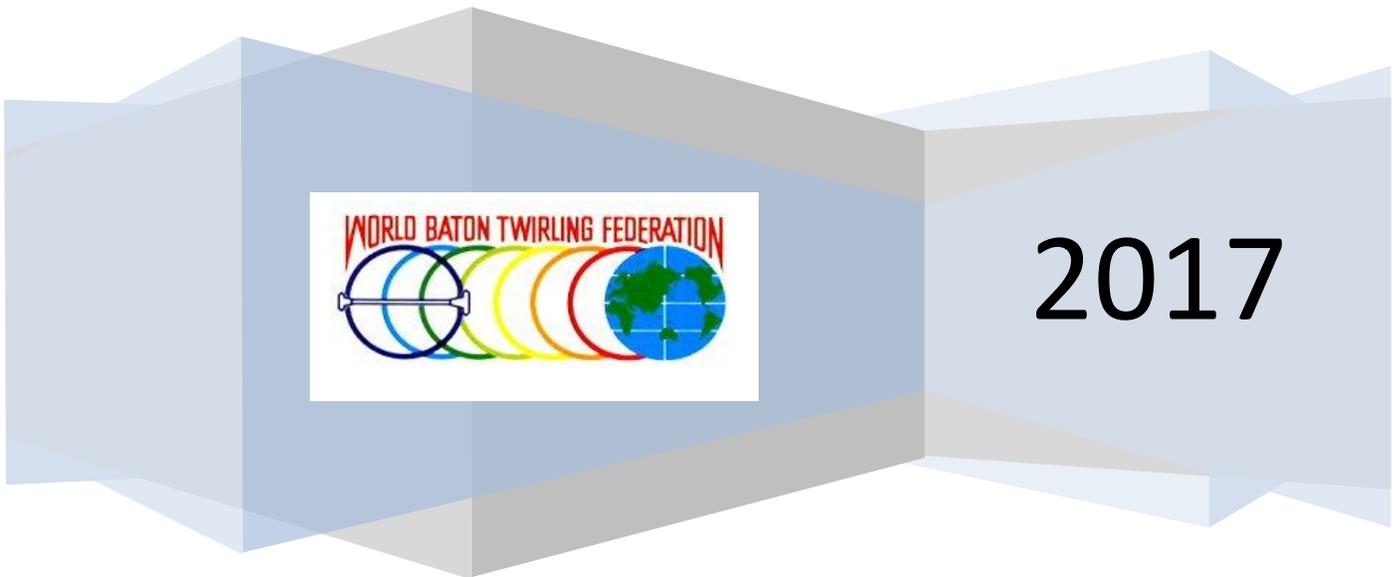


WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1





POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF THE WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION

The increasing popularity of the sport of baton twirling throughout the world brought about the formation of the WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION (WBTF). An organizational meeting in London, England in **1977 brought together the leaders of the baton twirling organizations** from many countries around the world.

At that meeting, the WBTF was formed to develop, encourage, and standardize the sport. With the spirit of international cooperation which characterized the London meeting, the second meeting was held in the Canary Island in **1978 at which time the By-Laws** of the Federation were approved and discussion of international rules of competition were debated by the representatives.

As a prelude to the first World Competition, the WBTF conducted the first **World Demonstration of Baton Twirling on March 31, 1979**, in the beautiful setting of Piazza San Marco in Venice, Italy. An estimated crowd of 10,000 spectators watched as athletes performed complicated routines with precision and grace.

In October of 1979, the Federation representatives met in Paris, France to finalize all plans for the first WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF BATON TWIRLING, bringing together teams of twirlers from ten countries to compete in a spirit of healthy, athletic competition. The United States Twirling Association, Inc. hosted **the first World Championships in Seattle, Washington in 1980**. Each successive year, one member country has hosted the championships.

Provisional Membership was established for new and developing countries to allow close affiliation with the Federation before moving up to **Affiliate Membership**, which then allows these new countries additional involvement prior to obtaining full membership status in the Federation.

Current member countries of the World Baton Twirling Federation are as follows;

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Some of the major accomplishments made over the years include the following:

- 1991 - the **Official WBTF Constitution** signed by 14 members countries with a complete set of By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.
- The introduction of two new events since the origination of Freestyle and compulsory Moves: **Teams** (1981) and **Pairs** (1993) have been added to our world competitions.
- **New age classifications** were introduced for world-class competition to ensure fairness and equality.
- **Provisional Memberships** and **Affiliate Memberships** were added to encourage growth and participation of new countries.
- **International Clinics** taught by coaches from around the world are offered to all athletes following world competition.
- A standardized **Judges' Training Program and Master Exam** established for all WBTF events.
- Many member countries have been granted **official sports recognition** by their National Sports Governing Body and by their National Olympic Organizations.
- Baton Twirling was presented to the public for the first time as a "promotional sport" at the **1993 World Games in The Hague, Netherlands**.
- In 2005, the W.B.T.F. will be introducing the "International Cup", which will allow for three (3) new events to be introduced: Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton
- In 2006, the compulsory event for the Senior Men and Women will be eliminated and a new "Short Program" will be introduced.

