



**International
Handball
Federation**

I. Statutes

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Article 1

1. Name and Headquarters

1. The International Handball Federation (IHF) founded in 1946, with its headquarters in Basel, is a non-profit federation as described in art. 60 ff of the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) and the present Statutes legally constituted with authority to achieve its goals.
2. The International Olympic Committee recognises the IHF as the sole representative of international handball.
3. Name and logo (stylised letters IHF on a circle) of the International Handball Federation are legally registered.
4. The IHF's headquarters shall be Basle (Switzerland).
5. Any proposal to move the headquarters shall be subject to a Congress resolution based on a two-thirds majority of those members present and entitled to vote.
6. The IHF shall be subject to Swiss law. Basle shall be the place of jurisdiction.



Article 2

2. Stakeholders

Handball stakeholders include any person or organisation that belongs in any capacity whatsoever to handball activities. They are bound by, and must respect, the provisions of the IHF Statutes and other Regulations, and shall abide by the decisions of the IHF. Handball stakeholders include but are not limited to the following:

Organisations:

International Handball Federation
Continental Handball Confederations
National Handball Federations (NFs)
Clubs – youth centres

Persons:

Coaches
Referees
Officials
Players
Medical staff
Players' agents



Article 3

3. Purpose and Objectives

1. The IHF shall lead, develop and promote handball around the world.
2. It shall ensure
 1. that its business is transacted pursuant to the Statutes and Regulations
 2. that its principles of good governance are applied
 3. that international regulations are written and observed according to clear legal principle
 - The Regulations for IHF Competitions shall be based on the following principles:
 - (1) The regulations shall be based on objective criteria.
 - (2) The regulations shall be formulated in a clear way.
 - (3) The regulations shall be adopted and published before the competition starts.
 - (4) The regulations and rules cannot be changed after the competition has started.
 4. to draw up Statutes, Regulations and provisions and enforce their compliance
 5. the organisation and execution of all IHF competitions (Olympic Games, World Championships, qualifications, Intercontinental Cup, Super Globe) and the related tasks (regulations, lists of duties), with exclusive responsibility for media work, marketing and sponsorship
 6. that the IHF may grant the organisation of qualifications for championships to the Continental Confederations under the IHF's full supervision. In case they are allocated the IHF must confirm the result of the allocated qualifications. The Continental Confederations must organise the qualifications for IHF championships according to the IHF Rules of the Game.
 7. the organisation of all IHF events (Congresses, symposia, courses, etc) and has the right to allocate them
 8. the promotion of handball in general (coaches, referees, doctors, mini-handball, beach handball, etc.)
 9. the observance and support of ethics in handball
 10. that action is taken in order to strengthen the unity of the IHF stakeholders and the protection of its stakeholders' independence
 11. the fight against doping in handball to protect the health of the players
 12. to protect the independence and autonomy of the IHF and its Members and Continental Confederations to govern and regulate the sport, including exercising the right of democratic elections free from any outside influence.
3. The IHF owns the rights pertaining to its events and products (competitions, Congresses, symposia and teaching materials) especially concerning the use of publicity rights, the marketing of television rights and other electronic, visual and print rights. The IHF may delegate these rights to the subsidiary IHF Marketing Inc. (Also see Article [19.1](#))
4. The IHF shall issue Statutes, Regulations and official Rules of the Game to regulate the relations between its stakeholders as well as subsidiaries, international associations, organisations and

institutions. The IHF shall also regulate its rights and obligations towards its stakeholders.

5. It shall control every type of stakeholder by taking appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the Statutes, Regulations, Rules of the Game or decisions of IHF ruling bodies.
6. The IHF may acquire, rent or sell real estate for IHF use.



Article 4

4. Non-Discrimination

The IHF tolerates no discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or groups of people on the grounds of racial origin, gender, language, religion or politics.

Organisers of official IHF events (competitions, Congresses, conventions, training seminars, symposia, etc.) shall be compelled to make a declaration to that effect before the IHF allocates the event.

Violation of this article shall be subject to the provisions stated in the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.



Article 5

5. Boycott

Stakeholders shall not boycott officially scheduled IHF competitions or refuse referees, officials, players, teams or technical delegates for any reason. Violation of this article shall be subject to the provisions stated in the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.



Article 6

6. Promoting Friendship

The IHF shall promote and strengthen friendship and mutual understanding among its stakeholders. Every person and organisation involved in the game is obliged to observe the Statutes, Regulations and the principles of fair play.



Article 7

7. Fairness

1. The IHF shall be committed to fairness in sport and prohibit any attempts at unfair performance improvement.
2. The prevention of any use of doping shall be of special concern. The WADA Code and standards in force shall be an integral part of the Anti-Doping Rules.
3. Any kind of corruption, bribery or undue influence, including receiving or accepting any kind of undue advantage or gifts shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines and the Legal Provisions.
4. All IHF stakeholders shall respect the provisions related to manipulation of match results, match-fixing and betting as outlined in the IHF Ethics Code.



Article 8

8. Membership

8.1. General Provisions

1. The Congress alone shall grant definite membership.
2. The IHF is composed of the national handball federations on which it has bestowed recognition and which control handball in their country.
3. In this context, the term “country” shall refer to an independent state which has its National Olympic Committee (NOC) recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
4. Only one federation per country shall be entitled to IHF membership. After consultation with the National Olympic Committee of the country concerned, the Council shall suspend the National Federation in cases where more than one National Federation exists in a country. The Council will decide which National Federation is in compliance with the IHF Statutes. The decision will be submitted to the next Congress for confirmation.
5. As a rule, the National Federations shall form Continental Confederations, based on geographical location. The IHF and the Continental Confederations concerned shall together adjudicate in exceptional cases.
6. National Federations applying for membership in the IHF should comply with standard statutes formulated by the IHF for all National Federations. They should submit their application to the IHF before the next Congress. In case of any change to these statutes, the National Federation must communicate them to the IHF for assessment and approval before submitting them to the National Federation's Congress. The National Federation should also comply with the IHF Regulations.
7. Federations which apply for IHF membership and whose country has no National Olympic

Committee can be admitted as “associated members”. Regions which apply for IHF membership and have no National Olympic Committee or National Federation can be admitted as “regional members”. These members shall have a seat and no vote at the IHF Congress and are not allowed to participate in the official IHF competitions (World Championships, Olympic Games). They are allowed to participate in qualification events without the right to qualify.

