board members shall not have to contribute to its expenses and shall not be liable for its debts.

### Art. 06 Emblem

The emblem of the IMGA shall be five symbolized individuals side by side and holding hands, coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red, all colours in accordance with the colours of the Olympic Rings.

### Art. 07 Language

The official language of IMGA shall be English. Any other language may be used in correspondence or debate only if adequate translation is provided. In case of doubt the English language shall prevail.

#### **Art. 08 Interpretation**

If this constitution or any bye-laws, regulations or guidelines, issued by the IMGA or by a host city organising committee (HCOC), need interpretation, the IMGA Board shall have the sole power to interpret such rules.

## Part 2 MEMBERSHIP

### Art. 09 Members and Associates

The IMGA is an association of International Federations mentioned in Appendix (B). These sports are also referred to as "core-sports" and normally included in the programme of the Games.

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Provided the criteria in Article 10 are met, the IMGA may recognise other International Federations as "Associates" (without voting rights).

The IMGA may recognise other sporting and non-sporting organisations (without voting rights).

### Art. 10 Admission to membership

International Federations applying for membership must meet the following criteria:

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- Be recognised by the IOC or be a member of GAIFS
- Host own Masters events on a regular basis
- Have more than 500 athletes at own masters championships
- Have an established Masters Commission directly responsible to IF management

Application for membership shall be submitted to the IMGA secretariat at least two months before the next General Assembly, where it will be considered.

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A sport which has been represented by more than 500 athletes at minimum three previous events under the authority of IMGA can be put directly forward to full membership. Otherwise a sport will remain an associate sport with no voting rights, until it has been represented by more than 500 athletes at three events organised under the authority of the IMGA, upon which they will be put forward as member candidates with full membership at the following General Assembly.

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Member sports have priority over associate sports on the sports program but the IMGA will seek to assure that associate sports are part of the sports program before non-associate and non-member sports.

### Art. 11 Rights and Obligations of Members

All Members shall have equal rights at IMGA General Assemblies.

All Members are obliged to support IMGA in its efforts to achieve its objectives; to observe the Constitution, bye-laws, regulations and guidelines in relation to IMGA activities; to undertake and observe and accept as binding the decisions of the competent authorities within IMGA and in this regards to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, as the only external judicial authority to deal with any appeal or to resolve any litigation, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country, or any other arbitration body.

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### Art. 12 Resignation

A member federation wishing to withdraw from membership of the IMGA at the end of the current year shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the IMGA secretariat no later than 30 September of that year. In no case can a member federation make demands on the assets of IMGA.

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If a member sport is represented on the sports program of an upcoming IMGA event their membership will not cease until the end of the year when this event is held.

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## Art. 13 Expulsion

If a member federation does not continue to fulfil the current conditions laid down to become a member of IMGA and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the IMGA Board, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the IMGA Board may propose to the General Assembly to expel that federation. The General Assembly shall take its decision after having given the opportunity to the federation to present its case.

## Part 3 ADMINISTRATION

### Art. 14 Administration

The administration of IMGA consists of:

- The General Assembly
- The IMGA Board (see art. 30).

### Art. 15 General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be the supreme authority of the IMGA, whose activities shall be subject to its control.

### Art. 16 Composition and Presidency

The General Assembly shall consist of delegates from the member federations, of IMGA. The President of the IMGA Board shall preside. If the President is not present a Vice President shall chair the meeting. Should the President and Vice President(s) be absent the IMGA Board shall decide who shall chair the meeting. The IMGA Board shall also participate in the General Assembly, without a vote. Board members may not act as delegates of member federations at the General Assembly.

### Art. 17 Delegates and Observers

Associate members and recognised organisations may attend the General Assembly with a maximum of two delegates each.

The IMGA Board may authorize others to attend part or all of the General Assembly as observers.

### Art. 18 Ordinary General Assembly

Delegates shall meet annually in an Ordinary General Assembly, preferably held at the same time and place as the SportAccord Convention.

### Art. 19 Extraordinary General Assembly

Delegates shall meet in an Extraordinary General Assembly when the Annual General Assembly or the IMGA Board so decide, or when at least one fifth of the member federations submit a demand in writing to the IMGA Board, giving reasons therefor.

### Art. 20 Convening Notice and Agenda

The IMGA Board shall send out a convening notice at least 4 months before the date of the General Assembly. The convening notice shall call for member federations to submit in writing any specific proposals for inclusion in the agenda, as well as names of candidates for positions in the IMGA Board, if applicable. This written request must be received by the Secretariat of IMGA not later than three months before the date of the General Assembly. The IMGA Board shall send out the agenda for the General Assembly not later than two months before the date of the Assembly.