The WBTF is committed to the ideals of **democracy, fairness, and honesty**; its Board of Directors work on long-range projects and oversees specific focus areas. The Technical and Judges' Committees have standardized the sport of baton twirling through extensive testing and development.

Twirlers, coaches, judges, and parents are looking to the WBTF World Championships as the epitome of baton twirling excellence.

The World Baton Twirling Record Book, sponsored by Star Line Baton Company Inc. and the WBTF continue to contribute to the growth, development and progress made by the WBTF over the years. Baton twirling athletes have successfully raised the image of the sport to be recognized on an international level along with other Olympic sporting events. With the continued dedication and wisdom of its leaders, the WBTF will continue to demonstrate **a vision of the future for the sport of baton twirling**.

We all know that the era of pleated mini-skirts and high-stepping parade marchers as baton twirlers has diminished and that **baton twirling has progressed to a physically demanding, world class sport**. Baton twirling has developed into a multi-faceted sport for everyone---- children, adolescents, and adults. It is a great sport for recreation, school groups, community organizations, and, of course, competition.

Baton twirling is not only a sport----it is also an art. It is an art because it requires style and beauty, and a sport because it combines intense coordination to keep the baton in motion while the body moves in a graceful manner, all the while incorporating dance moves, gymnastic maneuvers, and music interpretation demanding a high level of concentration and physical exertion. In addition, baton twirling promotes sportsmanship and a competitive spirit. **Baton twirling as a competitive sport** encompasses the physical stamina and agility of gymnastics and dance, the artistic expression and beauty of figure skating and ballet, and the technical skill of all these sports combined.

Baton twirling has truly become a sight to behold----an entertaining and exciting sport to perform and watch. Baton twirling has become a great sport and a great activity for boys and girls, and men and women.

Participating in the sport of competitive baton twirling has given many athletes the change to learn about discipline, perseverance, frustration, uncertainty, pain, victory, even defeat. Baton twirling gives the athlete an opportunity to achieve, to feel a sense of self-esteem and personal accomplishment, and to learn about setting and attaining goals. Our world championships allow our athletes to meet new friends, learn about different cultures, and represent their country in a spirit of patriotism at the most prestigious baton twirling championships with dignity and pride.

The World Baton Twirling Federation is composed of the most devoted leaders, the friendliest twirlers, and the most supportive parents. Its membership contains dedicated people who believe in their organization and its ideals. The leaders of the WBTF devote their lives to an acknowledged cause----the growth and development of competitive baton twirling as a recognized sport with the promise of fair competitions for all.

The following individuals have been instrumental in **inaugurating and developing** the World Baton Twirling Federation:

- John Kirkendall/USA - Founding President
- Jack Crum/USA - Founding Member/Organizer
- Peppino Giamminola/Italy - Founding Member/Organizer - First Vice President of the WBTF/1978; WBTF Honorary Member
- Aiko Takayama/Japan - Founding Member; WBTF Honorary Member
- Jurgen Ernst/Germany - WBTF Treasurer (1983-1993); WBTF Honorary Member
- Chet Jones/USA - instrumental in developing Compulsory Moves
- Ann Bittenbender/USA - Chair of the Technical Committee (1979 to 1987)
- Frances Whitley/USA – Vice Chair of the Technical Committee (1988-2004)
- Paola DeMarchi/Italy – Chair of the Technical Committee (1992 to the Present)
- Jackie Stewart/USA – Chair of the Judges’ Committee (1992 to the Present)
- George Walbridge/USA/Star Line Baton Company - Developer and Organizer
- Ken Sasser/USA/International Teachers Institute - Organizer
- Tom Veenendall/USA - World Record Book Editor (1985 to 1996)
- Lynda Garland/Canada - WBTF President (1983 to 2008)
- Sandi Wiemers/USA – WBTF Vice President (2000-2008); WBTF President (2008 to Present)

The W.B.T.F. introduced a “Honorary Member” Program in 1991. This prestigious award has been presented to the following individuals:

Peppino Giamminola, Italy
Aiko Takayama, Japan
Jurgen Ernst, Germany (deceased in 2002)
Jackie Inglis Gillies, Scotland
Jack Crum, USA
Chet Jones, USA
Frances Whitley, USA
Jean Claude Steiner, France
Maureen Johnson, Canada

There are many new challenges that the WBTF will encounter as we continue to grow, but with the support and dedication of our Board of Directors, Technical Advisors, Judges, Coaches, Athletes and Parents, we are confident that our Federation will take its stand and be **recognized as an international sport**, right alongside of all other Olympic sports.

The beauty of a true sport is that those who work the hardest and show true dedication are more often than not rewarded in many ways. Baton twirling athletes are no exception to this axiom.

