



# GENERAL STATUTES



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## **CHAPTER 1: COMPOSITION, PURPOSE AND DEFINITION**

### **ARTICLE 1: NAME AND AUTHORITY**

- 1.1. Deaf International Basketball Federation (DIBF) is the governing body for deaf basketball around the world. DIBF is an independent association composed of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball worldwide, as provided for under Chapter 2 of these General Statutes.
- 1.2. DIBF is the sole competent authority for basketball throughout the world and is recognised of the Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) and is affiliated as the Associate Member of the International Committee for the Sports of the Deaf (ICSD/Deaflympics) and its regional confederations.
- 1.3. DIBF was provisionally established in Turku, Finland on 2 May 1998 under the name of the International Deaf Basketball Association (IDBA), and officially founded by the founding meeting with two-third majority votes achieved of officials from the National Deaf Sports Federations practicing deaf basketball countries in Athens, Greece on 20 July 2002. The name IDBA was also changed to Deaf International Basketball Federation (DIBF) for more corporate visibility and comprehensiveness.
- 1.4. DIBF maintains absolute political and religious neutrality and does not tolerate any form of discrimination.
- 1.5. All bodies and officials of DIBF must observe the General Statutes, Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of DIBF.

### **ARTICLE 2: HEADQUARTERS AND PLACE OF JURISDICTION**

- 2.1. The headquarters of DIBF shall be established in the country of the Secretary General.
- 2.2. DIBF is subject to the laws of Greece and shall be organised in such a manner as to acquire legal status, listed in the Commercial Register.

### **ARTICLE 3: NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION**

- 3.1. DIBF is a non-profit-making organisation whose purpose is to provide opportunities for persons with a hearing disability to play the game of deaf basketball and does not pursue any objective for its own gains. It shall pursue solely and directly objectives of general interest in accordance with the laws of Greece. The financial resources of DIBF may be used only in pursuit of the objectives laid down in these General Statutes. To the extent that compensation or reimbursement of expenses is paid to individuals, it must be appropriate, justified and related to DIBF's objectives.
- 3.2. DIBF has established reserve funds and uses such funds in accordance with the laws of Greece. The Central Board decides the policy on the usage of the reserves.

### **ARTICLE 4: MISSION AND ROLE**

- 4.1. The mission of DIBF is to promote the sport of deaf basketball throughout the world and to lead the deaf basketball movement as recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA). DIBF's role is to:



- a) Control, regulate, supervise and direct, and to foster, encourage and advance the Sport of deaf basketball and the practice of men's and women's deaf basketball in all its forms and in all age groups in every country worldwide;
- b) Manage deaf basketball throughout the world through participation, development, competition, and commercial means;
- c) Ensure that deaf basketball throughout the world is carried on in a manner which allows the sport to be competitive and fair;
- d) Formulate or adopt and implement appropriate policies in relation to discrimination, sexual harassment, equal opportunity, equity, drugs and doping, health, safety, infectious diseases, and such other matters as arise from time to time as issues to be addressed in deaf basketball;
- e) Adopt, formulate, issue, interpret, implement and amend from time to time such rules and regulations as are necessary for the control and conduct of deaf basketball throughout the world;
- f) Allocate and control the conduct and administration of all official international deaf competitions at national deaf team and deaf club level;
- g) License and/or endorse the conduct and management of international deaf basketball competitions or games where this is in the interests of furthering its mission and role; Establish and maintain a DIBF basketball judicial system, providing processes for the appeal of decisions and the settlement of disputes;
- h) Pursue itself or through another entity commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities and commercial arrangements in relation to DIBF's intellectual property, as are appropriate to further its mission and role;
- i) Provide for the representation of DIBF at international deaf events which will extend and enhance its control and management of deaf basketball throughout the world;
- j) Promote the recognition of deaf basketball as one of the world's leading sports;
- k) Do all that is reasonably necessary to enable its mission and role to be achieved and to enable the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball to receive the benefits which DIBF's mission and role are intended to achieve;
- l) Co-operate with, join with, and/or support any association, organisation, foundation, society or individual where the activities or purposes are similar to those of DIBF or which advance deaf basketball throughout or in specific parts of the world;
- m) Have regard to the public interest in its operations;



- n) Undertake and/or do all such things or activities as are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of its mission and role; and
- o) Promote the participation of women at all levels of basketball governance.

#### **ARTICLE 5: RULES AND REGULATIONS**

In addition to these General Statutes, DIBF may regulate deaf basketball activities worldwide through the enactment of Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions.

### **CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP OF DIBF**

#### **ARTICLE 6: MEMBERS OF DIBF**

Only National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball may become members of DIBF. Those national deaf federations listed in the Annex to these General Statutes are members of DIBF.

