



Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles

Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles

GENERAL STATUTES

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1 COMPOSITION, PURPOSE, DEFINITION

1.1 NAME AND AUTHORITY

- 1.1.1 The Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (the "FISO") is an independent association composed of national member federations worldwide, as provided under these FISO General Statutes.
- 1.1.2 FISO is the sole competent authority for obstacle sports and related disciplines throughout the world (Obstacle Sports) and is working toward meeting the requirements for recognition as specified by Global Association of International Sports Federation (GAISF) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- 1.1.3 FISO maintains absolute political and religious neutrality and does not tolerate any form of discrimination.
- 1.1.4 All bodies and officials of FISO must observe the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of FISO.

1.2 HEADQUARTERS AND PLACE OF JURISDICTION

- 1.2.1 The FISO headquarters shall be established in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Central Board may determine a different postal address at the domicile of a member of the Central Board.
- 1.2.2 FISO is subject to the laws of Switzerland and shall be organised as an association in accordance with art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.

1.3 NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION

- 1.3.1 FISO is a non-profit-making organisation 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 Switzerland. The financial resources of FISO may be used only in pursuit of the objectives laid down in these FISO General Statutes.
- 1.3.2 To the extent that compensation or reimbursement of expenses is paid to individuals, it must be appropriate, justified and related to FISO's objectives.
- 1.3.3 FISO has established reserve funds and uses such funds in accordance with the laws of Switzerland. The Central Board decides the policy on the usage of the reserves.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

- 1.4.1 The principal objective of FISO is to promote Obstacle Sports throughout the world and to lead the Obstacle Sports movement as recognised by the International Olympic Committee. FISO's objective is to:
 - a) Control, regulate, supervise and direct, and to foster, encourage and advance Obstacle Sports and the practice of men's and women's Obstacle Sports in all its forms and in all age groups in every country worldwide;
 - b) Manage Obstacle Sports throughout the world through participation, development, competition, and commercial means;
 - c) Ensure that Obstacle Sports 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 Obstacle Sports;
- e) Adopt, formulate, issue, interpret, implement and amend from time to time such rules (including the official rules of the sport) and regulations as are necessary for the control and conduct of Obstacle Sports throughout the world;
 - f) Allocate and control the conduct and administration of all official international competitions at national team and club level;
 - g) License and/or endorse the conduct and management of international Obstacle Sports competitions or sports where this is in the interests of furthering its mission and role;
 - h) Establish and maintain a FISO Obstacle Sports judicial system, providing processes for the appeal of decisions and the settlement of disputes;
 - i) Pursue itself or through another entity commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities and commercial arrangements in relation to FISO's intellectual property, as are appropriate to further its mission and role;
 - j) Provide for the representation of FISO at international events which will extend and enhance its control and management of Obstacle Sports throughout the world;
 - k) Promote the recognition of Obstacle Sports as the world's leading mass participation and televised sports;
 - l) Do all that is reasonably necessary to enable its mission and role to be achieved and to enable the national member federations to receive the benefits which FISO's mission and role are intended to achieve;
 - m) 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 FISO or which advance Obstacle Sports throughout or in specific parts of the world;
 - n) Have regard to the public interest in its operations; and
 - o) Undertake and/or do all such things or activities as are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of its mission and role.

1.5 RULES AND REGULATIONS

In addition to the FISO General Statutes, FISO may regulate Obstacle Sports activities worldwide through the enactment of the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF FISO

2.1 MEMBERS OF FISO

Only national Obstacle Sports federations may become members of FISO. Obstacle sports federations govern sports, disciplines and events that include, but are not limited to, obstacle course racing and mud runs, Ninja Warrior competitions, functional fitness competitions and adventure racing.

2.2 ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF FISO

- 2.2.1 An applicant national federation seeking membership in FISO must be the controlling body of Obstacle Sports in a country which is an independent state, recognised by the international community. This provision shall not affect the status of existing members.
- 2.2.2 Only one (1) national obstacle sports federation per country shall be admitted to membership in FISO. The federation must be a non-profit organisation.
- 2.2.3 FISO 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 member federation of the country on which the region is dependent.
- 2.2.4 Before admitting an applicant federation to membership of FISO, the Central Board shall satisfy itself that the applicant federation fully controls and governs both men's and women's Obstacle Sports in its country and is in good standing in that country.
- 2.2.5 Strict observance of the FISO Obstacle Sports Rules and of the provisions contained in the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of FISO, both in spirit and letter, is the primary condition for obtaining and maintaining membership in FISO.
- 2.2.6 Admission procedures are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.

2.3 RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 2.3.1 National member federations 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 Treasurer and other members of the Central Board;
 - d) To nominate candidates for the FISO Commissions;
 - e) To take part in the main official competitions of FISO;
 - f) To take part in and benefit from FISO's assistance, development and educational programmes organised directly or through the Regional Offices;
 - g) To exercise all other rights arising from the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of FISO; and
 - h) To exercise all other rights arising from the Continental Confederations' Regulations.
- 2.3.2 The exercise of these rights is subject to the provisions in the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, and other rules and regulations, and decisions of FISO.

2.4 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

- 2.4.1 National member federations must:
 - a) Maintain full control and governance of Obstacle Sports in their country, including, without limitation, control over their national competitions;
 - b) Remain in good standing (including in good financial standing);
 - c) Participate in official international activities and competitions;
 - d) Ensure that their leagues, clubs, competitors and officials participate only in international activities and competitions officially recognized by the respective national member federation and by FISO; and

- e) Enact rules whereby they can disqualify a club from the national championship, or cause the respective league to disqualify such club, should that club participate in a non-recognized league.
- 2.4.2 National member federations must observe all regulations and decisions of FISO and ensure that their members and their various bodies (including leagues and clubs) also comply with them. They shall promote amicable and courteous relations with other national member federations and their members, officials and competitors.
- 2.4.3 The statutes and regulations of national member federations must comply fully with the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations. The FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations shall form part of the national member federations' statutes and regulations. In the event of doubt or conflict, the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations shall prevail.
- 2.4.4 National member federations must ensure that Obstacle Sports in their country are conducted in accordance with the FISO Obstacle Sports Rules, and that the FISO Calendar and the obligation to release competitors for national teams in accordance with the FISO Internal Regulations are respected. This obligation of national member federations applies to both national and international competitions played in their country.
- 2.4.5 National member federations 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 the awards of the Obstacle Sports Arbitral Tribunal (OSAT) and shall ensure that said decisions and awards are legally binding for and enforced by national member federations, clubs, leagues, competitors, managers, officials and agents.
- 2.4.6 National member federations must ensure that their policies and programmes comply with those of FISO. They shall embrace the principles set out in the FISO Joining Kit and ensure that their governance and management processes produce the following:
- a) Up-to-date statutes and regulations in English, approved by FISO;
 - b) A long-term strategic plan;
 - c) An annual report on activities and financial results (to be sent to FISO);
 - d) A database of participants (including foreign competitors), coaches, technical officials, and of competition results (compatible with the FISO Organizer platform);
and
 - e) A national Anti-Doping programme in partnership with the relevant authorities, specifically the World Anti-Doping Code.

