

**International Softball Federation**

# **ISF CONSTITUTION**

Adopted 24 October 2009

International Softball Federation  
1900 South Park Road  
Plant City, Florida 33563 USA

# ISF CONSTITUTION

Adopted 24 October 2009

## ARTICLE 1 NAME AND DEFINITIONS

1.01 The name of this organization shall be the International Softball Federation and henceforth will be referred to as the “ISF” or the “Federation”. The ISF is a non-profit organization.

1.02. Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms below have the following meanings in this Constitution and in every Code:

"Code"	includes any Code (including the Competition Code, the Technical Code and the Playing Rules) now in force or as amended from time to time;
“Constitution”	this document, now in force or as amended from time to time;
“Board of Directors”	the Board of Directors of the Federation as defined in Art. 4.01;
“Employee”	an individual who works for the ISF, full or part-time;
“Executive Officers”	The President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Secretary General, each an Officer as defined in Art. 4.01;
“Executive Committee”	the Executive Committee of this Federation;
“Foreign Person”	a player, athlete, coach, manager, administrator, scorer, umpire or other official from one National Federation involved in a Softball competition, including an ISF Competition, in or under the jurisdiction of a different National Federation;
“IOC”	International Olympic Committee;
“ISF Competition”	a competition in Softball including a World Championship, the Olympic Games, a Qualifier for a World Championship or Olympic Games (“Qualifier”), a World Cup and any other world games or single or multi-sport international competition sanctioned by the ISF (whether or not also sanctioned by a National Federation or a Regional Federation), and references to any such event in this Constitution or a Code shall be interpreted accordingly;
“National Federation”	a recognized National Governing Body for Softball in a nation that is a Member of the ISF;
“National Governing Body”	the Softball federation in a nation that is recognized by that nation’s NOC (or an equivalent entity) as the sole governing and authoritative body for Softball in that nation;
“NOC”	a National Olympic Committee;

“Officer”	an individual elected, appointed to or holding an Office;
“Person”	includes an individual, non-profit organization, trust, partnership, company or any other recognized form of entity;
“Regional Competition”	a Softball competition organized and sanctioned by a Region;
“Regional Federation”	a confederation of National Federations for Softball in the same Region;
“Rule”	a rule adopted under a Code;
“Sanction”	a prohibition, disciplinary finding, suspension, penalty or condition imposed upon a person.
“Softball”	any and all forms of softball including but not limited to fastpitch, slowpitch, modified fastpitch, 16-inch slow pitch, indoor and paralympic or wheelchair softball, by these or any other names;

## **ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES, JURISDICTION, LOCATION AND RECOGNITION**

2.01 The objectives of this Federation (“Objectives”) shall be as follows.

- (a) To encourage the development of all types of Softball throughout all nations.
- (b) To encourage all eligible federations in Softball to affiliate with the ISF by becoming a National Federation and actively participate in Softball and in the activities of the ISF.
- (c) To adopt, approve, administer, revise and enforce the Codes and Rules governing competitions in Softball.
- (d) To ensure that all ISF Competitions are sanctioned under and comply with this Constitution and the relevant Codes and are open to eligible National Federations.
- (e) To support and maintain the ideals and objects of the Olympic Movement in all aspects of Softball.
- (f) To promote and develop the struggle against doping.
- (g) To decide any dispute that may arise between, among or involving Member National Federations that is referred to the ISF by an interested party, and to provide for the recognition of Sanctions.
- (h) To establish, organize and administer training, qualification and development programs for players, administrators, coaches, managers, umpires, scorers and technicians.
- (i) By authorizing and promoting international competitions, including ISF Competitions, create and establish friendship and goodwill among nations and Members.
- (j) To establish, collect or cause to be collected and to approve and maintain statistics, statistical compilations and records for access via the web site and elsewhere.

- (k) To operate a Hall of Fame and recognize appropriately the contributions of those involved in Softball.
- (l) To cooperate with the IOC and the Olympic Movement to promote, implement and achieve the Objectives, and to preserve and guarantee the interests of the ISF and its Members.
- (m) To produce and publish official bulletins, statistics, statistical compilations, records and promotional, commercial and technical goods and materials in any appropriate form, whether or not for sale.
- (n) To establish and maintain an administration for the governing of Softball in its Jurisdiction.

For the avoidance of doubt, any Objective may be carried out by the ISF in an ISF Competition, a Congress or, as provided herein, by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

- 2.02 The office of the ISF shall be in such location as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.
- 2.03 The ISF, recognized by the IOC as the official international governing body for Softball, is appointed to and claims jurisdiction over every form of Softball.
- 2.04 For the purposes of the Federation, there shall be five (5) world regions (“Region”): Africa; Asia; Europe; the Americas (North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America); and Oceania. Every Regional Federation shall provide an organizational structure within its Region for the purposes of its own prudential matters and for Regional Competitions, which may or may not be an ISF Competition.
- 2.05 The Constitution and every Code are the only governing documents of the ISF. Every power, express or implied, for the administration of Softball internationally shall be vested in and may be exercised by the Congress, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee (as the case may be). Only a Congress may amend this Constitution. Save for the Playing Rules, only the Board of Directors may adopt, amend or rescind a Code. The jurisdiction to consider and interpret any constitutional matter arising under this Constitution is vested in the Executive Committee, which shall take advice from the Legislative Commission and the President.
- 2.06 Discrimination is not allowed against any nation or person involved in Softball, in an ISF Competition or otherwise in an activity in furtherance of the Objectives provided for in this Constitution on the grounds of race, religion, political affiliation, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, handicap or otherwise, or to classify or refuse for employment any individual on the basis of race, religion, political affiliation, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ancestry or handicap, or otherwise. Interference by any person or government into the internal operation or function of a National Governing Body does not meet the spirit or objectives of this Federation and is expressly prohibited.
- 2.07 The financial year and accounting period of the ISF shall be the calendar year (1 January to 31 December) and shall end every 31 December.
- 2.08 No person, Officer, National Federation, member of a Commission or Committee may do indirectly or through another anything that would be illegal or improper as regards this

Constitution, a Code, an ISF Competition or any matter concerning Softball that is under the jurisdiction of the ISF.

