

INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION



Mandatory Statutory Provisions and Recommendations for IJF Members

(Version 16 January 2026)



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Updated 16 January 2026

This document has been drafted in English. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the English version and any translation, the English version shall prevail and be considered the authoritative text.

Introduction

Each member of the International Judo Federation (**hereinafter: IJF**) must include the mandatory statutory provisions (1-27) listed in this document in their statutes. These provisions ensure legal consistency, fulfil IJF membership requirements, and align with international governance standards. They promote transparency, effective management, and the unified development of judo worldwide, while also helping to prevent disputes through a shared legal framework. By adopting them, member federations strengthen their integrity and maintain full integration within the global judo community.

In addition, the IJF provides recommended guidelines (28-34). While not mandatory, these reflect best practices that support the effective implementation of IJF principles. Members are encouraged to adopt them to promote good governance and foster the growth of judo at all levels.

The references below serve two purposes: certain provisions must be adopted as written, while others serve as templates that guide members in developing their own governance frameworks.

As per Article 3.1 of the IJF Statutes the IJF is composed of the member national judo federations (**hereinafter: NF**) and continental judo unions (**hereinafter: CU**).

Preamble

1. The members and potential members commit to comply with the IJF statutes and any other mandatory IJF regulations and decisions (*IJF Statutes Articles 3.2 and 4.2*).
2. The NF must be a member of the IJF to represent the IJF in its country (*IJF Statutes Article 1.3*).
3. The member must be a non-profit association or society (*IJF Statutes Article 1.2*).
4. The NF may only be composed of structures exclusively engaged in judo activities, unless otherwise provided by the mandatory rules applicable to the NF (*IJF Statutes Article 4.3 B*).
5. The NF may not be affiliated to another International Federation (*IJF Statutes Article 4.3 B*).

Aims

6. The members must have the following aims:
 - To develop the practice of judo throughout its country for all categories of population (*IJF Statutes Article 2*).
 - To improve the quality of judo training (*IJF Statutes Article 2*).
 - To oversee and ensure that grades and dan ranks are issued in full compliance with the IJF Grades and Dan regulations. A grade or dan rank can only be officially recognised if it is awarded by an IJF member, and only when it is granted in accordance with these regulations. No individual may claim an international grade or dan rank unless it has been issued by an IJF member (*IJF Statutes Articles 2 and 24.1*).
 - To respect the principles of the Olympic Charter (*IJF Statutes Articles 3.2*).



Administration

7. It is the responsibility of members to ensure that their contact details are kept up to date in Judobase (*IJF Statutes Article 8.5*).
8. The CUs shall submit an annual report on all activities and the development of judo on their continents to the IJF. This report must indicate the number of judoka and clubs per federation, the number of black belts and an opinion on the media coverage of judo (*IJF Statutes Article 3.5*).