- 2.4.7 National member federations shall manage their affairs independently and with no influence from third parties. 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.
- 2.4.8 The accounts of national member federations must be audited in accordance with international accounting standards each year by an independent external auditor.
- 2.4.9 National member federations are liable for all financial obligations of their own members or bodies (including leagues and clubs) towards FISO.
- 2.4.10 Non-compliance with these provisions may lead to the intervention of FISO as appropriate, including sanctioning provided for in the FISO General Statutes and the FISO Internal Regulations.

2.5 RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

- 2.5.1 Resignation by a national member federation may be accepted by the Congress upon written request and after having fulfilled all the financial obligations towards the FISO.
- 2.5.2 The request must be submitted in writing at least six weeks before the end of the FISO fiscal year; otherwise, the national member federation shall remain a member for the following year with all financial responsibilities.

2.6 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 2.6.1 The Secretary General may provisionally suspend a national member federation which has not paid its fees or is in arrears for a period of two (2) consecutive years. The Central Board and the Continental Confederations must be informed. Such a suspension may be lifted by the Secretary General when the national member federation is once again in good financial standing with FISO.
- 2.6.2 On the initiative of the Secretary General, the Central Board may suspend a national member federation for other important reasons and when:
 - a) The FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, or decisions of FISO are violated;
 - b) The code of ethics is violated, and the member fails to address the violation to the satisfaction of the Central Board;
 - c) The requirements of membership are no longer fulfilled; and/or
 - d) One or more of the obligations of membership is/are not being met.

- 2.6.3 Unless otherwise decided by the Central Board, a suspended member federation forfeits its rights so long as it remains suspended and its teams and officials may not organise and / or participate in official competitions or activities.
- 2.6.4 If not lifted by the Central Board in the meantime, a suspension may remain in force only until the next Congress. The Congress shall decide whether the suspension is lifted or prolonged.
- 2.6.5 Procedures dealing with suspended members are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 2.6.6 Based on a proposal put forward by the Central Board, the Congress may decide to expel a national member federation without indication of grounds.
- 2.6.7 On the initiative of the Secretary General, the Ethics Committee or Governance Commission, the Central Board may expel a national member federation for other important reasons or when the national member federation has failed to:
 - a) Remain in good standing.
 - b) Strictly observe the FISO provisions.
 - c) Meet the obligations of membership.
 - d) Addressed any ethical, legal, constitutional or other concerns that may affect the reputation of FISO and its members.
 - e) Answer complaints in a timely manner, generally within 30 calendar days.
 - f) Rectify deficiencies that have caused suspension in a timely manner, generally within 30 calendar days.

2.7 DISBANDMENT OF A NATIONAL MEMBER FEDERATION

- 2.7.1 If a national member federation is disbanded according to the procedure set out in its own statutes and regulations, a new national member federation may be admitted.
- 2.7.2 If a disbanded national member federation was not in good financial standing with FISO or the relevant Continental Confederation at the time of its disbandment, the new national member federation shall take over all the financial obligations of the former national member federation towards FISO or the relevant Continental Confederation, unless the Central Board decides otherwise.

2.8 CLUBS, OTHER BODIES AND LEAGUES

- 2.8.1 The various bodies of national member federations (including leagues and clubs) may pursue their activities within the geographical and regulatory limits of their own national member federation only, and with the latter's recognition and permission. The FISO Internal Regulations set out the criteria for the recognition of national leagues by national member federations.
- 2.8.2 No international activity of such bodies shall be permitted without the authorisation of the competent national member federations and FISO.
- 2.8.3 If a recognized international league no longer meets the criteria set out in the FISO Internal Regulations, FISO may withdraw the league's recognition. If a recognized national league no longer meets the criteria set out in the FISO Internal Regulations, FISO may direct the respective national member federation to withdraw the leagues' recognition.
- 2.8.4 National member federations and their clubs or leagues may not play or organise competitions on the territory of another national member federation without the latter's authorisation and that of FISO.
- 2.8.5 Further requirements relating to leagues at national and international level are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 2.8.6 To avoid conflicts of interest, national member federations or organisations affiliated or otherwise connected with national member federations 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 member federation.
- 2.8.7 Clubs, leagues, competitors, coaches, agents, officials, and other officials affiliated with or licensed by national member federations must respect the FISO General Statutes and the Continental Confederation Regulations as well as the FISO Calendar, the FISO Obstacle Sports Rules, and the FISO Internal Regulations, in particular, Anti-Doping, Eligibility and National Status of Competitors, International Transfer of Competitors and the Obstacle Sports Arbitral Tribunal.
- 2.8.8 FISO and national member federations may impose sanctions on their own bodies for breaches of this Article. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each national member federation remains obliged to ensure that its various bodies (including leagues and clubs) comply with this.

3 BODIES OF FISO

3.1 BODIES OF FISO

The bodies legally representing FISO are:

- a) The Congress
- b) The Central Board
- c) The Executive Committee
- d) The Secretariat, acting through the Secretary General

The bodies with only consultative power are:

- e) The Commissions

In addition, FISO may appoint the following bodies:

- f) Committees, with constative powers only, that are formed by the Executive Committee to perform tasks not covered by the Commissions
- g) Auditors (if applicable)

3.2 THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

3.2.1 The Congress

3.2.1.1 The Congress shall be the supreme governing body of FISO. It consists of:

- a) A maximum of two (2) delegates per national member federation with the right to one (1) vote, which is granted to the first delegate if both are present;
- b) The President;
- c) Members of the Central Board, who have consultative powers only, unless they officially represent a national member federation; and
- d) The Chairpersons of the FISO Commissions who have consultative powers only, unless they officially represent a national member federation.

3.2.1.2 National member federations may be represented by their delegate/s only, who must hold an office within the national member federation and present a document signed by the President of that national member federation attesting that they are delegates of that federation. Delegates may represent one (1) national member federation only.

3.2.1.3 Representation by letter or proxy is not permitted.

3.2.1.4 The Congress has the powers assigned to it in the FISO General Statutes to:

- a) Approve the agenda;
- b) Adopt and modify the FISO General Statutes;
- c) Elect the President for a single term of four (4) years;
- d) Elect the Vice-President;
- e) Elect members of the Central Board;
- f) Elect the Treasurer, upon proposal by the Secretary General;
- g) Appoint the members of the Ethics Panel and the Nominations Panel;
- h) Appoint the auditor (if applicable);
- i) To dismiss the members of the governing bodies for any reasons set out in the FISO General Statutes or at any time justified by good cause;
- j) Grant the title of Honorary President, Honorary Member or Secretary General Emeritus;

- k) Examine and approve the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements;
- l) Examine and approve all reports, including the auditor's report, the report of the Central Board, and other items on the agenda;
- m) Approve the budget;
- n) Ratify the decisions of the General Secretary and Central Board regarding suspension of members;
- o) Decide on the expulsion of members; and
- p) Declare the disbandment of FISO.