- 2.09 The Intellectual Property of the ISF is the sole and exclusive property of the ISF. The Intellectual Property cannot be used in any manner without the prior written authorization of the Board of Directors and on such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors prescribes in a manner consistent with this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FINANCES**

- 3.01 There shall be the following classes of membership: National Federation; Provisional Member; and Allied Member. Membership is attained and maintained by complying with all of the established criteria for that particular class. No federation may hold more than one class of membership at any one time.
- 3.02 National Federations
- (a) Eligibility for membership as a National Federation is open to a Softball organization that files an application, satisfies the criteria for membership and demonstrates that it is eligible for such recognition in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
  - (b) The ISF shall recognize only one National Federation in a country for which an application is made and approved, the jurisdiction of which shall be limited to the internationally recognized political boundaries of that country.
  - (c) An applicant for membership as a National Federation shall submit an application for recognition as a Member, in such form as the ISF shall require, which application shall include all supporting documentation and any additional information as is considered necessary or appropriate by the ISF. In particular, an applicant must:
    - (1) be a separate legal entity under the laws of the country in which it is organized;
    - (2) be a charitable, public service or not-for-profit entity having as its purpose the advancement of Softball competition and activities within its country, and have the managerial and financial capability to plan and execute its obligations;
    - (3) demonstrate that it is autonomous in the governance of Softball in its country, in that it independently determines and controls all matters central to such governance, does not delegate such determination and control and is free from restraints;
    - (4) is recognized by the NOC for its country as the sole national federation for Softball, and for those federations not recognized by a NOC, the ISF reserves the right to make an exception;
    - (5) not be a member of any other international sports federation purporting to govern the sport of Softball;
    - (6) not be recognized as a national federation for any sport other than Softball in its nation and not have its officers be officers of a recognized national federation for another sport (a dual office may be approved by the Board of Directors upon written application);

- (7) demonstrate that it does not discriminate in its membership policies and is open to any individual who is an eligible athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official active in Softball in its country not subject to a sanction, or to any non-discriminatory organization within its country active in conducting Softball in that country, or both;
  - (8) provide any person over which it may have authority to determine eligibility to compete for membership in its organization, with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before declaring such individual ineligible to participate, or revoking such membership;
  - (9) be governed by a board of directors or other such governing board whose members are selected without discrimination of any form, except that, in sports where there are separate male and female programs, it provides for reasonable, balanced representation of both males and females on such board of directors or other such governing board;
  - (10) have among the voting members of its board of directors or governing board, individuals who play or are otherwise actively engaged in Softball competition or the organization or conduct of Softball within that country;
  - (11) provide and enforce proper procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members, providing due process in all instances; and
  - (12) be approved by a majority vote of National Federations present and eligible to vote at the Congress during which such a vote is taken or is provisionally elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors if proposed for membership when a Congress is not in session, which approval shall be subject to ratification at the next Congress. If the election by the Board of Directors is not so ratified, that organization shall be eligible to be a Provisional Member or an Allied Member, as that same Congress may thereafter decide by vote. Every federation that is confirmed as such by the Board of Directors and the Congress shall, after admission, be known as a "Member" and also a "National Federation".
- (d) Member National Federations, Provisional Members and Allied Members shall, as a condition to maintaining Good Standing:
- (1) acknowledge the ISF as the sole governing body for international Softball and as the sponsor of all ISF Competitions, and comply with the provisions of the Constitution and every Code;
  - (2) acknowledge all other National Federations as the only governing authorities for Softball in their respective nations and all Regional Federations as the governing body for Softball on a Regional basis, subject to the constitutional limitations of such organizations;
  - (3) provide a means for and act as a conduit for all correspondence or communications regarding international Softball affairs;
  - (4) timely pay such fees, dues or other financial assessments in full and timely provide such information to the ISF as may be required of Members;
  - (5) not be subject to a Sanction imposed on it;
  - (6) not engage in an act or permit an act to be done that is detrimental to the sport of Softball or to the ISF.

- (e) Only a National Federation, a Provisional Member or an Allied Member that is current in the discharge of its obligations to the ISF under this Constitution shall be deemed to be in Good Standing and able to exercise those Rights to which they are entitled under Art. 3.02(f), 3.03 or 3.04 as the case may be. A National Federation that fails to discharge its Responsibilities and Duties in Art. 3.06 or as otherwise required, or a Provisional Member or Allied Member that fails to carry out its responsibilities under this Constitution, shall at that point be deemed not to be in Good Standing and not able to exercise its rights. A National Federation, Provisional Member or Allied Member that is deemed not to be in Good Standing shall rectify any matter that has caused it to not be in Good Standing to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors, whereupon it shall from that time be in Good Standing and eligible to exercise its rights. If it fails to do so, its membership may pursuant to Art. 3.05 be suspended or terminated as provided for herein.
- (f) A National Federation in Good Standing has the following rights (“Rights”):
  - (1) to attend, address and take part in deliberations at a Congress;
  - (2) to vote at a Congress;
  - (3) to nominate candidates for Office or have a person under its authority hold an Office;
  - (4) to nominate candidates to bid to host a Competition;
  - (5) to host a Competition;
  - (6) to recommend individuals for appointment to Commissions and Committees;
  - (7) to have its teams participate in an ISF Competition;
  - (8) to propose amendments to the Constitution or a Code;
  - (9) to propose motions and other matters for consideration by a Congress; or
  - (10) to do or engage in any other act to which a Member that is in Good Standing is otherwise entitled to do.

### 3.03 Provisional Member

- (a) Eligibility for membership as a Provisional Member is open to a Softball organization that files an application to be a National Federation but which is unable to establish to the satisfaction of the Congress or the Board of Directors that it meets all the requirements for such recognition in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, but which is elected as a Provisional Member.
- (b) The ISF shall recognize only one Provisional Member per country at any time, and for the avoidance of doubt the ISF may not at the same time admit to membership a National Federation and a Provisional Member from the same country.
- (c) The provisions in Art. 3.02 as regards the election and other prudential matters concerning National Federations shall apply to a Provisional Member.

- (d) A Provisional Member that that is in compliance with Art. 3.04(d) is deemed to be in Good Standing and may attend, address and take part in deliberations at a Congress, but not vote.

#### 3.04 Allied Members

- (a) A person that is not a National Federation or Provisional Member and that has as its objective the development of the sport of Softball, including, for the avoidance of doubt, an individual, and whose active involvement with the ISF shall in the reasonable opinion of the Board of Directors advance the interests of Softball and the ISF may become an Allied Member.
- (b) The provisions in Art. 3.02 as regards the election and other prudential matters concerning National Federations shall apply to an Allied Member.
- (c) An Allied Member that is in compliance with Art. 3.02(d) is deemed to be in Good Standing and may attend and address a Congress (but shall have no vote) and serve on a Commission.

#### 3.05 Maintaining Membership

- (a) A Member may be declared to be not in Good Standing or membership in the ISF may be suspended or terminated by the Board of Directors by one or more of the following:
  - (1) upon a complaint brought by the Board of Directors or another Member, and after notice and a hearing, and a finding leading to a Sanction that is not remedied according to its terms or which finds that such membership should be suspended or terminated; or
  - (2) upon the granting of Membership as a National Federation to a new person for the country involved: provided such new applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors that it would more adequately and faithfully serve the interests of Softball and the ISF in that country and is selected to be the National Federation by the NOC for that country.
- (b) When a Member is not in Good Standing and in the opinion of the Board of Directors the condition leading to the loss of Good Standing status is not capable of being remedied or, if capable of being remedied, a reasonable period of time and opportunity to remedy the condition has been given and the condition has not been cured to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board of Directors, such Membership may be suspended or terminated.

