

WACS Statutes January 2002

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1. FUNDAMENTALS

1.1. Name

The official name of the Association is «World Association der Kochverbände » in German, «Fédération mondiale des Sociétés de cuisiniers» in French, «World Association of Cook's Societies» in English and «Asociacion Mundial de Sociedades de Cocineros» in Spanish.

The official acronym of the World Association of Cook's Societies in all languages will be known as **WACS**. This acronym will be used throughout this document.

1. 2. Head office / Permanent contact office

WACS has its head office in the country of the elected President, but independent of the rotating Board of Directors.

WACS also has a permanent contact office at the place of business of the Swiss Cooks' Society. The address lists of the Board of Directors, the National Member Societies, the Extraordinary Members, the Honorary Members, and the list of accredited Judges are kept and maintained at that location.

The archives and assets of WACS are kept in Switzerland under the supervision of the Swiss Cook's Society.

1. 3. Official languages of the World Association

The four official languages of WACS are German, English, French and Spanish.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. National Member Societies

WACS is a global representative grouping of national cooks' societies. Each country can only be represented by a single cooks' society, which must be of national significance.

Individuals cannot directly become a WACS National Member but are represented via their membership of a national society.

All WACS National Member Societies remain independent for economic and organizational purposes.

2.2. Extraordinary members

On recommendation from a WACS National Member Society or a WACS Member of the Board of Directors, Extraordinary Members may submit documentation in order to be considered a candidate to be admitted to the World Association of Cooks' Societies.

Extraordinary Members may be from an association of a related trade, organization, institution or company

Applications for admission of a WACS Extraordinary Membership must firstly be addressed to the current Board of Directors for processing in order to meet the set criteria for acceptance that will later be voted on at the WACS congress by current WACS National Member Societies.

Extraordinary Members have no voting rights.

Extraordinary members pay a fixed annual contribution to WACS.

After becoming an official WACS Extraordinary Member, the name of the member will appear on the official WACS list of Extraordinary Members.

Other benefits include receiving WACS information and the ability to participate in WACS congresses and other events of WACS

2. 3. Application / Admission / Accession

Applications for either category of WACS membership must firstly be submitted to the current Board of Directors who will duly process the application in line with the set WACS criteria for acceptance.

In the case for applications for WACS National Member Society membership, correct and complete applications should include documentation, which can prove the confirmation of their legitimate existence, they are recognized by their national government, they have been in existence and have operated as a national society for a minimum of two (2) years and have active members.

During the WACS World Congress, the Board of Directors will present approved applications whereby legitimate current WACS National Member Societies will vote on their acceptance for WACS membership.

A National Society Member that is already an official current member of WACS must be informed of any application of another society that is seeking WACS membership status for the same country.

The current official WACS National Society Member is entitled to object to such admissions. The reasons for such objection to the application must be stated in writing and submitted to the WACS Board of Directors.

If the country from which an application for WACS National Society membership originates is already represented by a national cooks' society, WACS Extraordinary Member membership must be offered to the applicant.

2.4. Notice to end membership

Six months prior notice must be given by a National Society or Extraordinary Member if that member wishes to end their membership to WACS.

Notice must be sent in writing to the current WACS Board of Directors stating the reasons for termination.

All financial contributions outstanding must be duly paid until termination.

2.5. Exclusion

WACS National Society or Extraordinary Members that have infringed the statutes of WACS have damaged the interests of WACS and or the professional status of cooks through their misconduct may be excluded from WACS.

Official WACS current members will vote on such measures at the world congress on the request of the WACS Board of Directors. A two-thirds majority of the delegates must carry the decision for membership exclusion.

National Society or Extraordinary members which fail to meet their contribution obligations for two (2) consecutive years will be notified at the next congress by the Board of Directors that they will be removed WACS membership lists due to such delinquent payments.

3. OFFICIAL BODIES

3.1. World Association - Congress

As a rule, a general meeting of members is held every two years in the form of a congress.

The congress is convened by the Board of Directors by giving twelve (12) weeks advance notice with an announcement of the agenda in the four official languages of WACS.

Religious and national political themes may not be discussed.

Each National Member Society may be represented at the congress with only one (1) vote and must be named in writing to the Board of Directors no later than 14 days before the Congress.

There is nothing to prevent the attendance of further representatives of societies. The congress costs of all delegates from societies will be paid by their respective societies.

Each National Member Society which is unable to send their own representative to the Congress is entitled to be represented by one other member society. This fact must be notified to the Executive Committee not less than two (2) weeks before the Congress. Each National Member Society may carry only one (1) additional vote other than their own.

As the supreme body of WACS, the congress takes decisions on all important matters figuring on the agenda by a majority of the votes cast.

Voting by ballot may be requested by the Board of Directors or at least five (5) National Members Societies which have voting rights.

Every four (4) years, the delegates elect a legitimate National Member Society to represent the WACS Presidium together with the elected WACS Continental Directors who will comprise the WACS Board of Directors.