- 3.2.1.5 The Congress meets every two (2) years in which the President is elected. A quorum is not required for a session of the Congress.
 - 3.2.1.6 Only matters proposed by the President, the Secretary General, the Central Board, the Executive Committee, or the national member federations 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 ninety (90) days prior to the first day of Congress.
 - 3.2.1.7 Subject to the section below, the date and place for the Congress is determined by the Secretary General and notice given to the national member federations at least one-hundred-and-twenty (120) days in advance. The agenda is prepared by the Secretary General and must be sent to the national member federations at least forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of the Congress.
 - 3.2.1.8 Upon the request of one-fifth (1/5) of the national member federations 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.
 - 3.2.1.9 The items to be included on the agenda for an extraordinary session of Congress shall be specified in the request for such a session.
 - 3.2.1.10 Participation forms for delegates must reach the Secretary General at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the opening of the Congress.
 - 3.2.1.11 The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring that details of the decisions taken by the Congress are documented and archived correctly.
 - 3.2.1.12 The Congress may grant the title of Honorary President, Honorary Member, or Secretary General Emeritus of FISO to appropriate persons who have rendered outstanding service to FISO. 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.
 - 3.2.1.13 The decisions of Congress are final and not subject to appeal to the FISO Appeals' Panel.
 - 3.2.1.14 Unless otherwise specified by the FISO General Statutes or by the Congress, decisions of the Congress start on the first day following conclusion of the Congress.
- 3.2.2 The President
- 3.2.2.1 The term for the inaugural president shall be until the first election after FISO holds an Medal Event at the Summer Olympic Games. Subsequently, the President is elected by the Congress for one (1) two (2) year term with a maximum of two terms of office. He/she shall come from a national member federation within the respective Continental Confederations. No President can hold more than two (2) consecutive terms in office. No representative of one Continental Confederation can hold consecutive terms. Each Continental Confederation shall be represented at least once in a twenty (20) year period. The Continental Confederations are:
 - a) OCR Europe
 - b) OCR Americas
 - c) OCR Asia
 - d) OCR Oceania
 - e) OCR Africa

In case of a split of a Continental Confederation, an alphabetical order applies to the respective Continental Confederation (e.g. North America – South America).

3.2.2.2 The President may not hold an office within a Continental Confederation or a national member federation but may be an ex-officio member of one or more boards, committees and/or commissions.

3.2.2.3 The process for the election of a President is as follows:

- a) At least one-hundred-and-twenty (120) days prior to the first day of an elective Congress, the Secretary General shall invite nominations for the position of President from the national member federations in the respective Continental Confederation;
- b) Nominations shall close with the Secretary General ninety (90) 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 Nominations Panel which shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of the Congress;
- d) The Congress shall elect the President as provided for in these statutes.

3.2.2.4 The President presides over the Congress, the Central Board and the Executive Committee. He has the right to vote:

- e) In the Congress, only casting a vote in the event of a tied vote; and
- f) In the Central Board and the Executive Committee, with a vote as a member of the Central Board and the Executive Committee plus a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

3.2.2.5 Should the President be temporarily unable to fulfil his duties, the Vice-President of FISO deputises for him during sessions of Congress and/or meetings of the Central Board or the Executive Committee. If the President is permanently unable to fulfil his duties, the Vice-President shall act as President until the next Congress (including the mid-term Congress).

3.2.2.6 The President is not an employee of FISO.

3.2.2.7 The inaugural president shall become president emeritus and ex-officio member of the FISO executive committee and FISO central board upon the end of his term.

3.3 THE CENTRAL BOARD, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TREASURER

3.3.1 The Central Board

3.3.1.1 The Central Board has the following powers assigned to it under the FISO General Statutes and the FISO Internal Regulations:

- a) To supervise the practice of Obstacle Sports worldwide;
- b) To develop and up-date on an annual basis an eight-year strategic plan for FISO and to determine FISO's general policy;
- c) To review and approve the annual business plans and financial statements prepared by the Secretariat to be submitted to the Congress for approval;
- d) To appoint and dismiss the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General and to enter into contracts with them relating to their services and their duties on behalf of FISO;
- 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 federations and to assign them to a Continental Confederation;
- g) To decide on the suspension of national member federations;
- h) To establish the FISO Obstacle Sports Rules, the specifications for equipment and facilities, and all internal and general regulations that must be applied worldwide and, on all occasions, particularly at international or Olympic competitions for which FISO establishes the system of competition;
- i) To control the appointment of and set worldwide standards for FISO agents, coaches, officials, instructors, and commissioners;
- j) To regulate the transfer of competitors, coaches, and officials from one national member federation to another;
- k) To promote amicable and courteous relations between national member federations, Continental Confederations, and their officials and competitors;
- l) To take measures appropriate to prevent violations of the FISO General Statutes, FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, decisions and FISO Obstacle Sports Rules;
- m) To prevent methods or practices which could jeopardise the integrity of the competitions or give rise to abuse of Obstacle Sports;
- n) To provide for the principles valid for deciding and settling all disputes between national member federations, Continental Confederations, clubs, leagues, officials, and competitors and guaranteeing the right of defence and an impartial judgement, in accordance with the FISO General Statutes and the FISO Internal Regulations;
- o) To hear and resolve disputes related to international leagues as per the relevant internal regulations;
- p) To present reports (including financial reports) to Congress;
- q) To determine the financial policy and to approve the budget and the yearly audited financial statements to be submitted to the Congress for approval;
- r) To exercise overall control over the financial management of FISO;
- s) To review the final text of proposed amendments to the FISO 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 member federations together with the agenda for the Congress;
- t) To adopt and modify the FISO Internal Regulations, and other rules and regulations of FISO;
- u) To organise, govern, control and/or assign the organisation of the FISO World Series, and/or World Cups for senior Men and Women and other continental, world and international competitions;
- v) To appoint Chairpersons and members of the FISO Commissions in accordance with the relevant articles of the FISO General Statutes;
- w) To approve the statutes of the Regional Offices, and
- x) To approve the statutes and regulations of any other organisations officially recognised by FISO.