#### **ARTICLE 7: ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF DIBF**

- 7.1. An applicant National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball seeking membership in DIBF must be the controlling body of deaf basketball in a country which is an independent state, recognised by the international community. This provision shall not affect the status of existing members.
- 7.2. Subject to Article 7.3, only one (1) National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball per country shall be admitted to membership in DIBF.
- 7.3. DIBF may accept an application for membership from a federation in a region which is recognised by the international community as an emerging independent state, provided that such an application is supported by the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball of the country on which the region is dependent.
- 7.4. Before admitting an applicant federation to membership of DIBF, the Central Board shall satisfy itself that the applicant federation fully controls and governs both men's and women's deaf basketball in its country, and is in good standing in that country.
- 7.5. Strict observance of the Official Basketball Rules of FIBA and of the provisions contained in the General Statutes, the Internal Regulations of DIBF, other rules and regulations, and decisions of DIBF, both in spirit and letter, is the primary condition for obtaining and maintaining membership in DIBF.
- 7.6. Admission procedures are set out in the Internal Regulations of DIBF.



## **ARTICLE 8: RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

- 8.1. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball have the following rights:
- a) To take part and to vote in the Congress;
  - b) To make proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) To nominate candidates for the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and other members of the Central Board as per Article 15.1.4.b);
  - d) To nominate candidates for the DIBF Commissions;
  - e) To take part in the main official competitions of DIBF;
  - f) To take part in and benefit from DIBF's assistance, development and educational programmes organised directly or through the Regional Offices;
  - g) To exercise all other rights arising from these General Statutes, the Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of DIBF; and
  - h) To exercise all other rights arising from the Zones' Regulations.
- 8.2. The exercise of these rights is subject to the provisions in these General Statutes, the Internal Regulations, and other rules and regulations, and decisions of DIBF.

## **ARTICLE 9: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

- 9.1. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must maintain full control and governance of deaf basketball in their country, remain in good standing, and participate in official international deaf activities and competitions.
- 9.2. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must observe all regulations and decisions of DIBF and ensure that their members also comply with them. They shall promote amicable and courteous relations with other National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and their members, officials and players.
- 9.3. The statutes and regulations of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must comply fully with the General Statutes and Internal Regulations of DIBF. The General Statutes and Internal Regulations of DIBF shall form part of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball's statutes and regulations. In the event of doubt or conflict, the General Statutes and Internal Regulations of DIBF shall prevail.
- 9.4. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must ensure that deaf basketball in their country is played in accordance with the Official Basketball Rules of FIBA, and that the DIBF Calendar



and the obligation to release players for national deaf teams in accordance with the Internal Regulations are respected.

- 9.5. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball shall establish a system for the resolution of disputes by independent arbitration, excluding - to the extent legally possible - recourse to the state courts. They shall promote recourse to and recognise decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and shall ensure that said decisions and awards are legally binding for and enforced by National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball, deaf clubs, deaf leagues, players and officials.
- 9.6. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must ensure that their policies and programmes are in compliance with those of DIBF. In particular, they shall embrace the principles set out in the DIBF National Deaf Sports Federations /their National Organisations governing deaf basketball Manual and ensure that their governance and management processes produce the following:
  - a) Up-to-date statutes and regulations in English, approved by DIBF;
  - b) A long-term strategic plan;
  - c) An annual report on activities results (to be sent to DIBF); and
  - d) A database of participants (including foreign players), coaches, technical officials, and of competition results.
- 9.7. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball shall manage their affairs independently and with no influence from third parties. In particular they must ensure that their officials are either elected or appointed under democratic process for a term of office of four (4) years. Their statutes must provide a transparent procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
- 9.8. The accounts of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball shall be audited in accordance with international accounting standards each year by an independent external auditor.
- 9.9. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball are liable for all financial obligations of their own members or bodies (including deaf leagues and deaf clubs) towards DIBF.
- 9.10. Non-compliance with these provisions may lead to the intervention of DIBF as appropriate, including sanctioning provided for in these General Statutes and the Internal Regulations of DIBF.





#### **ARTICLE 10: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

- 10.1. The Secretary General may suspend a National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball which has not paid its fees or is in arrears for a period of four (4) consecutive years. The Central Board and the Zones must be informed. Such a suspension may be lifted by the Secretary General when the National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball is once again in good financial standing with DIBF.
- 10.2. On the initiative of the Secretary General, the Central Board may suspend a National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball for other important reasons and, in particular, when:
  - a) the General Statutes, Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, or decisions of DIBF are violated;
  - b) the requirements of Article 7 are no longer fulfilled; and/or
  - c) the obligations of Article 9 are not being met.
- 10.3. A suspended member federation forfeits its rights under Article 8.1. so long as it remains suspended and its teams and officials may not organise and / or participate in official competitions or activities.
- 10.4. If not lifted by the Central Board in the meantime, a suspension made under Article 10.2. may remain in force only until the next Congress. The Congress shall decide whether the suspension is lifted or prolonged.
- 10.5. Procedures dealing with suspended members are set out in the Internal Regulations of DIBF.
- 10.6. Based on a proposal put forward by the Central Board, the Congress may decide to expel a National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball without indication of grounds.