8. Upon examining the material and consulting with the Continental Confederation concerned, the Council may grant provisional admission to membership. The next Congress shall decide on definite membership.
9. Candidates for membership may not be present during the vote.
10. Immediately after membership is awarded, the full member federation concerned shall have a Congress seat and a vote.
11. The newly admitted National Federation must pay, within 30 days of admission, the membership fee for the current calendar year if due as laid down in the Financial Regulations. Failure to do so shall result in the application of the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.
12. National Federations must recognise the IHF Statutes and Regulations as well as decisions made by its bodies. They must pass this obligation on to their members and require their members to pass it on in turn to the rest of the handball stakeholders in their National Federation.
13. The Council shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit a federation. The federation may state reasons for its application to the Congress.
14. Clubs which are part of an IHF Member Federation shall not join another IHF Member Federation without the IHF Council’s and their former federation’s explicit consent.
15. The IHF may assign a representative to supervise the National Federation’s electoral general assembly. The assigned representative shall report to the IHF Head Office on the GA procedures that must be in compliance with the IHF Statutes and the NF’s statutes.

8.2. Admission Conditions

The National Federation’s statutes, in conformity with the IHF standard statutes, shall be enclosed in the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:

- Permanent compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of the IHF and of the Continental Confederation concerned
- Compliance with the Rules of the Game applicable
- Recognition of the IHF adjudicating bodies and Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in these Statutes
- Independent management of their missions and guarantee that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties

Additional required documents:

- Admission request letter from the National Olympic Committee
- Composition of the National Federation’s Board of Directors approved by the NOC concerned

- Confirmation that the National Federation has its own budget and a court to play handball.

Violations of this paragraph shall be subject to the provisions of the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.

8.3. Member Federations' Obligations

Member Federations have the following obligations:

- a. full compliance with the Statutes, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies at any time as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). In case of conflict or contradiction with the IHF Statutes and Regulations, the IHF Statutes and Regulations shall prevail;
- b. full compliance with the IHF Ethics Code;
- c. participation in and completion of competitions organised by the IHF if qualified;
- d. settling membership fee and any outstanding debt if due;
- e. ensuring that their own members comply with the Statutes, Ethics Code, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies;
- f. compliance with the Rules of the Game;
- g. full compliance with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other Regulations.

Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Federation may be subject to sanction according to Article [14.3.27](#).

8.4. Member Federations' Rights

Member Federations have the following rights:

- a. participating in the Congress;
- b. submitting motions regarding IHF Statutes and Regulations;
- c. submitting applications to host official IHF events (applicable only for full members);
- d. nominating candidates standing for IHF positions in accordance with Article [13.7.1](#);
- e. casting their votes in all IHF elections (for associated and regional members Article [8.1.7](#) shall be applicable);
- f. participating in competitions organised by the IHF (for associated and regional members Article [8.1.7](#) shall be applicable);
- g. representing the IHF at official events according to the IHF's request;
- h. participating in the IHF's projects.

8.5. Suspension and Resignation

At the Executive Committee's request, the IHF Council can warn and/or penalise Member Federations which have violated the IHF Statutes.

- Warnings shall be made in writing, and all Member Federations shall be informed at the same time.
- The highest fine may be imposed by the Council.

1. IHF membership may be forfeited at the request of the Council:
 - a. for serious and/or repeated violations of the IHF Statutes, Regulations, and resolutions, decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - b. if the Member Federation concerned no longer has the character of a National Federation, decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - c. if the Council cancels it because the prescribed fees and any outstanding debts have not been paid, at the earliest six months after their due date, to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress.

If an IHF membership is forfeited according to the procedures set out above, a new National Federation may be granted membership in accordance with Article [8](#). The newly admitted NF shall take over all financial obligations in case of non-fulfilment by the forfeited NF unless decided otherwise by the Council.

2. A Member Federation wishing to resign its IHF membership must
 - a. inform the IHF accordingly, by registered letter. The resignation shall become effective three months after the IHF has received the letter of resignation.
 - b. fulfil its financial obligations towards the IHF. In case of resignation, Member Federations are not entitled to a share of the IHF assets.
3. Suspension:
 - A member suspended by the IHF Council according to Article [14.3.27](#) shall lose its membership rights. Other members must not maintain sporting contact with a suspended member. Further sanctions may be imposed by other IHF adjudicating bodies in accordance with the IHF Statutes and Regulations.
 - A suspension imposed by the IHF Council according to Article [14.3.27](#) shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. If the suspension is not confirmed, it will be automatically lifted.



Article 9

9. Autonomy of Handball Stakeholders

1. Each stakeholder shall manage its affairs independently and without third party influence. In particular it must ensure that its officials are elected according to democratic principles for any term of office. Its statutes must provide for a transparent procedure guaranteeing complete independence of elections.

2. Stakeholders' bodies shall be elected by their general assembly. The stakeholders' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees fully independent elections.
3. Stakeholders' bodies that have not been elected in compliance with the provisions, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the IHF. In case of National Federations, under exceptional circumstances, the IHF shall have the right to appoint an internal interim committee to manage the National Federation until the organisation of the electoral congress in consultation with the relevant Continental Confederation.
4. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected in compliance with the provisions shall not be recognised by the IHF.
5. IHF stakeholders shall guarantee their autonomy without the government or any third party interference.
6. IHF stakeholders shall comply with the IHF Statutes and IOC Charter in this respect.



Article 10

10. Official Languages

1. English, French and German are the official languages of the IHF. English is the official language for minutes, correspondence and announcements. Member Federations are responsible for translation into the language of their country.
2. English, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic are the official languages at the Congress. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. In case of intervention, delegates may speak in their mother tongue if they ensure interpretation into one of the official Congress languages by a qualified interpreter who shall be one of the National Federation's official delegates.
3. The Statutes, Regulations governing the application of the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the Congress, decisions and announcements of the IHF shall be published in the three official languages. In case of discrepancy, the English text shall prevail.