3.3.1.2 Decisions of the FISO 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.

- 3.3.1.3 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.
- 3.3.1.4 The Central Board consists of the following members with the right to vote:
- a) Ex-officio members (mandatory)
 - i. The President (1)
 - ii. The Vice-President (1)
 - iii. The Secretary General (1)
 - iv. The Treasurer (1)
 - v. The President of each Continental Confederation (5)
 - b) If the respective Continental Confederations have been established, twelve (12) members elected by the Congress, namely: Africa (2), Americas (3), Asia (2), Europe (4) and Oceania (1). If the national member federations from a Continental Confederation nominate eligible candidates of only one gender, the respective continental quota will be reduced by one position.
 - c) Other members
 - vi. A representative of a continental or international league may be appointed by the members of the Central Board upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General;
 - vii. A representative of the Competitors, appointed by the members of the Central Board, upon proposal by the President and Secretary General; he shall chair the Athletes Commission; and
 - viii. Upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General, the Central Board may co-opt up to six (6) additional members to the Central Board (with full voting rights) for the vision, skill and special expertise that they will bring to the Central Board.
- 3.3.1.5 Both genders must be represented by at least five (5) persons on the Central Board amongst the twelve (12) members of the Confederations.
- 3.3.1.6 The process for the election of the twelve (12) members shall be as follows:
- a) The national member federations shall submit nominations to the FISO Secretariat no later than ninety (90) days prior to the first day of the Congress. The national member federations must ensure that their candidates fulfil the eligibility criteria established in the FISO Internal Regulations;
 - b) The Nominations Panel shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations and make its recommendation no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of the Congress; and
 - c) If positions of either gender remain open after the election, these positions will be filled by the members upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General. If positions still remain open, the positions will remain vacant and will be filled at the next Congress or at a Congress thereafter.

- 3.3.1.7 The twelve (12) Confederation members will be elected / appointed for a renewable term of four (4) years.
 - 3.3.1.8 The number of Central Board Ex-officio and Continental members 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).
 - 3.3.1.9 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 FISO globally. The membership of ex-officio members in the Central Board is conditional upon their holding the respective position.
 - 3.3.1.10 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.
 - 3.3.1.11 Members elected by the Congress are automatically members of the Board of the respective Continental Confederation.
 - 3.3.1.12 The Vice-President of FISO shall be elected by the Congress. The President and Vice-President must come from different Continental Confederations.
 - 3.3.1.13 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 FISO (if appointed);
 - b) The Secretary General Emeritus (if the title is granted);
 - c) The Executive Directors of the Regional Offices; and
 - d) The President of the International Obstacle Sports Foundation (if established)
 - 3.3.1.14 The Secretary General may invite other persons to attend meetings of the Central Board, when matters within their competence are to be discussed. They shall have consultative powers only.
 - 3.3.1.15 The Central Board will hold ordinary meetings twice yearly in the years of the elective Congress 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.
 - 3.3.1.16 Upon the request by at least fifteen (15) 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.
 - 3.3.1.17 A copy of the agenda and the working documents must be received by the Central Board members at least seven (7) days before a meeting commences.
 - 3.3.1.18 No quorum is required for a meeting of the Central Board.
 - 3.3.1.19 At the request of the President and the Secretary General, the Central Board may vote by correspondence, including email.
- 3.3.2 The Executive Committee
- 3.3.2.1 Between the meetings of the Central Board the latter's powers as per the FISO General Statutes are exercised by the Executive Committee. In doing so, the Executive Committee shall inter alia:
 - a) Develop tactics for extending the reach of Obstacle Sports;
 - b) Use its influence in developing new commercial relationships;

- c) Monitor outcomes and performances against the annual business plan and the longer-term strategic plan approved by the Central Board;
- d) Receive financial updates;
- e) Assist management in dealing with critical issues which have the potential to derail the outcomes in the business plan / strategic plan;
- f) Assign hosts for events;
- g) Review and supervise the performances of the Continental Confederations and the Regional Offices; and
- h) Inform immediately all members of the Central Board of any decision taken by the Executive Committee.

3.3.2.2 The foregoing notwithstanding the Executive Committee does not have the power to:

- a) Adopt and modify the FISO Internal Regulations;
- b) Establish and/or approve the FISO Obstacle Sports Competition Rules;
- c) Approve the audited financial statements;
- d) Approve the development and updates of FISO's long-term strategic plan;
- e) Review the final text of proposed amendments to the FISO General Statutes;
- f) Assign the organisation of the Obstacle Sports World Series and World Cups;
- g) Appoint and dismiss the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General and to enter into contracts with them relating to their services and their duties on behalf of FISO; and
- h) Supervise and monitor the Secretary General's performance and that of the Secretariat.

3.3.2.3 In addition, the Executive Committee has the power to:

- a) Approve the Continental Confederation Competitions Regulations;
- b) Authorize the appointment and/or dismissal as well as the entering into and/or termination of contracts with the Executive Directors of the Regional Offices upon proposal by the Secretary General in consultation with the respective Continental Confederation Board;
- c) Approve the budgets prepared by the Continental Confederations and to evaluate the performance of, and to allocate FISO resources to, the Regional Offices as required; and
- d) Exercise all other powers assigned to it under the FISO General Statutes.

3.3.2.4 The Executive Committee consists of the following members with the right to vote:

- a) The President who chairs the Executive Committee;
- b) The Vice-President;
- c) The Secretary General;
- d) The Treasurer;
- e) Six (6) members appointed by the Central Board upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General; and
- f) Up to two (2) additional persons appointed by the Central Board upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General for the vision, skill and special expertise that they will bring to the Executive Committee.

- 3.3.2.5 The Executive Directors of the Regional Offices may attend the meetings of the Executive Committee without a right to vote.
 - 3.3.2.6 The number of Executive Committee members with the same nationality is limited to one (1).
 - 3.3.2.7 The Executive Committee will hold meetings at least three (3) times per year. If necessary, the President and the Secretary General may call additional meetings of the Executive Committee. Meetings may include video conferencing for members who are unable to attend in person.
 - 3.3.2.8 A quorum of five (5) members is required for a meeting of the Executive Committee. At the request of the President and the Secretary General, the Executive Committee may meet by video/audio conference and may vote on-line or by correspondence, including email.
 - 3.3.2.9 At least three (3) Continental Confederations must be represented in the six (6) members appointed by the Central Board.
 - 3.3.2.10 Membership of the Executive Committee is personal, and proxies are not permitted. Executive Committee members must act in a responsible and independent manner, in the interests of FISO globally. The membership of ex-officio members in the Executive Committee is conditional upon their holding of the respective position.
 - 3.3.2.11 If a member of the Executive Committee is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without special leave of absence from the Executive Committee, then the Executive Committee shall declare his seat to be vacant. The consequent vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the term in accordance with the FISO General Statutes.
 - 3.3.2.12 Decisions of the Executive Committee can be appealed only before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 3.3.3 The Treasurer
- 3.3.3.1 The Treasurer is elected by the Congress for one (1) renewable four (4) year term of office.
 - 3.3.3.2 The process for the election of the Treasurer is as follows:
 - a) At least one-hundred-and-twenty (120) days prior to the first day of an elective Congress, the Secretary General shall invite nominations for the position of Treasurer from the national member federations;
 - b) Nominations shall close with the Secretary General ninety (90) 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 Nominations Panel which shall rule on the eligibility of the nominations no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of the Congress; and
 - d) Upon proposal by the Secretary General, the Congress shall elect the Treasurer.
 - 3.3.3.3 The Treasurer has the following duties:
 - a) To oversee the financial administration of FISO 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 FISO;
 - d) To prepare the four (4) year budget in conjunction with the Finance Commission and 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.