Member's Congress

9. The member's congress, or equivalent (**hereinafter: Congress**), shall be held at least once every two years (*IJF Statutes Articles 7.1 and 8.1*).
10. It must be composed of delegates elected by the members of the NF/CU. Voting by a proxy is not allowed (*IJF Statutes Article 8.16*). However, honorary members may attend the Congress and other member events in an honorary capacity (*IJF Statutes Article 25.2*).
11. The convocation and agenda of the Congress shall be sent, in writing, at the latest 30 days prior to the meeting. The key documents particularly the President's report, the Secretary General's report, the financial report, the accounts, and the proposed budget shall be sent to all relevant parties at least 15 days before the date of the Congress (*based on IJF Statutes, Article 8.5*).
12. A Voting Rights Credentials Commission to verify voting rights must be conducted before each Congress (*IJF Statutes 8.12*).
13. A quorum for decision-making at the Congress shall consist of at least one-third (1/3) of the members (*IJF Statutes 8.15*).
14. All decisions shall be made by a simple majority, except for the statutory modifications and the dissolution of the NF/CU, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast (*IJF Statutes Article 26.1 and 34*).
15. The Executive Committee and representatives must be democratically elected by the Congress (*IJF Statutes Articles 3.2 and 8.7*).
16. The NF/CU must be led by, at a minimum, by a President, a Secretary General (or an equivalent position with similar administrative responsibilities) and a General Treasurer (*IJF Statutes Article 11.4*).
17. If the member does not have its own Code of Ethics, it shall apply the IJF's Code of Ethics. If the IJF's Code of Ethics cannot apply, the IOC Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics are applicable. The member must also ensure that members of the managing body do not participate in any vote where they have a direct or indirect interest in the matter being decided (*IJF Statutes Article 11.11*). Direct interest is when the decision has an immediate and specific effect on the person (e.g., contractual rights). Indirect interest is when the effect is mediated through another person, entity, or circumstance but still influences the person's judgement or position (e.g., interests held by family members, controlled companies).
18. Minutes must be recorded for every statutory meeting, including but not limited to the Congress and Executive Committee meetings (*IJF Statutes Article 3.5, 8.26, 15.2*).
19. The Congress shall have the power to:
 - Approve the reports of the President, Secretary General and General Treasurer (*IJF Statutes 8.3*).
 - Approve, amend or reject the accounts of the previous accounting period and the budget for the accounting period to come (*IJF Statutes 8.3*).
20. The members' accounts must be verified by one or several auditors appointed by the Executive Committee or by an independent accountant audit firm, in accordance with regulations of the country (*IJF Statutes Article 23*).



IJF Congress

21. Only members are authorised to appoint and register its delegates for the IJF Congress (*IJF Statutes Article 8.7*).

Financial Rules (refer to provision 19)

22. The member shall justify to the IJF the use of any funds or material support received from the IJF (*IJF Statutes Article 3.3*). Funds received from the IOC or other bodies shall be managed in accordance with the relevant governing-body rules.
23. To ensure financial transparency, the member shall, if requested, present its accounting statements and supporting documents to the IJF (*IJF Statutes Articles 3.3 and 23*).
24. The member's statutes must specify the beginning and end of the financial year (*IJF Statutes Article 21*).

Disciplinary

25. The member must establish an independent disciplinary commission from their Executive Committee which must respect the rights of defence (*IJF Disciplinary Code Article 2.1, IJF Statutes Article 30.2*).
26. An appeal of disciplinary decisions can be made to IJF or to the Court of Arbitration of Sports (**hereinafter: CAS**), (*IJF Statutes Article 29.1, IJF Disciplinary Code Articles 40.1 and 43.1*).

Dissolution

27. The member may only be dissolved by a Congress convened for this purpose and only if the motion is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast. In such case, the IJF General Secretariat should be informed without delay (*IJF Statutes Article 34*).

Recommendations

28. It is recommended that the managing body be composed of members of both genders (male and female) in proportions at least equal to their proportions among judo athletes in the country.
29. Gender representation in the governing bodies of member NF and CU should be at least 25% for the least represented gender. (*IJF Statutes Article 11.2*)
30. The NF recognised by the IJF shall be the sole authority entitled to organise the official national judo championships and to award official national champion titles recognised by the IJF. Other organisations may not claim IJF recognition for similar events (*IJF Statutes, Articles 1.3, 3.2 and 4.3(b)*).
31. The member should comply with the World Anti-Doping Agency's Code and the IJF Anti-Doping Rules.
32. The member should comply with the Olympic Movement Code on Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.
33. The member should protect the personal data of all individuals under its jurisdiction in accordance with applicable data protection laws and regulations.
34. The member should adopt and implement a safeguarding policy. If the member does not have its own safeguarding policy, it shall apply the IJF Safeguarding Policy as per the provision n°1. If a member already has a safeguarding policy in place but wishes to strengthen its implementation and effectiveness, it may also consider appointing a Safeguarding Officer (or equivalent) in charge of the safeguarding activity (**IOC Safe Sport Framework, IJF Safeguarding Policy**).



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