Article 11

11. Continental Confederations

11.1. Definition

A Continental Confederation is a group of National Federations that belong to the same continent or same geographic region, which includes at least ten Member Federations and is recognised by the IHF.

11.2. General Conditions

1. The IHF recognises the following Continental Confederations:
 - a. African Handball Confederation
 - b. Asian Handball Confederation
 - c. European Handball Confederation
 - d. Oceania Handball Confederation
 - e. North America and Caribbean Handball Confederation
 - f. South and Central America Handball Confederation
2. The IHF Council may grant provisional recognition to groups of National Federations that belong to the same continent or to the same geographic region which are not listed in Article [11.2.1](#) above; definite recognition requires an amendment to such Article [11.2.1](#).
3. Whenever possible, Continental Confederation elections shall be scheduled to precede IHF elections.
 1. In order to ensure a smooth articulation between Continental Confederations and the IHF, Continental Confederations must invite the President of the IHF to their congresses; the President of the IHF may appoint a representative for such mission. The President of the IHF – or his/her representative – produces a written report to the Executive Committee of the IHF on the congress of the Continental Confederation. In case of suspected malpractice, the IHF President will submit the case to the IHF Arbitration Commission in order to obtain their recommendation for further treatment by the Executive Committee and the Council of the IHF.
 2. The IHF can suspend its recognition of a Continental Confederation for just cause, in particular in case the said confederation acts in contradiction with IHF Statutes and Regulations. Suspension will be decided by the IHF Council on the recommendation of the IHF Executive Committee after consultation of the Arbitration Commission. Suspension entails no direct consequence for the National Federations of the said continent.

During the suspension period

 - Participation of the continental Vice-President and the continental representative in the IHF Council will be suspended,
 - Participation of the continental representatives on the IHF Commissions will be suspended,
 - Continental competitions will not be taken into account for qualification to IHF competitions,
 - The IHF will organise its own qualifications for the said IHF competitions.

Lifting of suspension will be decided by the Council/Executive Committee of the IHF. The full case will be reported to the next Congress.
4. The Congress shall confirm Continental Confederation candidates to the IHF Council. Between Congresses, the IHF Council shall confirm candidates until the next Congress. The Council shall confirm Continental Confederation candidates to the Commissions. A new candidate shall be proposed by the Continental Confederation concerned in case Congress or Council respectively should refuse confirmation.
5. With the mutual cooperation and support of the IHF, the Continental Confederations have to take any action considered necessary to develop the game of handball in their continent, such as set up

development programmes, courses, conferences, etc.

6. The Continental Confederations' statutes and regulations shall be transmitted to the IHF. In case the said statutes and regulations contradict those of the IHF, the IHF shall initiate a dialogue with the Continental Confederation concerned. If the contradiction cannot be resolved, the IHF Congress may withdraw its recognition of the Continental Confederation.
7. In case of change or amendment of any provision of the Continental Confederations' statutes and regulations which were submitted to the IHF, the Continental Confederation concerned must send the change concerned to the IHF for confirmation.
8. The continental candidates for the IHF Vice-Presidency must hold office as the President in their continents. The President of the Continental Confederation may assign a representative to the IHF Vice-Presidency.
9. The Council and Executive Committee of the IHF shall be entitled to submit motions to the congress of the Continental Confederations.

11.3. Rights and Duties

The Continental Confederations have the following rights and duties:

- a. Recognition of the binding character and compliance with the Statutes, Regulations, and decisions of the IHF in their activities and their enforcement
- b. Cooperating with the IHF concerning international competitions and handball generally
- c. Holding their own continental championships and cup competitions
- d. Holding their own international competitions, particularly for children and young people and for beach handball in compliance with the international event calendar
- e. Drawing up their own list of referees (continental referees)
- f. Recruiting new Member Federations for the IHF
- g. Electing candidates of the Continental Confederation to the IHF Council and Commissions
- h. Ensuring that their representatives appointed to the IHF bodies carry out their activities with respect for others, solidarity, recognition and fair play
- i. Constituting commissions which shall cooperate closely with the corresponding IHF Commissions
- j. Making use of every opportunity to promote handball in their continent (including organisation of training courses, symposia, seminars)
- k. Creating all bodies needed to fulfil the duties of a Continental Confederation
- l. Right to put motions to the Congress
- m. Mutually exchanging resolutions and information with the IHF
- n. Organising intercontinental meetings in coordination with the IHF
- o. Harmonising with the IHF regarding all activities.



Article 12

12. Bodies

1. The highest IHF body shall be the Congress.
2. The Council and the Executive Committee are the IHF executive bodies.
3. The Head Office shall be the IHF's professional executive and administrative body, under the leadership of the Executive Committee.
4. The permanent Commissions and working groups shall be the Executive Committee's technical bodies.
5. The supervisory body and the internal IHF auditors shall check financial matters. The supervisory body and the internal IHF auditors shall audit financial reports and assure the compliance of these reports with Swiss Law and international accounting standards.
6. The IHF adjudicating bodies shall be the IHF's legal authorities
7. Incidents not provided for or force majeure:
 - a. The President, after consultation with the Council or the Executive Committee, shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in these Statutes and Regulations provided that it is not obvious that a Congress decision is needed.
 - b. As a general principle, the President shall decide on current matters and the Council, after proposal by the Executive Committee, shall decide on matters concerning important and essential issues, matters of principle or financial affairs of significant amounts.The same general principles shall be followed in case of force majeure.
8. In any IHF body, both genders shall be represented.
9. Any IHF body may hold meetings and take decisions via teleconference, videoconference, or any other appropriate electronic means.



Article 13

13. Congress

A Congress shall be an Ordinary Congress or an Extraordinary Congress.