#### **ARTICLE 11: DISBANDMENT OF A NATIONAL DEAF SPORTS FEDERATION**

- 11.1. If a National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball is disbanded according to the procedure set out in its own statutes and regulations, a new National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball may be admitted in accordance with Article 7.
- 11.2. If a disbanded National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball was not in good financial standing with DIBF or the relevant Zone at the time of its disbandment, the new National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball shall take over all the financial obligations of the former National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball towards DIBF or the relevant Zone, unless the Central Board decides otherwise.



## **ARTICLE 12: DEAF CLUBS, OTHER BODIES AND DEAF LEAGUES**

- 12.1. The various bodies of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball (including deaf leagues and deaf clubs) may pursue their activities within the limits of their own National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball only, and with the latter's recognition and permission.
- 12.2. No international activity of such bodies shall be permitted without the authorisation of the competent National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and DIBF.
- 12.3. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and their deaf clubs or deaf leagues may not play on the territory of another National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball without the latter's authorisation and that of DIBF.
- 12.4. Further requirements relating to Deaf League Organisations at national and international levels are set out in the Internal Regulations of DIBF.
- 12.5. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball affiliated or otherwise connected with National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball are not authorised to take over or participate directly or indirectly in the management or exploitation of broadcast, marketing, merchandising, or similar rights of another National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball.
- 12.6. Deaf Clubs, deaf leagues, players, coaches, referees, and other officials affiliated with or licensed by National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must at all times respect the General Statutes and the Zone Regulations as well as the DIBF Calendar, the Official Basketball Rules of FIBA, and the DIBF Internal Regulations, in particular, without limitation, those on Anti-Doping, Eligibility and National Status of Players, International Transfer of Players.
- 12.7. DIBF and National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball may impose sanctions on their own bodies for breaches of this Article 12.

## **CHAPTER 3: DIVISIONS OF DIBF**

### **ARTICLE 13: DIVISIONS OF DIBF**

- 13.1. DIBF
  - a) The Congress is organised in the following divisions:
  - b) The Central Board
  - c) The Secretariat of DIBF, acting through the Secretary General
  - d) The Zones, acting through the Regional Offices
  - e) The Commissions



## ARTICLE 14: THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

### 14.1. The Congress

- 14.1.1. The Congress shall be the supreme authority of DIBF. It consists of:
- a) A maximum of two (2) delegates per National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball with the right to one (1) vote, which is granted to the first delegate if both are present;
  - b) The President; the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
  - c) Members of the Central Board, who have consultative powers only, unless they officially represent a National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball; and
  - d) The Chairpersons of the DIBF Commissions who have consultative powers only.
- 14.1.2. National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball may be represented by their delegate/s only, who must present a document signed by the President of that National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball attesting that they are delegates of that federation. Delegates may represent one (1) National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball only.
- 14.1.3. Representation by letter or proxy is not permitted.
- 14.1.4. The Congress has the powers assigned to it in the General Statutes, in particular to:
- a) Approve the agenda;
  - b) Adopt and modify these General Statutes;
  - c) Elect the President of DIBF for a single term of four (4) years;
  - d) Elect members of the Central Board as per Article 15.1.4. b);
  - e) Elect the Treasurer of DIBF, upon proposal by the Secretary General;
  - f) Grant the title of Honorary President, Honorary Member or Secretary General Emeritus;
  - g) Examine and approve all reports, including the report of the Central Board, and other items on the agenda;



- h) Ratify the decisions of the Central Board under Articles 10.2. and 15.1.1. g) (suspension of members);
  - i) Decide on the expulsion of members as per Article 10.6.; and
  - j) Declare the disbandment of DIBF.
- 14.1.5. The Congress meets once every four (4) years. No quorum is required for a session of the Congress.
- 14.1.6. Upon approval by the Central Board, the Congress may meet by video conference and may vote by correspondence, including email or other electronic means.
- 14.1.7. Only matters proposed by the President, the Secretary General, the Central Board, or the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball may be put on the agenda for the session of Congress, provided that these matters fall within the latter's powers. Proposals must be submitted to the Secretary General at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of Congress.
- 14.1.8. Subject to 14.1.8. below, the date and place for the Congress is determined by the Secretary General and notice given to the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball at least ninety (90) days in advance. The agenda is prepared by the Secretary General and must be sent to the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the Congress.
- 14.1.9. Upon the request of one-third (1/3) of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball with full rights or upon the request of the Central Board, an extraordinary session of Congress shall be held within three (3) months of receipt of such a request by the Secretary General. Extraordinary sessions of Congress shall always be held in Switzerland unless decided otherwise by the Central Board.
- 14.1.10. The items to be included on the agenda for an extraordinary session of Congress shall be specified in the request for such a session.
- 14.1.11. Participation forms for delegates must reach the Secretary General at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the opening of the Congress.
- 14.1.12. The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring that details of the decisions taken by the Congress are documented and archived correctly.
- 14.1.13. The Congress may grant the title of Honorary President, Honorary Member, or Secretary General Emeritus of DIBF to appropriate persons who have rendered outstanding service to DIBF. Nominations for such



positions shall be made by the Central Board. Persons granted such titles are permitted to attend the sessions of Congress with the right to join in discussions, but not to vote.

