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*PAN AMERICAN TAEKWONDO UNION*

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**PAN-AMERICAN TAEKWONDO UNION (PATU) STATUTES  
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## **Preamble**

1. The Pan-American Taekwondo Union (PATU), a non-profit organization, is subject to the laws and regulations of the countries in which its central office is located. PATU is a continental union of National Member Associations (Members) of World Taekwondo (WT), established under the auspices of WT's statutes and in accordance with its principles.
2. The operation of PATU is governed by these Statutes, and its main objectives include the development of organized taekwondo practice in the Pan-American region, following the guidelines and regulations set forth by WT. Currently, PATU has 45 member countries.
3. PATU shares WT's vision of achieving "One World One Sport Taekwondo", guided by the spirit that "Peace is more precious than triumph".
4. The mission of PATU is to develop and promote Taekwondo sustainably throughout the Pan-American region, ranging from a basic level to an elite level, including Para-Taekwondo. This mission aims to provide everyone with the opportunity to participate, watch, and enjoy the sport regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, or ability. In alignment with WT, PATU also commits to promoting universal principles of peace and sustainability, and to inspiring the disadvantaged through education and partnerships.
5. PATU aims to fulfill its vision and mission through the values of excellence, integrity, respect, tolerance, inclusion, and leadership.
6. This statute represents a comprehensive restructuring of the previous ones that were previously approved by the General Assembly of PATU on July 24, 2021. This restructuring was approved by the General Assembly of PATU (hereinafter "AG PATU") during the meeting held on December, 23, 2023.

**Article 1 Name, Legal Status, Recognition and Headquarters**

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- 1.1 **Name and Legal Status:** The Pan-American Taekwondo Union (PATU), is a Continental Union of World Taekwondo, will henceforth be referred to as "PATU". It is established as an international nonprofit organization limited to the Pan-American region and formed to promote the interests of World Taekwondo (hereinafter referred to as "World Taekwondo" or "WT"). PATU is composed of the National Member Associations (MNAs) of WT. PATU possesses legal personality, its own assets, the legal capacity to sign contracts, whether physical or electronic, and in accordance with the powers granted by these statutes to its representatives. It can also manage, acquire, and dispose of movable and immovable property, as well as institute and defend itself in legal proceedings.
- 1.2 **Recognition:** PATU is recognized by WT as the entity tasked with providing support for WT activities in the Pan-American area, in accordance with these statutes and WT's objectives. PATU will ensure that the development and organization of Taekwondo in the region aligns with the principles and regulations set forth by WT and PATU itself. This entails adhering to WT's interests and initiatives.
- 1.3 **Headquarters:** The headquarters of PATU may be located at any time in a place determined by the PATU Administration. Once the location is determined, it will be reported to the General Assembly in accordance with these statutes. The PATU Administration will consider the best location from which legal, administrative, operational, and financial operations of PATU can be carried out. The headquarters of PATU will be situated in a country with optimal legal, economic, and political tax conditions. PATU headquarters location, shall be approved by 2/3 of the Council.

PATU Administration may designate branches or subsidiary offices if necessary to fulfill its functions properly.

**Article 2 Objectives, Principles, Autonomy, Practices and Cooperation**

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- 2.1 **Objectives:** The goal of PATU is to promote the practice of taekwondo in accordance with the objectives envisioned by WT throughout the continent, through an effective administration of the sport of taekwondo in the Pan-American region, in line with the values and traditions of the martial art, as well as the general and fundamental principles of good governance of the Olympic and Paralympic movements. In coordination with WT, PATU's objectives are as follows:
- 2.1.1 Assist World Taekwondo (WT) in overseeing the practice of Taekwondo as an Olympic, Paralympic, and virtual sport, as well as all other forms of Taekwondo practice, across all countries and regions within the Pan American Region.
  - 2.1.2 Associate the MNAs (Member National Associations) that are part of the region previously recognized by WT, as well as publish, apply, and adhere to the rules, policies, and practices of WT that govern memberships to protect the integrity of taekwondo. Within these parameters, strive to grow and develop the practice of Taekwondo as an Olympic and Paralympic sport in the nations of the continent and territories.
  - 2.1.3 Strengthening ties between members and developing their capacities, as well as notifying

any disputes among members to WT, and in the event that WT considers them to be beyond its jurisdiction, resolving these disputes.

- 2.1.4 Implement and promote the application of Technical Rules issued by WT.
- 2.1.5 Encourage and support members to actively participate in WT and PATU meetings, events and championships, keeping WT informed of all relevant matters within the continent.
- 2.1.6 Organize, manage, and establish Taekwondo events, congresses, and championships in accordance with WT standards, and ensure that events held by Members and/or other recognized parties appropriately meet WT standards.
- 2.1.7 Establish Para-Taekwondo as part of the PATU operations, including the organization of continental championships Para-Taekwondo Championships.
- 2.1.8 Promote, expand, and improve the practice of Taekwondo throughout the continent considering its educational, cultural, humanitarian and sport values (the “Taekwondo Movement”).
- 2.1.9 Support and encourage the development of Taekwondo as a Sport for All.
- 2.1.10 Encourage peace and cooperation through participation in the sport.
- 2.1.11 Participate in appropriate commercial activities that generate direct benefits for sports and ensure the sustainable development of PATU, if these activities do not conflict with the commercial activities of WT.
- 2.1.12. Operate development programs for the region, such as Taekwondo Cares and support humanitarian Taekwondo activities, that support the programs established by WT (World Taekwondo).
- 2.1.13 Strengthen and uphold WT’s Objectives and Principles by taking such measures as may be necessary for advancing the interest of Taekwondo in the continent, from the international level through the MNAs to the base level through the Dojangs (Clubs).
- 2.1.14 Implement and be part of the Global Membership System (GMS) in accordance with the GMS bylaws.
- 2.1.15. To operate recognition and organization programs such as the "PATU Gala Awards Dinner", "PATU Technical Congress", as well as the "PATU Hall of Fame", and to support the WT programs.
- 2.1.16. Integrate and promote Virtual Taekwondo, and where appropriate e-sports as tools for digital youth engagement and inclusion for all age and demographic groups.

2.2 **Principles:** Fundamental and general principles of the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics, adopted by WT, as well as the statutes, rules, and regulations issued by WT, along with their respective amendments, are applied. None of the provisions in these PATU statutes will be contradictory to or able to override those principles and regulations issued by WT. PATU and its members, through their membership in WT, commit to the following principles:

- 2.2.1 **Sport for All**: Taekwondo is a sport for people of all ages and abilities, and a sport for all levels, recreational, competitive, and elite.
- 2.2.2 **Fair Play**: PATU and its Members will take reasonable care to ensure competitions and those participating in the events (athletes, officials, and administrators) respect “fair play” and engage in the highest degree of sportsmanship and integrity.
- 2.2.3 **Harassment Free Sport**: Participants in Taekwondo at any level have a right to compete, work and operate in a harassment-free environment. PATU and its Members will take reasonable care to ensure there are no forms of harassment whether that be physical, psychological, or other forms of harassment. For further information consult the Politics of Protection of the WT.
- 2.2.4 **Gender Equality**: Taekwondo strives for equal representation of men and women. PATU and its Members support the active participation of women in Taekwondo at all levels and promotes their representation in PATU, competitions, and programs throughout the region. PATU shall seek to achieve equal gender representation by the year 2029.
- 2.2.5 **Sustainable Development**: PATU and Members will take a responsible approach to safeguard the environment and manage resources in a sustainable way through its practices based on race, color, creed, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical attributes, in hosting events and managing its operations.
- 2.2.6 **Non-Discrimination and Ethics**: PATU and its Members will not allow any inappropriate form discrimination to affect its decisions or actions, be it discrimination language, religion, disability, national, political, socio-economic status, or athletic ability, birth, or other status. Anyone who deals with PATU and/or Members and/or shares in its activities in any capacity commit themselves by their actions to behave in a non-discriminatory and ethical manner.

2.3 **Autonomy**:

- 2.3.1 In accordance with WT Statutes Article 2.3, WT’s Member National Associations (MNAs) and Continental Unions (CUs) will manage their internal affairs free from any external form of interference, undue influence, or attempt, such as political, religious, or financial pressure, which may infringe their commitment to conform to the WT Statutes.
  - 2.3.1.1 Any external form of interference, undue influence, or attempt will be reported to WT.
  - 2.3.1.2 PATU’s governing documents will make provision for an election or internal appointment system that ensures compliance with this section by PATU and its members.
- 2.3.2 WT may take appropriate action against any member if not in compliance with this section.

- 2.4 **Best Practices**: PATU will integrate WT’s best practices with regards to the governance and administration of the sport of Taekwondo (“Best Practices”). These include the following:
  - Policies and sanctions against self-dealing by PATU Officials and Management.
  - Transparency of accounting and accurate bookkeeping.
  - Social responsibility policies.