3.4 THE SECRETARIAT OF FISO

- 3.4.1 The Secretariat of FISO shall consist of:
 - a) The Secretary General;
 - b) The Deputy Secretary General (if appointed); and
 - c) The staff of the Secretariat.
- 3.4.2 The Secretary General is appointed by the Central Board and is eligible for re-appointment upon expiry of his mandate. The President and/or the Treasurer are authorised to sign the mandate contract on behalf of the Central Board.
- 3.4.3 The Secretary General manages the Secretariat of FISO and assumes all responsibility for it. He may not hold an official position within a national member federation or a Continental Confederation.
- 3.4.4 The Secretary General, personally or through his advisors, is responsible for the study and implementation of measures concerning the promotion, supervision and direction of Obstacle Sports worldwide, including such projects of technical and medical assistance that FISO may be able to provide for national member federations or groups of national member federations. 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, the Central Board and the Executive Committee, and to report on the activities of the Secretariat;
 - c) To enter into contracts with the Executive Directors of the Regional Offices relating to their services and their duties on behalf of the Regional Offices, after approval by the Executive Committee;
 - d) To evaluate, on behalf of the Executive Committee, the performance of the Regional Offices;
 - e) To be responsible for all international and Olympic competitions;
 - f) To be responsible for the implementation of the missions set out in these General Statutes;
 - g) To ensure, as necessary, compliance with the regulations established by the IOC and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
 - h) To convene and prepare the sessions of Congress and meetings of the Central Board and the Executive Committee;
 - i) To maintain the archives;
 - j) To publish and send the FISO General Statutes, FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, decisions, and FISO Competition Rules to the members of the Central Board and the Executive Committee, the Regional Offices, the members of the Commissions, the National Member Federations and officially recognised bodies;
 - k) To draft and circulate official communications of FISO;
 - l) To ensure the receipt of annual fees from members and contributions, royalties and dues, emoluments, and fines imposed by the competent bodies of FISO;
 - m) To administer FISO's finances;
 - n) To monitor and review on a continuing basis the income streams and financial resources of FISO and to strive to create additional income streams and activities;
 - o) To ensure compliance by the national member federations, their members and all FISO officials and divisions with the FISO General Statutes and all FISO 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 the FISO General Statutes or the FISO Internal Regulations unless provided otherwise; and
 - q) To take decisions in cases where his jurisdiction is specifically provided for.
- 3.4.5 A Deputy Secretary General may be appointed by the Central Board upon proposal of the Secretary General.
- 3.4.6 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 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.
- 3.4.7 The Deputy Secretary General may not hold an official position within a national member federation or a Continental Confederation.
- 3.4.8 The Secretary General Emeritus performs duties delegated to him by the Secretary General.

3.5 THE CONTINENTAL CONFEDERATIONS

- 3.5.1 The Continental Confederations are divisions of FISO with delegated authority to take decisions in their geographic regions as per the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations.
- 3.5.2 The FISO Continental Confederations in Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania have been established to ensure proximity to the national member federations in the Continental Confederation and to run the regional affairs.
- 3.5.3 Continental Confederations may be divided or created to facilitate better representation of each region, for example the America's may be divided into North-Central and South American Continental Confederations if necessary.
- 3.5.4 The establishment of a Continental Confederation in no respect affects the direct affiliation of each national member federation to FISO.
- 3.5.5 Upon becoming a member of FISO, a national member federation is assigned to a Continental Confederation by the Central Board.
- 3.5.6 The national member federations of FISO are grouped by Continental Confederation as further detailed in the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 3.5.7 The mission of the Continental Confederations shall be to:
- a) Establish their own development plans as an extension and reflection of the FISO 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) Promote the practice of Obstacle Sports in their geographic regions;
 - c) Improve the technical standards and administrative level of national member federations;
 - d) Support the development of additional competitions or programmes, which will assist in the growth and development of the sport of Obstacle Sports;
 - e) Develop strategies allowing the Regional Offices to be financially self-sustainable; and

- f) Assign specific tasks for the Regional Offices to fulfil the foregoing missions considering the circumstances prevailing in their respective Continental Confederation.

3.6 THE ORGANISATION OF THE CONTINENTAL CONFEDERATIONS

3.6.1 Continental Confederations are authorised to organise their affairs in the manner most appropriate in their geographic region, subject to the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations and decisions by the Congress, the Central Board and the Executive Committee. To that end, Continental Confederation shall have Continental Confederation Regulations setting forth the role, authority and responsibilities of the various bodies of the Continental Confederation. Such 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 Continental Confederation competitions in a permanent and regular manner;
- b) To ensure that international leagues or any such groups of clubs shall not be formed without complying with the FISO General Statutes, FISO Internal Regulations other regulations and decisions of FISO;
- c) To elect for one (1) four (4)-year term of office, renewable only once, prior to the elective Congress, the President of the Continental Confederation. He may not hold an official position within a national member federation. If sub- Continental Confederations have been established the position of President shall rotate between the sub-Continental Confederations and is not renewable, unless approved otherwise by the Central Board. In view of the Continental Confederation President's membership in the Central Board the name and available information of the candidate(s) shall be submitted to the Nominations Panel no later than two (2) months before the Continental Confederation election;
- d) To hold assemblies of all national member federations assigned to the Continental Confederation at least every two years;
- e) To establish and elect the members of a Continental Confederation Board, which will deal with matters of the Continental Confederation between the Continental Confederation Assemblies;
- f) To establish Continental Confederation Committees to advise and assist the Continental Confederation Assemblies and the Continental Confederation Boards in their duties. The establishment of Continental Confederation Committees must be coordinated with the Central Board to avoid duplication of work;
- g) To establish a Finance Committee, which shall have the following duties:
- h) To propose to the Continental Confederation Board the levies, fees, charges, fines and other financial obligations which may be imposed on the national member federations assigned to the Continental Confederation;
- i) To assist the Executive Director in the preparation of a four (4) year budget for the Regional Office and monitor the implementation of the budget's sections related to the development of the sport in the Continental Confederation and to its competitions, once it has been approved by the Executive Committee;
- j) To present the financial statements of the Regional Office to the Continental Confederation Board and Continental Confederation Assembly;
- k) To establish a process referring disputes to the FISO Appeals' Panel; and
- l) 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 Obstacle Sports.