13.1. Ordinary Congress

1. Ordinary Congresses shall take place every two years in the year of the Senior World Championships. Each Ordinary Congress shall determine the place and date of the following Ordinary Congress.
2. IHF bodies shall be elected every four years, at Congresses taking place the year after the Olympic Summer Games.

3. Any elections necessary to fill vacancies shall be held at the next Ordinary IHF Congress.
4. The dates of Congresses shall be announced nine months in advance.
5. The Council shall convene Ordinary Congresses no later than four months in advance. The IHF Head Office shall send out all organisational information related to Ordinary Congresses no later than four months in advance.
6. The Council shall publish the agenda no later than six weeks in advance.
7. The working documents shall be submitted to the Congress participants no later than one month prior to the Congress meeting.

13.2. Extraordinary Congress

1. The Council shall convene Extraordinary Congresses upon the written request of a simple majority of Member Federations or Council members.
2. Extraordinary Congresses must be held within three months of receipt of the request.
3. The Council shall send out all organisational information related to Extraordinary Congresses no later than two months in advance.
4. The Council shall publish the agenda no later than three weeks in advance.

13.3. General Conditions

1. Each Member Federation shall possess one vote at the Congress. The federation may take part in the Congress with three delegates, whose names shall be given to the Head Office in writing before the start of the Congress within the stipulated deadlines set by the Head Office.

Bye-law to Article 13.3.1. **Congress Code of Conduct:**

The National Federation's delegate has the following rights:

1. *Representing his/her National Federation and actively voting on motions and decisions*
2. *Being accommodated and served according to the IHF Congress hosting conditions*
3. *Having access to the IHF Congress meeting room*
4. *Taking the floor for the current agenda point*
 - a. *In case of not being granted the floor due to the fact that the chairperson overlooked the delegate's request, the delegate has to raise one of the voting cards to draw the chairperson's attention.*
 - b. *The duration of being granted the floor is determined according to the importance of the agenda point as decided by the Congress chairperson.*

The National Federation's delegate has the following obligations:

1. *Presenting his/her NF in the best possible manner*
2. *Taking part in official meetings during the Congress period*
3. *Respecting during the Congress period the Ethics Code provisions in general and Article 5 in particular, especially in terms of the following:*
 - a. *Harassment (physical, professional, verbal, mental or sexual) is prohibited*
 - b. *Respect*
 - c. *Transparency*
 - d. *Conflict of interest*

2. The delegates shall be members of the federation and authorised to represent the federation

concerned. Should this not be the case, participation shall be limited to observer status. One of the delegates will be officially appointed by the National Federation to vote in its name.

3. No one shall represent more than one federation.
4. The Congress is declared to have achieved a quorum if more than 50% of the IHF Member Federations entitled to vote are present.
5. Only Member Federations that have met their financial obligations towards the IHF are entitled to vote at the Congress. Non-active Member Federations are not entitled to vote at the Congress. At the start of the Congress decisions in that respect shall be announced as a part of the roll call and determination of the number of votes.

Bye-law to Article 13.3.5.

Non-active Member Federations:

*A Member Federation shall be considered non-active if all of the following **three criteria apply:***

- *No handball activities in the country*
- *No handball stakeholders (organisations, coaches, referees, players) in the country*
- *No communication with the Continental Confederation concerned and the IHF*

6. The IHF President or his/her deputy shall be Congress Chairperson.
7. The official Congress languages are English, German and French. Simultaneous translation into Arabic, Russian and Spanish shall also be provided for Congress participants.
8. The General Director shall be responsible for keeping Congress minutes. The examiners of the minutes shall verify the content of the minutes. Minutes confirmed by the President and the examiners of the minutes shall be handed to Council members, Member Federations and Continental Confederations no later than two months after the Congress. Objections must be made within four weeks. The minutes shall be adopted at the next Congress.
9. The President is a full-time President. He/she shall be contracted and compensated.
10. In case a Congress does not take place at the venue approved (by the previous Congress), the IHF Council shall decide the organiser according to stipulated bidding conditions.

13.4. Congress Agenda

The agenda of a Congress during which elections are usually held shall include the following points:

1. Opening of the Congress
2. Roll call and determination of the number of votes
3. Suspension and/or forfeit of membership
4. Election of two examiners of the minutes
5. Election of the election officer and the tellers
6. Determination of the orderly convocation of Congress
7. Adoption of the minutes of the preceding Congress
8. President's report
9. Financial and auditors' report
10. Membership admissions

11. Discharge
12. Treatment of election-related Statutes motions submitted to the Congress
13. Elections and confirmations:
 - a. Election of the IHF President
 - b. Election of the IHF 1st Vice-President
 - c. Election of the Treasurer
 - d. Election of two members to the Executive Committee
 - e. Election of the Chairperson of the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
 - f. Election of the Chairperson of the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
 - g. Election of the Chairperson of the Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
 - h. Election of the Chairperson of the Medical Commission (MC)
 - i. Election of the Chairperson of the Commission for Development (CD)
 - j. Election of the Chairperson of the Arbitration Tribunal and of the 10 members
 - k. Election of the Chairperson of the Arbitration Commission and of the 10 members
 - l. Election of the Chairperson of the Ethics Commission and of the five members
 - m. Election of two internal IHF auditors and one substitute auditor
 - n. Confirmation of Vice-Presidents from the continents
 - o. Confirmation of the Council members from the continents
 - p. Confirmation of the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission (AC)
 - q. Confirmation of the supervisory body
14. Motions to the Congress
15. Report on changes to the Rules and Regulations ratified by the Council
16. Confirmation of the IHF programme of activities
17. Setting membership fees and approval of the budget
18. Scheduling time and place of the next Congress
19. Awarding of IHF President's Development Award and other Honours
20. Miscellaneous
21. Close of the Congress

The agenda of Congresses without elections shall be adjusted accordingly.

13.5. Voting / Elections

1. As a rule, voting shall be by open ballot. Voting by secret ballot shall be subject to a federation's request. An electronic voting system shall be used for all IHF Congresses.
2. Decisions are made by simple majority. In the case of equality of votes, the voting process shall be repeated. If a motion fails to reach a majority in a repeat vote, it shall be rejected.
3. Every candidate shall stand for only one position within the IHF.
4. Elections require an absolute majority of votes cast. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of offices, voting shall be by secret ballot.
5. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two

candidates who obtained the largest number of votes in the first ballot. In the second ballot, a simple majority shall decide. In the case of a tie, the voting process shall be repeated.