2.4.1 PATU will need to update and integrate its guiding documents, along with any amendments, the best practices established or adopted by WT, such as: Anti-Doping Rules, Anti-Discrimination Policies, Statutory Regulations on Betting and Anti-Corruption, Conflict of Interest Policy, Code of Appeals and Disciplinary Actions, Code of Ethics, Election Regulations, Financial Rules, Code of Integrity, Medical Code, and Safety Regulations, Code for the Prevention of Match Manipulation, Safeguarding Policies, and Sustainability Policies, which are published on the WT website, and through this Statute, PATU adopts as its own. All PATU members will comply with WT's best practices. All PATU member will comply to WT best practices.

2.5 **Cooperation:** PATU will respect WT's relations with its independent affiliated organizations and assist in related operations within its territory and as required by WT. The independent affiliated organizations, recognized by WT are as follows:

- Kukkiwon (for standardized Education of Taekwondo Martial Arts and Poom/Dan Certification).
- Taekwondo Promotion Foundation (To operate the central education center and Taekwondo management in Muju, Korea).
- WT Peace Corps (to send young Taekwondo instructors to less developed countries).
- Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (To provide Taekwondo as a tool to empower young refugees and those that have left their homes).
- WT-Wuxi Center (To offer studies on Taekwondo Education and to organize the Grand Slam Championship Series).
- Asia Development Foundation (To support the Taekwondo Cares programs).

On its part, PATU recognizes the following organizations as cooperation bodies: Pan-American Martial Academy, University Taekwondo, Hispanic-Speaking Taekwondo Union, Military Taekwondo, School Taekwondo, and Taekwondo for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

### **Article 3 Official and Operating Languages**

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3.1 **Official Language(s):** The official languages of PATU are English and Spanish.

3.1.1 PATU Statutes and WT Competition Rules: The CU's Statutes and the WT Competition Rules and Interpretation, and/or any amendments thereto will be published in English and Spanish. Korean technical terminology will be used in accordance with competition rules and regulations. In the case of a conflict among the different versions, the Spanish language version will prevail.

3.2 **Operating Language:** The operating language of PATU, including its Secretariat, the Council, the General Assembly, and Committees, is Spanish, with English translations provided.

3.2.1 **Governing Documents:** Unless otherwise provided herein, all PATU rules, regulations, and official guidelines, will be published in Spanish, with English translations provided.

3.2.2 **Proceedings:** PATU's meetings, minutes, correspondence, seminars, trainings, and announcements will be published in Spanish, with English translations provided, unless otherwise approved.

3.2.2.1 Members are responsible for the translation of the aforesaid into the language of their country. Any Member will have the right to speak

or write in their language, but the contents will be translated by the Member and provided in Spanish. Communication for WT will be provided in English.

## **PART II: ORGANIZATION**

### **Article 4 Structure**

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- 4.1 The structure and administration of the PATU will ensure: (i) participation, (ii) transparency, and (iii) compliance with the WT goals and directives.
- 4.1.1 The jurisdiction and boundaries of the PATU will be fixed by the WT Council.
- 4.1.2 Within the designated boundaries, the PATU may establish smaller geographic areas that will be deemed PATU territories (“PATU Territory”). Each PATU Territory will fairly represent each of the areas where PATU conducts operations. The PATU Territories will take into consideration distance between the countries, geographical challenges, and diversity of the populations. Any PATU Territory established or modified requires the approval of WT.
- 4.2 The PATU will be governed by its:
- General Assembly (hereinafter from time to time referred to as “the GA”. See Article 5).
  - Council (hereinafter from time to time referred to as “the Council”. See Article 6).
  - Management (hereinafter from time to time referred to as “the Management”. See Article 7).
- 4.2.1 PATU Management will be comprised of the following:
- The President (Refer to Article 7.2).
  - Secretary General (Refer to Article 7.3).
  - Secretariat (Refer to Article 7.4).
- 4.3 Commissions and Committees:
- 4.3.1 PATU may constitute Commissions and Committees to advise, support and assist in the performance of the functions of the Management. Any Committee constituted by PATU will coordinate its functions with a corresponding committee of WT when deemed necessary by WT. See Addendum 1 for the list of standing Committees. PATU and its members will recognize the faculties of the established permanent committees, also will recognize the faculties of additional committees or AD HOC committees with determined objectives that are not provided in the Annex 1 of these statutes, with temporary or permanent terms.
- 4.3.1.1 Terms of Reference (TOR) for each Commission or Committee will be provided separately and published on PATU Website. The Council or the President may entrust each Committee with executing matters under its jurisdiction and/or responsibility. The Management will assign a liaison to each Committee. PATU will recognize and adopt the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the permanent Commissions or Committees issued and published by WT on its website, which will be implemented at the continental level until PATU issues its own, for each committee. These TOR will not be against the ones issued by WT and will adjust to the amendments that WT makes from time to time.
- 4.3.1.2 Meeting and Reporting: Committees will meet at least once per quarter



and will submit a progress report or meeting minutes to the Management following each meeting. Committees will submit an annual report to the GA. These reports are to be published by the Committee and Management unless determined to be of confidential nature or if its publication would result in a negative or inconvenient outcome for the fulfillment of its functions. The meeting can be conducted either electronically or in person. The Committee Chairs will attend Council meetings and deliver reports to the Council and the GA.

4.3.1.3 Composition and Term: Selection of Committee members will be based on published qualifications in line with the mandates of each Committee. Unless other indicated in these Statutes. Each Committee will consist of one Chair, one Vice Chair, and up to five (5) members. Committee Members will serve a term of two (2) years or the end of the President's Term, whichever comes first. For the purpose of this rule, a "year" is the period between two successive Ordinary General Assemblies. The committee members appointed by president will be removed by his sole discretion.

4.3.2 Ad-Hoc Committees: The President may from time-to-time form special purpose ad-hoc committees. The Terms of Reference and resulting reports from the ad-hoc committees will be presented to the Council at the terms that the council determinates.

## **Article 5      General Assembly**

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5.1 The GA is the general meeting of PATU Council and Member representatives. It is the supreme decision-making organ within PATU, and its decisions are final. All decisions will be made according to the procedures established by these Statutes and will not contravene WT goals for the continent. Items not covered by the GA will be decided by the Council and the PATU Management as applicable.

5.1.1 Ordinary General Assembly (OGA): Ordinary GA will be held every year at the same location as the CU Senior Championships or the CU Junior Championships is to be held. Any change to the scheduling and/or location of the OGA require the consent of a simple majority of the eligible voters.

5.1.1.1 Calling Notice: The OGA Calling Notice will be sent at least two (2) months before the date fixed for such meetings. The date, time, format, and place thereof and the business to be transacted will be in the OGA Calling Notice and published on PATU Website and sent to the Council and Members. Accidental failure to give notice to any of the above will not invalidate the proceedings of any GA.

5.1.1.2 Agenda and Meeting Book: The draft GA agenda will be sent to the Council and Members no later than one (1) month prior to the OGA. The final Agenda and meeting book shall be sent to the Council and Members no later than two (2) weeks prior to the GA.

5.1.1.3 Matters not included in the final agenda of the OGA will not be deliberated without the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible voters.

5.1.2 Extraordinary General Assembly (the EGA): The EGA may be convened whenever deemed necessary by the President; or within three (3) months following the request of more than one-third (1/3) of the Council Members with clear reasons for the summons; or within three (3) months following the request of more than one-third (1/3) of Members with clear reasons for the summons. The date, place, and agenda of the EGA will be designated by the President. The EGA will be held virtually or in a format that allows all eligible voters who cannot attend physically to participate. In the event the EGA is requested by one-third (1/3) of the Council Members, the Agenda should reflect the request.

5.1.2.1 Calling Notice: The EGA Calling Notice will be sent at least one (1) month before the date fixed for such meetings. The date, time, format, and place thereof and the business to be transacted will be in the EGA Calling Notice and published on the CU Website and sent to the Council and Members. Accidental failure to give notice to any of the above will not invalidate the proceedings of any EGA.

5.1.2.2 Agenda and Meeting Book: The agenda and Meeting Book of the EGA will be sent to the Council and Members no later than two (2) weeks prior to the GA.

5.1.2.3 Matters that are not included in the final agenda of the EGA will not be deliberated without the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible voters.

5.1.2.3 Matters not included in the agenda of the EGA will not be deliberated without the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible voters.

5.2 **Quorum:** The required quorum for the GA will consist of simple majority of eligible voters (Council Members and MNA representatives) participating in the meeting.