- 14.1.14. The decisions of Congress are final and not subject to appeal.
- 14.1.15. Unless otherwise specified by the General Statutes or by the Congress, decisions of the Congress enter into force on the first day following conclusion of the Congress.

## 14.2. The President

- 14.2.1. The President of DIBF is elected by the Congress for one (1) single four (4) year term of office.
- 14.2.2. The President may not hold an office within a Zone or a National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball.
- 14.2.3. The process for the election of a President is as follows:
  - a) At least ninety (90) days prior to the first day of an elective Congress, the Secretary General shall invite nominations for the position of President from the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball in the respective Zone (cf. 14.2.1.).
  - b) Nominations shall close with the Secretary General thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the elective Congress at which the election will take place.
  - c) The nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary General which shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Congress (cf. 14.1.7. and 38).
  - d) The Congress shall elect the President as provided for in Article 14.1.4. c)
- 14.2.4. The President of DIBF presides over the Congress and the Central Board. He has the right to vote:
  - a) In the Congress - only a casting vote in the event of a tied vote; and
  - b) In the Central Board - a vote as a member of the Central Board plus a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
- 14.2.5. Should the President be temporarily unable to fulfil his duties, the Vice-President of DIBF deputises for him during sessions of Congress and/or meetings of the Central Board. In the event that the President



is permanently unable to fulfil his duties, the Vice-President shall act as President until the next Congress.

14.2.6. The President is not an employee of DIBF.

#### **ARTICLE 15: THE CENTRAL BOARD AND THE TREASURER**

15.1. The Central Board:

15.1.1. The Central Board has the powers assigned to it under these General Statutes and the Internal Regulations of DIBF, in particular the following:

- a) To supervise the practice of deaf basketball worldwide;
- b) To develop and up-date on an annual basis a four-year strategic plan for DIBF and to determine DIBF's general policy;
- c) To review and approve the annual business plans and financial statements prepared by the Secretariat;
- d) To appoint and dismiss the Secretary General and to enter with them relating to their services and their duties on behalf of DIBF;
- e) To supervise and monitor the Secretary General's performance and that of the Secretariat;
- f) To accept or reject applications for membership from National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and to assign them to a Zone;
- g) To decide on the suspension of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball;
- h) To control the appointment of and set worldwide standards for DIBF referees, instructors, and commissioners;
- i) To regulate the transfer of players, coaches, and referees from one National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball to another;
- j) To promote amicable and courteous relations between National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball, Zones, and their officials and players;
- k) To take every measure appropriate in order to prevent violations of the General Statutes, Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, decisions and Official Basketball Rules of FIBA;



- l) To prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of the competitions or give rise to abuse of the sport of deaf basketball;
- m) To provide for the principles valid for deciding and settling all disputes between National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball, Zones, deaf clubs, deaf leagues, officials, and players and guaranteeing the right of defence and an impartial judgement, in accordance with these General Statutes and the Internal Regulations of DIBF;
- n) To hear and resolve disputes related to international deaf leagues as per the relevant Internal Regulations;
- o) To present reports (including financial reports) to Congress;
- p) To determine the financial policy and to approve the budget and the financial report as prepared by the Treasurer;
- q) To exercise overall control over the financial management of DIBF;
- r) To review the final text of proposed amendments to these General Statutes to be submitted to the Congress for approval. The final text of the proposed amendments, as reviewed by the Central Board, shall be sent to the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball together with the agenda for the Congress;
- s) To adopt and modify the Internal Regulations, and other rules and regulations of DIBF;
- t) To organise, govern, control and/or assign the organisation of the World Deaf Basketball Championships for Men and Women and other world deaf basketball competitions;
- u) To appoint Chairpersons and members of the DIBF Commissions in accordance with the relevant articles of these General Statutes;
- v) To approve the Bye-Laws of the Regional Offices, and
- w) To approve the statutes and regulations of any other organisations officially recognised by DIBF.

#### 15.1.2. Decisions of the DIBF Central Board

- a) The Central Board is competent to take decisions on any matter not provided for in these General Statutes, or in the event of force majeure;



- b) Decisions of the Central Board are final and binding. They must reflect equity, fairness, and transparency; and
  - c) Decisions of the Central Board can be appealed only before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 15.1.3. The term of office of the Central Board is the four (4) years beginning on the first day after closure of the elective Congress through to, and including, the last day of the session of the next elective Congress (cf. 14.2.1.).
- 15.1.4. The Central Board consists of the following members with the right to vote:
- a) Ex-officio members
    - aa) The President of DIBF (1)
    - bb) The Secretary General of DIBF (1)
    - cc) The Treasurer of DIBF (1)
  - b) Two (2) members elected by the Congress
  - c) The President of each Zone (4)
- 15.1.5. Both genders shall be represented by at least two (2) persons on the Central Board among the members under Article 15.1.4. a), b) and c).
- 15.1.6. The process for the election of the two (2) members under Article 15.1.4. b) shall be as follows:
- a) The National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball shall submit nominations to the DIBF Secretariat no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Congress. The National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball must ensure that their candidates fulfil the eligibility criteria established in the DIBF Internal Regulations;
  - b) The Central Board shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Congress;
  - c) In the event that positions of either gender remain open after the election, these positions will be filled by the members under Article 15.1.4. a) upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General.
- 15.1.7. Members listed under Article 15.1.4. a) and b) as well as those under Article 15.1.8. will be elected / appointed for a renewable term of four (4) years.





