

STATUTES OF THE WORLD GOLDPANNING ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF W.G.A. OPERATING PROCEDURES



I Definitions

1. W.G.A. is The World Goldpanning Association.
2. Member: is a National Goldpanning Organisation which is recognised by the W.G.A.
3. Board: the W.G.A. Board is formed by the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
4. Council: the general Assembly of National Representatives.
5. Committee: an appointed and authorised group of people.

II General Provisions

Article 1

1. W.G.A. is the recognised network of National Goldpanning Clubs and Associations. W.G.A. is neutral, politically and religiously.
2. W.G.A. does not have formal offices, nor any administrative equipments.
3. The W.G.A. Board, Committees and Council will meet and make use of premacies and equipments as needed by courtesy of Members.

Aims and Objectives

Article 2

The aims and objectives of W.G.A. are:

- a) to promote goldpanning and prospecting in a spirit of peace, understanding and fair play; without any discrimination as to politics, gender, religion or race;
- b) to respect Members and to promote unity among them in matters relating to goldpanning and prospecting;

- c) to promote and oversee international goldpanning competitions, conducted by its Members and to promote and encourage courses and conferences held by its Members;
- d) to disseminate information on W.G.A. activities;
- e) to develop and maintain contact and co-operation between the W.G.A. and other appropriate organisations, associations and centres of learning.

Official language

Article 3

- 1. The official language of the W.G.A. is English.
- 2. The official language of the Council is English.
- 3. Official documents and official records of W.G.A. are published in English.

III Membership

Membership

Article 4

Membership of the W.G.A. is open to Nations with a legitimate interest in goldpanning and prospecting.

Admission and Admission Procedure

Article 5

- 1. A Nation that wishes to become a member of W.G.A. shall submit a written application for admission to the President.
- 2. The President in discussion with the Board may admit a Nation into membership on a provisional basis. A decision on full admission must be taken at the next Council meeting.
- 3. The Council shall have the power to accept or refuse the provisional membership by a majority of two-thirds or more (by Nations).

Rights and Obligations of Members

Article 6

- 1. Members have the right to attend the Council, to vote at the Council and take part of W.G.A. international administration.
- 2. Members shall observe the principles of loyalty, integrity, fair play and friendship.
- 3. Member Associations shall comply with these Statutes and regulations and decisions made under them. Failure to abide by W.G.A. regulations and decisions may result in expulsion or a fine.

Leaving and Termination of Membership, Suspension of a Member Association

Article 7

1. A Member may leave the W.G.A. by informing the President by writing.
2. A Member may be suspended from the W.G.A. if it has:
 - a) failed to settle its financial obligations towards the W.G.A.;
 - b) seriously breached these Statutes or a regulation or a decision made by the Council;
 - c) The suspension of a Member shall be decided by Council. The suspension must be supported by three-quarters or more of the Council itself.
3. A Member shall settle all outstanding financial obligations to the W.G.A. prior to its leaving or suspension.

IV Administration

Administration

Article 8

- The Administration of W.G.A. is through:
- the Council
 - the Board

1. The Council

General/Decision - Making Powers

Article 9

1. The Council is the supreme controlling body of the W.G.A..
2. Only a duly convened Council has the power to make decisions.

Ordinary Council: Powers, Notice, Agenda

Article 10

1. An Ordinary Council shall be held every year during the World Goldpanning Championships.
2. Matters within the power of Council are:
 - a) receipt and consideration of the Board's report
 - b) receipt and consideration of the Treasurer's report
 - c) election of the President of the W.G.A.

- d) election of the members of the Board
- e) amendment of the Statutes
- f) consideration and approval on proposals
- g) consideration of membership applications and suspension of a Member

3. The official invitation to attend the Council must be sent out at least four weeks before the Council is due to take place, together with the agenda, which shall be drawn up by the Board.