#### 3.06 Responsibilities and Duties of National Federations

- (a) A National Federation shall, as part of its duties and responsibilities and to maintain Good Standing as a Member of ISF, do the following:
  - (1) develop interest and participation in all forms of Softball in its nation and be responsible to the persons and amateur sports organizations it represents;
  - (2) minimize, through coordination with its members and other amateur sports organizations, conflicts in the scheduling of Softball competitions in its nation;
  - (3) keep Softball athletes informed of policy matters and reasonably reflect the views of such athletes in its policy decisions;

- (4) allow an athlete or other person to participate in any Softball competition in its nation, or in any Softball competition conducted under its auspices or that of the ISF, a National Federation or a Regional Federation, unless it is established that its denial was based on evidence that the organization, person sponsoring the participation or conducting the competition did not meet the requirements stated in this Art. 3.06(a);
  - (5) provide equitable support and encouragement for participation in Softball by women and men, including instances where separate programs for male and female athletes are conducted in that nation;
  - (6) encourage and support Softball programs for disabled or handicapped individuals;
  - (7) provide and distribute technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching, and performance analysis; and
  - (8) submit annually or as may be otherwise required by the ISF, a detailed report of its operations for the preceding calendar year.
- (b) A National Federation shall not deny an athlete or any person the ability to participate in any way in a Softball competition unless it is established that such person was not eligible to compete by virtue of a final determination under its rules or the rules of another National Federation, a Regional Federation, the International Olympic Committee or the National Olympic Committee of the individual's domicile, or a Sanction.
  - (c) A National Federation is free to establish non-discriminatory conditions for sanctioning a Softball competition within its jurisdiction, applicable to all, including but not limited to:
    - (1) payment of a reasonable and nondiscriminatory fee;
    - (2) provision of appropriate measures to protect the persons who take part in the competition, including their eligibility to compete in other Softball competitions;
    - (3) provision for validation of records as a condition for inclusion of that information in any competition records;
    - (4) conduct of the competition by qualified officials;
    - (5) provision of proper medical supervision for persons who participate in the competition;
    - (6) proper safety precautions to protect the personal welfare of participants and spectators at the competition; and
    - (7) submission of an audited or notarized financial report of similar events, if any, conducted by the requesting organization or person.

### 3.07 Authority of National Federations

A National Federation is authorized to:

- (a) represent its nation in matters concerning Softball before the ISF, one or more Regional Federations and the NOC or other governmental or public or private bodies for sport within its country and internationally;
  - (b) establish national goals for Softball and encourage the attainment of those goals;
  - (c) be appointed as and to serve as the National Governing Body for Softball in its nation;
  - (d) exercise jurisdiction over, sanction and conduct domestic, Regional and international Softball competitions, including an ISF Competition held in its nation;
  - (e) establish procedures for the determination of eligibility standards for the participation of individuals or teams in competitions in its own jurisdiction or in ISF Competitions;
  - (f) select, or participate in the selection of individuals and teams to represent its nation in competitions in its own jurisdiction or in ISF Competitions; and
  - (g) certify, in accordance with applicable International Rules, the eligibility of such individuals or teams to participate in competitions in its own jurisdiction or in ISF Competitions.
- 3.08 The ISF shall, through the Board of Directors, be empowered to raise funds by whatever means proper under this Constitution. The Board of Directors shall use the income and property of the ISF, howsoever derived, towards the fulfillment of the Objectives as determined by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, in the proper exercise of their powers, or the Executive. Nothing herein shall prevent:
- (a) the payment in good faith of reasonable out of pocket expenses, per diem, honorarium or stipend to an Officer, a Commission or a person serving on a Commission in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Board of Directors or in a resolution adopted by a Congress;
  - (b) the distribution of funds or property made for the sole purpose of the carrying on of the business of the ISF or the promotion of the Objectives; or
  - (c) the payment of salaries and other remuneration and emoluments to an Employee, in accordance with the contract of employment for such Employee.
- 3.09 The Board of Directors shall have the power to sell, acquire, lease and maintain any real, intellectual or personal property for use of the ISF and its Members as recommended by the Board of Directors or as adopted by a Congress by resolution.
- 3.10 One account shall be, and one or more accounts may be, opened in the name of the ISF with an authorized and regulated bank, credit institution or other finance services institution (“Account”) as the Board of Directors shall from time to time require. The Treasurer shall under the supervision of the Board of Directors or the Board of Directors shall by resolution authorize an Officer or, by a resolution adopted by 75 percent of the Officers on the Board of Directors, a duly qualified agent acting only under the express disclosed authority of the Board of Directors, to operate such Account, give instructions, sign mandates and sign checks on behalf of this Federation.

- 3.11 The books and fiscal records of the ISF shall be kept by the Treasurer (if there is no Treasurer, the Administration and Finance Committee) and shall be audited each year by a duly qualified, bonded and independent auditor (“Auditor”).
- 3.12 Approval for payment of any expenses incurred by any Officer shall be in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Directors.
- 3.13 The annual dues for each member shall be set by a Congress, with a formal notification to each member. Dues must be paid on January 1 of each year in US Dollars. A member that does not timely pay its dues in full shall be deemed to be not in Good Standing.
- 3.14 The Board of Directors shall consider and approve the statement of accounts and balance sheets and audited financial statements for each fiscal year or such other period as may be required. Every such approved statement shall be provided on a timely basis to every National Federation and to a Congress for its approval. For the avoidance of doubt, the annual financial report to member Federations shall consist of: a full statement of the financial position of the ISF as at the end of the accounting period (balance sheet) and statements of income and expenditure for the current accounting period. Appropriate interim unaudited financial statements shall be prepared, submitted to the Board of Directors and, after such approval, made available to National Federations.
- 3.15 On the recommendation of the Board of Directors, a Congress shall approve an Auditor for the ISF. The Auditor shall be independent and duly qualified under applicable law and shall certify the accounts and the conformity of the financial statements of the ISF in accordance with applicable law.
- 3.16 When a Congress is not in session, an Auditor may be removed by action of the Board of Directors, for cause, by a vote of simple majority of the Officers at a duly convened meeting of the Board of Directors. On such an occurrence, the Board of Directors shall immediately provide notice of such removal to all National Federations and forthwith select a new Auditor to serve until the next Congress. The reason for such removal shall be notified to all National Federations.
- 3.17 If an auditor resigns, a new Auditor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors as if the Auditor had been removed in accordance with Art. 3.16.