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Where possible, reports and any observations on the agenda items shall be sent out with the agenda.





## Art. 21 Agenda for General Assembly

The agenda for an Ordinary General Assembly shall include

- Opening of the session
- Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority
- Appointment of scrutineers (if needed)
- Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly
- President's and Board's report
- Accounts, financial report and auditor's report
- Approval of the accounts for the last fiscal year
- Appointment of the professional auditor for the following fiscal year
- Place and date of next General Assembly
- Report on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon
- Proposals from member federations and from IMGA Board
- Where appropriate, alterations to the Constitution
- Where appropriate, elections
- Any other business.

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Any other item, which a member federation or the IMGA Board may wish to bring up for discussion and/or decision, may be added to the agenda subject to art. 21.

## Art. 22 Proposals from member federations

A member federation may submit in writing to the IMGA Board proposals to be included in the agenda of the General Assembly or to be discussed under an existing agenda item. The reasoning behind each proposal must be submitted with the proposal.

If a proposal is received at the IMGA headquarters at least 3 months before the date of the next General Assembly, it will be included in the agenda for that General Assembly. Proposals received after that date will be included in the agenda for the following General Assembly.

## Art. 23 Proposals from the IMGA Board

The IMGA Board may include any proposal that it considers appropriate, in the agenda, which is sent out not later than two months before the General Assembly. Also the IMGA Board may submit a proposal to the General Assembly at any time provided it relates to an item on the agenda.

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## Art. 24 Alterations to the Constitution and elections

The Constitution may be altered by the General Assembly, Every four years, in the year following the World Masters Summer Games, alterations to the Constitution must be included as an agenda item with a view towards addressing alterations to the Constitution as part of a regular four-year review cycle.

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Elections to the IMGA Board shall be carried out by the General Assembly whenever seats on the Board become available, whether through expiry of a term or by virtue of a casual vacancy.

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## Art. 25 Auditing of Accounts

IMGA's accounts shall be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the IMGA Board. Subsequently, the accounts may be inspected by a representative of a member federation. The fiscal year shall run from 1, January until 31, December.

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## Art. 26 Quorum

Except for the provisions of Article 38, the decisions of the General Assembly shall be valid irrespective of the number of member federations represented.



## Art. 27 Voting

Irrespective of the number of delegates representing it when voting, each member federation shall be entitled to one vote only, including the vote by a representative on the board.

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## Art. 28 Majorities

Subject to the provision of paragraph 2 of this Article and of Article 33, decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken on the basis of a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions, blank, spoiled and invalid votes will not be counted. In the case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidates obtaining the smallest number of the votes cast in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

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Alterations to the Constitution shall be carried only if they obtain two thirds of the votes cast, abstentions and invalid votes do not count.

## Art. 29 Date of taking effect

Elections and decisions of the General Assembly shall take effect immediately after the General Assembly session at which they occurred, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

## Art. 30 Management

The IMGA shall be managed by a Board, consisting of a minimum of nine members and a maximum of thirteen members, as follows:

- One President proposed by either a Member Federation (IF) or any member of the Board and elected by the General Assembly.
- One or two Vice Presidents selected amongst the Board members by the Board, and approved by the AGM.
- One Board member shall have the requisite financial expertise to exercise oversight responsibility over the IMGA's financial operations and shall be selected amongst the Board members to do so, and approved by the AGM.
- A minimum of five and a maximum of seven members from the member IFs and elected by the General Assembly. Of those members at least one shall be elected from a Summer Sports Federation and one from a Winter Sports Federation.
- A minimum of one and a maximum of five, independent members proposed by the IMGA Board and elected by the General Assembly; each representing expertise, knowledge, and continuity within the interest areas of IMGA.
- The CEO of the IMGA ex officio, without a vote.

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The names of the candidates must be received by the Secretariat no later than 3 months before the General Assembly.

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Any representative from a member federation must be approved by their federation.

If one or more positions for election become vacant within 3 months of a General Assembly, the IMGA Board can propose candidates for election to those vacancies at the General Assembly.

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## Art. 31 Election of the IMGA Board

The members of the IMGA Board shall each be elected for a four-year term. They can serve a maximum of three terms.

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The President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer shall each be elected for a four-year term. The President can serve a maximum of three terms as President notwithstanding any previous terms served as a Board member.

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Members of the IMGA Board are eligible for re-election. Only candidates who have been nominated by their federation or the IMGA Board, at least 3 months before the General Assembly are eligible unless a casual vacancy arises within three months of a General Assembly.