Proposals of Members

Article 11

A Member wishing to include a proposal on the agenda for an Ordinary Council must submit it in writing to the President at least two months before the Council is due to take place.

Chairman of Council, Acting Chairman, Casting Vote

Article 12

1. The President or, in his absence, the Vice-President or in his absence the Treasurer shall be Chairman of Council. If these three are not present, Council shall elect a Chairman.
2. The Secretary of the Board shall be the Secretary of Council.
3. In the event of a tie in any vote, the Chairman of Council shall have a casting vote. In elections Art. 14 shall apply.

Minutes

Article 13

1. Minutes of all business at Council shall be taken.
 2. The President shall verify the draft minutes within 90 days of the Council. The draft minutes will then be sent by e-mail to Members. Members then have 20 days from dispatch date to advise points of corrections.
- The President will post the amended minutes 20 days later.

Voting Rights

Article 14

1. Each Member shall have between two and five votes which may be cast at Council by its attending representatives.
2. Votes by proxy are permitted, with the agreement of the Board.

3. Voting shall be open, unless the Council decides otherwise.
4. Unless otherwise prescribed in these Statutes, a proposal shall be passed if supported by a majority of two-thirds or more of the valid votes cast. Abstentions shall not be counted.
5. A proposal for the dissolution of the W.G.A. shall be passed if supported by four-fifths of all Members.

Elections

Article 15

1. A person shall be elected in the first ballot if supported by an absolute majority of the valid votes cast (i.e. half of the votes plus one). If no election is made, there shall be a second ballot. The top two people will go to this second ballot. A person shall be elected in the second ballot if supported by a simple majority of the valid votes cast (i.e. most votes).
In the event of a tie in the second ballot, lots shall be drawn.
2. Election shall be by secret ballot. If only one candidate stands for election, the Council may decide to proceed as at article 14.
3. In elections each Member has a right of two votes.

2. Board

Composition

Article 16

1. The Board shall consist of the President and three other members: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.
2. The Board shall not include more than two persons of the same nationality.
3. Candidate wishing to be considered for any place on the Board should make this known to the Secretary not less than one day before the Council meeting.

Term of Office

Article 17

1. The term of office of the President and members of the Board is three years.
2. The President and members of the Board can be elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms. A third term is only possible if at least 75% of Council vote to agree this. No member can stand for a fourth term.

3. If a vacancy occurs during the term of office of a member of the Board, the next Council shall elect a replacement for the remaining term. This term will not count as part of the new office entitlement.

Powers of the Board

Article 18

1. The Board has the power to make decisions on all matters, other than those specifically directed to the Council by the Statutes.

Duties of the Board

Article 19

The Board shall have the following duties:

- a) overall control of W.G.A. and the issue of necessary instructions.
- b) definition of the organisational structure.
- c) form and supervision of the financial records.
- d) provide annual report to the Council.
- e) appoint Committees, set their tasks and oversee their work.

Powers and Duties of the President

Article 20

1. The President represents the W.G.A.
2. The President shall chair the Council and meetings of the Board.
3. The President shall manage the work of the Board and oversees the work of Committees' chairmen.
4. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall assume his powers and duties.

Frequency of Meetings and Quorum

Article 21

1. The Board shall meet at least once a year and be convened by the President.
2. The Board shall have a minimum quorum of three (3).
3. A member of the Board shall not take part in the deliberation of any matter or point of issue in which a conflict of interest exists.

Notes

Article 22

Notes shall be taken of key points agreed at a Board meeting and a record maintained.

Suspension of Members of the Board, and Committees

Article 23

1. The Board may suspend a member of the Board or a member of Committee until the next Council meeting when it considers that the person has committed a gross dereliction of duty or an act of serious improper conduct.
2. A person suspended shall have the right to represent himself/herself or chose to be represented at the Council meeting for a 10 minutes hearing. The person suspended shall not be entitled to take part in the deliberations or vote.