#### **ARTICLE 4 MANAGEMENT AND OFFICERS**

- 4.01 Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors
- (a) The following are the Officers of this Federation, each holding an office (“Office”) for a four year term and each having one vote:
- President;
  - First Vice President;
  - Second Vice President;
  - Secretary General;
  - Immediate Past President (one four year term immediately following his or her term as President);
  - Treasurer;

- Regional Vice Presidents – Africa, two; Asia, two; Europe, two; the Americas (North America, one; the non-Spanish Speaking Caribbean, one; and the Spanish Speaking Caribbean, Central America and South America, two); and Oceania, two;
  - Any IOC member that holds an elective position on his or her National Federation;
  - At Large members (if required); and
  - Athlete Representatives, one woman and one man.
- (b) Every Officer shall be a member of the Board of Directors and, during his or her term, have a vote and discharge his or her duties (“Duties”) in accordance with this Constitution and any applicable Code. The Board of Directors shall adopt and administer a Code that provides for the specific Duties of each Office.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary General, two Regional Vice Presidents elected by the Board of Directors, Immediate Past President, Treasurer and Legal Counsel (ex-officio, non-voting). Each member of the Executive Committee shall, during his or her term, discharge his or her duties in accordance with this Constitution.
- 4.02 Officers shall be elected or appointed, or removed, as follows.
- (a) The President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President and the Secretary General shall be elected at a Congress and shall hold only one Office at a time.
- (b) Each Region shall at all times have Vice Presidents in accordance with Art. 4.01(a). Each Region will elect individuals from different National Federations in that Region to hold the Office of Regional Vice President. Regional Vice Presidents will be elected by majority vote of the Accredited Delegates from that Region present at that Congress. The election shall take place in an election year for Officers and at such Congress. Every individual elected as a Regional Vice President shall take Office at the end of that Congress.
- (c) The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors.
- (d) The Athlete Representatives shall be elected by players (as determined by the Board of Directors) in accordance with such process and procedure that the players develop and submit to the Board of Directors for its approval. Each duly elected person shall hold that Office until the next election. If this individual timely informs the ISF that he or she cannot attend a Meeting of the Board of Directors or a Congress, or no longer holds this Office by removal or resignation, the ISF shall so inform the first alternate who will attend that Meeting of the Board of Directors or a Congress. If the Athlete Representative has vacated the Office, the first alternate shall assume that Office for the remainder of the term. If the first alternate is not able to attend that Meeting of the Board of Directors or a Congress or if the alternate has vacated such position, the second alternate shall be so informed and will act in place of the first alternate in all respects, and so on through the remaining alternates.
- (e) One or more Members at Large may be elected by the Board of Directors only in the event of a gender inequality as defined in Article 4.05. Such election shall take place within 30 calendar days after the inequality is brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. The term of this individual or individuals shall end at the next Congress at which Officers are elected.

- (f) Any IOC member who holds an elected position on his or her country's National Federation may, with the approval of the Board of Directors, become an ex officio Officer with a vote as an Officer during his or her term as an IOC member and as a National Federation elected officer.
- 4.03 The First Vice President and the Second Vice President shall each be from a different National Federation. The President may not hold an office in a National Federation. If on election the President holds office in a National Federation, he shall leave such office not later than six (6) months after his election as President. Save for Athlete Representatives, Officers shall not participate or otherwise be involved in an ISF Competition as a player, manager, coach, umpire or scorer.
- 4.04 If for any reason an Office other than Regional Vice President or Athlete Representative becomes vacant or a position is not filled at an election at a Congress, then and for the remainder of that unexpired term of Office, the Board of Directors shall within 30 calendar days elect an individual to fulfill that role for the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 4.05 For gender equality purposes, no gender shall have less than 30 percent of the total number of Offices on the Board of Directors.
- 4.06 The Board of Directors shall operate as follows.
- (a) The Board of Directors shall meet at least once every calendar year and also before and after every Congress. Notice must be given not less than 60 calendar days before such Meeting with a request for items or information for the agenda. Any matter to be discussed at a meeting must be received by the Secretary General 21 calendar days before the meeting. The Secretary General shall publish a written notice of such meeting confirming the date, time, and location of the meeting, and provide agenda items and supporting documentation not less than 14 calendar days prior to each meeting. A notice of a proposed meeting may only be waived by unanimous vote of all Officers.
- (b) A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of 50% of the Officers then holding office and present in person throughout the meeting. The President shall preside at every Meeting of the Board of Directors, failing which the First Vice President shall preside in his or her place, failing which the Second Vice President may preside in his or her place, failing which the Secretary General shall preside, failing which the Officers in attendance shall elect a chair of the meeting.
- (c) The Secretary General shall take or cause to be taken the minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, provide draft minutes within 10 calendar days after the meeting and publish them within 30 calendar days, to every National Federation and on the ISF web site. At every Meeting of the Board of Directors, each Officer shall declare any conflict of interest involving any matter on the agenda or otherwise discussed at the meeting, which conflict(s) shall be recorded in the minutes. An Officer may, with the prior written consent of the Secretary General, participate in a Meeting of the Board of Directors and be present in person or by telephonic or other means of electronic communication as long as he or she can be clearly heard. An Officer attending a Meeting in this way shall be deemed to be present and this will not count as an absence for the purpose of Art. 4.08(a). The venue for a Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be the location where the majority of those present in person are located, if this includes the presiding Officer.
- (d) Other than an Athlete Representative (or an alternate), no Officer shall attend by or give a proxy, and no vote shall be taken by or opinion expressed by proxy. A resolution shall be validly passed

if adopted by a majority of Officers present and voting. Unless otherwise agreed by the Meeting of the Board of Directors in question, the minutes of that meeting, in whole or in part, shall be public. If a quorum of Officers is not present at the start of a Meeting of the Board of Directors, that meeting shall be adjourned until such time as a quorum is established. No business can be conducted or actions taken without a quorum.

- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of Art. 4, an Officer of the Board of Directors may request that the Board of Directors meet on an expedited basis provided that 66 percent of the Officers agree in writing to hold such a meeting (“Special Board of Directors Meeting”). The procedures in Art. 4.06 (a) to (d) shall apply to every Special Board of Directors Meeting, but the notice, agenda and distribution requirements may be waived, and Art. 4.08(a) shall not apply.
- 4.07 The Executive Committee may meet at such times other than during a Meeting of the Board of Directors or a Special Board of Directors Meeting. The procedures in Art. 4.06(b), (c) and (d) shall apply to such meetings. At such meetings, the Executive Committee may carry out those powers vested in the Board of Directors under Art. 4.09 but in a manner that is consistent with the written instructions of the Board of Directors.
- 4.08 The following shall govern the removal of an Officer.
- (a) An Officer who fails to attend three consecutive Meetings of the Board of Directors without in each case the prior written approval of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have forfeited Office. The vacant Office shall be filled pursuant to Art. 4.04.
  - (b) A National Federation in Good Standing may make to a Board of Directors Meeting or a Special Board of Directors Meeting, or the Board of Directors may make to a Congress at a Congress other than that at which elections for Officers are to be held, a motion to remove an Officer from Office. Such a motion shall be accompanied by written materials that establish the reason(s) for the proposed removal.
  - (c) The grounds for the removal of an Officer are as follows:
    - (1) failure to properly discharge his or her duties under this Constitution;
    - (2) the conviction of an offense that in his or her country would result in the imposition of a monetary fine and a term of imprisonment, or the insolvency, bankruptcy or disqualification to serve as a director of a company of such person; or the failure in the proper exercise or performance of his or her Duties as an Officer;
    - (3) the commission or omission of an act that brings the ISF or Softball into disrepute; or
    - (4) the incapacity of the individual involved.
  - (d) The Officer subject to removal shall be timely notified of the receipt of the motion. The procedural and substantive provisions of the ISF Disciplinary Code shall apply to every proceeding to remove an Officer.
  - (e) A vote of 75 percent of the Officers present in attendance at a duly quorate meeting of the voting Board of Directors or a Special Board of Directors Meeting, or a vote of 66 percent of the Members at a duly quorate meeting of a Congress, shall result in the dismissal of an individual from Office.

- (f) In case of removal of an Officer by the Board of Directors other than a Regional Vice President, the Office shall be filled in accordance with Art. 4.04.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, if it is established by sufficient evidence to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors that the immediate suspension or removal of an Officer is required to protect the interests of the ISF or the sport of Softball, or if the Officer has failed materially to exercise or performance his or her Duties as an Officer, a Special Board of Directors Meeting shall be called forthwith to consider and, if required, suspend or remove an individual from Office forthwith and, in the case of a suspension, start proceedings to remove that individual from Office. In the case of a removal, the provisions of this Article shall apply and the removal may be effected by a Special Board of Directors Meeting or a Congress. From the date of suspension to the removal from or reinstatement to the Office the individual is suspended from all activities as regards his or her Office and may not take part in any activities or deliberations of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the terms of the suspension. If an individual is removed from Office, he or she may not engage in any activity as an Officer according to the terms of the removal.
- (h) In the event of a vacancy of a Regional Vice President for any reason, the Board of Directors shall name a person on the recommendation of the Region to serve until that Region elects a replacement.

4.09 The powers of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- (a) approve or disapprove new members as provided for in this Constitution;
- (b) consider and act upon any matter required by a Congress;
- (c) organize and carry out all matters relating to every ISF Competition;
- (d) issue a binding statement on any matter pertaining to this Constitution or a Code, whether or not referred to it by a National Federation;
- (e) administer the affairs of the Federation, settle all affairs of interest to the Federation and prepare and summon a Congress, the venue and time of which are decided by the preceding Congress or, if no venue and time was set, set these as soon as practical thereafter;
- (f) adopt the budget for the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee or a Commission. Any profits or other accretions to the ISF may be used only to conduct and promote its Business or Objectives;
- (g) provide a written report of its activities to every Congress;
- (h) adopt, amend or rescind a Code;
- (i) propose or in the proper delegation of its authority to cause a Commission to propose amendments to the Constitution or a Code;
- (j) propose motions and other matters for deliberation and action by a Congress;
- (k) supervise the Executive Committee in the hiring, retention, supervision and termination of Employees, and the approval of every written contract of employment;

- (l) study and publish or to cause a Commission to study and publish a written report on any matter involving Softball, the ISF and this Constitution;
  - (m) take, cause to be taken or enforce against persons over whom the ISF is empowered to exercise jurisdiction, subject to the proper exercise of jurisdiction and due process, a Sanction, or any other matter properly within its powers, including the appointment or dismissal of an Officer;
  - (n) take in case of emergency or exceptional circumstances all necessary measures that might not be provided for in this Constitution to protect, preserve and defend the assets of the ISF;
  - (o) monitor, supervise and orient the activities of Commissions;
  - (p) delegate by motion to the Executive Committee, an Officer or an Employee the power to negotiate, agree and sign written agreements of any type between the ISF and any person;
  - (q) comply with the Constitution and every Code and to ensure that every member complies with same;
  - (r) ensure that the decisions of a Congress are timely and properly implemented;
  - (s) administer and organize the affairs of the ISF;
  - (t) conduct the finances of the ISF in a prudent manner and supervise, on a regular basis, the financial situation of the ISF;
  - (u) propose and implement or to cause a Commission to propose or implement any program(s) that might be necessary to achieve the Objectives;
  - (v) supervise, on a regular basis, the furtherance of the actions and programs of the ISF and the general situation of the ISF;
  - (w) prepare or cause to be prepared every unaudited and audited financial statement and a review of every budget to be presented to a Congress for deliberation and, if required, approval;
  - (x) review materials to be presented to a Congress and, if required, approve the documents to be presented to the General Congress when they are issued under its responsibility or its authority, and issue any recommendations and comments that it deems necessary; and
  - (y) otherwise take all actions as required or necessitated by this Constitution and every Code.
- 4.10 The Business of the ISF shall be carried on by Employees under the direct supervision of the President.

## **ARTICLE 5 COMMISSIONS**

- 5.01 The Board of Directors has the power to create any Commission that it deems necessary for the good administration of the ISF and, as applicable, the Objectives or the Business of the ISF.
- (a) The President shall appoint and dismiss Chairpersons and members of Commissions.
  - (b) Commissions act on the authority and under the supervision of the Board of Directors and report to the Board of Directors and a Congress, if required. Every Commission shall adopt a Code that comprises its terms of reference and operating procedures, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
  - (c) The following Commissions are mandatory and may not be dissolved.
    - (1) The Playing Rules Commission: it establishes, defines, reviews and proposes to the Congress for its adoption the rules by which Softball is played (“Playing Rules”).
    - (2) The Development Commission: it establishes, defines and recommends the policy and programs for development of Softball, advises the Board of Directors on requests for development and defines specific development programs for Softball.
    - (3) The Legislative Commission: it establishes, interprets and proposes amendments to the Constitution and Codes, advises the Board of Directors and the Congress on such matters, advises on any aspects of business intended to bind the ISF or on any non-contentious or jurisdictional issues within the framework of the ISF.
    - (4) The Equipment Standards Commission: it makes recommendations to the Congress on standards and specifications for equipment used in Softball.
    - (5) The Competitions Commission: it establishes criteria for which ISF Competitions are held, proposes requirements for future Competitions and reviews bids and bid procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with established requirements.
    - (6) The Hall of Fame Commission: it governs the process by which nominations are received and elects candidates to the Hall of Fame.
    - (7) Athletes Commission: it advises on matters relevant to players. It is comprised of at least six (6) members that participated in an ISF Competition in the past six (6) years. The Board of Directors will pay the expenses for the athletes attending meetings.
    - (8) Administrative Finance Commission: it is comprised of six (6) persons, three of which shall be Officers other than an Executive Officer and three of which shall not be Officers. It reports its activities to every Board of Directors meeting and every Congress other than a Special Congress, unless a request for a report is required at a Special Congress.
  - (d) Every member of a Commission shall declare any conflict of interest in connection with his or her involvement with that Commission and shall recuse himself or herself from any matter before the Commission and concerning himself or his or her National Federation.