5.3 **Voting at the GA:** Unless otherwise provided herein, Council Members and voting MNA (Level I) up to date with their financial and legal obligation with PATU and WT are entitled to vote. Resolutions and other decisions are passed by a simple majority of eligible voters present in the meeting. Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are counted for quorum but are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. The Chair will not vote except in the case of a tie. Decisions come into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the GA.

5.3.1 Except for election, which will be by secret ballot, voting for items at the GA will be conducted by open ballot in general. However, if one or more eligible voter request for a secret ballot, the GA will vote on this matter, and a simple majority will decide.

5.4 **Chair:** The President will act as Chair at the GA except for Elections, which are chaired by the Chair of the ad-hoc Election Committee. The Chair is responsible for presiding over the GA and has the authority to take reasonably necessary measures to stop any disruptive conduct obstructing the efficient administration of the GA to ensure the rights of all members are respected.

5.4.1 If the PATU President is unable to attend, the First Vice President will preside over the GA. If the First Vice President is also unable to attend, then the Chair will be the most senior elected Vice President. Seniority will be determined by time served on the Council.

5.5 **The business of the GA will be:**

- 5.5.1 Approve the minutes of the previous GA.
  - 5.5.2 Receive the report of the Council.
  - 5.5.3 Approve the annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report.
  - 5.5.4 Approve the budget prepared by the Management under supervision of the Finance Committee.
  - 5.5.5 Approve the operation report and operation plans of the Management as approved by the Council.
  - 5.5.6 Approve proposals for amendments to the Statutes in line with WT, as approved by the Council.
  - 5.5.7 Elect Officials as described herein.
  - 5.5.8 Ratify expulsions of Members as decided by the Council with prior approval of WT.
  - 5.5.9 Discuss other matters of importance.
  - 5.5.10 No decision of the GA will contravene with those of WT.
- 5.6 Except for items listed above, the GA may refer matters under its jurisdiction and/or responsibility to the Management or the Council.
- 5.7 **MNA Representation:**
- 5.7.1 **Representation:**
    - 5.7.1.1 Each Level I MNA will have the right to appoint up to a maximum of two (2) delegates (preferably 1 man and 1 woman) to each GA. Only one of the representatives will be allowed to speak and will have the right to vote (the voting representative). If the president has voting capacity under another assignment (e.g., as a member of the Council), in that case, he or she can delegate the right to act as a voting representative to another person within the MNA; this assignment will be carried out through a proxy letter submitted to the Administration. Similarly, for members of the WT Council who hold a position in the PATU Council, they can designate a representative to exercise the vote according to the indicated procedure.
    - 5.7.1.2 Each Level II, Level III MNA, provisional, and associate member will have the right to appoint one delegate for each General Assembly (AG) and will have the right to speak but will not have the right to vote.
  - 5.7.2 It is expected that the MNA Representative will be the president of the MNA. If an MNA Level I president is unable to attend, then he or she may assign the right to act as Voting Representative to another individual within the MNA. Such assignment is to be by proxy letter presented to the Management.

5.7.3 The authorized representative will belong to the MNA they represent officially and be assigned by the appropriate body within the MNA. In case of dispute, it will be the representative's responsibility to demonstrate their position within the respective MNA to the full satisfaction of the Administration.

5.8 Election of Officials: An electoral GA will elect the following officials: (i) the President, (ii) the Elected Council Members, and (iii) the Auditor. PATU will organize the elections not earlier than maximum six (6) months prior to the WT elections. Except in cases of unforeseen, fortuitous events or force majeure, in which case PATU will request authorization to WT to conduct the election in a different date, WT will determinate the process of each case. PATU may request to organize its elections in conjunction with WT elections, but one (1) day prior.

5.8.1 President: There will be one (1) President elected by the GA. If the elected President of PATU holds another position in a MNA, that person will resign the other position(s) within one (1) month of being elected as President.

5.8.2 Vice President: There will be a total of eight (8) Vice Presidents. Four (4) Vice Presidents (one Vice President from each Territory – South America, Central America, North America, and the Caribbean) will be elected at the GA. Three (3) Vice Presidents will be appointed by the President. The female who received the most votes elected as Council member will automatically be elevated to Vice President (1).

5.8.3 Auditor: One (1) Auditor will be elected at the GA.

5.8.4 Elected Council Members: There will be four (4) Elected Council Members (one for North America, one for Central America, one for South America, and one for the Caribbean and four (4) additional elected members from any region, and seven (7) men and/or Female will be appointed by the president.

5.8.4.1 An attempt will be made, as far as possible, that the number of female members elected to the Council is one third (1/3) of the Council. The female Council member with the highest number of votes among the female Council Members, shall be promoted to Vice President.

5.8.4.2 Members of the WT Council shall be invited as observers to PATU events and meetings. They shall be entitled to speak, but not entitled to vote.

5.8.5 **Age limit for Elected Officials:** The age limit to be a candidate for elected Council Member is under seventy (70) years on the day of election, except for members incumbent prior to the 2021 elections, for whom the age limit for candidacy is eighty (80). An official who has reached the age limit is not eligible to run. The official that reaches the age limit will not be eligible as a candidate.

5.8.6 **Term of office for Elected Officials:** The term of office for Elected Officials is four (4) years. For the purposes of this rule, one year means the period between two successive AGMs. The terms of the mandates will start/end at the conclusion of the Senior Continental Championship, or the Junior Continental Championship held during the General Assembly in which the elections take place.

5.8.7 Term Limits for Elected Officers: Individuals may be elected a maximum of three terms in the same office and may be elected to other offices within the Council for the same term limit.

5.8.8 **Ratio:** The total number of Elected Officials will constitute a minimum of simple majority of the Council.

5.8.8.1 **Confirmations:** A candidate to become an Elected Official will be confirmed by an MNA Level I of which the candidate holds legal residence, citizenship, or nationality. Current officials are eligible for reelection or election to their current position or any other position within the Council without this MNA confirmation.

5.8.8.2 **Applications:** The candidate application requests, including a Candidate Application Form, the Code of Conduct, and the MNA's confirmation letter, will be distributed by PATU to MNAs and the Council, and will be published on the PATU website, no later than three (3) months before the election date. Following this, candidates will submit their application requests with complete documentation and the forms duly filled to the Administration, no later than sixty (60) days before the election date. The Secretary will receive the application requests and prepare a compilation for the Ad-hoc Election Committee to review. Applications will not be accepted in the AG forum.

5.8.8.3 A candidate can only apply for one elected position within the Council at a time.

5.8.9 **Election Committee:** An ad-hoc Election Committee will be established for the purpose of managing the election process at the GA and ensure its fairness. The ad-hoc Election Committee will have three (3) or more members nominated by the President and one (1) non-voting observer appointed by WT. The Ad-hoc Election Committee will be established no later than four (4) months before the scheduled election date. The Ad-hoc Election Committee will review and approve the candidate application documents and will ensure that elections are conducted in compliance with these Statutes, the Election Bylaws and WT standards.

5.8.9.1 The Ad-hoc Election Committee will screen the applications and determine the list of qualified candidates. Issues regarding qualifications of a candidate will be resolved by the Ad-hoc Election Committee. The final list of the candidates as approved by the ad-hoc Election Committee will be circulated to the Council and MNAs, and published on the PATU Website, by no later than thirty (30) days before the GA.

5.8.9.2 Matters concerning Council elections not covered by these Statutes are determined by the Election Bylaws.

5.8.10 **Challenge of Elections:** In the event that the validity of an election is challenged, the President will be notified thereof and will submit the case to the Council. If the Council determines the challenge to be valid, it will report this event to the GA where a re-examination, re-election, re-vote, or any other action deemed necessary by the CU Council will occur. Only an eligible voter present at the GA may challenge the election.

5.9 **E-voting:** In the case of urgency, a resolution may be submitted by a vote by correspondence, including telefax or electronic mail, by the President to the Council and/or the GA. Voting eligibility

requirements and effect of decisions remain the same. For e-voting quorum purposes proof of receipt by at least a simple majority of eligible voters will constitute quorum. Ballots returned that are abstentions or invalid (blank or spoiled) votes are counted for quorum but are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. Unreturned ballots are not calculated in determining the quorum and the required majority. A simple majority of valid ballots decides. Results will be announced on the CU Website and reported to the GA at its next meeting.

- 5.10 **Minutes:** Minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the GA are established under the authority of the Management. The minutes will be distributed to each member and WT no later than three (3) months after the GA.

**Article 6 Council**

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- 6.1 Council Members will attend Council and GA meetings and fulfill their powers and responsibilities as prescribed herein.

6.1.1 Only individuals who demonstrate a high degree of ethics and integrity and commit to observing the provisions of the WT Integrity Code without reservations are eligible to serve as Officers. Anyone with a criminal background in their country of residence or subject to disciplinary action by a PATU and/or WT Sanctions Committee is ineligible if the Integrity Committee determines that the offense committed is incompatible with their ability to fulfill their duties.

