

WACS Statutes: Proposed Amendments for March/October 03 and March 2004 Final Version

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1 FUNDAMENTALS

1.1. Name

1.1.1. The official name of the Association is «Weltbund 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.

1.1.2 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

1.2.1. The WACS head office is in the country of the elected presidium.

1.2.2. The WACS permanent contact office is 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 Corporate Members, the Honorary Members, and the list of accredited Judges of WACS are kept and maintained at that location.

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

1. 3. Official languages of the World Association

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

1.3.2 The official business language of WACS is English.

2 MEMBERSHIP

2.1. National Member Societies

2.1.1. 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.

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

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

2.2. Extraordinary Members

2.2.1 On recommendation from a WACS National Member Society or a WACS Member of the Board of Directors, Extraordinary Members may apply for membership to the World Association of Cooks' Societies.

2.2.2. Extraordinary Members may be from a trade related association, an organization or institution.

2.2.3. Applications for admission of a WACS Extraordinary Membership must be made to the Board of Directors, who will be based on the criteria, vote on its acceptance.

2.2.4. Extraordinary Members have no voting rights.

2.2.5. Extraordinary Members pay a current annual fee to WACS.

2.2.6. 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. Corporate Members

2.3.1. On recommendation from a WACS National Member Society or a WACS Member of the Board of Directors, Corporate Members may apply for membership to the World Association of Cooks' Societies.

2.3.2. Corporate Members may be an institution or company.

2.3.3. Applications for admission of a WACS Corporate Membership must be made to the Board of Directors, who will be based on the criteria, vote on its acceptance.

2.3.4. Corporate Members have no voting rights.

2.3.5. Corporate Members pay a current annual fee to WACS.

2.3.6. After becoming an official WACS Corporate Member, the name of the member will appear on the official WACS list of Corporate Members. Other benefits include receiving WACS information and the ability to participate in WACS congresses and other events of WACS and network with WACS membership.

2. 4. Application for National Membership

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

2.4.2. 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.

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

2.4.4. 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.

2.5. Notice of termination of membership

2.5.1. Six months prior notice must be given by a National Society or Extraordinary Member or a Corporate Member to end their membership in WACS.

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

2.5.3. All financial contributions outstanding must be duly paid until termination.

2.5.4. 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.

2.5.5. 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.

2.5.6. 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. WACS – National Membership

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

3.1.2. 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. The use of proxy votes will only be permitted on pre-circulated highlighted agenda items. The use of proxy votes will not be permitted on items introduced throughout the duration of the applicable business sessions. Application for the next congress, nominations for Continental Directors, nominations for the presidium must be submitted no later than 26 weeks prior to congress. Proxy votes must be agenda specific and in writing.

3.1.3. Religious and national political themes may not be discussed.

3.1.4. Each National Member Society can be represented at the congress with only one (1) vote. Delegates must have a letter of designation.

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

3.1.6. Each National Member Society, which is unable to send its own representative to the Congress, is entitled to be represented by one other member society. This fact must be notified to the Executive Committee before the Congress. Each National Member Society may carry only one (1) additional vote (proxy) other than its own.

3.1.7. As the supreme body of WACS, the congress makes decisions on all-important agenda items by a majority of the votes cast.

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

3.1.9. Every four (4) years, the delegates elect a legitimate National Member Society to represent the WACS Presidium.

3.1.10. Amendments to the statutes require a majority vote by a two-thirds of illegible votes either present by proxy or participants proxy holders who are entitled to vote.

3.1.11. 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.

3.1.12. Congress applications are screened by the congress committee who will recommend a maximum of four (4) proposals to be voted on by the congress delegates. If a majority of 51% is not achieved in the first round, than the top two proposals will again be voted on.

3.1.13. The President will appoint a Sergeant of Arms, who will responsible for ensuring orderly proceedings at the Congress meeting.

3.2. WACS Board of Directors

3.2.1. The WACS Board of Directors is composed of the duly elected Presidium, the Ambassador 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.

3.2.2. The Board normally holds one meeting a year.

3.3. WACS Presidium

3.3.1. WACS is headed by the Presidium, which consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. The Presidium 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.

3.3.2. The term of office is four (4) years.

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

3.3.4. The WACS Presidium 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 and the Board of Directors will issue a statement, which should be considered final, and no further correspondence may be entered into.