- 3.6.2 Decisions of the Continental Confederation bodies shall comply with the FISO General Statutes, FISO Internal Regulations other rules and regulations and decisions of FISO. They can be implemented only by the Regional Offices.
- 3.6.3 The FISO President and the FISO Secretary General have the right to participate in the meetings of all Continental Confederation bodies.

3.7 THE REGIONAL OFFICES

- 3.7.1 Each FISO regional office is organised as a non-profit-making legal entity owned by FISO (the "Regional Offices"), in the manner most appropriate to the conditions prevailing in the country in which the Regional Office has its seat.
- 3.7.2 Each Regional Office is managed by a chief executive officer (preferred title and herein referred to as "Executive Director") appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with the Continental Confederation Board. He shall be an ex officio member of the Continental Confederation Board with a right to vote.
- 3.7.3 The Executive Director shall report to FISO and provide full information about the activities and financial status of the Regional Office to the Continental Confederation Board and Continental Confederation Assembly. In the event of conflict between decisions of the Central Board, the Executive Committee or the Secretary General and those taken by the Continental Confederation bodies, the former shall prevail.
- 3.7.4 Regional Offices shall have the necessary staff to implement the decisions of FISO and Continental Confederation bodies in their geographic regions and shall provide administrative support to Continental Confederation bodies and officials.
- 3.7.5 The FISO Executive Committee 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 FISO before third parties.
- 3.7.6 The Regional Offices shall implement the strategies developed by their respective bodies, also with the view to being financially self-sustainable.
- 3.7.7 Decisions of the Regional Offices must be enforced by the national member federations assigned to the respective Continental Confederation.

3.8 FISO COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- 3.8.1 The commissions are:
 - a) Technical Commission
 - b) Legal Affairs Commission
 - c) Governance Commission
 - d) Athletes Commission
 - e) Para-athletes Commission
 - f) Finance Commission
 - g) Medical Commission
 - h) Women's Commission

- 3.8.2 The Commissions have a four (4) year term of office identical with that of the Central Board.
- 3.8.3 Unless otherwise specified herein or determined by the Central Board, each Commission consists of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, and at least five (5) other members, one (1) representative from each continental region. 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 candidatures presented by the national member federations as well as other persons who can offer their expertise in the area of competence of the respective Commission.
- 3.8.4 Member/s of the Central Board may be appointed to each Commission.
- 3.8.5 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. If the Chairperson is permanently unable to fulfil his duties, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission replaces him for the remainder of his term.
- 3.8.6 The Secretary General and President are ex-officio members of all the Commissions and Committees, with voting rights.
- 3.8.7 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 member federation and from the Continental Confederation from which they are drawn, they must act in a responsible and independent manner, in the interests of FISO.
- 3.8.8 The Commissions meet whenever necessary at the invitation of their Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary General and the President.
- 3.8.9 No quorum is required for meetings of the Commissions.
- 3.8.10 With the agreement of the Secretary General and President, Commissions may make use of experts and appoint sub-commissions for specific tasks.
- 3.8.11 A copy of the agenda and the working documents shall be in the hands of the Commission members at least seven (7) days before a meeting commences.
- 3.8.12 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.
- 3.8.13 The Secretary General and President may appoint ad hoc committees, 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.

3.9 THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION

The Technical Commission is the body competent for all matters concerning the interpretation and application of the FISO Obstacle Sports Competition Rules and the state of the sport around the world, and shall:

- a) Monitor the state of the sport around the world and across the various national federations and propose to the Central Board any measures deemed useful to improve the technical level of its participants and the development of the sport;
- b) Draw up and/or approve the FISO Obstacle Sports Rules, draft amendments to these rules for adoption by the Central Board, give the official interpretation of the rules, and solve doubtful cases or cases not clearly covered by the rules themselves; and

- c) Be responsible for the training, examination and qualification of all FISO international officials, supervisors, instructors and commissioners as well as for preparing them for international competitions for men's and women's Obstacle Sports.

3.10 THE LEGAL COMMISSION

The Legal Commission has the following duties:

- a) To provide independent and impartial advice on all legal matters concerning the practice of Obstacle Sports worldwide;
- b) To study the legal implications of all proposed amendments to the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations;
- c) To draft the official text of the FISO Internal Regulations, considering any input of the other bodies concerned, and to finalise this text before submitting it to the Central Board for approval; and
- d) To advise the Secretary General, the Central Board and the Executive Committee on the interpretation of the current FISO General Statutes, FISO Internal Regulations and all other matters, in particular eligibility.

3.11 THE GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

The Governance Commission has the following duties:

- a) To make recommendations on possible improvements to FISO's governance and organisation;
- b) To review and monitor the relationship between FISO, the Regional Offices and its Continental Confederations;
- c) To monitor the relationship between FISO and its national member federations and provide advice to the Secretary General and the President for appropriate action when requested and required;
- d) To monitor the evolution of the Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations of the national member federations and to draw up proposals for their improvement and alignment with the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations; and
- e) To review applications for membership.

3.12 THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

The Athletes Commission has the following duties:

- a) To study issues relating to athletes, men and women, of all age groups;
- b) To propose to the Central Board any measures deemed necessary to improve the conditions of athletes and protect their ability to grow as competitors and as role models for others;
- c) To make recommendations on practices or activities likely to be affecting the interests of athletes; and
- d) To provide feedback on and advise on possible improvements to the various Competitions of FISO.

The athlete's representative on the Central Board shall be the Chairman of the Athletes Commission.

3.13 THE PARA-ATHLETES COMMISSION

The Para-Athletes Commission has the following duties:

- a) To ensure para-athlete competition rules and regulations meet international standards.
- b) To study issues relating to para-athletes, men and women, of all age groups.

3.14 THE FINANCE COMMISSION

3.14.1 The Finance Commission has the following duties:

- a) To review and recommend the FISO draft budget for submission to the Central Board;
- b) To prepare financial statements for the Central Board and for the Congress;
- c) To study and recommend acceptance of the auditor's report to the Central Board and the Congress; and
- d) To recommend financial investment policies.

3.14.2 The Finance Commission consists of:

- a) The Treasurer as its Chairperson; and
- b) At least three (3) members.

3.15 THE MEDICAL COMMISSION

3.15.1 The role of the Medical Commission is to advise the Secretary General on:

- a) The research and practice required to raise the quality of health care generally for competitors;
- b) The health care system available at the main official competitions of FISO to ensure that it can deliver care uniformly, effectively, and consistently during those competitions;
- c) How to ensure that the highest quality of sports medicine knowledge is disseminated through the entire sports medicine team associated with Obstacle Sports (professionals, coaches, scientists, and administrators) through the provision of training, continuing education, and other resources;
- d) Medical matters relating to the IOC Medical Code and/or the World Anti-Doping Code.