- 15.1.8. The number of Central Board members listed under Article 15.1.4. a) and 15.1.4. b) with the same nationality is limited to one (1). The maximum number of members with the same nationality among all members of the Central Board is two (2).
- 15.1.9. Membership of the Central Board is personal and proxies are not permitted. Central Board members must act in a responsible and independent manner, in the interests of DIBF globally. The membership of ex officio members (15.1.4. a)) in the Central Board is conditional upon their holding the respective position. Article 36 shall apply to all the members of the Central Board.
- 15.1.10. If an elected or co-opted member of the Central Board is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without special leave of absence from the Central Board, then the Central Board shall declare his seat to be vacant. The consequent vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the term in accordance with these General Statutes.
- 15.1.11. The Vice-President of DIBF is the person so elected by the Central Board from among the Board Members that elected by the World Congress.
- 15.1.12. In addition to the members of the Central Board, the following persons attend the meetings of the Central Board, without voting rights:
- a) The Deputy Secretary General of DIBF (if appointed);
  - b) The Secretary General Emeritus (if the title is granted);
  - c) The Secretary General of the Regional Offices.
- 15.1.13. The Secretary General may invite other persons to attend meetings of the Central Board, in particular when matters within their competence are to be discussed. They shall have consultative powers only.
- 15.1.14. The Central Board will hold ordinary meetings once yearly in the years of the elective Congress (cf. Article 14.1.5.) and once in all other years. If necessary, the President and the Secretary General may call additional meetings of the Central Board. In this event, members must be informed at least thirty (30) days prior to the additional meeting.
- Upon the request by at least five (5) members of the Central Board, the Secretary General shall call an Extraordinary meeting of the Central Board to be held within fourteen (14) days of the request.
- 15.1.15. A copy of the agenda and the working documents will be transmitted in such a manner so as to be in the hands of the Central Board members at least seven (7) days before a meeting commences.
- 15.1.16. No quorum is required for a meeting of the Central Board.



15.1.17. At the request of the President and the Secretary General, the Central Board may vote by correspondence, including email.

15.2. The Executive Committee

(Reserved, will be added in next Congress)

15.3. The Treasurer

15.3.1. The Treasurer is elected by the Congress for one (1) renewable four (4) year terms of office.

15.3.2. The process for the election of the Treasurer is as follows:

a) At least ninety (90) days prior to the first day of an elective Congress, the Secretary General shall invite nominations for the position of Treasurer from the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball.

b) Nominations shall close with the Secretary General thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the elective Congress at which the election will take place.

c) The nominations shall be submitted to the Central Board which shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Congress (cf. 14.1.7.).

d) Upon proposal by the Secretary General, the Congress shall elect the Treasurer as provided for in Article 14.1.4. e).

15.3.3. The Treasurer has the following duties:

a) To oversee the financial administration of DIBF and to liaise with the external auditors as required;

b) To supervise the current account of income and expenditure;

c) To examine the periodic financial reports prepared by the Secretariat of DIBF;

d) To prepare the four (4) year budget in conjunction with the Secretariat;

e) To oversee the implementation of the budget; and

f) To present the financial statements to the Central Board and to the Congress.



#### **ARTICLE 16: THE SECRETARIAT OF DIBF**

- 16.1. The Secretariat of DIBF shall consist of:
- a) The Secretary General;
  - b) The Deputy Secretary General (if appointed);
  - c) The staff of the Secretariat.
- 16.2. Members of the Secretariat are honorary.
- 16.3. The Secretary General is appointed by the Central Board.
- 16.4. The Secretary General manages the Secretariat of DIBF and assumes all responsibility for it. He may not hold an official position within a National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball or a Zone.
- 16.5. The Secretary General, personally or through his advisors, is responsible for the study and implementation of measures concerning the promotion, supervision and direction of deaf basketball worldwide, including such projects of technical and medical assistance that DIBF may be able to provide for National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball or groups of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball. In particular, the Secretary General has the following duties:
- a) To lead and manage the Secretariat;
  - b) To ensure the implementation of all decisions taken by the Congress and the Central Board, and to report on the activities of the Secretariat;
  - c) To enter with the Secretary Generals of the Regional Offices relating to their services and their duties on behalf of the Regional Offices, after approval by the Central Board;
  - d) To evaluate, on behalf of the Central Board, the performance of the Regional Offices;
  - e) To be responsible for all international deaf and Deaflympic competitions;
  - f) To be responsible for the implementation of the missions set out in Article 4 of the General Statutes;
  - g) To ensure, as necessary, compliance with the regulations established by the ICSD and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
  - h) To convene and prepare the sessions of Congress and meetings of the Central Board;
  - i) To maintain the archives;