3.3.5. WACS President and Vice President

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

3.3.6. WACS Secretary General

3.3.6.1. The WACS Secretary General conducts the correspondence of WACS on behalf of the Presidium and the Board of Directors. He/she drafts the reports, writes the minutes, and handles the current correspondence of WACS.

3.3.7. WACS Treasurer

3.3.7.1. 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, Extraordinary Members and Corporate Members.

3.3.7.2. 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 Treasurer works alongside the WACS Secretary General to obtain this objective.

3.4. WACS Continental Directors

3.4.1 The Continental Directors represent the areas of Africa-Middle East (1), The Americas (1), Asia (1), Europe (3) and Pacific Region (1).

The Continental Directors are elected by the legitimate present member countries of their designated area/continent.

3.4.2. On alternate WACS congresses, in between the presidential elections, the legitimate present national members countries elect the Continental Directors for a term of four (4) years and they may appoint regional assistants at their discretion.

Special regulation:

In the year 2004, the Continental Directors will be elected for a two (2) year term only. In 2006 and onward, the Continental Directors will be elected for a full four (4) year term.

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

3.4.4. The Continental Directors represent the National Member Societies in their respective regions and advise the WACS Presidium 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

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

3.5.2. The WACS Ambassador assists and advises the WACS Presidium and the Board of Directors.

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

3.6. WACS Culinary Committee

3.6.1. The President 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.

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

3.6.3. The WACS Culinary Committee reviews requests for WACS sanctioned events.

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

4 OBJECTIVES

4.0.1 The objective 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

4.1.1. 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

4.2.1. 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

4.3.1. 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.

4.3.2. 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.

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

4.3.4. 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 to a WACS approved international competition or exhibition.

4.3.5. If WACS approval is granted to an International Culinary Competition or Exhibition, a fee will be payable to the WACS Treasurer.

4.3.6. If the International Culinary Competition or Exhibition organizers are WACS Extraordinary Members or Corporate Members these fees are not charged.

4.3.7. 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.

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

4.3.9. A current WACS Culinary Committee member is appointed to advise, give guidance to and observe 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. www.wacs2000.org

4.3.10. The appointed advisor may not be a participating WACS judge for that particular event.

4.4. Communication and General Information Exchange

4.4.1. The WACS National Member Societies are requested to mutually exchange their journals and periodicals published by their Cooks societies.

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

4.4.3. Information is generally exchanged and listed electronically via the WACS website www.wacs2000.org .
Electronic means also considered an official and legitimated form of communication.

4.5. Evidence of Membership

4.5.1. 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

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

5.1.2. The WACS National Member Societies pay an annual fee, which is fixed by the WACS Board.

5.1.3. The WACS Extraordinary Members and the Corporate Members also pay an annual fee, which is fixed by the WACS Board.

5.1.4. These fees must be paid annually no later than the last day of February of each year to the bank account stated by the WACS Treasurer preferably by a standing order.

5.2. Asset Management

5.2.1. 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.

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

5.3. WACS Expenditure

5.3.1. The following are payable from the financial resources of WACS:

- a) WACS general administrative costs.
- b) The travel and subsistence costs of the WACS Board and the WACS appointed Committees to attend official WACS meetings.
- c) A loan to the administration costs of the WACS Congress may be made after consultation and approval by the WACS Board.

d) WACS approved Programs.

5.4. Authority to Sign

5.4.1. 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

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

a) For amounts up to 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

5.5.1. 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.

5.5.2. The 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.

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

6 HONOURS

6.1. WACS Honorary President

6.1.1. As a special honor, 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

6.2.1. At the request of legitimate WACS National Member Societies or the 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.

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

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

6.2.4. 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 Presidium for their perusal.

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

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

7 DISSOLUTION

7.1. The World Association can only be resolved by a decision of the Congress if two-thirds of all the eligible votes approve the motion stated on the agenda.

8 MANAGEMENT OF REMAINING ASSETS

8.1. In the event of the dissolution of WACS, the remaining assets will be distributed evenly between the member societies, which still belong to WACS at the time of dissolution. This distribution will be facilitated by the Swiss Cooks Society acting in agreement with the current WACS Board and after settling all liabilities.

9 OFFICIAL ORGANS FOR PUBLICATIONS

9.1. The official communication vehicle for WACS will be via its website at www.wacs2000.org

10 FINAL PROVISIONS

10.1. The above statutes enter into force on 22nd March 2004, subject to their approval by the 31st WACS Congress held in Dublin, Ireland. Upon approval, the above statutes hereafter replace any previously existing statutes of WACS.