Locations of World Baton Twirling Championships / International Cup:

1980 – Seattle, Washington, USA; 1981 – Nice, France; 1982 – Tokyo, Japan; 1983 – Milan, Italy; 1984 – Calgary, Alberta, Canada; 1985 – Frankfurt, Germany; 1986 – Turin, Italy; 1987 – Paris, France; 1988 – Nagoya, Japan; 1989 – Lausanne, Switzerland; 1990 – San Antonio, Texas, USA; 1991 – Padova, Italy; 1992 – Paris, France; 1993 – Den Bosch, The Netherlands; 1994 – Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; 1995 – Geneva, Switzerland; 1996 – Genova, Italy; 1997 – Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; 1998 – Villeurbanne, France; 1999 – Daytona Beach, Florida, U.S.A.; 2000 – Den Bosch, Holland; 2001 – Villebon/Paris, France; 2002 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; 2003 – Barcelona/Badalona, Spain; **2004 (25th Anniversary of the World Baton Twirling Championships) – Osaka, Japan**; 2005 – St. Paul, Minnesota, USA; 2006 – Rome, Italy; 2007 – Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; 2008 – Limerick, Ireland; 2009 – Sydney, Australia; 2010 – Bergen, Norway; 2011 – Jacksonville, Florida USA; 2012 – Villebon sur Yvette, France; 2013 – Almere, Netherlands; 2014 – Nottingham, England UK; 2015 – Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada; 2016 – Helsingborg, Sweden

2012-2016 W.B.T.F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee Members

Mrs. Sandi Wiemers, President World Baton Twirling Federation 2429 7th Street CLAY CENTER, KANSAS 67432 USA	Fax No. 1 (866) 678-9612 Tel. No. 1 (785) 304-2919 E-Mail: sandiwiemers@wbtf.org
Dr. Jean-Patrick Rousset, Vice President World Baton Twirling Federation 2 Bis Route des Grands Prades 17920 BREUILLET - FRANCE	Tel No. (33) 06 15 63 20 09 E-Mail: president.fft@fftwirling.fr
Mr. Jeff Johnson, Secretary World Baton Twirling Federation 35 Ridge Drive Toronto, ON Canada M4T 1B6	Tele. No. 1 (416) 8786336 E-Mail: secretary@wbtf.org
Mr. Paul Rutten, Treasurer World Baton Twirling Federation Pallierterburg 34 907 CH Capelle aan den IJssel NETHERLANDS	Fax No. (31) 10-4918820 Tel. No. (31) 10-4421896 E-Mail: privepaul@me.com
Mr. Motokai Tsuchiya, Sport Administrator World Baton Twirling Federation 3-30-8 Komyodai Izumi, Osaka 594-1111 Japan	Tel. No (81) 725576320 E-Mail: sportadministrator@wbtf.org
Mrs. Lynda Garland, Past President World Baton Twirling Federation 15 Maynard Street HAMILTON, ONTARIO CANADA L9B 1S9	Tel. No. 905 387-6861 (Res.) E-Mail: lynda.garland@mohawkcollege.ca

W.B.T.F. Executive Technical Committee Members

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Paola de Marchi
World Baton Twirling Federation
Via F. Ili Cervi, 4
20054 Nova Milanese MI
ITALY

Fax No. (390) 362.366.367
Tel. (390) 362-366367
Tel. (390) 362-42357 (Office)
E-Mail: paola_demarchi@alice.it

TECHNICAL VICE CHAIR

Elisabeth S. Kleive
Aasegardsvn.45
6017 Aalesund, Norway

Fax No. (47) 70 14 50 14
Tel. No. (47) 70 14 89 00
E-Mail: eskleive@frisurf.no

JUDGES CHAIR

Jackie Stewart
Judges Committee
4000 Deer Creek Blvd.
Spring Hill, TN 37174 **U.S.A.**

Fax No. (615) 595-1718
Tel. No. (615) 591-6342
E-Mail: rstew14087@aol.com

JUDGES VICE CHAIR

Xavier Papin
Paris, France

E-mail: xpparis@free.fr

COACHES CHAIR

Jean Michel Ruelle
48 ter,rue des Alpins
74000 Annecy, **France**

Tel. (33) 686 990 688
E-Mail: jmruelle1@gmail.com

COACHES VICE CHAIR

Maureen Johnson
3706 Bryden Bay
Regina, Sask. S4S 0A2, **Canada**

Tel. 1 (306) 586 5352
E-Mail: maureen73@sasktel.net

MEMBER AT LARGE

Jenny Persson
Vindogatan 71
257 33 Rydeback **Sweden**

Tel. (46) (0)42 22 06 66
Mobile: +46 (0)72 55 44 519
E-Mail: 042.220666@telia.com

