



***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

FULL & ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES on February 1, 2014

AUSTRALIA	GERMANY	SLOVENIA
BELGIUM	HUNGARY	SPAIN
BRAZIL	ITALY	SWEDEN
CANADA	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND
CROATIA	JAPAN	THE NETHERLANDS
ENGLAND	NORWAY	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FRANCE	SCOTLAND	

PRESIDENT, Sandi Wiemers
 WBTF