V Committees

Composition of Committees

Article 24

1. The Board shall appoint the Chairman of each committee. The appointed Chairman will appoint his Committee members.
2. A member of the Board may attend Committee meetings as an observer.

Obligations

Article 25

1. The Chairman shall represent his Committee. The Chairman of a Committee shall manage the work of the Committee and report to the Board as required.
2. The Committee Chairman shall maintain closely liaison with the President.
3. The Committee Chairman shall draw up terms of reference for the work of their Committee under guidance from the Board.

VI Accounts

Revenue

Article 26

- The W.G.A.'s revenue shall be held in EURO, and consist of the following:
- a) A membership fee.
 - b) Bidding European and World Goldpanning Championships fees.
 - c) Protests fees.

- d) Profits from merchandising W.G.A. goods.
- e) Gifts and donations – if approved by the Board.

Budget and Closing Account

Article 27

1. A budget of income and expenditure shall be prepared for each financial year by the Treasurer. The limit of authorisation for spending shall be agreed with Council.
2. Books of account shall be kept. The accounts shall be closed annually.

Financial Year

Article 28

The W.G.A. financial year shall begin on the 1st July and end on the 30th of June of the following year.

Auditing Body

Article 29

Auditors may be appointed from time to time by the Board as necessary.

VII Competitions

Competitions

Article 30

1. The W.G.A. is the World recognised body for the development and promotion of International Goldpanning Competitions.
2. The W.G.A. will develop rules for competitors and guidance for organisers.
3. International Championships undertaken with W.G.A. approval must abide by these rules. National Championships are encouraged to use these rules.

Competition Regulations

Article 31

The current version of Rules and Guidance will be public available.

VIII Jurisdiction

Recognition of the W.G.A. Statutes

Article 32

1. By being a Member of the W.G.A. it is reasonably assumed that the Nation recognises and will adhere to the W.G.A. Statutes.
2. In the event of a dispute the Board has the power to appoint an Arbitration Committee. The Arbitration Committee decision will be final.

IX Concluding Provisions

Matters not Covered in the Statutes

Article 33

The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on all matters not covered within these Statutes. Such decisions are to be made in accordance with relevant W.G.A. regulations. If no such regulations exist, the Executive Committee shall decide according to right and justice.

Dissolution of W.G.A.

Article 34

1. A four-fifths majority of all Members shall be required to dissolve the W.G.A.
2. A four-fifths majority of all Members shall be required for any decision as to the distribution of the assets of the W.G.A. on dissolution. Without a decision as to such distribution, any resolution to dissolve W.G.A. shall have no effect.

Equal Status of Men and Women

Article 35

In these Statutes, the use of the masculine form shall be interpreted also to refer to the feminine.

X Coming into Force of Statutes

Coming into Force

Article 36

These Statutes are adopted by the W.G.A. and are into force.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE W.G.A. COUNCIL



Chairman of the Council

Article 1

1. The President or, in his absence, the Vice-President shall chair the Council. If the Vice-President is not present either, the Council shall elect a member of the Executive Committee as Chairman.
2. The Chairman shall ensure that the rules of procedure are observed. He/she shall open, conduct and close the Council. He/she shall give speakers permission to take the floor.
3. The Chairman shall keep order at the Council. He/she may take the following measures against Council participants who disrupt the proceedings:
 - a) call to order;
 - b) reprimand;
 - c) exclusion from the Council.

Council Bureau

Article 2

The Board members and the Committee's Chairmen, together with President, shall form the Council Bureau.

Agenda

Article 3

1. The agenda shall be made by the President at least 4 weeks before the Council is due to take place.

2. The Council may not consider a proposal to amend the Statutes unless it is included as an item of business on the agenda sent out with the notice of Council.

Discussion

Article 4

1. Each agenda item shall be introduced with a brief report:
- a) by the Chairman or a member of the Board;
 - b) by the representative designated for that purpose by a Committee;
 - c) by the Member which had placed the item in question on the agenda.
2. The item shall then be opened to the floor for general discussion.