Dale White
1147 Captains Bridge
Dayton, OH. 45458 **USA**

Tel. 1 (937) 673-6939
E-Mail: DWhite7268@aol.com

Sandi Rios
297 S Wildwood
Hercules, CA. 94547 **USA**

E-Mail: srios93@aol.com

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs. France Whitley Cook	3798 County Road 348 ConCan, TX 78838 USA	Tel: (830) 232-6505 Email: cookhouse@hctc.net
Mr. Chet Jones	Honolulu, Hawaii USA	Tel: (503) 349-8814 Email: noblecandlisa@yahoo.com
Mr. Jack Crum Deceased – May 16, 2015	603 Cumberland Cove Road Monterey, TN 38574-2702 USA	Email: info@starlinebaton.com
Mr. Peppino Giamminola Deceased – September 8, 2015	Via Roma 18 OLEGGIO, NO Italy 28047	Fax/Tel: (390) 321.91354 Tel: (390) 321.916639
Ms. Aiko Takayama	1-26-13-604 Minami Aoyama Minato-ku Minato-Ku, TOKYO, JAPAN 107-0062	Fax/Tel: (81) (3) 3796-2710 Email: ai.twirling-60@r3.dion.ne.jp
Mr. Jurgen Ernst Deceased – July 6, 2002	Hansaallee 3 Frankfurt/Main GERMANY	
Mrs. Jackie Inglis Gilles (c/o Andrea Inglis)	World Baton Twirling Federation "Wayside Cottage" 2 Main Road Condorrat, Cumbernauld GLASGOW, G67-4BS, SCOTLAND	Fax: (44) 141-7709159 Tel: (44) 1236 611226 Email: jackieinglis@blueyonder.co.uk
Mr. Jean-Claude Steiner	BP 31 F54190 Villerupt, France	Fax: (33) (3) 82.50.42.43 Tel: (33) (3) 82.50.42.42 Email: steiner.jeanclaude@orange.fr
Mrs. Maureen Johnson	3706 Bryden Bay Regina, SK S4S 7C6 CANADA	Tel: (306) 586-5352 Email: maureen73@sasktel.net

POSITION PAPER

The World Baton Twirling Federation was formed in 1978 to promote and develop the sport of Baton Twirling at the National and International levels.

Since that time International Twirling has evolved from a relatively stationary routine with minimal body movement and choreography to a full floor, choreographed routine, incorporating major gymnastic, theatrical and theme elements.

This trend reflects two opposite extremes for our sport, neither of which adequately reflects the uniqueness of our sport, which is the manipulation, and control of the baton.

During the past three years these unique elements have been de-emphasised with increased emphasis placed on other aspects, thereby lowering the athlete's apparent twirling skills.

It is now time to examine our direction and re-establish the manipulation and control of the baton as the primary focus for our athletes.

At the 9th World Baton Twirling Championships in 1988, the Board of Directors and Technical Committee met for the first time, to share this common concern. We recognized that the primary focus of our sport currently centres around gymnastics/dance/theatrical and theme movements. We also acknowledged that all these elements have a place within our sport.

It was unanimously agreed that the de-emphasis on twirling was unacceptable and if we are to retain our strong identity baton twirling must become, and remain, our first priority also realizing that the primary focus should be the blending of baton and body simultaneously with musicality.

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. The primary emphasis be placed upon baton twirling in the three modes as recognized by the World Baton Twirling Federation:

. contact material . rolls . aerials

realizing the blending of baton and body simultaneously with music is the most difficult to perform and will receive the most credit.

2. The Technical Committee is directed to ensure that Baton Twirling is retained as the principle focus of our sport.
3. The Technical Committee undertake any modifications deemed necessary to support these concepts.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors will continue to meet and support the Technical Committee in all areas of mutual concern.

Written and signed by: Lynda Garland, President World Baton Twirling Federation (Sept. 1988)

Approved by the Board of Directors and Technical Committee, August 1989

WBTF, INC.



CONSTITUTION

Preamble: *The WBTF is the international federation governing all aspects of the sport of baton twirling worldwide, either directly or through its national member bodies.*

ARTICLE 1

Section 1 NAME

1.1 The Federation shall be known as the:

WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION, Inc.

Hereinafter referred to as the WBTF.

1.2 The WBTF is constituted and incorporated in 1980 as a separate legal entity in the United States of America, State of Michigan, with limited liability under Act Numbers 327-1931 284-1972 , and its registered address shall be in the United States of America, State of Michigan or as determined by the President. .

Section 2 DEFINITION

2.1 The WBTF shall consist of all member countries who involve themselves in the sport of baton twirling and who comply with the Constitution, Policies and Procedures of the Federation as may be amended from time to time, and with any rulings and regulations made by or on behalf of the Federation.

Section 3 PURPOSE

3.1 The WBTF is a non-profit society, organized to foster the development of countries who desire to join in membership; to provide educational training programs to all member athletes, coaches and adjudicators. To provide standardized training methods, rules and regulations for all member athletes, coaches and judges to utilize for the advancement of the sport baton twirling in the world and to provide these countries with the opportunity to participate and contribute to the improvement of the sport of baton twirling.

ARTICLE 2

Section 1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

All activities of the WBTF are independent of any political or governmental influence. The WBTF does not allow any discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or political opinion. The WBTF promotes and supports with all means gender equality in its activities.

Its principal purposes are the regulation, promotion, development, supervision and furtherance of this sport on a world-wide basis. It fosters sporting links and friendly relations among its members and their competitors and officials.

The WBTF is furthermore responsible for and undertakes:

- 1.1 To seek and accept donations, gifts, etc. in the furtherance of these objectives.
- 1.2 To engage in any and all matters whatsoever which may be required or incidental to the carrying out of the goals and objectives as set forth herein.
- 1.3 To encourage the membership of new countries into the World Baton Twirling Federation.
- 1.4 To formulate rules and regulations of the sport of baton twirling for world and international competitions.
- 1.9 To conduct continental and world level baton twirling competitions.
- 2.0 To safeguard the rights and health of the athletes and to combat doping and all other processes and procedures that might undermine sporting equality; the Olympic Movement Medical Code and the WADA Code are applied.
- 2.1 To respect the Olympic Charter and to develop the sport towards possible programme status in the Olympic Games;
- 2.2 To make Baton Twirling even more global, more accessible and more relevant for all and open to all age groups.