- j) To publish and send the General Statutes, Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, decisions, and Official Basketball Rules of FIBA to the members of the Central Board, the Regional Offices, the members of the Commissions, the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and officially recognised bodies;
- k) To draft and circulate official communications of DIBF;
- l) To ensure the receipt of annual fees from members and also contributions, royalties and dues, emoluments, and fines imposed by the competent divisions of DIBF;
- m) To administer DIBF's finances;
- n) To monitor and review on a continuing basis the income streams and financial resources of DIBF and to strive to create additional income streams and activities;
- o) To ensure compliance by the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball, their members and all DIBF officials and divisions with these General Statutes and all DIBF regulations and decisions and to inform the Central Board of any violations of the spirit and letter of them;
- p) To impose sanctions, in accordance with the Basic Principles governing the Application of Sanctions, provided for in these General Statutes or the Internal Regulations of DIBF unless provided otherwise; and
- q) To take decisions in cases where his jurisdiction is specifically provided for.

16.6. A Deputy Secretary General may be appointed by the Central Board upon proposal of the Secretary General. If appointed, the Deputy Secretary General shall exercise all duties delegated to him by the Secretary General. Should the Secretary General be temporarily unable to fulfil his duties, the Deputy Secretary General shall replace him for the duration of his absence and assume all of his powers. Should the Secretary General be permanently indisposed, the Deputy Secretary General shall act automatically as his substitute in all matters until the next meeting of the Central Board. The Deputy Secretary General may not hold an official position within a National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball or a Zone.

16.7. The Secretary General Emeritus performs duties delegated to him by the Secretary General.

#### **ARTICLE 17: THE ZONES**

17.1. To promote the co-ordination of deaf basketball worldwide, the Congress may establish Zones in geographic regions. The Zones are divisions of DIBF with delegated authority to take decisions in their geographic regions as per the DIBF General Statutes and Internal Regulations. They shall not be organised as legal entities and shall act only through the Regional Offices.



- 17.2. The DIBF Zones in Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe have been established in order to ensure proximity to the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball in the Zone and to run the regional affairs.
- 17.3. The establishment of a Zone in no respect affects the direct affiliation of each National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball to DIBF.
- 17.4. Upon becoming a member of DIBF, a National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball is assigned to a Zone by the Central Board.
- 17.5. The National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball of DIBF are grouped by Zones as per the Annex to these General Statutes.
- 17.6. The mission of the Zones shall be:
  - a) To establish their own development plans as an extension and reflection of the DIBF strategic objectives, adjusted to the conditions in their geographic regions. These plans shall be submitted to the Central Board and form the basis of the allocation of financial resources to the Regional Offices;
  - b) To promote the practice of deaf basketball in their geographic regions;
  - c) To improve the technical standards and administrative level of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball;
  - d) To support the development of additional competitions or programmes, which will assist in the growth and development of the game of deaf basketball;
  - e) To develop strategies allowing the Regional Offices to be financially self-sustainable; and
  - f) To assign specific tasks for the Regional Offices to fulfil the foregoing missions taking into account the circumstances prevailing in their respective Zone.

#### **ARTICLE 18: THE ORGANISATION OF THE ZONES**

- 18.1. Zones are authorised to organise their affairs in the manner most appropriate in their geographic region, subject to the General Statutes, the Internal Regulations and decisions by the Congress and the Central Board. To that end, Zones shall establish Zone Regulations setting forth the role, authority and responsibilities of the various bodies of the Zone. Zone Regulations shall enter into force only after their approval by the Central Board. They shall inter alia provide for the following rights and obligations:



- a) To assign and regulate the organisation of Zone competitions in a permanent and regular manner;
- b) To ensure that international deaf leagues or any such groups of deaf clubs shall not be formed without complying with the DIBF General Statutes, Internal Regulations other regulations and decisions of DIBF;
- c) To elect the President of the Zone for one (1) single four (4) year term of office. He may not hold an official position within a National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball. In the event that sub-zones have been established (cf. 18.1. i)) the position of President shall rotate between the sub-zones and is not renewable, unless approved otherwise by the Central Board. In view of the Zone President's membership in the Central Board (cf. 15.1.4. c)) the name and available information of the candidate(s) shall be submitted to the Central Board no later than one (1) month before the Zone election;
- d) To hold assemblies of all National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball assigned to the Zone at least every four years. Upon approval by the Central Board, the assembly may meet by video conference and may vote by correspondence, including email or other electronic means;
- e) To establish and elect the members of a Zone Board, which will deal with matters of the Zone between the Zone Assemblies;
- f) To establish Zone Commissions to advise and assist the Zone Assemblies and the Zone Boards in their duties. The establishment of Zone Commissions must be co-ordinated with the Central Board so as to avoid duplication of work;
- g) To elect a Treasurer which shall have the following duties:
  - aa) To oversee the financial administration of the Regional Office;
  - bb) To prepare a four (4) year budget for the Regional Office in conjunction with the Executive Director of the Regional Office and monitor its implementation, once it has been approved by the Central Board; and
  - cc) To present the financial statements of the Regional Office to the Zone Board and Zone Assembly.
- h) To establish a process referring disputes to the DIBF Central Board; and
- i) To form, with the approval of the Central Board, regional sub-divisions. The Central Board may order the re-structuring or disbandment of such sub-division if it believes that they are not in the interest of deaf basketball.