6.1.2 Any member of the Council who fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without prior notice to the Management may be subject to removal as a Council Member and a substitute will be designated according with these Statutes.

6.1.3 If an elected official commits an action that undermines and/or disgraces the CU and/or WT, that official will be removed by the Council upon recommendation of the Integrity Committee of PATU and/or the WT.

- 6.2 The PATU Council shall be composed of the following Officers, who are elected by the GA, or appointed by the President:

President	1	Elected by the GA
Vice Presidents	8	4 elected 3 appointed 1 elevated (One Vice President promoted from the female with the most votes as an Elected Council Member)
Secretary General	1	Appointed by the President
Treasurer	1	Appointed by the President
Member	15*	4 elected male/female Council Members - one per Territory 4 elected female/male Council Members from any Territory 7 female/male Council Member appointed by president. <i>*Note: The highest voted female Council Member</i>

		<i>becoming Vice President is not counted</i> 4 appointed <i>*Note: If the minimum quotas for female Elected Council Members is not met, the quotas will be added to the Appointment category to meet 1/3 female representation</i>
Athletes Representatives	2*	1 Elected Male member 1 Elected Female Member <i>*Note: Elected by Athletes Committee</i>
Auditor	1	Elected
TOTAL	29	

6.3 **President:** Refer to Article 7.2

6.4 **Vice Presidents:**

6.4.1 The duties of the Vice Presidents are to assist the President and to fulfill missions and task delegated or appointed by the President.

6.4.2 The Vice Presidents are composed of:

6.4.2.1 Four (4) elected (one per Territory)

6.4.2.2 One (1) highest voted female elevated among the elected Council members.

6.4.2.3 One (3) appointed by the President (refer to art. 6.7.2.1, 6.7.2.2 and 6.7.2.3)

6.5 **Secretary General:** Refer to Article 7.3.

6.6 **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will chair the Finance Committee. Refer to Addendum I

6.7 **Members:** Council Members will be composed of:

6.7.1 **Elected Members:** Will be eight (8) Refer to Article 5.8.2.

6.7.2 **Appointed Officials:** Will be seven (7).

6.7.2.1 **Appointments:** Appointments, including Vice President and Council Member, will be made considering an individual's expertise, qualifications, and diversity to ensure fair and diverse representation within the Council.

6.7.2.2 **Term:** The term of office for Appointed Officials will be two (2) years or the end of the President's Term, whichever comes first. For the purpose of this rule, a year means the period between two successive OGAs.

6.7.2.3 **Removal and substitution:** The President, at his or her discretion, is empowered to remove Appointed Officials and to appoint the replacement or new appointed member when there is a vacancy due to a removal or for any other cause.

6.7.3 **Athletes Representatives:** A total of two (2) Members. One (1) Female and one (1) Male, elected by Athletes Committee.

6.8 **Auditor:** The Auditor will be a member of the Finance Committee. Refer to Addendum I.

- 6.9 **Powers and Responsibilities:** The Council will have the power and responsibility to:
- 6.9.1 Approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting.
  - 6.9.2 Approve the agenda of the GA.
  - 6.9.3 Approve the annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report to be presented to the GA.
  - 6.9.4 Approve the Budget prepared by the Management under supervision of the Finance Committee to be presented to the GA.
  - 6.9.5 Approve the Operating Report and Operation Plans of the Management to be presented to the GA.
  - 6.9.6 Approve proposals for amendments to the Statutes to be presented to the GA and previously approved by WT.
  - 6.9.7 Approve proposals for enactment or amendments to governing documents not covered in Article 5.5.6 of WT statutes, general rules, and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the committees.
  - 6.9.8 Select host cities for PATU-promoted championships and events in accordance with WT requirements.
  - 6.9.9 Ratify expulsions proposed by the Management and previously approved by WT.
  - 6.9.10 Discuss and/or decide on matters referred to the Council by the President.
  - 6.9.11 Decide on the delegation of matters under its jurisdiction to the President.
  - 6.9.12 Divide the PATU’s geographical Region into Territories that fairly represent each area and allows equal representation of all regions within PATU’s Region and approved by WT.
  - 6.9.13 No decision of the Council will contravene with those of WT.
- 6.10 **Fiduciary Duties:** Council members attend meetings as representatives of PATU in the region and not as delegates of their respective MNAs, organizations, regions, or territories. Council members will adhere to the rules of WT and/or PATU, act in good faith and with due care, and avoid conflicts of interest. Council members are required to be familiar with, understand, and comply with the Integrity Code and integrity policy of WT.
- In cases where there might be a conflict of interest between their respective MNAs, organizations, regions, or territories and the matter being discussed within PATU, the President may propose the abstention of a council member's vote if a conflict of interest could arise due to the nature of the matter involving their respective MNA, organizations, region, or territory and the matter being discussed within PATU.
- 6.11 **Meetings:** Ordinary Council Meetings will be called by the President before an OGA. Extraordinary Council Meetings will be called by the President before an EGA, or whenever the President deems necessary.



- 6.11.1 **Quorum:** A simple majority of the Council Members is sufficient to constitute quorum.
- 6.11.2 **Chair:** PATU President will act as Chair at the Council. The Chair is responsible for presiding over the Council meeting and has the authority to take reasonably necessary measures to stop any disruptive conduct obstructing the efficient administration of the Council meeting to ensure the rights of all members are respected. If the President is unable to attend, the First Vice President Elected will preside over the Council meeting. If the First Vice President Elected is also unable to attend, then the Chair will be the most senior elected Vice President. Seniority will be determined by the time serving as a Council member.
- 6.12 **Decision-making and Effect:** Any decision of the Council comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the Council. Matters that are not included in the written agenda of the meeting will not be deliberated without the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible voters present.
- 6.13 **Voting:** Unless otherwise provided herein, Council Members are entitled to vote. Resolutions and other decisions are passed by a simple majority of eligible voters present in the meeting.
- 6.13.1 Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are counted for quorum but are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. The Chair will not vote except in the case of a tie.
- 6.13.2 Guidelines on special situations, such as host city selections will be provided separately with approval of WT.
- 6.13.3 Any decision of the Council comes into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by the Council.
- 6.14 **E-Voting:** In the case of urgency, a resolution may be submitted to a vote by correspondence, including telefax or electronic mail, by the President to the Council. Voting eligibility requirements and effect of decisions remain the same. For e-voting quorum purposes proof of receipt by a simple majority of eligible voters will constitute quorum.
- 6.14.1 Ballots returned that are abstentions or invalid (blank or spoiled) votes are counted for quorum but are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. Unreturned ballots are not calculated in determining the quorum and the required majority. A simple majority of valid ballots decides. Results will be announced on the CU Website and reported to the Council and GA at the next meetings.
- 6.15 **Minutes:** Minutes of all meetings and other proceedings of the Council meeting are established under the authority of the Secretary General. The minutes will be distributed to each member no later than two (2) months after the Council meeting.
- 6.16 **Replacements:** If a Council Member resigns, is removed, or is otherwise unable to continue as an Official the post will not necessarily be filled by another individual of the same nationality. If an elected Council Member is to be replaced, unless otherwise provided for, the replacement will be nominated by the President and approved by the Council. The term of office of a replacement Official will be the remaining period of his or her predecessor.
- 6.17 **Honorary President:** The President may assign an Honorary President to a person who has previously served as President of PATU, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Honorary

President is not a member of the Board and shall have no voting rights. The Honorary President may be invited to attend meetings of the Ordinary Council and the General Assembly. The term of office of the Honorary President shall be four (4) years or the end of the current President's term of office, whichever occurs first, and may be renewed or removed by the President upon confirmation by the General Assembly.

6.17.1 **Honorary Vice Presidents:** The President may appoint Honorary Vice Presidents who have served as Vice Presidents of the CU, or based on their exceptional contribution to the CU. The term, unless otherwise agreed, will be two (2) years or the end of the President's term, whichever comes first. They may be invited to attend Ordinary Council meetings and the GA. They will not have voting rights.

6.18 In order for legal, technical, executive, extraordinary, and/or urgent matters related to the normal operation of PATU to be addressed promptly and without delays, the Council will delegate them to an Executive Committee. This committee will be composed of the President, Secretary, the (9) nine Vice Presidents (Elevated Vice President, 4 Designated Vice Presidents, and the 4 Elected Vice Presidents), Treasurer, Auditor, and the Legal Advisor (with a voice but no vote) who have been duly elected or appointed as provided in this Statute and are currently performing the duties corresponding to these positions in the Council.

6.19 The PATU President is responsible for convening meetings of the Executive Committee at any time they deem necessary. The voting and meeting procedures will be the same as those established in these statutes for Council meetings. Any determinations or decisions made by the Executive Committee will be ratified and/or approved by the Council or the General Assembly, as required depending on the nature and subject of the decision.