6. In the case of joint elections, candidates are elected in the order of the number of votes obtained. If two or more candidates tie for last place, voting for those candidates shall be repeated.
7. Changes to the Statutes require a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast.
8. Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority.

13.6. Motions

1. Member Federations, Continental Confederations, the Council, the Executive Committee and the President may submit motions to the Congress. Member Federations may submit applications to host IHF Congresses to the Congress. Motions and applications shall be made in writing in one of the three IHF languages (English, German and French) together with rationales to the Head Office.
2. Motions shall be submitted to the Head Office:
 - no later than three months prior to the Congress in the case of Ordinary Congresses and
 - no later than one month prior to the Congress in the case of Extraordinary Congresses.
3. Motions submitted past the deadline require a two-thirds majority vote of the Congress to be heard. Excluded from this provision shall be Statutes amendments and applications to hold IHF Congresses.
4. Motions concerning one continent only shall be referred back to the Continental Confederation concerned by the Council.
5. Motions to the Council concerning changes to the Rules of the Game shall be ratified by the Council and reported to the Congresses taking place the year of the Senior World Championships.
6. Congress resolutions affecting the IHF and its Member Federations shall come into force three months after the motion is carried. The Congress may determine an earlier or later effectiveness date for carried motions.

13.7. Election Criteria

1. A candidate standing for one of the IHF Council positions must have held six years' high level involvement and experience in his/her National Federation or Continental Confederation in one of the Board of Directors positions or as a player, coach or referee.
2. In addition, candidates standing for IHF positions must comply with the following criteria:

General conditions:

1. Not subject to suspension or moral penalties on national and/or international level
2. Not convicted of any criminal felony
3. Compliance with all provisions of the IHF Ethics Code
4. Good command of English language

For the following positions the qualification should include in addition to the above-mentioned:

Treasurer:

- Accountancy degree or equivalent level of competence

Adjudicating bodies:

- Law degree or equivalent level of competence

Medical Commission:

- Medical degree

Playing Rules and Referees Commission:

- Former international referee

3. First-time candidates must be nominated by the respective Member Federation only. A candidate who is in office must be nominated by the respective Member Federation or the IHF Council to stand for re-election.
4. These nominations shall be submitted to the Head Office in writing, no later than three months before the start of the Congress.



Article 14

14. Council

14.1. Composition

The Council consists of the following members:

- Members of the Executive Committee
- Continental Council members (in consideration of [14.2.2](#))
- Continental Vice-Presidents (in consideration of [14.2.2](#))
- Five Commission Chairpersons elected by the Congress
- Athletes' Commission Chairperson

14.2. General Conditions

1. The members of the Council work on a voluntary basis and are compensated according to the Financial Regulations.
2. If a Continental Confederation has at least 15 National Federations as full members, it may nominate a Council member for the continent that shall be confirmed by the Congress. Each Continental Confederation may nominate one Vice-President if it has at least 23 National Federations as full members.
3. The Council shall convene at least twice a year.
4. The term of office of Council members shall be four years. Re-election is possible.
5. The continental representatives in the Council shall be proposed by their respective Continental Confederation no later than one month before the start of the Congress.
6. Council members

- shall not exercise several IHF functions in parallel
 - shall be available for IHF duties for at least twelve days each year.
7. Newly elected members shall take office immediately after their election by the Congress or, when filling vacancies during an electoral period, according to a Council directive to that effect.
 8. Retiring Council members shall hand over all necessary documents no later than three months after the elections.
 9. Upon withdrawal of a continental representative from the Council (Vice-President or Council member), the Continental Confederation in question can propose a substitute member, who shall be appointed by the Council until the next Congress.
 10. All participants shall be in receipt of the documents being the basis for the decision-making process at least 30 days prior to the Council meeting. The Treasurer is permitted to hand in financial papers 15 days prior to the Council meeting in order to have the latest figures published.
 11. The participants of the Council meeting, the Continental Confederations and the National Federations shall be in receipt of the minutes of the Council meetings within 30 days after the respective meeting.
 12. A simple majority shall apply for Council votes. In the case of equality of votes, the President's vote shall decide.
 13. In case of urgent business, the President may seek to make resolutions and decisions by mail between Council meetings.
 14. If a Council member has the same nationality as the matter of concern or if the matter of concern is a personal request made by himself, he/she is not entitled to be present and vote (reference is made to the *Rules on Conflicts of Interest of IHF Officials* included in the IHF Ethics Code). In case of doubt, the IHF President shall decide whether or not the member concerned may be present and take part in a vote.
 15. The President shall represent the IHF whenever required and he/she shall head Congresses as well as Council and Executive Committee meetings. He/she shall, in particular, represent the IHF in court as plaintiff or as defendant, or in financial matters. In his/her absence the 1st or any other Vice-President nominated by him shall exercise the President's powers, without special authorisation.
 16. The 1st Vice-President shall represent the President in his/her absence, with all his/her rights and duties. If the President should retire before his/her period of office expires, the 1st Vice-President shall be the acting head of the IHF until the next elections.
 17. The tasks of Council members shall be regulated by the standing orders, which shall be passed by the Council.