3.15.2 The Medical Commission may study and propose via the Legal Commission regulations on medical matters related to Obstacle Sports.

3.16 THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The Women's Commission:

- a) Ensures equal opportunity for women in the Obstacle Sports and related disciplines;
- b) Promotes recognition and representation of women;
- c) Have the right to designate a representative on all Committees and Commissions of World OCR, and;
- d) Creates policy for integration of women in all races.

4 ORGANISATIONS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY FISO

4.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 4.1.1 With the object of promoting Obstacle Sports, FISO may officially recognise certain organisations. The Central Board of FISO is responsible for granting official recognition to such organisations.
- 4.1.2 Recognised organisations have the freedom of action to fulfil their mandate, subject to the approval of their national member federation, Continental Confederation, or the Central Board of FISO.
- 4.1.3 Where applicable, the General Assembly of each organisation determines the place of its headquarters, subject to approval by the Central Board of FISO.
- 4.1.4 Recognised organisations cannot represent FISO before third parties.
- 4.1.5 To ensure the functioning of these organisations, they may receive a subsidy from FISO, 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.
- 4.1.6 These organisations must send detailed reports on each of their activities at least once (1) per year to the Secretary General. FISO 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.

4.2 THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF OBSTACLE SPORTS COACHES

- 4.2.1 The World Association of Obstacle Sports Coaches consists of national associations of Obstacle Sports coaches as recognised by their respective national member federations. It may have individual membership as well.
- 4.2.2 The World Association of Obstacle Sports Coaches has duties to:
 - a) Develop training methods;
 - b) Take any measures to improve coaches' skills, particularly coaches for young competitors;
 - c) Adopt the appropriate measures to promote generalisation and experience in the teaching of Obstacle Sports;
 - d) Organise courses and lectures for instructors, coaches, coaches and administrators, in co-operation with the national member federations and Continental Confederations;
 - e) Prepare documents for use in teaching and development training techniques for competitors and coaches;
 - f) Provide assistance producing training videos; and,
 - g) Provide an active and permanent forum for coaches worldwide.

- 4.2.3 The national associations of Obstacle Sports Coaches recognised by their respective national member federations may, if they wish, establish associations of coaches within the Continental Confederation to which they belong.
- 4.2.4 The World Association of Obstacle Sports Coaches, the Continental Confederation associations of Obstacle Sports Coaches, if any, and the national associations of Obstacle Sports coaches must comply with the spirit and letter of the statutes and regulations of their own national Obstacle Sports member federations, of their Continental Confederation, and of FISO.
- 4.2.5 The statutes and regulations of the coaches' associations must be approved by the appropriate competent authority, i.e. the national member federation, the Continental Confederation and/or FISO.
- 4.2.6 The General Assembly of the World Association of Obstacle Sports Coaches elects the President of the Association and the members of its Board, one (1) of them being the FISO Secretary General or his delegate.
- 4.2.7 The headquarters and the administration of the World Association of Obstacle Sports Coaches are located at the FISO offices and the FISO Secretary General is responsible for the management of its affairs.

4.3 FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE HANDISPORT DE SPORT D'OBSTACLES

FISO shall create the Fédération Internationale Handisport de Sports d'Obstacles.

- 4.3.1 The Fédération Internationale Handisport de Sports d'Obstacles will be composed of the national organisations governing Obstacle Para-Sports in their respective countries.
- 4.3.2 The Fédération Internationale Handisport de Sports d'Obstacles and its national organisations must comply with the spirit and letter of the FISO General Statutes and FISO Internal Regulations.
- 4.3.3 The statutes and regulations of the Fédération Internationale Handisport de Sports d'Obstacles are subject to approval by the Central Board.

4.4 FONDATION INTERNATIONALE DE SPORTS D'OBSTACLES

FISO shall create the Fondation Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles, to be headquartered in Switzerland, whose principal objectives are to promote, organise, support, and develop all sporting, cultural, and educational activities for the benefit of Obstacle Sports, and to provide assistance for these activities.

4.5 THE OBSTACLE SPORTS ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL (OSAT)

- 4.5.1 The OSAT shall be established for the resolution of disputes within the world of Obstacle Sports provided that FISO, its respective body, division or disciplinary bodies are not directly involved in such a dispute.
- 4.5.2 The awards of the OSAT are final and binding upon communication to the parties.
- 4.5.3 The operational arrangements for the OSAT are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.

5 FISO AWARDS

5.1 FISO AWARDS

- 5.1.1 FISO shall establish several awards (set out in the FISO Internal Regulations) to honour those persons who have contributed in an exceptional way to the development and promotion of Obstacle Sports worldwide.
- 5.1.2 FISO shall establish the FISO 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 Obstacle Sports worldwide.
- 5.1.3 FISO shall establish other awards to honour distinguished contributions to Obstacle Sports.
- 5.1.4 Details of all awards and of the Induction processes and procedures are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.

6 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

6.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1.1 FISO is the sole holder of broadcasting, licensing and marketing rights, and other rights associated with the sport yet to be developed for official competitions as defined in the FISO Internal Regulations, except for the Olympic Sports. When entering into contracts relating to such television, licensing and marketing rights which affect the financial interests of the Continental Confederations, the interests of the Continental Confederations shall be taken into account. At the decision of the Central Board, FISO may assign these rights to a third party.
- 6.1.2 The income of FISO shall consist of:
 - a) Fees from the national member federations;
 - b) Income from the granting of licenses for the use of FISO rights, e.g. commercial, marketing and broadcasting rights;
 - c) Income generated from other activities;
 - d) Donations, subsidies and miscellaneous returns; and
 - e) Fines in accordance with the respective regulations.

- 6.1.3 The budget period of FISO covers four (4) years, beginning on the first (1) day of January, following the final round of the FISO World Cup.
- 6.1.4 The financial year of FISO begins on the first (1) day of January and ends on the thirty-first (31) day of December of the same year.
- 6.1.5 Financial statements in accordance with the laws of Switzerland are drawn up each year as of the thirty-first (31) day of December.
- 6.1.6 FISO's accounts must be audited annually by an independent external auditor, registered in Switzerland. The appointment of the Auditor is made by the Central Board.
- 6.1.7 The Swiss Franc is the currency of reference for FISO. The Central Board has the right to choose a new currency of reference should FISO's financial interests, the financial policies of Switzerland, and/or the international situation require so.
- 6.1.8 FISO is liable for its obligations with its own assets only. There is no personal liability of the members of FISO.
- 6.1.9 FISO will indemnify any person who is or has been an official of FISO as a member of the Central Board, the Executive Committee, the Secretariat of FISO, the Commissions, Panels, Tribunals, and other persons appointed to act in an official capacity on behalf of FISO against the following:
 - a) Any liability to another person (other than FISO or a related body corporate) which arises from being an official of FISO unless the liability arises out of grossly negligent or wilful conduct;
 - b) Any liability for costs and expenses incurred by that person in their capacity as an official of FISO; or
 - c) In defending proceedings which arise from being an official of FISO, whether civil or criminal, where judgement is given in favour of the person or in which the person is acquitted.