- 18.2. Decisions of the Zone bodies shall always comply with the DIBF General Statutes, Internal Regulations other rules and regulations and decisions of DIBF. They can be implemented only by the Regional Offices.
- 18.3. The DIBF President and the DIBF Secretary General have the right to participate in the meetings of all Zone bodies.

#### **ARTICLE 19: THE REGIONAL OFFICES**

- 19.1. Each DIBF regional office is organised as a non-profit-making legal entity owned by DIBF (the "Regional Offices"), in the manner most appropriate to the conditions prevailing in the country in which the Regional Office has its seat.
- 19.2. Each Regional Office is managed by a Zone Secretary General appointed by the Central Board after consultation with the Zone Board. He shall be an ex officio member of the Zone Board with a right to vote.
- 19.3. The Zone Secretary General shall report to DIBF and also provide full information about the activities and financial status of the Regional Office to the Zone Board and Zone Assembly. In the event of conflict between decisions of the Central Board or the Secretary General and those taken by the Zone bodies, the former shall prevail.
- 19.4. Regional Offices shall have the required staff to implement the decisions of DIBF and Zone bodies in their geographic regions and shall provide administrative support to Zone bodies and officials.
- 19.5. The DIBF Central Board has the power to give, through the Secretary General, binding instructions to the Regional Offices and to take any appropriate measure to implement these instructions. The Regional Offices are not authorised to represent DIBF before third parties.
- 19.6. The Regional Offices shall implement the strategies developed by their respective bodies, also with the view to being financially self-sustainable.
- 19.7. Decisions of the Regional Offices must be enforced by the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball assigned to the respective Zone.

#### **ARTICLE 20: DIBF COMMISSIONS**

- 20.1. The commissions are:
  - a) Technical Commission
  - b) Legal Commission
  - c) Referee Commission
  - d) Development Commission
  - e) Youth Commission
  - f) Women Commission
- 20.2. The Commissions have a four (4) year term of office identical with that of the Central Board.



- 20.3. Unless otherwise specified herein or determined by the Central Board, each Commission consists of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, and at least one (1) other member. Both genders must be represented in each Commission. The Secretary General puts forward a list of candidates to the Central Board for appointment. In presenting the list, he must take into consideration the expertise of the candidates in the area of competence of the respective Commission.
- 20.4. Member/s of the Central Board may be appointed to each Commission.
- 20.5. Should the Chairperson of a Commission be temporarily unable to fulfil his duties, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission deputises for him during meetings of the Commission. In the event that the Chairperson is permanently unable to fulfil his duties, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission replaces him for the remainder of his term.
- 20.6. The Secretary General is an ex-officio member of all the Commissions, with voting rights.
- 20.7. Membership of the Commissions is personal and representation by proxy is not permitted. While Commission members bring the knowledge, skill, and expertise from the National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball and from the Zone from which they are drawn, they must act in a responsible and independent manner, in the interests of DIBF.
- 20.8. The Commissions meet whenever necessary at the invitation of their Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary General.
- 20.9. No quorum is required for meetings of the Commissions.
- 20.10. With the agreement of the Secretary General, Commissions may make use of experts and appoint sub-commissions for specific tasks.
- 20.11. A copy of the agenda and the working documents will be transmitted in such a manner so as to be in the hands of the Commission members at least seven (7) days before a meeting commences.
- 20.12. The Commissions act in a consultative capacity only and do not exercise executive authority. However, Chairpersons and members of the Commissions may be called upon by the Secretary General to exercise executive duties. In such cases, they shall not act as representatives of their Commissions but as delegates of the Secretary General.
- 20.13. The Secretary General may appoint on an ad hoc basis committee, constituted by persons with specialist skills in their field of expertise, to advise him. The Secretary General will inform the Central Board of the appointment of such committees.





**ARTICLE 21: THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE 22: THE LEGAL COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE 23: THE REFEREE COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE 24: THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE 25: THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE 26: THE WOMEN COMMISSION**

(Reserved, will be added in next Congress)

**CHAPTER 4: ORGANISATIONS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY DIBF**

**ARTICLE 27: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 27.1. With the object of promoting deaf basketball, DIBF may officially recognise certain organisations. The Central Board of DIBF is responsible for granting official recognition to such organisations.
- 27.2. The organisations thus recognised have the freedom of action necessary to fulfil their mandate, subject to the approval of their national member federation, Zone, or the Central Board of DIBF.
- 27.3. Where applicable, the General Assembly of each organisation determines the place of its headquarters, subject to approval by the Central Board of DIBF.
- 27.4. Such organisations cannot represent DIBF before third parties.
- 27.5. To ensure the functioning of these organisations, they may receive a subsidy from DIBF, to be decided by the Central Board. This decision is based on the approval of a four (4) year strategic programme, for which individual plans of action must also be presented on an annual basis to the Central Board for approval, and any other conditions the Central Board deems necessary.
- 27.6. These organisations must send detailed reports on each of their activities at least once (1) per year to the Secretary General. DIBF reserves the right to withdraw its annual subsidy or its recognition if the activities of the organisation concerned are not satisfactory. Such a decision is a matter for the Central Board.