ARTICLE 3

Section 1 LANGUAGE

- 1.1 The Federation's Constitution shall be published in English and French.
- 1.2 English shall be used in the administration of the Federation.

- 1.3 The official language of the Federation shall be English.

ARTICLE 4

Section 1 WBTF CHAMPIONSHIP EXCLUSIVITY

- 1.1 All WBTF competitions belong exclusively to the WBTF. The WBTF, alone, shall have the right to organize World or Continental (sporting) Championships. The words “World”, “Continental”, “Championship” or “World Baton Twirling Federation” shall not be used in connection with any (sporting) international events, without the explicit consent of the World Baton Twirling Federation.

ARTICLE 5

Section 1 FEDERATION'S FINANCES

- 1.1 The Federation shall be carried out without purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other accreditation to the Federation shall be used in promoting its goals and objectives.

The WBTF will finance its own activities through sources such as:

- a) Membership and subscription fees of its Members;
 - b) The fees for the organization and for the authorization of Competitions, as well as the competitor entry fees, and any other fees or profits deriving from official competitions;
 - c) Any other sources that may be available (sponsorships, TV rights, donations, etc.).
- 1.2 The activities of all bodies of WBTF are conducted without remuneration of the individuals who serve thereon. The expenses of the Executive Board, the Management Committee and the Commissions are borne by the WBTF according to the present Statutes and to regulations of the Executive Board.

Within approved budgets, the General Assembly of the WBTF and the Executive Board are empowered to authorize payment of fees and expenses to individuals and/or organizations to provide specific professional service or advice.

- 1.3 The General Assembly of the WBTF shall receive and approve annual budgets detailing the forecast income from all sources and the proposed annual expenditure and shall establish and maintain financial accounting systems and produce annual accounts.

Section 2 AUDIT

- 1.1 The books and accounts of the Federation shall be audited, prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting. Auditors shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 1.2 The Treasurer shall thereafter present at each Annual General Meeting of the Federation a written report showing the state and condition of the affairs of the Federation. The information shall be compiled from the date of the last preceding statement.
- 1.3 The auditor(s) shall be paid accordingly, pending Board of Directors approval.

Section 3 LIABILITY

- 1.1 Only the assets of the WBTF can be used to settle WBTF liabilities and obligations. Member associations of the WBTF are not personally liable for the debts and obligations of the WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION.
- 1.2 No funds or other property of LIEN shall be paid to, or distributed among, the Members Associations of the WBTF.

Section 4 CURRENCY

- 1.1 The basic currency for annual accounting purposes will be the US Dollar.

Section 5 FISCAL YEAR

- 1.1 The fiscal year of the WBTF shall commence January 1st and end on the 31st day of December of each year.

Section 6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:

- 1.1 No member of the Board of Directors, Technical Committee or Judges Committee shall participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in which he or she or a member of his or her immediate family has potential conflict of interest due to having material economic involvement regarding the matter being discussed. When such a situation presents itself, the director must announce his or her potential conflict, disqualify himself or herself, and be excused from the meeting until discussion is over on the matter involved. The President of the meeting is expected to make inquiry if such conflict appears to exist and the board or committee member has not made it known.

ARTICLE 6

Section 1 SIGNING OFFICERS

- 1.1 The following people are recognized as the only signing officers for the Federation:
 - a. The President
 - b. The Vice President
 - j c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
- 1.2 Documents must be signed by two Executive members, one of whom must be either the President or the Vice-President. e.g.: President and/or Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer; Vice President and/or President, Secretary, Treasurer

ARTICLE 7

Section 1 HEAD OFFICE

- 1.1 The Head Office of the Federation shall be located at the home address of the International President.
- 1.2 The Federation may establish such other offices and agencies as the Board of Directors may deem expedient.

ARTICLE 8

Section 1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 A country may make application for membership in the Federation upon application to be provided by the Federation. Acceptance or rejection of the application shall be based upon criteria from time to time established and distributed by the Federation.
- 1.2 Membership in the WBTF is open to national associations actively involved in baton twirling and recognized as such by the highest authorities of their countries.
- 1.3 Admission occurs when an applicant's membership application has been accepted by the Board of Directors.
- 1.4 The Board of Directors may admit an applicant to a class of membership subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by resolution of the said Board.
- 1.5 Only one association from each country can be affiliated as a FULL member of the WBTF.
- 1.6 ALLIED MEMBERS of the WBTF will be associations who are affiliated with the sport of baton twirling or associations in countries where a WBTF member already exists. In this case, provided they are approved by the relevant WBTF member in that country, these organizations may be admitted by the General Assembly.
 - a) Allied member affiliation fee is fixed by the General Assembly.
- 1.7 Admission to membership, and renewal of membership by payment of the annual membership fee, constitutes a contract between the WBTF and the Member. The terms of that contract include that in return for membership in WBTF, Members agree to abide by the WBTF's Constitution and the Policies and Procedures of the Federation, as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed on appeal on the basis of Article 13 of the WBTF Constitution.
- 1.8 Membership: Members of the WBTF agree to and accept the principles of the IOC and World Anti-Doping Code and its International Standards and related Procedures as a condition of membership, requiring all athletes, support personnel and other officials within their jurisdiction to recognize and be bound by these rules and procedures, and to abide the decisions and instructions of the WBTF Anti-Doping officials .