## **ARTICLE 6 THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CODES**

- 6.01 This Constitution may be amended only in a duly called and quorate meeting of a Congress and only if 66 percent of the National Federations in Good Standing and in attendance at such Congress vote affirmatively for such change. A copy of every proposed amendment shall be treated as a Motion to be presented before a Congress. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the Motion, every amendment shall come into effect at the close of the Congress at which such amendment was adopted.
- 6.02 The Playing Rules may be amended only in a duly called and quorate meeting of a Congress on the vote of a simple majority of the National Federations in Good Standing and in attendance at a Congress.
- 6.03 The Technical Code governs all World Championships and Olympic Games and Qualifiers for both. The Technical Code will be administered and enforced by the Competitions Commission, whose decision on any matter arising thereunder shall be final and binding.

6.04 Every Code, the decision of a Commission and the action taken by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution. In the event of any discrepancy this Constitution shall prevail. A dispute concerning any one of these and this Constitution shall be referred to the President for his consideration and binding decision, which may be appealed to the Board of Directors for its consideration and final decision.

## **ARTICLE 7 CONGRESSES AND SPECIAL CONGRESSES**

7.01 The ISF will meet in Congress every second calendar year, in the odd numbered year and in the final three months of that year, save for a Special Congress that shall be convened pursuant to Art. 7.16. The Board of Directors is empowered to set an alternative date in a calendar year for a Congress other than a Special Congress.

7.02 The Secretary General shall advise the exact date and location of every Congress at least six (6) months prior to the fixed date of the meeting, and the exact date and location of every Special Congress as soon as that Special Congress is validly called in conformance with Article 7.16.

7.03 National Federations may bid to host a Congress. Only one (1) city in any one nation may present a bid. Bids in a form specified by the Board of Directors must be received by the Secretary General not less than six (6) months prior to the Congress at which bids will be considered and shall be mailed to each National Federation with all of the materials for that Congress.

(a) A deposit of one thousand US dollars (US\$1,000) is required to perfect a bid. Bid deposits will be refunded within seven (7) calendar days of the vote on the bid at a Congress for unsuccessful bidders, and at the time of the Congress for the successful bidder.

(b) If a bidder does not fulfill all commitments for hosting a Congress or cancels the Congress arrangements at any time after having been awarded the right to host, the deposit shall be forfeited and be applied towards the cost of arranging a Congress at an alternative site.

(c) Where a National Federation that has been awarded a bid repudiates, purports to cancel or cancels the Congress, the alternative venue shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

7.04 A National Federation or the Board of Directors may give notice of motions together with supporting materials (“Motion”) to form the business of a Congress, which must be received by the Secretary General not less than 90 calendar days prior to the Congress. A Motion is any matter that forms part of the business of the ISF, and for the avoidance of doubt includes bids for Competitions, amendments to this Constitution, reports of Commissions and Committees, budgets, Code amendments and any other matter to be properly brought before a Congress. Business other than that in a Motion may be considered only with the consent of 75 percent of the Members attending that Congress.

7.05 The Secretary General shall prepare or cause to be prepared a package of Materials and an agenda for every Congress (“Agenda”) and shall post them to National Federations and add them on the ISF web site not less than 60 calendar days before such Congress.

7.06 Every Congress shall be comprised of Officers and accredited delegates (“Accredited Delegates”) of every National Federation in Good Standing, with others in attendance as provided for in this Constitution. No more than two individuals may serve as Accredited Delegates for a National Federation. A National Federation that is not in Good Standing on the date of the Congress may attend only through a non-voting representative (“Representative”). Accredited Delegates and

Representatives shall not be recognized if they are subject to a Sanction that prohibits participation in a Congress, be bona fide members of the National Federation they represent and be credentialed by that National Federation. No Accredited Delegate or Representative shall represent more than one National Federation, and every National Federation shall inform the Secretary General in writing of the name of the individual(s) who will act as its Accredited Delegate or Representative.

- 7.07 Only an Accredited Delegate in attendance at a duly called and quorate Congress may vote. Every Accredited Delegate shall have one (1) vote. If a National Federation sends one (1) Accredited Delegate to a Congress, such individual shall be entitled to cast two (2) votes upon presenting evidence satisfactory to the Secretary General that such individual is duly authorized by his or her National Federation to do so. Every Officer shall have one (1) vote. Voting by proxy, letter or otherwise is not permitted.
- 7.08 At the start of every Congress, the Secretary General shall certify and publish (a) a list of every Member, Commission member or other person in attendance, (b) a list of every Accredited Delegate, Representative and Officer in attendance, (c) a list of every Accredited Delegate and Officer entitled to vote ("Roll Call") and (d) the agenda for the Congress. Save as otherwise provided for in this Constitution, only an individual named in the Roll Call shall have the right to address a Congress. A person wishing to speak shall state his or her name and the basis of his or her being present. All those wishing to speak shall do so through the Chair.
- 7.09 A quorum for a Congress shall constitute the attendance in person of at least 30 of the then current number of National Federations.
- 7.10 The President shall chair a Congress ("Chair"), failing which the First Vice President, the Second Vice President or the Secretary General shall be the chair, in that order. If no such person is in attendance, the Officers shall elect one among them to serve as Chair.
- 7.11 Order of Business

The order of business of a Congress shall be:

- a. Roll call
- b. Approval of the minutes of the previous Congress
- c. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Congress
- d. President's Report
- e. Consideration and approval of the Financial Reports
- f. Reports of Regular Commissions
- g. Reports of Special Commissions
- h. Consideration and approval of bids
- i. Reports of Vice Presidents and Secretary General
- j. Election of Officers
- k. Appointment of Auditor
- l. Amendments to Constitution or to a Code
- m. Report of the Board of Directors
- n. Reports of Competitions
- o. Fixing the amount and payment schedule of any fees or charges
- p. Amount of the annual membership fee and any special contributions
- q. Consideration of Motions
- r. Any other business

s. Adjournment.