In case of casual vacancy, an election for the balance of the term shall take place at the next General Assembly.

In the event there are two Vice Presidents, there must be one of each gender. When proposing candidates for election, the Board shall seek to achieve gender equity while respecting the Board's needs for specific knowledge and/or expertise. At a minimum, there shall be one female Board member from a Summer Sports Federation, one female Board member from a Winter Sports Federation, and one female independent Board member.

A person is independent if they are free from any close connection to the IMGA and if, from the perspective of an objective outsider, they would be viewed as independent. A person may still be deemed to be independent even if they have an affiliation with one of the IMGA's member federations and/or play one of the sports in the Masters Games' programme. Examples of a close connection include but are not limited to: (a) active involvement in the IMGA's affairs within the last four years, as a representative of a specific interest group such as an international federation or a bid committee or current Local Organising Committee of a Masters Games; (b) employment by the IMGA within the last four years; or (c) close family ties with any of the organisation's senior employees and/or a financial interest tied to the IMGA's activities.

## Art. 32 Organisation

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The IMGA Board shall itself attribute different functions to its members.

## Art. 33 Decisions

Decisions of the IMGA Board shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast; abstentions, blank, spoiled and invalid votes will not be counted. In the case of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

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## Art. 34 Duties of the IMGA Board

The duties of the President:

- To represent the IMGA and lead the IMGA Board

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The duties of the Vice Presidents:

- To perform the President's duties if s/he is unavailable.

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The duties of the IMGA Board shall be:

- to take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the objects laid down in Article 2 of the Constitution,
- to ensure the execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly,

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- to appoint city(ies) in charge of the organisation of the next IMGA Masters Games,
- to monitor the progress of the preparations for future IMGA Masters Games and take necessary steps to ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of IMGA Masters Games,
- to approve the proposed sports programme of the IMGA Masters Games,
- to ensure that drug testing is carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations in the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC),
- to ensure compliance with the overall guidelines related to the organisation of IMGA Masters Games,
- to seek organisers for future IMGA Masters Games and to negotiate with them,
- to grant IMGA patronage, upon such terms and conditions as it may consider appropriate, to Masters sport events,
- to recommend a professional auditor, to the General Assembly for appointment,
- to appoint and delegate specific responsibilities to the CEO of IMGA,
- to appoint Honorary positions within the IMGA,
- to introduce and amend bye-laws, regulations and guidelines in relation to all matters, subject to the authority of the IMGA,
- to carry out any other duty not specifically attributed to the General Assembly

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### Art. 35 CEO

The CEO is responsible for the day-to-day administration. The CEO reports to the IMGA Board and seeks their advice and opinion as necessary.

The CEO has the following responsibilities:

- Making recommendations to the President and the Board on the activities of the IMGA.
- Implementing policy and instructions decided by the President and the Board.
- Reporting regularly to the President and the Board.
- Preparing budgets and accounts of the IMGA.
- Preparing the General Assembly and the meetings of the Board.
- Establishing the minutes of these meetings.
- Any other duties specifically delegated by the Board.

### Art. 36 IMGA Board meetings

The IMGA Board shall meet at least once a year, preferably on the occasion of the SportAccord Assembly and/or on the occasion of an IMGA Masters Games. It may also make decisions by correspondence.

### Art. 37 Representation

As a general rule, the IMGA is only bound by the signature of its President or a Vice President in conjunction with the signature of the CEO or of another member of the IMGA Board. In the case of the unavailability of the President, a Vice President shall replace him.

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## Part 4 DISSOLUTION

### Art. 38 Dissolution

A quorum of two thirds of the member federations must cast votes for a decision about dissolution to be valid.

The dissolution of the IMGA can only be effected, if carried by four fifths of the votes cast by member federations representing an extraordinary General Assembly, specifically convened for this purpose. Abstentions and invalid votes do not count.

### Art. 39 Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the IMGA Board shall realise the assets of the IMGA, which shall be donated to the IOC to promote the Masters athletes' movement.

### Art. 40 Exceptions

In no circumstances shall any member federation have any claim to any share whatever in the assets and any member federation ceasing to be affiliated shall forfeit any claim to any asset of the IMGA.

## Part 5 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

### Art. 41 Transition

This Constitution, drafted in English only, comes into effect on 15 November 2021. It replaces all previous versions.

Terms already served by Board members count towards calculation of the Article 31 term limits for purposes of the next scheduled election.

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## APPENDIX (A) General Rules governing IMGA Masters Games

### A. Organisation

As a general rule, IMGA Masters Games take place every four years in one city and its surroundings. They can also be organised by more than one city, situated in one or more countries, provided these cities are in close proximity to each other.