14.3. Council Duties

1. Decision-making outside the Congress' competence or decisions which, according to these Statutes, are transferred to other bodies
2. Approving and implementing all internal governance regulations
3. Ensuring that Congress and Executive Committee resolutions are adhered to
4. Defining the Regulations regarding the duties of the permanent Commissions, ad-hoc committees

and working groups

5. Confirming the representatives elected by the continents and appointing the other Commission members according to proposals from the President, the Executive Committee, the Council, the National Federations or the Commission Chairperson concerned
6. Appointing an independent electoral working group which shall ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications with the conditions stipulated in these Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions. Appeals against final decisions of the working group may be lodged with the ad-hoc panel to be formed by the Arbitration Commission.
7. Deciding urgent matters between Congresses
8. Deciding on important financial matters within budget constraints, and approving Commission budgets at their request taking into consideration the annual financial statements
9. Deciding on the purchase or sale of investments
10. Deciding on the purchase, rental and sale of real estate for exclusive IHF use
11. Deciding on proposals on the Rules of the Game
12. Submitting its own motions to the Congress
13. Dealing with administrative and technical motions to the Congress and making recommendations
14. Confirming regulations (see [appendix](#)) and proposals on changing them
15. Receiving activity reports from the Commissions and deciding on their motions
16. Forming working groups to deal with specific tasks
17. Granting provisional admission of new Member Federations
18. Granting provisional recognition of new Continental Confederations
19. Formulating standard guidelines for the statutes of the IHF Member Federations
20. Authority to formulate internal regulations
21. Awarding Men's and Women's World Championships in all age categories (seniors and younger age)
22. Awarding IHF Congresses upon being delegated to do so by the Congress
23. Deciding in case of discrepancies which might occur after the awarding of Congresses by the Congress
24. Requesting the Congress to award honours
25. Activities during IHF events in respect of representative, administrative and technical matters
26. Responsibility for the international event calendar. The IHF shall publish the overall calendar for a minimum of eight years with all stakeholders' events integrated. The IHF shall fix its events, whereas the rest of the stakeholders shall coordinate their events accordingly.
27. The Council shall be entitled to suspend any Member Federation that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as members with immediate effect until the next Congress. The Council shall give the opportunity to the Member Federation concerned to present its arguments, after which the Council may lift the suspension. The suspension shall be subject to vote by the next Congress as per Article [8.5.3](#).
28. Without prejudice to Article [14.3.27](#), the Council shall be entitled to refer matters involving a stakeholder to the Ethics Commission as provided for in the Ethics Code.

29. The President shall draw up the agenda. Each Council member is entitled to submit items for inclusion in the agenda.



Article 15

15. Executive Committee

15.1. Composition

The Executive Committee consists of the following members:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- Treasurer
- two members elected by the Congress

15.2. General Conditions

1. The Executive Committee shall convene three times a year and whenever necessary.
2. Decisions shall be passed by simple majority; in case of a tie, the President has a casting vote.
3. The members of the Executive Committee shall not exercise any other functions in any other official handball body in the Continental Confederations.
4. There shall not be more than one member from one National Federation on the Executive Committee.
5. In case an Executive Committee member retires, the Congress decides about the substitute. Retired members will get compensation on a proportional basis.

15.3. Executive Committee Duties

1. The Executive Committee shall:
 1. lead the IHF as the executive body elected by the Congress, fulfilling the IHF's Statutes and in compliance with the responsibilities of the other elected bodies;
 2. present the report from the last period to the Congress. This report shall be available for the Member Federations in written form no later than one month prior to the Congress;
 3. present the complete strategic plan for IHF in the next period to the Congress in written form no later than one month prior to the Congress;
 4. be in charge of all the activities of the IHF, leading the Head Office, the Commissions and also the working groups;
 5. take the decisions on the establishment of working groups, nominations, financial and contractual matters, including all decisions concerning the Head Office and staff;
 6. decide urgent matters between Council meetings;

7. represent the IHF in all subsidiaries, international organisations and international sports events;
8. inform the Council regularly about the activities of the subsidiaries, especially the IHF Marketing Inc.
2. The Executive Committee has the right to submit proposals and motions to the Congress. It can also submit nominations for the re-election of members.
3. The Executive Committee may propose Commission candidates to be appointed by the Council.
4. By proposal of the President, the Executive Committee may suspend and provisionally substitute any member of the Commissions and working groups.
5. The President shall represent the IHF in all sports, legal, public and financial activities, leading the Executive Committee, and the other bodies related to it.
6. The 1st Vice-President shall represent the President in his/her absence with all his/her rights and duties without special authorisation.
7. The Treasurer shall prepare and control the budget. He/she shall be responsible for the accounts of the IHF, with the support of the Head Office.



Article 16

16. Permanent Commissions

The following six permanent Commissions are technical IHF bodies with specific tasks:

- Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
- Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
- Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
- Medical Commission (MC)
- Commission for Development (CD)
- Athletes' Commission (AC)

16.1. General Conditions

1. The COC, PRC, CCM, MC and CD shall consist of the Chairpersons elected by the Congress and members appointed by the Council.
2. The Athletes' Commission is composed of five members with at least two members from each gender. The chairperson shall be approved provisionally by the Council until the next Congress which shall give its definite confirmation. Further provisions regarding the Athletes' Commission shall be laid down in the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission.
3. Seven members shall be appointed to the COC, PRC, CCM, MC and CD. Each Commission must have a representative from each continent, on the condition that this continent has at least 15 Member Federations.
4. If a Commission Chairperson should retire before his/her period of office expires, the Council shall

appoint a new Chairperson until the next Congress who shall possess the same rights as his/her predecessor.

5. The Council shall appoint the Commission members for a period of four years. The appointments are based on the representatives chosen by the Continental Confederations, and the candidates proposed by the President, the Executive Committee, the Council, the National Federations and the respective Commission Chairperson.
6. The Commissions shall act according to the Council's instructions. Within the four-year plan previously approved they have freedom of action.
7. New Commission members may be appointed only with the written approval of their Member Federation. Each Commission may include only one representative from any Member Federation.
8. The criteria for Council members laid down in Article [14.2.6](#) apply equally when appointing Commission members.
9. If necessary, the Council may dismiss a member. Should a Commission member be dismissed or retire before his/her period of office expires, the Executive Committee shall, on the recommendation of the respective Commission Chairperson, appoint a successor.
10. The duties of the COC, PRC, CCM, MC, CD and AC shall be laid down in the Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions (XXVI).



Article 17

17. Head Office

1. The Head Office headed by the General Director shall be the IHF's permanent administrative body.
2. The Head Office shall work on the basis of standing orders as approved by the Council.