7 JUDICIAL AND OTHER BODIES

7.1 THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

- 7.1.1 The Ethics Committee considers any alleged breach of the Code of Ethics, as set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 7.1.2 The Ethics Committee shall prepare a report for the Congress.
- 7.1.3 The Ethics Committee consists of at least three (3) and up to six (6) persons appointed by the Congress upon proposal by the President and the Secretary General and shall elect one (1) of its members to be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- 7.1.4 Procedures for the Ethics Committee are set out in the Code of Ethics.

7.2 THE NOMINATIONS PANEL

- 7.2.1 The Nominations Panel is composed of the following persons:
 - a) The President of FISO;
 - b) The Secretary General of FISO; and
 - c) Three (3) persons appointed by the Congress upon proposal by the persons mentioned under a. and b. above.

- 7.2.2 The Nominations Panel shall:
- a) Rule on the eligibility of the persons nominated for election as President, Treasurer, Continental Confederation Presidents and other Central Board members in accordance with criteria set out in the FISO Internal Regulations; and
 - b) Make recommendations with respect to nominations for election as Central Board member, considering the vision, skill and expertise that the nominated persons can bring to FISO.
- 7.2.3 The procedures for the Nominations Panel are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 7.2.4 Decisions of the Nominations Panel can be appealed only before the Court of Arbitration for Sport within a time limit of seven (7) days from notification of the decision and be resolved in an expedited manner.

7.3 THE FISO DISCIPLINARY PANEL

The FISO Disciplinary Panel shall be established to deal with disciplinary matters as provided in the FISO Internal Regulations.

7.4 THE FISO APPEALS' PANEL

- 7.4.1 The FISO Appeals' Panel has a four (4) year term of office identical with that of the Central Board. It consists of a Chairperson and at least six (6) other members unless the Central Board decides otherwise. The Secretary General in consultation with the President shall put forward a list of candidates to the Central Board for appointment to the Panel. Members appointed to the Panel must have legal training.
- 7.4.2 The Panel has a Deputy Chairperson, appointed by the Central Board from the members of the Panel. Should the Chairperson of the Panel be temporarily indisposed, the Deputy Chairperson of the Panel deputises for him. In the event of permanent indisposition, the Deputy Chairperson of the Panel replaces him for the remainder of his term.
- 7.4.3 Members of the Panel may be replaced as necessary by decision of the Central Board.
- 7.4.4 The Appeals' Panel has the following duties:
- a) To hear and decide on appeals filed by an affected party against decisions of FISO, including its divisions, bodies and disciplinary bodies, unless such an appeal is expressly excluded in the FISO General Statutes or the FISO Internal Regulations;
 - b) To prepare in consultation with the Legal Commission the Regulations governing Appeals for approval by the Central Board; and
 - c) To consult with and to suggest to the Legal Commission any amendments to the FISO General Statutes and the FISO Internal Regulations.
- 7.4.5 The procedures and regulations for the Appeals' Panel are set out in the FISO Internal Regulations.

7.5 THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Any dispute arising from the FISO General Statutes, the FISO Internal Regulations, other rules and regulations, and decisions of FISO which cannot be settled by the FISO-internal appeals process shall be definitively settled by a tribunal constituted in accordance with the Statutes and Procedural Rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland. The parties concerned shall undertake to comply with the Statutes and Procedural Rules of this Court of Arbitration for Sport and to accept and enforce its decision in good faith.

8 FINAL PROVISIONS

8.1 OTHER ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

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

8.2 VOTING PROCESS

Votes are taken by show of hands or electronically. Elections shall be carried out by secret ballot or electronically, provided that the secrecy of the vote is guaranteed, unless there is only one candidate.

8.3 MAJORITY RULES

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

8.4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of the Central Board, the Executive Committee, FISO Commissions or any other body of FISO must not participate in any deliberation or decision which would expose them to a conflict of interest. In particular, they must abstain from voting on a bid for the right to conduct an official competition of FISO while ever their own national member federation remains in the vote.

8.5 REPLACEMENT OF MEMBERS

Members of FISO divisions and their bodies who:

- a) die;
- b) resign; or
- c) do not or are unable to take an active or satisfactory part in the activities of FISO may be replaced by the Central Board for the balance of their term.

8.6 MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

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

8.7 SIGNATORY RIGHTS

- 8.7.1 The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer have signing authority jointly by two.
- 8.7.2 The Central Board may designate other persons, whose joint dual signature is binding upon the FISO.

8.8 LANGUAGE

- 8.8.1 The official language of FISO is English.
- 8.8.2 Interpreting of languages may be provided at the Congress, however non-English speakers should plan on having a translator.
- 8.8.3 Working languages during all meetings of the Central Board, the Executive Committee, the FISO Commissions, and the FISO Panels are according to the requirements of the participants. Working papers are provided in English language.
- 8.8.4 The FISO General Statutes and the FISO Internal Regulations are published in the official languages of FISO.

8.9 PREVAILING LANGUAGE

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

8.10 SUPREMACY OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

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

8.11 COLOURS, FLAG AND INSIGNIA

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

8.12 DISBANDMENT OF FISO

Congress shall declare the disbandment of FISO:

- a) If requested by four-fifths (4/5) of the national member federations and if, at the session of Congress voting on disbandment, four-fifths (4/5) of the national member federations present and with voting rights, then vote for disbandment. If however, at that session, less than three-fourths (3/4) of the national member federations 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 member federations present and with voting rights, irrespective of a quorum, shall be sufficient; or
- b) If the number of national member federations is reduced to three (3) or fewer; and/or
- c) In the above instances, the International Olympic Committee 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 Obstacle Sports, amateur sports, a youth organisation, or other similar activities.

8.13 ENTRY INTO FORCE

The FISO General Statutes were approved by the Founding Assembly of FISO of February 13, 2018 and became effective from the time of their approval.

8.14 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

- 8.14.1 On the occasion of the Founding Assembly the President shall be elected until the election following the completion of the first medal event at an Olympic Games and the officers of the Executive Committee shall be appointed for an initial term of seven (7) years.
- 8.14.2 On the occasion of the Founding Assembly a secretary and a deputy secretary shall be appointed with full powers and duties of a Secretary General and a Deputy Secretary General until the establishment of the headquarter office.
- 8.14.3 An elective Congress shall meet in 2019 and the next following elective Congress in 2023. As of 2023, the Congress shall meet once every two (2) years.