1.9 The Federation shall have the following classes of membership:

COUNTRY – FULL MEMBERSHIP
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP
CONTINENTAL ALLIED FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP
INTERNATIONAL ALLIED FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP
HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP

Refer to the WBTF Policies and Procedures manual, Section 3 – Membership Criteria.

2.0 Country Member

The affairs of each member country shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Policies and Procedures of the WBTF.

Member countries may pass such Constitution, and prescribe such Policies and Procedures as is suitable, PROVIDED they are NOT IN CONFLICT with the interests of the WBTF.

Refer to the WBTF Policies and Procedures manual, Section 3 – Membership Criteria.

2.1 Honourary Members

The WBTF, may elect to Honourary Membership those whom the Federation wishes to honour, observing the eligibility requirement and nominating procedure recommended by the Board of Directors. Nominated candidate(s) must be in good standing with their country.

Honourary Members are entitled to attend all social functions, receive free badges and VIP seating at all WBTF events. They may also be invited to attend WBTF Board meetings at the President's discretion. Honourary Members shall not be entitled to vote.

2.2 Honourary President / Honourary Vice President

The WBTF may bestow the title of honorary president, honorary vice-president upon any former member of the WBTF Executive Committee for meritorious service to baton twirling.

The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

The honorary president, or honorary vice-president may take part in the meetings at the invitation of the President. They may join in the debates but may not vote.

Section 2 **DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Full Membership by a COUNTRY in the Federation is perpetual, unless sooner terminated as provided herein.
- 2.2 Associate, Provisional, and Allied Membership: The Board of Directors shall determine the criteria for these classifications of membership and may terminate a membership by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors without due cause.

Section 3 **FEES**

The following fees are to be established by the Board of Directors, each year, at the Federation's Annual General Meeting:

- 3.1 Entry Fees
- 3.2 Affiliation Fees
- 3.3 Annual Dues
- 3.4 Assessment Fees
- 3.5 Penalty Fees

Section 4 **DISENFRANCHISEMENT AND REINSTATEMENT**

4.1 Member Country

Any member country of the Federation may be disenfranchised for non payment of any fees owing to the Federation and/or for breaches of the Constitution and Policies and Procedures of the WBTF.

Following two (2) years of not paying membership fees and/or outstanding late penalty fees, a member country will be suspended from the WBTF.

At this point in time, the member country will be denied **all privileges** extended to them by the WBTF.

At the end of the suspended year, the member country may apply for reinstatement at the end of the suspended year.

Membership status: If member country was a full member, they may only apply for full membership status.

The suspended member country, **must** pay all membership fees and late penalty fees, owing from the past, before the suspended member country may be considered for reinstatement or denied further membership in the WBTF.

Section 5 RELEASE/SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

- 5.1 All Officers, Member Country Delegates(s), Technical Advisor/Delegate and Judges may be subject to disciplinary action for any conduct which conflicts with the Constitution, Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulations of the WBTF.

Reasons for expulsion of a full member country:

- a. Financial
- b. Lack of responsibility

Abuse of any one or more of the above items are grounds for loss of membership.

Refer to the WBTF Policies and Procedures manual,
Section 3 – Membership Criteria.

Section 6 CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 A member country or provisional member may cancel their membership with the WBTF, by sending a registered letter to the President of the WBTF.

ARTICLE 9

Section 1 - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 1.1. The following bodies are established to govern and administer International Baton Twirling Federation, each with separately defined powers and duties:

- 1.1.1 Board of Directors
- 1.1.2 Executive Board
- 1.1.3 Managing Committee
- 1.1.4 Technical Committee
- 1.1.5 Judges Committee
- 1.1.6 Continental Commissions
- 1.1.7 Anti-doping Commission
- 1.1.8 Disciplinary Council
- 1.1.9 Appeals Committee
- 1.2.0 Athletes' Commission

Section 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2.1

- a. The WBTF's Board of Directors may consist of three (3) delegates from each member country, recognized by the WBTF, excluding the interpreter. These three (3) delegates MUST be:
 1. A member of their country's National Baton Twirling Association/ Federation.
 2. A CURRENT member of their country's National Baton Twirling Association or Federation's Board of Directors or an appointed agent of the Federation's Board.
 - b. The member countries are responsible for the appointment of their delegates.
 - c. Only one (1) of the three (3) delegates shall have the privilege to speak and be entitled to vote, on behalf of their country.
 - d. The non-voting delegates shall not be entitled to speak or otherwise participate in the deliberations, unless requested by the President.
 - e. A list, stating the names of these delegates, plus the name of the delegate that will be speaking and voting on behalf their behalf of their country, MUST be submitted to the President two (2) weeks BEFORE the beginning of the Federation's meetings.
- 1.2 The Federation's Board of Directors shall also constitute the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Section 2 PROPERTY AND BUSINESS

- 2.1 The property and business of the Federation shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 VOTING PROCEDURES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3.1 Each full and associate member country, in good standing, shall have one vote.
- 3.2 In the event of a tie vote, the President shall break the tie.
- 3.3 Power of Attorney or Proxy voting will not be allowed.