## **Article 7            Management**

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7.1 Management will be comprised of the following Officials who are tasked with conducting the day-to-day operations:

- 7.1.1 President
- 7.1.2 Secretary General
- 7.1.3 Treasurer
- 7.1.4 Office of the Secretariat

7.2 **President:**

7.2.1 The duties of the President include the following:

- 7.2.1.1 Lead and represent PATU.
- 7.2.1.2 Promote the interest of the WT in the continent.
- 7.2.1.3 Concurrently lead the GA and the Council as Chair and preside over the meetings and other activities.
- 7.2.1.4 Designate official duties to the Council members on ad-hoc basis for the betterment of the development of the sport of taekwondo and CU

operations.

7.2.1.5 Appoint directors and members of the Commissions and Committees, as well as establish and appoint directors and members of ad-hoc committees, unless otherwise specified in these Statutes or relevant regulations. The appointments shall be effective upon issuance by the President and will be communicated to the Board of Directors.

7.2.1.6 **Emergency measures:** In the event that disputes arise regarding matters not specified in these Statutes or matters that require an urgent resolution during the period between the two Annual General Meetings, the President of PATU may take emergency measures to make the necessary decisions, provided that these measures are subject to presentation and approval by the Executive Committee, the PATU Council, and/or the Annual General Meeting, as appropriate to their authority and necessity. These measures shall in no case contravene the WT (World Taekwondo) regulations.

7.2.1.7 **Advisors:** The President may appoint advisors or special assistants to seek advice on matters of importance pertaining to the overall development of PATU and WT activities, function, or special matters.

7.2.1.8 **Power:** Exercise the authority to represent PATU, possessing broad and sufficient powers for the exercise of such faculties, including legal powers, powers for acts of administration and dominion, which may be delegated to the Secretary and/or members of the Administration.

7.2.1.9 Appoint and remove the officers of the Council and members of the Committees and Commissions that are within their authority to designate under these statutes.

7.2.2 **Succession:** If the President resigns or is incapacitated and thus unable to fulfill the duties of his office, the First Vice President Elected will serve as Acting President.

7.2.2.1 The First Vice President will be designated by the President from among the elected or elevated Vice Presidents. In the event the President has not designated a First Vice President at the time of the incapacity, the First Vice President will be deemed to be the current elected Vice President with the longest consecutive term in office as a member of the Council. If there is a tie among current Vice Presidents for the longest consecutive term in office as elected Vice President, the First Vice President will be deemed to be the oldest person among the tied elected Vice Presidents.

7.2.2.2 The Acting President will not have the power of appointment. If there is less than 12 months remaining in the term of his predecessor, the Acting President will serve out the remainder of the term. If there is more than 12 months remaining in the term of his predecessor, the Acting President will call for an interim presidential election to be held in accordance with Section 5 above at the next scheduled GA. The winner of this interim election will serve out the remainder of the term of the incapacitated President.

7.2.3 **Temporary Succession:** If the President is temporarily unable to fulfill their duties and responsibilities due to illness or force majeure, the First Vice President will assume the functions temporarily, provided that this absence lasts more than (60) sixty days but less than (6) six months. In the event

that the President has not assigned the role to the First Vice President at the time of the event, the criteria established in section 7.2.2.1 of these statutes will be applied to determine the First Vice President, who will temporarily assume the functions until the elected President returns to their duties.

### 7.3 **Secretary General:**

7.3.1 The duties of the Secretary General include the following:

- 7.3.1.1 Plan, execute, and manage matters related to the Secretariat regarding the organization of PATU and other general Secretariat-related affairs.
- 7.3.1.2 Present the Operations Report, Financial Report, and Operational Plan with the Financial Budget to the Council and the AG.
- 7.3.1.3 Alongside the PATU President, or with the President's approval, as applicable, they may negotiate and sign all contracts between PATU and other organizations and companies. No contract undertaken by PATU should interfere with WT's goals for the continent. They are also authorized to subscribe to communications or requests issued by PATU to its members or third parties.
- 7.3.1.4 Verify the legality of meetings and actions arising from the AG, the Council, as well as the activities and determinations of the Administration. They are responsible for the minutes' preparation and their safekeeping.

### 7.4 **Office of the Secretariat:**

- 7.4.1 PATU will have an Office of the Secretariat at the location of the CU Headquarters or at the place where the President deems convenient for the benefit of PATU, for the execution of the Secretariat affairs and duties of the President and Secretary General.
- 7.4.2 The Secretariat will have the power to manage all areas affecting operations of PATU in the continent. These areas include but are not limited to i) member relations and development, ii) sport and event, iii) strategic planning, iv) administration, v) legal, vi) finance, vii) marketing and communications. To fulfill its duties, each department within the Secretariat will work with its related Committees to handle research, development and implementation of strategies and programs related to each area. Operations of the Secretariat will be conducted in strict compliance with WT objectives in the continent.
- 7.4.3 **Accounts and Finances:** The Treasurer will manage PATU accounts and finances while ensuring that the annual financial statements (Financial Statements) are prepared and audited as soon as possible upon the close of the financial year established by PATU, but no later than four (4) months after the close of the year unless specifically approved by the Council. Audit of Financial Statements will be conducted by an independent, certified, professional accounting firm (Independent Auditor). The report of the Independent Auditor will be submitted to the Finance Committee for review. Upon review and comment by the Finance Committee, the report will be submitted to the Council.
- 7.4.4 **Personnel:** The personnel performing tasks in the Operational Management will be

appointed and dismissed by the President, with the recommendation of the Secretary General. The President may also delegate to the Secretary General the authority to appoint and dismiss personnel. PATU, as a member of WT, is an organization that promotes equal opportunities and shall not discriminate or segregate any individual or group of individuals based on race, color, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, country of origin, ancestry, age, physical disability, or medical condition.

- 7.4.5 Documentation: PATU will maintain accurate record keeping, will document all transactions and/or contractual arrangements, and will establish proper and consistent procedures to achieve this. PATU will:
- 7.4.5.1 Publish on its website the annual Operations Report, Financial Report, and Operations Plan with Financial Budget.
    - 7.4.5.1.1. The annual Operations Report must include details on PATU development activities carried out using funds allocated from the WT Development Fund.
    - 7.4.5.1.1.2. The Financial Report must include the use of the WT Development Fund and be audited by an independent certified public accountant. WT shall have the right to request an inspection of PATU's books of account or appoint an independent certified public accountant to audit the use of the funds.
    - 7.4.5.1.3. The Financial Budget Plan of Operations must include WT's expected development fund and be faithfully prepared and presented by PATU.
    - 7.4.5.1.4 PATU shall plan and execute the WT Development Fund in accordance with the WT Development Fund Agreement.
    - 7.4.5.1.5 WT shall have the right to request additional documentation for the funds provided to PATU, who shall agree and comply with such request as set forth in the WT Development Fund Agreement.
    - 7.4.5.1.6. The allocation of the WT Development Fund shall be determined by the completeness and transparency of the previous year's reports submitted by PATU and the validation of the Finance Committee.
  - 7.4.5.2 Within ten (10) days after the Elective Assembly, submit to WT a completed CU election form and a Declaration of Integrity and Compliance.
  - 7.4.5.3 Submit to WT a report of activities upon WT's request.
  - 7.4.5.4 Publish on its website all the regulations, annual reports, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, meeting calendar, organizational charts, biographical information of Council members and all other pertinent information.
  - 7.4.5.5 Support WT inquiries and investigations of MNAs in their regions when

requested by WT.

7.4.5.6 Implement a dispute settlement system to handle matters not under the purview of the WT.

7.5 **Conflict of Interest**: The Management and/or its Officials agree that as part of their duty they will not engage in actions or activities that represent Conflict of Interests. A Conflict of Interest is a situation where an individual or entity could exploit a professional or official capacity for a personal or corporate benefit. Some examples of activities that represent Conflict of Interest are:

7.5.1 *Self-dealing* – Participating in a transaction that benefits an official, such as an owner or shareholder, in any supplier, contractor, distributor, subcontractor, customer, or other entity with which PATU conducts business.

7.5.2 *Outside employment* – In which the interest of one job contradicts another.

7.5.3 *Gifts* – Request or accept any gift, entertainment, services, loans or promises of future benefits from any person or entity that might benefit because of the individual's position in the CU.

## PART III: MEMBERSHIP

### Article 8 Member National Associations

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8.1 **Definition of MNA**: The National Member Associations (MNAs) are the competent governing bodies for taekwondo in each nation or autonomous territory, duly recognized by WT (World Taekwondo).

8.2 **Affiliation of MNA**: MNAs recognized by WT for the continent of Pan America will be a Member of the PATU.

8.2.1 In case more than one organization claims to represent a nation or self-governing territory, the dispute will be resolved by WT.