Amendments to the statutes require a two-thirds majority vote of the congress participants and proxy holders who are entitled to vote.

The Congress is the supreme body of WACS and its decision on differences of opinion within the Congress is final. All the legitimate parties belonging to WACS must accept this arbitration ruling in a democratic manner.

By the conclusion of each Congress, the legitimate National Society Members determine the venue of the World Congress by casting votes in order to decide the hosts for the proceeding four years.

The next congress venue (in two years time) is also confirmed by the Board of Directors.

The President is responsible for ensuring orderly proceedings at the Congress.

The President may order WACS participants who do not respect the agenda or the statutes or fail to respect the meeting, to stop speaking.

3.2. WACS Board

The WACS Board is composed of the duly elected Executive Committee and the Continental Directors. The President convenes the meetings and conducts their

proceedings. He is required to convene a meeting if three members of the board so request and the financial situation of the World Association so permits.

The Board normally holds one meeting a year.

3.3. WACS Executive Committee

WACS is headed by the Executive Committee which consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. The Executive committee has its seat in the country from which it has been elected by the Congress. The elected WACS President appoints the WACS Vice-President, the WACS Secretary General and on a proposal from the Swiss Cooks' Society, the WACS Treasurer.

The term of office is four (4) years.

In the event of any disputes between legitimate WACS member societies the Executive Committee may be asked to act as an intermediary if the parties wish to be mediated.

The WACS elected Executive Committee is also required to intervene on its own initiative if the interests or unity of WACS are threatened. Towards this purpose and for fair and equal handling of the issues, supporting documents are requested to be made available by the relevant WACS member parties. The WACS Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will issue a statement which should be considered final and no further correspondence may be entered into.

3.3.1. WACS President and Vice President

The WACS President and Vice President supervise the administration and the business of WACS.

3.3.2. WACS Secretary General

The WACS Secretary General conducts the correspondence of WACS on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. He drafts the reports, writes the minutes, and handles the current correspondence of WACS.

3.3.3. WACS Treasurer

The WACS Treasurer is responsible for the handling of the financial matters of WACS, at the discretion of the WACS Board, on behalf of the WACS National Member Societies and Extraordinary Members.

The Treasurer keeps and maintains the permanent address lists of all WACS members and ensures the safe continuity of WACS business by maintaining the officially designated WACS office in Switzerland. The

Treasure works alongside the WACS Secretary General to obtain this objective.

3.4. WACS Continental Directors

The WACS congress elects the Continental Directors for a term of office of four (4) years.

The Continental Directors represent the areas of Africa-Middle East, Americas, Asia , Europe and Pacific Region

The WACS Continental Directors are elected from the National Member Societies which do not belong to the Executive Committee.

Election of the Continental Directors for the Africa-Middle East, Americas, Asia , Europe and Pacific Region, will be voted by the legitimate National Member Society representing each continent.

The Continental Directors represent the National Member Societies in their respective regions and advise the WACS Executive Committee on all important matters of WACS, in particular on professional matters, questions of training and further training, the organization of competitions and new membership.

3.5. WACS Ambassador

As a general rule, the outgoing WACS President is appointed as WACS Ambassador for a one four (4) year term of office.

The WACS Ambassador assists and advises the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

The Ambassador may be asked to handle special tasks and projects for WACS.

3.6. WACS Culinary Committee

The Executive Committee appoints a WACS Culinary Committee which is instructed to prepare guidelines and rules on WACS international culinary exhibitions and competitions, and to ensure the further development of such events.

It also supervises the correct conduct of such competitions and the qualification criteria of the jurors accredited by WACS and their training.

Furthermore the WACS Culinary Committee reviews requests for WACS sanctioned events and makes recommendations to the WACS Board of Directors.

The tenure of the WACS Culinary Committee is reviewed by the WACS Board of Directors.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of WACS is to establish and maintain friendly relations between the WACS member societies and parties. The WACS members and parties are required to show mutual respect and to support each other.

4.1. Representation of Interests

WACS intends to represent the general interests of the profession, to enhance its prestige and to promote cookery with the member societies and parties through the use and propagation of the knowledge acquired by modern nutritional science and new technologies.

4.2. Support

National Member Societies and Extraordinary Members which have duly paid their membership contributions should give moral support and, wherever possible and budgets permitting, material assistance to other WACS member societies.

4.3. WACS Approved International Culinary Competitions and Exhibitions

WACS National Member Societies which invite national teams to WACS approved International Culinary Competitions or Exhibitions must first seek the approval in a timely manner to the WACS Culinary Committee.

The WACS Culinary Committee must be informed at least two (2) years in advance in order to correctly and effectively organize a WACS Competition or Exhibition to achieve the correct standards which are expected of a WACS approved event.

The organizing party must be a legitimate WACS member and have paid its annual membership contribution.

WACS National Member Societies which are in arrears with their payments will not be granted approval for the organization of a WACS approved International competition or exhibition. Such delinquent societies have no entitlement to send a national team either.