Section 4 QUORUM

4.1 In order to conduct the business of the WBTF, the number of member countries that must be present at the annual Board of Directors meeting is 40% + 1 for items that appear on the written agenda for the meeting.

A 50% + 1 ratio will apply to any item that is added to the Board of Directors agenda during the course of the meeting and will mandate that an electronic mail vote be sent out to the WBTF Board for approval if the Quorum number is not met.

The Technical and Judges Committees are allowed to meet and vote on all issues without a quorum.

Section 5 - TAKING OF DECISIONS

5.1 A list, stating the names of these delegates, plus the name of the delegate that will be speaking and voting on behalf of their federation, **MUST** be submitted to the President two (2) weeks **BEFORE** the beginning of the WBTF General Assembly meetings.

5.2 Voting at the Board of Directors is conducted by show of hands. Upon the request of any delegate entitled to vote, supported by at least one other delegate, any vote must be taken by secret written ballot.

Elections shall always be decided by secret written ballot.

Section 6 - AGENDA AND THE RIGHT TO INTRODUCE PROPOSALS

6.1 The following items shall be included in the Agenda of the Board of Directors General Assembly

- Opening of the General Assembly;
- Approval or amendment of the Agenda
- Admission of new Members (if applicable);
- Confirmation of the register of delegates and votes;
- Validation of the minutes of the previous Congress;
- Report by the Board about the activities during the time since the last General Assembly;
- Financial Report and Report of the certified Auditor;
- Provisional budget and accounts as well as their approbation;
- Discharge of the Board;
- Proposals;
- Update of the list of WBTF Events;

- Closing of the General Assembly

6.2 Items for inclusion in the Agenda of any Board of Directors General Assembly may be presented by:

- a) the Executive Board
- b) the Managing Committee
- c) any Member

6.3 Items presented by WBTF Members are to be sent by email to the WBTF Executive Board and Managing Committee at least six weeks before the Board of Directors General Assembly.

6.4 The full Agenda of a Board of Directors General Assembly shall be sent to all Members of WBTF at least 2 weeks before the Board of Directors General Assembly.

6.5 Upon affirmative vote of no less than 2/3 of the Members being present and having voting rights, the Board of Directors General Assembly itself may add items to the Agenda of any meeting.

ARTICLE 10

Section 1 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 1.1 The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Board of the WBTF, and shall be responsible for conducting the affairs and day to day business of the Federation as directed by the members through the Board of Directors.
- 1.2 Only the delegates that have been sent to the WBTF's Board of Directors meetings, by the member country's National Baton Twirling Association/Federation and recognized by the WBTF, may be elected for any position on the Federation's Executive Board.
- 1.3 These delegates must also be a member of their country's National Baton Twirling Association/Federation, recognized by the WBTF.
- 1.4 These delegates must also be a **current** member their country's National Baton Twirling Association/Federation's Board of Directors, recognized by the WBTF.
- 1.5 At election time, a current member of the WBTF's Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) may be nominated for any position open on the WBTF's Executive Board
- 1.6 The newly elected WBTF President may not be a member of their country's Board of Directors, however, must be a member in "good standing" with their country.

Section 2 VOTING PROCEDURES TO ELECT THE WBTF'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 1.1 Each member country, in good standing, shall have one vote, as provided in Article 9, Section 3.

ARTICLE 11

Section 1 MEETINGS

1.1 Annual General Meeting

- a. The WBTF's Board of Directors must hold one (1) meeting a year.
- b. All items to be included on the agenda must be received by the President, at least sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting.
- c. The agenda will include:
 1. President's report
 2. Financial Report
 3. Provisional Budget
 4. Any proposed amendments to the Policies and Procedures
 5. Names of nominated candidates to stand for elected positions (when applicable).
- d. The above agenda must be sent to the Board of Directors thirty (30) days before the meeting, via fax or electronic mail.

1.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS

- a. A "special meeting" may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors.
- b. "Special meetings" may be called at any time or place and shall be governed by procedures provided in Article 10, Section 1 - 1.1 (b), (c) and (d).
- c. Voting procedures shall be governed as provided in Article 9, Section 3.

1.3 EXTRA ORDINARY MEETINGS

- a. An "Extra Ordinary" meeting may be called by the President or by two-thirds (2/3rd's) of the Board of Directors, for the purpose of amendments to the Constitution; non-confidence vote; dissolution of the WBTF, etc.
- b. Voting Procedures: Two-thirds (2/3rd's) of the Board of Directors MUST be in agreement.
- c. Any amendments to the Constitution must be received by the President in writing, at least ninety (90) days in advance of the "Extra Ordinary Meeting".