8.2.1.1 MNAs may not be affiliated with any other international Taekwondo organization not recognized by or in conflict with PATU and/or the WT. Nor shall they participate in any Taekwondo events organized by such organizations.

8.2.1.2 A Council member of an MNA may not simultaneously hold another council member position in another MNA, or affiliation of an organization in conflict with WT and/or PATU, without the approval of WT and/or PATU as appropriate.

8.2.2 A list of the Members and their Membership level will be posted on the PATU's website.

8.3 **Participation in events**: MNAs will send competitors to PATU-promoted Championships, delegate to the GA and a representative to the PATU Technical Congress.

8.3.1 To maintain Level I membership, MNAs are required to dispatch a total of at least two (2) competitors to any of the following (CU qualifying events, during the two years prior to the GA, MNAs will not have outstanding debts with WT and/or PATU). The Level I MNAs will have voting right and will be able to participate at PATU/ WT official events.

- 8.3.2 For the purpose of this rule, a year is calculated between two OGAs.
- 8.3.3 MNAs who fail to participate in PATU and/or WT-promoted Championships and the GA as provided above without justifiable reasons, such as but not limited to natural disasters, will be demoted to Level II.
- 8.4 **Levels of Membership:** PATU will have as Members those MNAs admitted as Members by WT. PATU can assign its own Membership level to each MNA based on their compliance with the PATU's requirements. The levels of membership are the following: Level I, Level II, Associate Members, and Provisional Members:
- 8.4.1 **Level I Membership:** MNAs that have fulfilled the Participation Requirement as prescribed in these Statutes and have no outstanding debts. Level I MNAs will have voting rights at the GA and will have the right to participate in all official CU events.
- 8.4.2 **Level II Membership:** MNAs that have not fulfilled the Participation Requirement as prescribed in these Statutes and have outstanding debts. Level II MNAs will not have voting rights at the GA but will have the right to participate in all official CU events. Level II MNAs will have their Level I membership status restored by the Council when they fulfill the Participation Requirement and Financial Obligations are fulfilled.
- 8.4.3. **Level III Membership:** Those that have remained in level II for a consecutive period of four (4) years, level III MNAs shall not have the right to vote in the GA, but may participate in PATU events.
- 8.4.4 **Associate Membership:** MNAs in countries or territories that do not have a NOC recognized by the IOC. Associate MNAs are required to pay annual membership fees under the Tier 3 category. Associate MNAs will not have voting rights at the GA but will have the right to participate in all official WT events.
- 8.4.5 **Provisional Membership:** MNAs that have fulfilled all application requirements as prescribed in these Statutes, and which have received confirmation from the Council, will have Provisional Memberships. Provisional MNAs will not have voting rights at the GA but they will have the right to participate in all official CU events. Provisional MNAs are not required to pay annual membership fees. Provisional MNAs will become Level I MNAs or Associate MNAs after their applications have been approved by CU GA upon recommendation of the CU.
- 8.5 **PATU Membership Fees:** Each Member is required to pay an annual membership fee to PATU each year independent of the membership fee paid to the WT. The fee applicable to each category will be determined by PATU with approval of WT which will take into consideration each country's GDP. PATU membership fees will be reasonable and not exceed the WT Membership Fees. Failure to pay the annual membership fee may result in restrictions and/or disciplinary actions enforced by PATU and WT.
- 8.6 In accordance with these statutes and its regulations, and with WT related rules and regulations, all members will construct, update, and maintain their constitutive documents in strict accordance with the principles of WT and PATU, to no contravention any of the rules, regulations, codes, bylaws of

World Taekwondo. In the case of discrepancy, the WT rules will prevail.

8.7 The MNAs are obligated before PATU to the following:

- 8.7.1 Provide contact information to PATU and notify immediately of any changes.
- 8.7.2 The MNAs and their members are obliged to collaborate with PATU and give all the facilities in the investigation processes that WT may request, any omission or refusal in this respect, may be considered as a violation to the present statute.
- 8.7.3 Present a report of activities, when PATU requires. Deliver and reply to all the request and requirement that PATU may request about their operative activities, controversies, financial statements and/or normative documentation, within the ten (10) working days after the reception of the request.
- 8.7.4 The MNAs will implement and be part of the Global Membership System (GMS)
- 8.7.5 In the event of suspension, revocation, or withdrawal of membership by WT from an MNA, it shall also be considered suspended from PATU, with the same effects and consequences as determined by WT, as specified in its statutes.

## **Article 9 PATU Authority**

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9.1 PATU is an organization formed by the Members of WT to promote the interest of WT in the continent. The PATU derives its powers from promoting WT interests in the region.

## **PART IV: EVENTS**

## **Article 10 Promoted Events**

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10.1 The following are PATU-promoted championships held under the auspices of the PATU and organized by a host selected by PATU:

- a) The Pan American Taekwondo Senior Championships.
- b) The Pan American Youth, Cadet, and Junior Taekwondo Championships.
- c) The Pan American Poomsae Championships.
- d) The Pan American Para-Taekwondo & Deaf Taekwondo Championships.
- e) The Pan Am Open International Taekwondo Championships.
- f) The Pan American Taekwondo Club Championships.
- g) The Pan American Cup International Taekwondo Team Championships.
- h) Pan American Continental Qualification Tournament for Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- i) Pan Am Qualification Tournament for Pan Am Games and sub regional multi sports games.
- j) WT President's Cup (Pan America edition).
- k) Pan American Beach Championships.
- l) Online Pan American Championships.
- m) Pan Am University Championships.
- n) Pan Am Taekwondo Kids Championship.
- o) Pan Am Taekwondo Youth Championship.



- p) Pan Am Women Taekwondo Championship
- q) Online Open Pan Am Poomsae Taekwondo Championship
- r) Pan Am Series I
- s) Pan Am Series II
- t) Pan Am Series III
- u) Pan American Grand Prix
- v) Pan American Sub 21 Championship.
- w) Pan American Beach Championship.
- x) Virtual Pan American Championship.
- y) Pan American Cup of Nations
- z) Pan American Kukkiwon Cup

10.2 **PATU Championships:** The Pan American Senior Taekwondo Championship and the Pan American Poomsae Championship will be held every two years when the ending year is even. Similarly, the Pan American Youth and Cadet Taekwondo Championship, as well as the University Championship, will also be held every two years when the year in question ends in an odd number. The timeframe established in this article for the organization of the Championships cannot be modified unless due to an unforeseen event or force majeure, and any exception will be authorized by the Council's agreement.

10.3 **Host City Selection:** Any prospective organizer wishing to apply to host a PATU-promoted championship will ensure the safety of all participants and guarantee that all teams and athletes can compete without discrimination. It must present clear, specific and written assurances from the highest governmental authorities of the host country to ensure that all eligible teams and delegations can attend and compete without any form of discrimination, aligned with the fundamental principles and rules governing the Olympic Movement. In addition, the applicant organization shall comply with the following rules of operation of the event:

10.3.1 The application to host the PATU-promoted championship will be done by submitting the appropriate Host City Application and required documents to the Management in accordance with the procedure provided in the application.

10.3.2 PATU will review the application bid and may conduct an inspection of the prospective Host City facilities. The Management will submit an evaluation report to the Council for their review. Selected bidders will be invited to present their bids to the Council for decision on the winning bid.

10.3.3 The winning bidder will sign a Host City Contract with PATU with prescribed terms and conditions. In accordance with the rules and regulations that PATU issued for the celebration of the event, that are not limited to use of determined equipment, electronic and scoring systems. In the case that Host City fail to follow WT and PATU requirement the right of event organization may be removed and re-assigned to another prospective Host City.

10.4 **Calendar:** The dates and locations of promoted and recognized events will be subject to the approval of WT. The CU will submit proposed event dates to WT. Once it is determined by WT, PATU will publish the list of all events on PATU's Website. Unless otherwise approved by WT, and for compelling reasons, the events will be held in accordance with guidelines established by WT. A report on the results of all completed events will be submitted to the WT within set deadline of pertinent event.

10.5 **Other Events:** PATU may hold additional events deemed not sanctioned by WT but still subject to the

rules and regulations of WT. A list of those events will appear in PATU's Website.

- 10.6 **Competition Rules and Interpretation:** All championships promoted or recognized by PATU will observe WT Competition Rules and Regulations.

#### **Article 11      Education Courses**

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- 11.1 WT conducts Certification Courses and Refresher Courses for International Referees, International Coaches, International Classifiers, Examiners, Technical Delegates and Educators.
- 11.2 PATU will assist WT in promoting and coordinating the WT courses or if the WT delegates the organization of the mentioned course to PATU, the course will follow the rules and regulations of WT.
- 11.3 PATU may organize educational programs for its members subject to the prior approval of WT.
- 11.4 **PATU Technical Congress:** Annually, PATU will organize a Technical Congress in which technical training will be provided to Referees, Coaches, Educators, Examiners, Technical Delegates, and/or athletes from different MNAs on the continent, at the Pan-American level, following WT's parameters. Members will designate representatives and allow them to attend this Technical Congress in order to enhance the knowledge and technical level of both PATU and its members.