Permission to Take the Floor

Article 5

1. Delegates shall be given permission to take the floor in the order that requests have been made to do so. A speaker may not take the floor unless and until he/she has been given permission to do so.
2. A speaker may only be given the floor for a second time on the same matter when all other Council participants who have requested to take the floor have had a chance to speak on the matter in question.
3. The Chairman may set a time limit for speakers.

Motion on a Point of Order

Article 6

1. A motion on a point of order shall be dealt with forthwith. Any other discussion shall be immediately suspended.
2. If a motion on a point of order is adopted, only Council participants who requested to do so before the vote shall be given the floor.

3. The Chairman shall decide when to close the discussion unless more than half of the Member Associations present and voting decide on a vote to do otherwise.

Motions, Motions to Amend an Agenda item and Motions to Delete an Agenda Item

Article 7

All motions, motions to amend, and motions to delete an agenda item shall be made in writing.

Votes

Article 8

1. Voting shall be open, unless the Council decides otherwise.
2. Voting shall be by show of hands or voting card, as the Board or the President decide.
3. A vote may be taken by roll call, if 10 or more Member Associations present and eligible to vote so request.
4. Before each vote, the Chairman, or a person designated by him/her for the purpose, shall read the proposal and explain the voting procedure to the Council.
5. Proposals shall normally be voted on in the order in which they are introduced in the discussion.
6. A proposal to amend a proposed amendment shall be voted on before the proposed amendment. A proposed amendment shall be voted on before the original proposal.
7. Proposals which are unopposed shall be taken as adopted.
8. The Chairman shall satisfy himself/herself as to, and announce, the result of the vote.
9. No one shall be given the floor during a vote or until the result of a vote has been announced.

Elections

Article 9

1. Elections shall take place by written secret ballot, unless the Council decides otherwise. The Council Bureau shall distribute, count and verify the ballot papers.

2. Before the votes are counted, the Chairman shall announce the number of ballot papers distributed.

3. If more ballot papers are handed in than were distributed, the election shall be null and void and shall be repeated forthwith.

4. A person shall be elected in the first ballot if supported by an absolute majority of the valid votes cast (i.e. half of the votes plus one). If no election is made, there shall be a second ballot. The top two people will go to this second ballot. A person shall be elected in the second ballot if supported by a simple majority of the valid votes cast (i.e. most votes).

In the event of a tie in the second ballot, lots shall be drawn.

5. If only one candidate stands for election, the Council may decide to proceed as at article 14 of the Statutes.

6. In elections each Member has a right of two votes.

5. Only valid ballot papers handed in shall be counted for the calculation of the majority mentioned in point 4. above. Blank or spoiled ballot papers shall be ignored in the counting of votes. If two or more votes for one candidate are on the same ballot paper, neither shall be valid.

7. The Chairman shall announce the result.

8. The ballot papers cast, counted and verified shall be placed by the Council Bureau in envelopes prepared for that purpose, which shall be immediately sealed. The secretary of W.G.A. shall keep the sealed envelope and destroy them 90 days after the close of the Council.

Interpreters

Article 10

If it is absolutely necessary and announced before the meeting starts to the Secretary, a Member is allowed to have one (1) interpreter at the Council.

Minutes

Article 11

The W.G.A. Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes of the business conducted at the Council.

Representation

Article 12

1. Each Member has two votes and in addition, each Member has one vote for every twenty competitors in the two previous World Championships belonging to the Nation represented. There is a limit of five votes in total.

1.1 In case of Elections, each Member/Nation has two votes as to say each Member is equal.

2. A Member may be represented at the Council by a maximum of two Delegates.

Coming into Force

Article 13

These Rules of Procedure of the W.G.A. Council are adopted together with the Statutes and are into force.

May, 2008

Arturo RamellaB. – Vice President



Vincent Thurkettle – President