Section 2 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The usual rules of parliamentary procedure, as outlined in the WBTF's Policies and Procedures, shall govern the conduct of meetings.

ARTICLE 12

Section 1 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- 1.1 The WBTF shall have the following Standing Committees, Commissions and positions:
- a. Technical Committee
 - b. Judges Committee
 - c. Sport Administrator
 - d. Continental Affairs Commissions
 - 1) Asian
 - 2) African
 - 3) European
 - 4) Oceania
 - 5) Pan American
 - e. WBTF Athletes Commission
 - f. WBTF Anti-Doping Commission
 - g. WBTF Disciplinary Council

Each committee or commission listed above votes to establish a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to serve for a 4-Year term.

The Sport Administrator position is voted upon by the Board of Directors and serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

- 1.2 Appointed Committees:

The President will appoint the following committees:

- a. Appeals Committee
- b. Disciplinary Committee
- c. Finance (Audit) Committee
- d. Managing Committee -

The President may appoint any other positions and/or committees as she/he deems necessary.

Section 2 - ATHLETES' COMMISSION

2.1 Organisation of Athletes' Commission:

The Athletes' Commission provides a permanent liaison between active athletes and the WBTF. *A man representative and a woman representative* are elected by the Athletes' Commission and ratified by the Board of Directors General Assembly *as member of the Managing Committee* and to the technical commissions. Composition and functioning of the Athletes' Commission are described in the relevant regulations as approved by the Board of Directors General Assembly.

2.2 Costs of the Athletes' Commission:

All travel and accommodation costs for each member of the Athletes' Commission, except the member representing the Managing Committee, shall be borne by his/her national Member Association. This only applies to work meetings. Costs relating to meetings for the international representation of the WBTF shall be borne by WBTF.

Section 3 WBTF DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL

- 3.1 The WBTF recognises the WBTF Disciplinary Council as the sole arbitration body to solve disputes or disagreements inside the WBTF and fully accepts and recognises the WBTF Disciplinary Council Code WBTF DC Code”.

Section 4 WBTF ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION

- 4.1 Members of the WBTF accept and recognize the authority of the WBTF Anti-Doping Commission and the WBTF Anti-Doping Director. The WBTF Anti-Doping Commission and the WBTF Anti-Doping Director are appointed by the WBTF Executive Board. It is a condition of membership in WBTF that the WBTF Anti-Doping Code and all related procedures are accepted by all WBTF members and that all athletes, athlete support personnel and all other officials in WBTF are bound by these rules and procedures.

ARTICLE 13

ARBITRATION

Section 1 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

- 1.1 WBTF recognizes the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve international disputes between WBTF, Members, Confederations, Clubs, Athletes, Coaches, Officials and certified master judges.
- 1.2 The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. CAS shall primarily apply the various regulations of the WBTF and, additionally, Swiss law.

Section 2 Jurisdiction of CAS

- 2.1 Appeals against final decisions passed by WBTF's legal bodies and against decisions passed by Confederations, Members or Leagues shall be lodged with CAS within 21 days of notification of the decision in question.
- 2.2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.
- 2.3 Federations must follow the decisions of CAS and sanction members that do not.

Section 3 Obligation

- 3.1 The WBTF Members shall agree to recognize CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated athletes and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS regarding international disputes.
- 3.2 Decisions made by CAS are final and recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited.
- 3.3 Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited.
- 3.4 Regarding national matters, internal disputes are resolved within the member country's federation.

ARTICLE 13

Section 1 DISSOLUTION OF THE WBTF

- 1.1 A three quarter majority of the WBTF Board of Directors may propose the dissolution of the WBTF. The dissolution becomes effective on approval of the proposal by a three quarter majority of the General Assembly, providing that at least two third of the members entitled to vote are present or represented at the General Assembly.

Upon winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, and or scientific purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to federal, state or local government for a public purpose. The disposal of the assets of the WBTF shall be decided by the General Assembly dissolving the WBTF

Constitution Revised January 2014 – Revised Articles are as follows:

Certified to be a true copy of the revised Constitution of the WBTF, duly passed by the Board of Directors at the annual Winter meeting, held on February 1-2, 2014 in Nottingham, England UK.

- ARTICLE 1 - Section 3, 3.1
- ARTICLE 2 - Section 1, 1 – 2.2
- ARTICLE 4 – Section 1, 1.1
- ARTICLE 5 – Section 1, 1.1 – 1.3
Section 3, 1.1 – 1.2
Section 4
Section 6
- ARTICLE 6 – Section 1, 1.2
- ARTICLE 8 – Section 1, 1.5
- ARTICLE 9 - Section 1, 1.1
Section 2, 2.1e
Section 5, 5.1,5.2
Section 6, 6.1
- ARTICLE 10 - Section 1, 1.1 – 1.5
Section 2, 1.1
- ARTICLE 11 - Section 1, 1.1
- ARTICLE 12 – Section 1, 1.1 – 1.2
Section 2, 1.1
Section 3, 1.1

Constitution Revised January 2015 – Revised Articles are as follows:

Article 13 - Section 1, 1.1

PRESIDENT, Sandi Wiemers
WBTF