### **PART V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 12      Finances**

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- 12.1 **Sources of Income:** PATU will derive its income from the following sources: WT-CU development funds, revenue share from WT certification courses, membership fees, operating income, donations and subsidies, and other sources.
- 12.2 **WT-CU Development Funds:** The CU has the right to apply for the WT-CU Development Funds in accordance with WT guidelines.
- 12.3 **Financial Year:** The financial year of PATU will start on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.
- 12.4 **Finance Rules:** PATU will have rules for allowances and benefits following those of WT and will have a clear policy for how it determines the allocation of resources to MNAs for development objectives.
- 12.5 **Auditing of use of funds:** PATU may be audited by WT with regards to the use of funds or value-in-kind provided by WT. For this purpose, their accounts will be always available to the auditors appointed by WT. WT may demand the return of misused or unused funds.

### **PART VI: IRREGULARITIES, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND APPEALS**

## **Article 13      Reporting Irregularities**

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- 13.1 PATU and its members will make every effort to strengthen the integrity of our sport by ensuring that there are adequate mechanisms in place, in accordance with those established by WT, to report, identify, and address irregularities. Irregularities in the sport are acts (or omissions, if there is a failure to act) that violate national and/or international laws and sporting regulations or constitute a breach of the integrity and ethics of the sport. Examples of irregularities include, but are not limited to, corruption, fraud, bribery, abuse of power (including conflicts of interest), money laundering, match-fixing, doping, abuse, harassment, discrimination, and violence.
- 13.2 **Commitment:** PATU will be committed to encourage communication and reporting of irregularities. In its commitment PATU will:
- 13.2.1 Encourage open communication and the reporting of irregularities.
  - 13.2.2 Ensure that those responsible for implementing and operating reporting mechanisms have adequate resources and mandates.
  - 13.2.3 Support due process and impartiality in its reporting mechanisms.
  - 13.2.4 Safeguard confidentiality of the process.
  - 13.2.5 Ensure that any retaliation against whistleblowers is addressed, and those who retaliate against whistleblowers are held accountable for their actions ("Whistleblower Protection").
  - 13.2.6 Ensure that wrongdoing identified is appropriately remediated and sanctioned.
  - 13.2.7 Support continuous evaluation and improvement of reporting mechanisms.
  - 13.2.8 **Complaint Hotline:** WT has partnered with the IOC to ensure that reports to the hotline are confidential and not subject to any form of retaliation. The IOC's reporting hotline is: <https://ioc.integrityline.org>.

## **Article 14      Disciplinary Actions**

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14.1 **Disciplinary Actions:** PATU may investigate, fine, suspend or issue penalties against members, individuals and/or participants for violations of PATU and/or WT rules and regulations. PATU may discharge the processes and adopt provisional suspensions. Before the implementation of a final sanction, WT must be consulted.

## **Article 15      Appeals**

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- 15.1 Unless stipulated to the contrary, PATU will hear the appeals of PATU disciplinary decisions in accordance with the Code of Disciplinary Actions and Appeals. When filing any appeal, the appellant must establish the basis for the appeal.
- 15.2 **Time frame:** A request for appeal will be received within twenty (20) days of receipt of disciplinary decision and will abide by the requirements of WT's Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code.
- 15.3 Decisions by an Appeals Panel are subject to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.

**PART VI: IRREGULARITIES, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND APPEALS**

**Article 16 Virtual Meetings**

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16.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Statutes, the President or an officer of Management designated by the President for such Notwithstanding any provision in these Statutes, the President or an officer of the Administration designated by the President for this purpose may determine at any time, without limitation, including, among others, after the call for any PATU meeting, including Council Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings, Committee and Commission Meetings, as well as the AGM and EGM, whether they shall be conducted by remote means of communication or in a physical location, or both.

16.1.1 Without prejudice to any contrary provision in these statutes, if, following the dispatch of the respective meeting notice or notification, it is determined that such a meeting will be conducted or can be conducted by remote means of communication, notification to that effect may be sent at any time in accordance with these statutes.

16.1.2 Members entitled to be present and to vote at the meeting that are not physically present at such a meeting but participate by means of remote communication, will be considered present in person for all purposes under these Statutes and may vote at such a meeting. Subject to any guidelines and procedures that PATU may adopt, any meeting at which members are permitted to participate by means of remote communication will be conducted in accordance with the following, unless otherwise permitted by applicable law or regulation.

**Article 17 Indemnity**

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17.1 PATU will fully indemnify and hold harmless the President, their Council, and members of their staff from any costs, expenses, losses, liabilities, damages, and awards arising out of any action initiated in any jurisdiction, at any time, against PATU or any of the aforementioned individuals as a direct result of the activities and functions of such individuals, whether they are or were acting within the scope of their responsibilities on behalf of PATU, duly and legally conferred.

17.2 PATU with the support of WT will indemnify and hold harmless WT, President, Council Members, Officers, staff (“Indemnified Persons”) from and against any costs, expenses, liabilities and awards arising out of any action instituted in any jurisdiction at any time against WT or any of the above such persons as direct result of the activities of such persons were they acting within the scope of the WT’s responsibilities on behalf of the PATU.

**Article 18 Intellectual Property**

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18.1 PATU acknowledges and agrees that, except where specifically set forth in a separate agreement, WT has ownership rights to any work, derivative work, components thereof, work-product formats related to the terms of WT’s name, logo, education programs, and other intellectual property. To the extent PATU or any designee create any work, derivative work or improvements to WT’s intellectual property, PATU, on behalf of itself and its designee, assigns all rights, title and interest to such derivative work or improvements free and clear of any and all claims by PATU, or any third party, including all intellectual property rights to WT. All products resulting from the PATU work as Member

of WT and/or entity operating under the terms of WT shall remain the sole exclusive property of WT and will be deemed licensed to PATU for PATU's use in connection with its operations under the rules of WT.

#### **Article 19      Commercial Programs and Media Rights**

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- 19.1      When identified by WT, the PATU will align its commercial programs with those of WT.
- 19.2      **Media Rights:** PATU and its members recognize that all television, radio, photography, film, internet, telephone, and other media rights related to WT, whether known or unknown at present, are the exclusive property of WT. These rights shall not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of WT, which may delegate its powers to PATU and its members, among others, to negotiate the sale or use of these rights, but WT will retain exclusive authority for the final decision.
- 19.3      **Commercial Rights:** PATU and its members acknowledge that all commercial rights of events promoted by WT are the property of WT. WT may temporarily license these rights through a contract.
- 19.4      Regarding events and activities directly sponsored by PATU, it is recognized that all television, radio, photography, film, internet, telephone, and other media rights related to PATU, whether known or unknown at present, as well as commercial rights, are the exclusive property of PATU. These rights shall not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of PATU, which may delegate its powers to negotiate the sale or use of these rights, but PATU will retain exclusive authority for the final decision.

#### **Article 20      Special Action and Dissolution**

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- 20.1      **Special Actions:** In the event of i) a serious breach of the Statutes or Competition and Interpretation Rules of WT or a serious governance failure, as determined by the WT Council upon the recommendation of the Membership and Development Relations Commission (MRD), and ii) a risk of disruption of WT's activities if standard suspension and removal procedures are followed, then WT shall have the right to appoint an emergency replacement in the leadership of PATU.
- 20.2      **Dissolution:** The dissolution of PATU can only be decided at the GA by the unanimous resolution of all the members that comprise the GA.
- 20.3      **Residual Funds/Properties:** The exclusive right to the use of any funds or properties of WT shall be held in trust and transferred to the organization designated by WT to replace PATU, or if WT has not made or does not intend to make the designation, in that case, it shall be redistributed equally among the AG members who have reached the resolution of dissolution.

#### **Article 21      Modifications**

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- 21.1      PATU will ensure its Statutes are in line with WT Statutes. A copy of the CU Statutes will be provided to WT for review by the WT Management prior to approval by the Council and GA. Failure by WT to identify a conflict prior to adoption by the CU does not remove this requirement. To the extent there is a conflict, the WT Statutes will prevail. The final determination on such matters will be made by the WT.
- 21.2      Amendments:** Any proposed changes to the Statutes, bylaws, rules, regulations and/or codes will be reviewed by the WT Management to ensure there are no conflicts. Failure by WT to identify a conflict prior to adoption by PATU does not remove the requirement to be in line with the WT Statutes and

rules. The Council and GA will also be required to adopt and mirror any changes WT makes to its Statutes, bylaws, rules, regulations and/or codes.