Article 18

18. Finances

1. The IHF's financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
2. Official currency is the Swiss franc (CHF). The current foreign exchange rates at the Zurich financial centre shall apply.
3. The Treasurer shall draw up the budget and submit it to the Council for approval and to the Congress for confirmation. The Congress shall have this document no later than one month prior to the Congress meeting.
4. The annual accounts and the reports from the supervisory body and the internal IHF auditors shall be submitted to the Council and the Congress for resolution. The Congress shall have these

documents no later than one month prior to the Congress meeting.

5. Financial liability is limited to the IHF's assets. Member Federations, elected officials and employed staff shall not be liable.
6. All details of the IHF's financial matters are laid down in the Financial Regulations, which shall be approved by the Council.

18.1. Membership Fees

1. The annual membership fee for Member Federations decided by the Congress shall be valid for a period of two years. It must be paid annually by 31 March (credited in Basle).
2. The Council may temporarily suspend the rights of Member Federations in arrears with their financial obligations.
3. The Executive Committee can reduce or waive fees and dues for Member Federations suffering from foreign exchange or currency difficulties. It must report the fact to the Council.

18.2. Auditors

The IHF's books shall be audited by the internal IHF auditors and the supervisory body confirmed by the Congress, a firm of chartered accountants registered at the IHF's domicile.

18.3. IHF Marketing Inc.

1. The IHF Marketing Inc.'s executive board consists of four or five members of the Executive Committee in addition to one member from Switzerland according to Swiss Law. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee is the Chairperson of the IHF Marketing Inc. A member of the IHF Executive Committee's mandate on the IHF Marketing Inc.'s executive board will automatically end if he/she resigns from the IHF Executive Committee or is not re-elected as Executive Committee member.
2. IHF Marketing Inc. is subject to the same auditing regulations as the IHF.



Article 19

19. International Events

19.1. Rights

1. The IHF is the original owner of all the rights emanating from competitions (World Championships and Olympic Handball Tournaments including all relevant qualifications, World Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Super Globe, e-sports) and other events (Congresses, symposia, courses) coming under its respective authority, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law.

2. The IHF may entrust the Continental Confederations with the organisation of qualifications for championships under full supervision of the IHF. The IHF shall confirm the results of these qualifications.
3. In the case where this qualification is integrated into a continental championship, all rights belong to the Continental Confederation concerned.

19.2. Authorisation

The IHF is exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of handball matches and events whose rights are owned by the IHF, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

19.3. Awarding Events

1. The IHF shall, by Congress or Council resolution, entrust each international event to a Member Federation that has applied to hold it.
2. Should there be no application to hold an IHF Congress at the Congress, then the Council may be given the right to award the event.
3. IHF events may be awarded to one applicant only, who fulfils the following conditions:
 - Presentation of a proper budget countersigned by the Member Federation's executive board, including participation fee
 - Written agreement to assume all organiser's costs as laid down in the IHF Regulations
 - Written agreement to fulfil all organiser's duties as laid down (see List of Duties for Official IHF Competitions, Bid and Event Manual and Media Regulations).

The applicant may include a number of Member Federations in the organisation of the event. The rights and duties shall be laid down in writing.

4. At least six months before the awarding Council the applicant for the bidding procedure shall send a fully completed current application form which has been signed by the highest authority of the Member Federation. The applicant may include more than one Member Federation.
5. The Executive Committee with help from the staff in the Head Office shall examine carefully and completely the applicants' bidding proposal in order to decide whether the application fulfils the quality standards and levels. If this is the case, and if the bidding proposal is for the organisation of World Championships for all age categories, men's and women's, the Council passes the final decision related to the awarding of these championships.
6. In other cases, the Council shall choose two candidates to continue the bidding process in the Congress. The Council shall inform the Congress, without any ranking, of the two applicants at least six weeks before the start of the awarding Congress. The Congress shall make the final decision.
7. Deadlines and financial conditions set by the Council as well as the corresponding list of duties (see Bid and Event Manual) shall apply to World Championships for men and women.

19.4. Ceremonies

1. The ceremony at the opening and closing celebrations of international IHF events is stipulated in the List of Duties for Official IHF Competitions.
2. Victory ceremonies at international championships shall include the winning team's national anthem being played. The flags of the first three teams shall be hoisted. They shall receive medals (gold, silver, bronze).

19.5. International Matches

1. International matches between National Federations and clubs shall be played and conducted by continental or international referees.
2. An international match is a game between the national teams of two IHF Member Federations which is convened after the approval of the IHF and the Continental Confederation concerned. The two teams shall bear the name of their state. Team members must be citizens of the respective country. This shall also apply to tournaments with national teams.
3. One month after an international match or tournament at the latest the association entrusted with its organisation shall report the match result, the names and first names of the referees and players of both teams as well as the number of spectators to the IHF on the official form for this purpose. If this report is not made in due time, a fine of CHF 1,000.- shall be levied per month or part of a month. The total fine shall be payable immediately.
4. An international association match is a game between two sub-associations belonging to different IHF Member Federations. It may take place only when both IHF Member Federations involved have granted permission.
5. No interclub or interleague matches between teams from different National Federations shall be played without the express authorisation of the National Federations concerned. The National Federations shall include a provision in their regulations stipulating at what point in time the clubs are required to seek authorisation and, in addition, the sanctions to be imposed if this rule is breached.