If WACS approval is granted to an international competition or exhibition a fee will be payable to the WACS Treasurer.

If the international competition or exhibition organizers are WACS Extraordinary Members these fees are not charged.

After official WACS approval has been given to the international culinary competition or exhibition they are entitled to promote the event in a professional way that mutually enhances their event and WACS.

The organizers must make sure that the guidelines and regulations for the WACS approved international culinary competitions or exhibitions are respected.

A current WACS Culinary Committee member is appointed to advise and give guidance to the approved WACS Culinary International Competition or Exhibition to ensure that the workings of the event meets with the official criteria of the WACS Culinary guidelines set out by the WACS Culinary Committee.

The appointed adviser may not be a participating WACS judge for that particular event

4.4. Communication and General Information Exchange

The WACS National Member Societies are requested to mutually exchange their journals and periodicals published by their cook's societies.

If this is not possible, general information may be sent to other member societies via the WACS Continental Directors or the WACS Secretary General.

Information is exchanged electronically via the WACS website www.wacs2000.org

4.5. Evidence of Membership

The individual WACS National Member Societies should issue their members with an identity document proving at the same time their individual country's membership details and that of WACS.

5. FINANCES

5.1. General Financing

WACS finances its workings and its activities from the WACS National Member Societies and the WACS Extraordinary Members contributions, fees from the WACS approved international culinary competitions and exhibitions and also from managed investments and donations.

The WACS National Member Societies pay an annual contribution which is fixed by the WACS Board.

The WACS Extraordinary Members also pay an annual contribution which is fixed by the WACS Board.

This contribution must be paid annually no later than the 31st of March of each year to the bank account stated by the WACS Treasurer preferably by a standing order.

5.2. Asset management

The assets of WACS are invested and managed by the WACS Treasurer according to the instructions of the WACS Board and the support of the Swiss Cooks Society.

Increased fees, managed investments and other sources of revenue raising is left to the discretion of the WACS Board and then reported to the Congress.

5.3. WACS Expenditure

The following are payable from the financial resources of WACS:

- a) WACS general administrative costs of the WACS Board
- b) The travel and subsistence costs of the WACS Board and the WACS Culinary Committee to attend official WACS meetings
- c) A contribution to the administration costs of the WACS congress may be made after consultation and approval by the WACS Board
- d) WACS Train the Trainer Program

5.4. Authority to Sign

WACS is duly represented and committed by the joint signatures of either the WACS President and or WACS Vice-President, with that of the WACS Secretary General or WACS Treasurer

Use may be made of the assets of WACS as follows:

- a) Up to the amount of SFr. 5000.—(Swiss Francs) by the single signature of the WACS Treasurer.
- b) For amounts of more than SFr. 5000.— (Swiss Francs) by the joint signatures of either the WACS President and or WACS Vice-President with that of the WACS Secretary General or WACS Treasurer

5.5. WACS Auditors

The congress elects from the ranks of the official National Member Societies three auditors who are not a member of the country of the WACS Board.

Those three individuals who are appointed to act as auditors on the day will be required to audit the books and receipts for the last two financial years and then to submit an audit report to the Congress for approval.

The WACS annual financial accounts are also verified by the Business and Audit Committee of the Hotel&Gastro Union and by Price WaterhouseCoopers, a professional and licensed audit company of Lucerne.

6. HONOURS

6.1. WACS Honorary President

As a special honour the Congress may grant the title of WACS Honorary President. There may not be more than one WACS Honorary President at any particular time.

6.2. WACS Honorary Members

At the request of legitimate WACS National Member Societies or WACS Board, the Congress may grant the title of WACS Honorary Membership to individuals who have given outstanding service to WACS and the culinary profession in general.

Nominations must be submitted by the WACS Continental Directors for those nominations from their respective areas to the WACS Executive Committee.

These nominations must be accompanied, in writing, three (3) months before the congress.

A curriculum vita and a brief explanation stating the reasons why the nominated candidate should receive such an accolade must be forwarded to the WACS Executive Committee for their perusal.

WACS Honorary Members will receive a WACS certificate on their appointment and the WACS medal and ribbon.

The number of WACS Honorary Members may not exceed the number of active societies affiliated to the World Association.

7. WINDING-UP

The World Association can only be wound up by a decision of the Congress if two-thirds of all the validly cast votes approve the motion stated on the agenda.

8. MANAGEMENT OF REMAINING ASSETS

In the event of winding-up of the World Association, the remaining assets will be distributed evenly between the member societies which still belong to the World

association at the time of winding-up by the Swiss Cooks Society acting in agreement with the current Board and after settling all liabilities.

9. OFFICIAL ORGANS FOR PUBLICATIONS

www.wacs2000.org

10. FINAL PROVISIONS

These statutes enter into force on 1 July 2002, subject to their approval by the 30th World Association Congress of Kyoto 2002.

They replace the existing statutes of the World Association.