**21.3 Authority for non-substantive changes:** The Legal Committee for governance rules or the Technical Commission for technical rules is granted the authority to approve non-substantive changes to the Bylaws, codes and other regulations of PATU, without requiring the full approval of the General Assembly. or other governing bodies.

21.3.1 Definition of non-substantive changes: Non-substantive changes are defined as modifications that do not alter the meaning, intent or application of the rules, statutes or regulations. These changes may include, but are not limited to:

21.3.1.1 Correction of typographical, grammatical, or formatting errors.

21.3.1.2 Clarification of language that does not affect the operative or substantive content of the rule.

21.3.1.3 Reorganization of sections to improve readability or consistency.

21.3.1.4 Review and reporting: All non-substantive changes approved by the appropriate committee must be documented and reported to the General Assembly at its next meeting.

21.3.1.5 Dispute Resolution: In the event of a dispute as to whether a change is non-substantive, the matter shall be referred to the PATU Board for final determination.

## **Article 22 Interpretation**

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22.1 **Interpretation Authority:** The authority to resolve any dispute arising from the interpretation of these Statutes shall remain with the PATU Administration. WT reserves the right to final approval in the event of a discrepancy to ensure that decisions do not conflict with WT's rules and regulations.

22.2 In the event of any discrepancy between the statutes, statutory regulations, internal regulations, rules regulations, and/or codes of PATU and those of WT, the latter shall prevail.

## **Article 23 Enforcement**

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23.1 **Adoption:** These Statutes shall come into effect immediately, unless otherwise indicated in these Statutes.

23.1.1 **Term Limit:** The term limit set forth in Section 5.8.7 shall commence with the General Assembly held in the year 2022. To avoid any doubt, all officials elected during the elections shall be considered in their first term for the purposes of this rule.

## 1 ADDENDUM I: Permanent Commissions and Committees

PATU will have the following Commissions and permanent Committees:

<p>(1) Member Relations and Development (MRD) Commission</p> <p>The Development and Member Relations Commission (the Commission) is composed of seven members, as follows: one candidate for Para-Taekwondo and the presidents and vice-presidents of the following committees: Development, Education, and Taekwondo for All. The President and Vice President of the Commission are appointed from among the Commission members. The Commission studies the organization and practices of PATU members to ensure the development of Taekwondo in the Pan American continent by strengthening the capacities of all levels of stakeholders and contributing to the objectives established in the WT Statutes and the Olympic Charter. The Commission recommends adjustments to the MNA membership fees.</p>
<p>(2) Technical Committee</p> <p>The Technical Commission is comprised of seven members. These include the Chairs of the following Committees: Athletes, Coaches, Games, Medical, Para-Taekwondo, and Referee. The Chair is appointed separately. The Vice Chair is appointed from among the members. The Commission studies the organization and management of Taekwondo competitions in the continent and reports them to the WT Technical Committee. The Technical Commission is empowered to approve non-substantive changes to the rules relating to the organization and conduct of competitions in accordance with Article 22 of the Statutes.</p>
<p>(3) Athletes</p> <p>The Athletes Committee represents athletes within the Taekwondo Movement and upholds the rights and obligations of the athletes and conducts educational training for and on behalf of athletes. The Committee will be elected in accordance with a procedure determined by the Ad-hoc Election Committee established under Article 5.8.9 of the Statutes. Elected members will have a four-year term. The Committee members will elect from among themselves two Co-Chairs (one male and one female).</p>
<p>(4) Coaches</p> <p>The Coaches Committee represents coaches within the Taekwondo Movement, advocates for coaches' rights and obligations, and studies and recommends methods and measures to improve Taekwondo competitions in the continent.</p>
<p>(5) Development</p> <p>The Development Committee oversees the general development programs of PATU. The Committee focuses on capacity building at all levels of stakeholders, recommends standards for national and continental members, as well as regional training centers, and suggests guidelines for adoption under PATU's development programs, including funding, equipment assistance, participation support, scholarships, etc. The Committee monitors the implementation of programs, considers ways to enhance and expand the practice of Taekwondo at all levels, and explores collaboration agreements with entities that have financial means and funding for sports.</p>

(6) Education

The Education Committee oversees certification courses and non-certification education programs aligned with WT (World Taekwondo). It studies and develops methods for nurturing competent educators, administrators, athletes, coaches, referees, and Taekwondo practitioners in general, with an emphasis on online education. The committee prepares or recommends educational materials and teaching curricula for the future development of Taekwondo and supports WT programs and activities as well as education-related activities.

(7) Integrity

The Integrity Committee is the guardian of the ethical principles of the Taekwondo Movement, as outlined in the Statutes and the Code of Ethics. The Committee conducts investigations into integrity breaches, including safeguarding cases, and when necessary, makes recommendations for measures or sanctions to the Council. It also reviews updates to the Anti-Doping Codes and the best practices recommended by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Additionally, it may suggest amendments to the Code of Ethics, Anti-Doping Rules, and other integrity-based rules. The committee has the power to initiate integrity-related investigations on its own initiative at its own determination.

(8) Finance

The Finance Committee (the Committee) advises the General Assembly, the Council, the President, and the Secretary-General on matters related to the financial management of PATU to safeguard continuity and enhance transparency and good governance within the Taekwondo Movement. The Treasurer serves as the Chairman, and the Vice President acts as the auditor. The Committee reviews and approves financial information, including the proposed budget, to provide advice and recommendations regarding significant financial decisions. It ensures that PATU has efficient and transparent financial and budgetary control processes and adheres to financial policies and procedures approved by the Council. The Committee advises the President on the appointment or reappointment of PATU's external auditor and oversees the effectiveness of the budgetary and financial function. The Committee reviews PATU's complete financial statements before they are presented to the Council and the General Assembly for approval.

(9) Games

The Games Committee is responsible for studying the requirements for further improvements in the organization and management of Taekwondo competitions promoted and recognized by PATU and WT (World Taekwondo).

(10) Juridical

The Legal Committee provides assessments, recommendations, and resolutions regarding complaints, investigations, disciplinary actions, violations of regulations, and appeals under the Appeals and Disciplinary Actions Code of WT and PATU. It can also be constituted as a panel or arbitrator to resolve cases of infractions or disputes among members, as well as those arising from events and championships organized by PATU and WT. It supports the drafting and modification of PATU's statutes, regulations, and codes and provides legal opinions to PATU upon request. It is also empowered to approve non-substantive amendments to PATU's Bylaws and governance rules and regulations in accordance with Article 21 of the Bylaws.

(11) Medical



<p>The Medical Committee studies medical matters related to Taekwondo competitions and establishes the necessary guidelines. The Medical Committee supports the protection of athletes' health.</p>
<p>(12) Para-Taekwondo</p> <p>The Para-Taekwondo Committee (the Committee) studies the structure, organization, and management of Para-Taekwondo Competitions (Kyorugi and Poomsae) and the development of competition formats for athletes of all levels. The Committee serves to expand, promote, and enhance the practice of Taekwondo on the continent for people with disabilities while safeguarding the best interests of the athletes.</p>
<p>(13) Para-Taekwondo Classification</p> <p>The Para-Taekwondo Classification Committee (the Committee) is tasked with ensuring that PATU complies with the IPC Classification Code and its best practices. The Committee also implements educational programs for International Classifiers. It assesses the eligibility of all new athletes and may seek expert advice from individuals outside the Committee. The Committee reports to the Para-Taekwondo Committee for approval.</p>
<p>(14) Poomsae</p> <p>The Poomsae Committee reviews the organization and management of Poomsae Taekwondo competitions and studies ways to improve the competitions and increase the consistent application of the WT Poomsae Competition Rules.</p>
<p>(15) Referee</p> <p>The Referee Committee is responsible for studying the conditions for the consistent application of the Competition Rules and Interpretation, researching methods of effective management of and conducting training courses for International Referees.</p>
<p>(16) The Sustainability Committee</p> <p>The Sustainability Committee conducts research and makes recommendations to define PATU's sustainability agenda based on outcomes and in line with the IOC's Sustainability Strategy. The committee will make recommendations to support WT and PATU's commitment to incorporating sustainability principles and practices into the decision-making process and daily operations of PATU on the continent, thereby enhancing PATU's integrity, inclusivity, transparency, and accountability at all levels. This is done in coordination with the recommendations and actions of the WT Sustainability Committee.</p>
<p>(17) The Taekwondo for All</p> <p>The Taekwondo for All Committee studies policies and procedures to maximize diversity among Taekwondo competitors and practitioners on the continent, including, among others, youth and women in sports management and administration. The committee provides advice to the Council on how to promote Taekwondo for social development and Taekwondo Cares Projects on the continent at all levels, in close cooperation with members and external partners.</p>