The order of business of a Special Congress shall be only:

- a. Roll call
- b. The matter(s) to be considered
- c. Adjournment.

- 7.12 Save as otherwise provided for in this Constitution or for the election of Executive Officers, a Motion or a resolution before a Congress shall be adopted by a majority of the National Federations present and eligible to vote.
- 7.13 The election of Executive Officers shall be governed by the following procedures.
- (a) Every Executive Officer shall be elected for a period of four (4) years and assume office at the conclusion of the Congress at which elected.
  - (b) Each National Federation can nominate only one (1) candidate for each Executive Officer position, which nomination must be signed by the President/Executive Director/Secretary/Administrator of the National Federation submitting that nomination. An incumbent Executive Officer may nominate himself or herself for reelection for that Office only. Notice of nomination for an Executive Officer shall be made in accordance with the criteria for Motions in Art. 7.04. The Secretary General shall assemble and mail the list of candidates to each National Federation with the Agenda.
  - (c) The election of Executive Officers shall be in the order of succession: President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; and Secretary General. Each Elected Officer shall be elected to that Office by secret ballot, with each National Federation having two votes. The candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast shall be elected to that Office.
    - (1) If there is only one (1) candidate for an Executive Office, there shall be a “yes” or “no” secret ballot. This nominee shall be elected to that Office if he or she receives a majority of the “yes” votes cast. If this does not occur, the Chair shall declare that there are no candidates for that Office and an election shall be held as provided for in Art. 7.13(c)(3).
    - (2) If three or more individuals are candidates for an Executive Office, the one candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast shall be declared the winner of that election. If the tally of votes shall not result in a majority for one person, the individual with the lowest number of votes in that round shall be eliminated and voting in subsequent ballots shall continue involving the remaining candidates until one person receives a majority of the votes cast, which person shall be declared the winner.
    - (3) If there is no valid nomination for an Executive Office or if a single nominee does not attain a majority as provided for in Art. 7.13(c)(2), nominations for that Office may be made from the floor of the Congress but an individual may be nominated for an Executive Office only by his or her National Federation. Only an Accredited Delegate shall make such a nomination. There may be more than one such nomination for an Executive Office. Voting shall continue as provided for in this Art. 7.13(c)(3) until one nominee receives a majority of votes, who shall be declared the winner of the election. If no individual receives the required majority, the Chair of the Congress shall declare that Office vacant and that Office shall be filled as provided for in Art. 4.04.

- 7.14 If within a reasonable period after the designated start time for a Congress the Secretary General has conducted the Roll Call and has established that a quorum as defined in Art. 7.09 is not present, then and for that time deliberations may be had but no Motion or resolution shall be adopted and any business transacted is void. The National Federations then present may delegate to the Board of Directors any matter to be considered at that Congress for its deliberations and action other than the election or removal of Officers. Any such matter shall be considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors in the same period scheduled for the Congress.
- 7.15 A duly convened and quorate Congress may be adjourned and re-convened as soon as practicable thereafter as deemed by the Board of Directors. Such a Congress shall proceed as if it had not been adjourned and then re-convened.
- 7.16 The Board of Directors shall summon a Special Congress, provided 25 percent of the current National Federations in Good Standing give notice in writing to the Secretary General that they desire such Congress, state their reason(s) for same and provide materials necessary to accomplish the purpose of said meeting. Those who summon a Special Congress shall pay all reasonable, direct costs. The venue shall be in the Region where the majority of requesting National Federations are located. The Secretary General shall not more than 14 calendar days after the receipt of said notice and materials summon the Special Congress to meet on a date not less than 60 calendar days nor more than 75 calendar days after the publication of said notice and materials to all National Federations. The only business that may be conducted at a Special Congress shall be the subject matter(s) set forth in the request for the Special Congress. A Special Congress shall proceed as provided for in Art. 7.11.

## **ARTICLE 8 ELIGIBILITY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

- 8.01. Every athlete wishing to participate in an ISF Competition must be a citizen of the country of the National Federation which is entering him or her in that Competition. The term “citizen” shall be that as defined in the laws of the country that the athlete wishes to represent.
- 8.02 An athlete who is a citizen of more than one country at the same time may represent only one country of his or her choice.
- (a) An athlete that has represented one country in a World Championships or Olympic Games, or a Qualifier for that World Championships or Olympic Games, may not represent another country unless he or she satisfies the conditions in 8.02(b).
- (b) An athlete who has represented one nation in a World Championships or Olympic Games or a Qualifier for a World Championships or Olympic Games who has changed or acquired a new nationality, or who is a dual citizen and has represented one country, shall not participate in a World Championships or Olympic Games or a Qualifier for World Championships or Olympic Games to represent his or her new or other country until three (3) years after such change or acquisition, or declaration of intending to play for the other country. This period may be reduced or cancelled with the agreement of the National Federations concerned and the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 8.03 An individual shall not be eligible to compete in an ISF Competition if such person is subject to a Sanction relevant to such competition or it is established that such person competed under a name other than his or her own or engaged in any other act that is proscribed by this Constitution or a Code.

8.04 Any dispute relating to the determination of the country which a player may represent in the Olympic Games or a Qualifier for an Olympic Games shall be resolved by the IOC Executive Board. Any dispute relating to the determination of the country which a player may represent in a World Championships or a Qualifier for a World Championship shall be resolved by the Board of Directors.

#### 8.05 Discipline and Sanctions

- (a) The ISF recognizes the jurisdiction and right of a National Federation to discipline, sanction or disqualify in its own territory any of its own athletes, coaches, managers, scorers, umpires or officials in accordance with the rules of that National Federation.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution, an applicable Code and applicable law, a National Federation shall have the right to discipline, sanction or disqualify a foreign person that, in a Softball competition sanctioned by that National Federation, violates the rules of that National Federation. After a final determination is made and a sanction or disqualification results, the decision shall be provided to the ISF and the National Federation to which the person belongs. National Federations and the ISF shall abide by the final determination, sanction or disqualification (if appealed, after a final determination following appeal). Should that foreign person contest any such decision of that National Federation, that person has the right to appeal such decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport of the Canton of Vaux, Switzerland (“CAS”) under the applicable rules of CAS. The decision of the CAS shall be final.
- (c) The ISF may discipline, sanction or disqualify any athlete, coach, manager, umpire or official or other person that is subject to its jurisdiction for any offense which is a violation of this Constitution or a Code.

#### 8.06 Dispute Resolution

- (a) A complaint may be brought by any National Federation arising out of an act or omission that involves a matter under this Constitution or a Code, or arising out of an ISF Competition that is not otherwise provided for in this Constitution or a Code or by any Regional Vice President. All complaints shall be in writing, state the matter of concern, accompanied by any supporting documentation, and a list of witnesses or other persons having information on which the complaining party wants to rely.
- (b) A complaint for dispute resolution may not be filed with the ISF unless and until all available remedies provided by any other organization with authority over such complaint are exhausted.
- (c) The sole and exclusive means for dispute resolution shall be as provided for in the Disciplinary Code.
- (d) Every such complaint shall be dealt with by the applicable provisions of the Disciplinary Code, having regard to this Constitution.