Pursuant to Olympic Agenda 2020 Recommendation 6.2, the IMGA and the IOC shall study the possibility for the Olympic Games host cities to benefit from an option to organise the Masters Games in the years following the Olympic Games.

### B. Choice of Host City

The host city(ies) for the next IMGA Masters Games shall be chosen by the IMGA Board preferably five years or more before the said IMGA Masters Games.

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### C. Sports

The sports program of IMGA Masters Games shall be in accordance with the IMGA guidelines for each event.

All sports are held subject to facilities being available.

All sports must be held in accordance with the rules and authority of the relevant international federation.

Each International Federation governing a sport on the programme of the games, shall designate a technical delegate, who shall be responsible for poverseeing the competition within the limits set by the IMGA Board.

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The HCOC has the option of selecting additional sports to complement the core program. Those sports should be selected on the basis of the facilities available and the strength of those sports at masters' level in that country and internationally.

The optional sports must have the final approval by the IMGA Board.

### D. Participation

It is the goal of the IMGA Masters Games to promote participation and to be inclusive of all who want to compete. Because of the level of interest however, it may become necessary to limit participation by some measure. Such limitation shall be subject to the approval of the IMGA Board. In principle, the participation from the host nation should not exceed 60% of the total numbers.

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### E. Principle

At IMGA Masters Games, participation and friendship among participants are much more important than athletic performances, and this principle should be emphasised as much as possible.

### F. Sanction fee

Upon being awarded an IMGA Masters Games, the HCOC shall pay to the IMGA a sum to be determined by the IMGA Board in order to confirm its right to organise those IMGA Masters Games.

### G. Intellectual rights

All rights on the names (WMG, PAMG, APMG, EMG, IMGA), the emblem, the motto, etc., belong to the IMGA, but the HCOC shall have the right to use them on conditions laid down by host city contract and guidelines.



#### **H. Advertising and sponsorship**

The opportunities to display advertising and to conclude sponsorship contracts may be restricted by the IMGA Board, both for the organising committee and for the participants. Major or naming rights sponsorship secured by the HCOC for a World Masters Games shall not be included in the title of the event unless approved by the IMGA Board.

#### **I. No representation**

The participants participate as individuals. They do not represent any country, region or city. There are no national anthems and no national flags (for example at victory ceremonies). Hence all IMGA events are open events and not limited to participation from the geographical region they are being held in.

#### **J. Clothing**

All participants compete in the clothes that are common for their particular sport.

#### **K. Multiclub teams**

Participants from different clubs and countries may unite to form multiclubs or multinational teams. More than one team from each country can compete in the same sport category.

#### **L. Costs**

Participants shall pay for their own transport and accommodation to compete in any IMGA Masters Games.

#### **M. Fees**

All participants shall pay a stipulated games registration fee. The amount of these fees shall be set by the HCOC and be subject to the approval of the IMGA Board.

#### **N. Medals and certificates**

Winners, second and third places of each competition shall receive the Master's medals in gold, silver and bronze. All participants shall receive a certificate of participation.

#### **O. Conditions of participation**

All participants shall meet the age qualification and abide by the competition rules laid down by their respective international sports federations, or, where appropriate, by the national sports federation of the host country, as well as by the IMGA and the IMGA Board.

#### **P. Related activities**

The HCOC shall organise for the participants, apart from the sports competitions, different activities such as cultural and social events, sightseeing and tourism.



## APPENDIX (B)

### Member Federations

- Badminton World Federation (BWF),
- Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB),
- International Biathlon Union (IBU),
- International Basketball Federation (FIBA),
- International Canoeing Federation (ICF),
- International Cycling Union (UCI),
- International Football Federation (FIFA),
- International Golf Federation (IGF),
- International Hockey Federation (FIH),
- International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF),
- International Orienteering Federation (IOF),
- International Rowing Federation (FISA),
- International Skating Union (ISU),
- International Ski Federation (FIS),
- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF),
- International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF),
- International Tennis Federation (ITF),
- International Weightlifting Federation (IWF),
- World Archery (WA),
- World Athletics (WA),
- World Baseball & Softball Confederation (WBSC),
- World Curling Federation (WCF),
- World Squash Federation (WSF)
- World Triathlon (WT)

### Associate Members

- World Taekwondo (WT),
- International Floorball Federation (IFF),
- International Life Saving Federation (ILS),
- International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF),
- World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF),
- World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)

### Recognised Organisations

- Confederation of Australian Sport