19.6. Representatives, Officials, Technical Delegates, Referees

1. In exercising its rights and fulfilling its duties as well as supporting and supervising the organiser, the IHF shall engage representatives, officials, technical delegates and referees at World Championships, Olympic Games (including the necessary qualifying matches) and at the World Cup for club teams and national teams.
2. All financial and organisational input required shall be borne by the organiser.
3. The number of officials and technical delegates to be engaged shall be laid down by the Executive Committee according to a formula also containing the number of technical delegates to be provided by the IHF Commissions.
4. Representatives, officials and technical delegates shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

5. As the highest-ranking agents of the IHF at IHF events, the representatives shall be responsible for all official contact, possibly including press conferences and heading the jury, in the country where the competition is held.
6. The officials engaged are the on-site IHF agents vis-a-vis the organiser. They shall supervise the matches and the work of the judges.
7. The duties of the technical delegates are laid down in the Guidelines for the Work of IHF Nominees at IHF Competitions.
8. Referees for official IHF championships, Olympic Games, the World Cup and for international matches held under the responsibility of the IHF shall be nominated by the IHF's PRC. They must be listed in the official IHF referee lists and be approved by the Executive Committee.
9. The official IHF referee lists shall be compiled by the Head Office on the basis of reports from the Member Federations that have been checked by the PRC.
10. Member Federations shall submit a list of referees who can be considered for international matches between national teams and others, by 31 May of each year, to the Continental Confederation which shall return the lists on the prescribed forms by 30 June of each year to the Head Office.
11. Every organiser of an international event is obliged to invite the referees nominated by the IHF in good time, and to inform the respective Member Federation in writing.



Article 20

20. Eligibility to Play

1. Eligibility to play in international matches (between national teams, association or club teams) is laid down in the Player Eligibility Code.
2. The Regulations for Transfer between Federations shall be binding when a player transfers from one National Federation to another.
3. Both of the above Regulations shall be laid down by the Council in separate Regulations.



Article 21

21. Rules of the Game

1. All IHF Member Federations and Continental Confederations shall be obliged to play handball according to the Rules of the Game approved by the Council. With the PRC's agreement, a minimum of three Member Federations of different sports levels shall, for a limited period of at least one season, play according to modified rules in order to try them out.
2. After being passed by the Council, the Council shall decide

- if a change to the Rules of the Game (not affecting the structure of the game) may be implemented starting from the following season (1 July), considering that the change must be reported in advance to the Member Federations and Continental Confederations (by 1 March); or
 - if a change to the Rules of the Game must be tested according to Article [21.1](#) and announced at the Congress before being published by 1 March of the following year and coming into force on 1 July of the same year.
3. IHF Member Federations shall be responsible for quickly making the changes known within their federation. They shall be entitled to declare that changes to the Rules of the Game already announced shall immediately become valid within their federation.



Article 22

22. IHF Adjudicating Bodies

1. The adjudicating bodies are:
 - a. the Disciplinary Commission
 - b. the Jury
 - c. the Arbitration Commission
 - d. the Arbitration Tribunal
 - e. the Ethics Commission.
2. The responsibilities and function of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Legal Provisions, Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines and the Ethics Code.
3. The powers of the adjudicating bodies are without prejudice to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Council as provided for in these Statutes.
4. There are two main adjudicating bodies: the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal.
5. The Disciplinary Commission and the Jury are active only during sports events.
6. The Ethics Code is the umbrella of the above-mentioned bodies.

22.1. General Principles

1. In the case of disputes concerning these Statutes or the regulations and resolutions of IHF bodies, officials and players and the Member Federations to which they belong shall be subject exclusively to the sports jurisdiction of the IHF's statutory adjudicating bodies.
2. The Continental Confederations and National Federations shall agree to fully comply with any decisions passed by the relevant IHF adjudicating bodies according to these Statutes. They shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, players and officials comply with these decisions.
3. Any violation of the foregoing provisions will be punished in compliance with the IHF Legal Provisions and the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.

The composition and duties of the IHF adjudicating bodies are set down in the IHF Legal Provisions.



Article 23

23. Court of Arbitration for Sport

All disputes arising from these Regulations will be handled by the IHF legal bodies. After exhaustion of the internal IHF remedies, the final decision of IHF can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne / Switzerland in accordance with the CAS Code that shall definitely resolve the dispute in accordance with IHF Regulations, additionally Swiss Law. The decision of CAS will be final according to Articles R46 and R59 of the CAS Code.



Article 24

24. Dissolution of the IHF

1. Only a three-quarters majority of the members present and entitled to vote at a Congress may dissolve the IHF. The motion to dissolve the IHF must have been sent together with the agenda for the Congress to all IHF Member Federations.
2. In the event that the IHF shall be dissolved, the Congress shall decide on the use of its assets and settle any financial obligations. The assets may be used only for the purpose of non-profit-making sport.



Appendix

Overview of binding IHF Regulations, Stipulations, Decrees and List of Duties

		Decision by	Implementation by
I.	Statutes	Congress	Council
II.	Legal Provisions	Council	Council
III.	Player Eligibility Code	Council	Council
IV.	Regulations for Transfer between Federations	Council	Council
V.	Regulations for IHF Competitions	Council	COC
VI.	List of Duties for Official IHF Competitions	Council	COC
VII.	Guidelines for the Work of IHF Nominees at IHF Competitions	Council	COC
VIII.	Match Reports a) Indoor Handball b) Beach Handball	Council	COC
IX.	Rules of the Game a) Indoor Handball b) Beach Handball c) Wheelchair Handball Six-a-Side d) Wheelchair Handball Four-a-Side	Council	PRC
X.	Regulations for Players' Agents	Council	Council
XI.	Regulations for International and Continental Referees	Council	PRC
XII.	Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses	Council	PRC
XIII.	Technical Regulations a) Ball Regulations b) Goal Regulations c) Floor Regulations	Council	COC, CCM, PRC
XIV.	Anti-Doping Rules	Council	MC
XV.	Ethics Code	Council	Council
XVI.	Media Regulations	Council	CD
XVII.	Regulations on Advertising	Council	Head Office
XVIII.	Regulations for IHF Symposia	Council	PRC, CCM
XIX.	Regulations Concerning Penalties and Fines	Council	Head Office
XX.	Standard Contract	Council	Head Office
XXI.	Regulations for Awards	Council	Head Office
XXII.	Standing Orders for the Council and Commissions	Council	Head Office
XXIII.	Standing Orders for the Head Office	Council	Head Office
XXIV.	Financial Regulations	Council	Treasurer
XXV.	Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission	Council	Head Office
XXVI.	Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions	Council	Commissions
XXVII.	IHF Coaching Education Regulations	Council	Council

XXVIII.	Competition Manual for IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championships	Council	Council
XXIX.	Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules & Regulations Six-a-Side and Four-a-Side	Council	Council