**ARTICLE 28: THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION DEAF VETERAN BASKETBALL**

(Reserved, will be added in next Congress)

**ARTICLE 29: THE BASKETBALL ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL**

(Reserved, will be added in next Congress)



## CHAPTER 5: DIBF AWARDS

### ARTICLE 30: DIBF AWARDS

DIBF has established a number of awards (set out in the Internal Regulations) to honour those persons who have contributed in an exceptional way to the development and promotion of deaf basketball worldwide.

- 30.1. DIBF has established the DIBF Hall of Fame to reflect the history of the sport and to honour those persons and organisations who have contributed in an exceptional way to the development and promotion of deaf basketball worldwide.
- 30.2. DIBF has established a number of other awards to honour distinguished contributions to deaf basketball.
- 30.3. Details of all awards and of the Induction processes and procedures are set out in the Internal Regulations of DIBF.

## CHAPTER 6: FINAL PROVISIONS

### ARTICLE 31: OTHER ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

The Central Board may set eligibility standards and procedures for election and nominations to office.

### ARTICLE 32: VOTING PROCESS

Votes are taken by show of hands. Elections shall be carried out by secret ballot unless there is only one candidate.

### ARTICLE 33: MAJORITY RULES

Unless otherwise specified herein, decisions are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. To amend the General Statutes, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast is necessary. Abstentions do not count.

### ARTICLE 34: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of the Central Board, DIBF Commissions or any other body of DIBF must not participate in any deliberation or decision which would expose him to a conflict of interest. In particular he must abstain from voting on a bid for the right to conduct an official competition of DIBF while ever his own National Deaf Sports Federation / their National Organisation governing deaf basketball remains in the vote.

### ARTICLE 35: REPLACEMENT OF MEMBERS

Members of DIBF divisions and their bodies who do not or who are unable to take an active or satisfactory part in the activities of DIBF may be replaced after due process as per the rules applicable for their election / appointment. The Central Board supervises this process.

### ARTICLE 36: MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

Communications under these General Statutes and the Internal Regulations of DIBF may be given by any means reasonably calculated to give notice of their contents.



#### **ARTICLE 37: LANGUAGE**

- 37.1. The official languages of DIBF are English in text and International Sign in sign language.
- 37.2. Interpreting of languages is not provided at the Congress.
- 37.3. Working languages during all meetings of the Central Board and the DIBF Commissions are according to the requirements of the participants. Working papers are provided in English language.
- 37.4. The General Statutes and the Internal Regulations of DIBF are published in the English language.

#### **ARTICLE 38: PREVAILING LANGUAGE**

In the event of dispute regarding the interpretation of the General Statutes, the Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and/or decisions of DIBF, the English text prevails.

#### **ARTICLE 39: SUPREMACY OF THE GENERAL STATUTES**

In the event of conflict between the General Statutes, the Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and/or decisions of DIBF, the provisions of the General Statutes prevail.

#### **ARTICLE 40: COLOURS, FLAG AND INSIGNIA**

The colours, flag and insignia of DIBF, and the use thereof, are approved by the Central Board. The use of the flag and insignia of DIBF are restricted to official competitions and meetings of DIBF unless written approval has been obtained from the Secretary General. The use of the flag and insignia of DIBF is mandatory at all official competitions.

#### **ARTICLE 41: DISBANDMENT OF DIBF**

Congress shall declare the disbandment of DIBF:

- a) If requested by four-fifths (4/5) of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball and if, at the session of Congress voting on disbandment, four-fifths (4/5) of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball present and with voting rights, then vote for disbandment. If however, at that session, less than three-fourths (3/4) of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball are present, a second session of voting on disbandment shall be called, at which session a majority of four-fifths (4/5) of the National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball present and with voting rights, irrespective of a quorum, shall be sufficient; or
- b) If the number of National Deaf Sports Federations / their National Organisations governing deaf basketball is reduced to three (3) or fewer;
- c) In the above instances, the Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) headquartered in Switzerland shall be assigned the resources remaining after



expenses caused by the operations of disbandment have been covered. These resources shall be used for the benefit of deaf basketball, deaf amateur sports, a deaf youth organisation, or other similar deaf activities.

**ARTICLE 42: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These General Statutes are approved by the Congress of DIBF of 18 June 2023 and become effective from the time of their approval, unless otherwise specified herein. They may not be amended before the next ordinary or extraordinary Congress.