#### 8.07 Arbitration

- (a) Any dispute against or by the ISF shall be resolved exclusively by arbitration before the CAS or any of its regional offices. No dispute or any other matter may be brought before a court. All other processes must be exhausted, including dispute resolution in Art. 8.06, before arbitration may be sought.

- (b) The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the CAS, or pursuant to such other rules or modified rules as the parties agree. The decision of the arbitrators shall be final, binding upon the parties and non-appealable.

## **ARTICLE 9 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

### 9.01 Competitions

- (a) The ISF recognizes the following competitions in Softball.
  - (1) ISF Competitions, as defined in Art. 1.02.
  - (2) International Competitions (Commonwealth Games, World University Games, Masters Games, and so on).
  - (3) Regional Championships (Asian Championships, European Championships, Pan Am Games, and so on) organized and run by a National Federation or a Regional Federation.
  - (4) Competitions (national championships or tournaments where club or national teams from one or more countries play). A national championship is open to all Softball players or teams in that National Federation and is not an ISF Competition, a Regional Competition or an International Competition. Every National Federation has the right to hold its national championships and tournaments under its own rules and regulations.
- (b) The ISF shall sanction or approve ISF Competitions and International Competitions. Regional Federations shall sanction or approve Regional Championships, which may also serve as a Qualifier for a World Championship or an Olympic Games in which case these competitions would also be ISF sanctioned. Competitions would sanctioned solely by the host organiser or National Federation involved.

9.02 The Codes, Playing Rules and Technical Code apply to every ISF Competition, International Competition and a Regional Competition if the Regional Competition is also a Qualifier. For Competitions other than an ISF Competition, an International Competition and a Regional Competition that was not a Qualifier, the rules and regulations of the host National Federation or Regional Federation and the Technical Code, if it does not conflict with the rules and regulations of the host National Federation or Regional Federation, shall apply.

9.03 Each National Federation shall mutually recognize each other as the only Federation governing Softball in their respective nations, and as the only bodies competent to regulate international Softball relations, and they alone can select competitors from their nation to represent them at an international competition or an ISF Competition.

## **ARTICLE 10 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

10.01 World Championships shall be held as provided for in the Technical Code. Bids shall be in the proper written form and comply with the requirements in the Technical Code.

## **ARTICLE 11 OLYMPIC GAMES**

- 11.01 The Competitions Commission shall under the Technical Code prepare and recommend to a Congress a system for Qualifiers and qualifying teams for Olympic Games competition. This Commission shall make such proposal at least three (3) years prior to Softball participating in an Olympic Program. This Commission shall take into consideration in preparing and recommending a system of qualifying that will give the greatest opportunity to as many National Federation teams and Regions as possible to participate in Olympic qualification taking into consideration time and cost factors. The Board of Directors with the approval of a Congress shall consider all proposals with the ultimate consideration being to have the strongest and most competitive teams participating in the Olympic Games.

## **ARTICLE 12 DOPING CONTROL**

- 12.01 The ISF has adopted and administers and enforces a comprehensive anti-doping control program addressing both in-competition and out-of competition testing (“Anti-Doping Program”). The Anti-Doping Program is part of the Competitions Code and is given to all National Federations, the IOC and the NOC of every National Federation. Any violation of the Anti-Doping Program shall result in action being taken against the responsible individual, team, official or National Federation and, if it is established that a violation has occurred, the Board of Directors shall ask for the strongest possible sanction to be administered.

## **ARTICLE 13 HALL OF FAME**

- 13.01 There is established an ISF Hall of Fame. Players and non-players may be nominated, elected and honored in accordance with the following.
- 13.02 Nominations for a player must conform to the following.
- (a) The player must be retired from competition for four (4) years.
  - (b) Players who participated in international competition to and including 1969 must have played in at least one (1) World Championship and by nominated by a National Federation stating the player’s participation and providing substantiation of his or her performance.
  - (c) A player must have competed in international competition for a minimum period of six (6) competitive years, must have been a member of his National Federation’s national team and must have played in at least 20 games during sanctioned international competition. Competitive years are defined as those years in which the player has competed in an ISF Competition.
  - (d) The player must have an outstanding record of achievement during this time and must have made a significant contribution to the achievements of his/her national teams.
  - (e) Nominations for players may be submitted only by a National Federation.
- 13.03 Every nomination for a non-player must conform to the following:
- (a) Umpires: must have officiated in or have been involved with umpiring internationally for at least 10 years, officiated or been involved in least one (1) World Championship or Olympic Games and must have officiated or been involved in at least three (3) Regional Games, Qualifiers or international competitions. He or she must have made notable contribution towards the development of umpiring in his or her nation and/or region.

- (b) Coaches/Managers: must have coached or managed with distinction in international competition for at least 10 years; coached or managed with distinction in at least one (1) World Championship or Olympic Games; coached or managed with distinction in at least three (3) Regional Games, Qualifiers or sanctioned international competitions; and made a notable contribution toward the development of coaching or managing in his/her nation and/or region.
  - (c) Administrators/Organizers: may be nominated by their National Federation or the Board of Directors. They must have served with distinction for at least ten (10) years in building, promoting, developing or serving the sport of Softball internationally in an exemplary manner.
  - (d) Meritorious Service. An individual may be nominated for service in a combination as umpire, coach, manager, administrator and/or sponsor. The individual(s) must have 10 years in active service in international competition, sponsorship or service and have performed in an outstanding and exemplary manner while making a significant contribution to the game of Softball internationally.
- 13.04 As used in this Art. 13, “international competition” means games played in ISF Competitions or otherwise sanctioned by the ISF. In cases of doubt, the Hall of Fame Commission shall determine if a game is a game played in an ISF Competition or not and such determination is final.
- 13.05 The Hall of Fame Commission shall be comprised of six (6) persons, plus the Secretary General of ISF. There must be a minimum of five (5) votes to recommend to the Congress for election. If the Commission member has a nominee from his country, he is disqualified from voting. In this case it would take four (4) votes to elect.
- 13.06 Every nomination for the Hall of Fame must be submitted to the Hall of Fame Commission not less than three (3) months prior to the Congress at which nominations are to be considered.
- 13.07 A suitable recognition plaque and certificate and a lifetime pass to ISF events shall be presented to the Hall of Fame honoree by or on behalf of ISF within six (6) months after election.
- 13.08 The Hall of Fame shall be located at the venue of the ISF headquarters.