

BYLAWS
World Federation of Independent Scouts
Europe

1. Name, headquarters, insignia

- 1.1. The name of the federation is *World Federation of Independent Scouts – Europe*. The name shall be abbreviated as WFIS-EU.
- 1.2. The federation has its headquarters in Berlin, and shall be registered there as a non-profit-making association in the official register.
- 1.3. The Baden-Powell lily of the WFIS is the insignia.
- 1.4. The federation is part of the WFIS Worldwide.

2. Purpose of the federation

- 2.1. The federation is an organization for the purpose of furthering independent youth welfare in the traditional scouting style pursuant to the methods and ideas of the founder of the scouting movement, Lord Robert Baden Powell of Gilwell, taking law and promise into special account as the working foundations.
- 2.2. The federation's goal is to educate children and youths to become free, tolerant and responsible citizens of a democratic constitutional state.
- 2.3. The bylaw purpose is realized through regular meetings, outings and camps at which children and youths are offered sensible recreational activities and the opportunity to develop a sensible relationship with nature, and where positive social behavior is to be promoted.
- 2.4. The federation is politically and denominationally neutral, and is not acting on mandate of any kind from one or more or all of its members. It shall refrain from taking any positions on political or religious matters.
- 2.5. By selflessly promoting scouting, the federation exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes in terms of the Tax Code.
- 2.6. The federation's funds, including any surplus, shall be used exclusively for the purposes stipulated in the bylaws.
- 2.7. The members shall not receive any profit shares or any other benefit from association funds in their capacities as members. No person may be benefited by administrative expenses not covered in the bylaws, or by a disproportionately high remuneration.
- 2.8. The federation works selflessly; its own economic interests are not the primary pursuit.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Any independent scouting association in Europe may become a member of the federation if it identifies with the goals of the federation, recognizes these bylaws and the guidelines, and is not part of WOSM.
- 3.2. The application for admission shall be made in writing by means of a declaration of joinder.
- 3.3. The committee shall confirm the admission provisionally in writing, which the general assembly shall finally resolve for the admission as prospect member. The probation period is at least one year and is extendable up to two years. The admission as full member takes place by the general assembly after the probation period.
- 3.4. Non-admission shall be treated the same as exclusion.
- 3.5. Membership ends by withdrawal, or exclusion, or upon dissolution of the member association.

- 3.6. Any withdrawal shall be addressed to the committee in writing. Members may withdraw at any time.
- 3.7. A motion to exclude a member association can be made by
- a) a member of the federation's committee
 - b) the committee of a member association.
- 3.8. Reasons for exclusion may be:
- a) The member association or its committee is acting contrary to the goals or interests of the federation.
 - b) Members of the member association or its committee are harming the reputation of the federation.
 - c) The member association is not meeting its obligations as a federation member.
 - d) Dues are in arrears for more than one year.
 - e) A member association or its committee is acting against the law of its country of origin, democratic principles or the methods and ideas of scouting as defined by Baden Powell.
- 3.9. The leaders of the member association or its committee shall be notified of exclusion in writing with an exact statement of reasons.
An objection to the exclusion can be raised within 8 weeks by registered letter to the federation's committee.
- 3.10. In the event of an objection the general assembly must hear the representatives of the member association no later than at its next ordinary meeting, and shall then make a final decision with the absolute majority of the votes cast. Recourse may be had.
- 3.11. If the membership ends there shall be no right to be refunded any donations or the membership dues paid up in advance.
- 3.12. Other mutual claims shall remain unaffected by the termination of membership.

4. **Rights and obligations**

- 4.1. The member associations shall pay annual membership dues. The amount of the annual membership dues shall be fixed by the general assembly. Prospect members do not pay annual membership dues.
- 4.2. Each member association has the right to participate through its representatives in the election of the bodies of the federation in accordance with the bylaws.
- 4.3. The number of delegates per member association is based on the following key:
- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|----|-----------|
| 1 – 200 | members: | 1 | delegate |
| 201 – 1000 | members: | 2 | delegates |
| from 1001 | members: | 3 | delegates |
| from 2000 | members: | 4 | delegates |
| from 4000 | members: | 5 | delegates |
| from 8000 | members: | 6 | delegates |
| from 16,000 | members: | 7 | delegates |
| from 32,000 | members: | 8 | delegates |
| from 64,000 | members: | 9 | delegates |
| from 128,000 | members: | 10 | delegates |
- 4.4. Violation of a member association or a member of the steering committee against democratic principles or against scouting as defined by Baden Powell or criminal prosecution of the member association or a member of the steering committee which harm the reputation of the federation have to be reported to the committee without delay. The committee reserves the right to announce a provisional suspension – after examination.
- 4.5. Prospect members are entitled to participate in the activities as defined in 2.3.

5. **Committee**

- 5.1. The committee shall represent the association in internal and external affairs.
- 5.2. The committee shall be composed of
 - the 1st chairperson
 - the 2nd chairperson
 - the 3rd chairperson
 - the treasurer
 - the secretary.
- 5.3. The members of the committee must be at least 21 years of age.
- 5.4. The members of the committee shall be elected individually by the general assembly for a term of 4 years.
Reelection is permissible.
- 5.5. The members of the committee shall delimit their responsibilities by mutual understanding. If needed, the committee shall adopt rules of procedure.
- 5.6. The committee shall assemble after a meeting is convened by a chairperson.
- 5.7. The committee shall keep minutes on its meetings.
- 5.8. The members of the committee are directors in terms of § 26 of the Civil Code (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*). Two members of the committee shall be authorized to represent the association jointly.

6. **General assembly**

- 6.1. The general assembly is the highest decision-making body of the federation. It determines principles and guidelines for working together.
- 6.2. The following shall have a seat and a vote in the general assembly:
 - the federation's committee
 - the delegates of the member groups.
- 6.3. One committee member each of the member association shall have a seat and the right to speak in the general assembly.
- 6.4. Furthermore, the committee and general assembly shall be entitled to invite guests who may be granted the right to speak on request. The committee shall decide on this beforehand.
- 6.5. The general assembly shall meet annually during the first quarter of the business year, i.e. not later than 31 March. It shall be convened in writing by the committee, the agenda being stated. The notice period is four weeks.
If needed, the committee may schedule additional meetings for the current business year.
- 6.7.¹ The committee may also convene extraordinary meetings of the general assembly at any time. The committee shall be obligated to do so if at least 33 % of the delegates of the general assembly so demand in writing, stating the purpose and the reasons. In such a case the members shall be invited in writing with at least one week's notice, the agenda being stated.
- 6.8. The general assembly has a quorum if at least 50 % of the delegates of the members entitled to vote are present. If a member Association fails to send a delegate to the General Assembly for 2 consecutive years, then that member forfeits their right to vote until they send a delegate, and their voting rights will be excluded from the calculation of a quorum.

¹ Translator's note: The German original omits 6.6.

- 6.9. If there is not a quorum, the committee shall convene a new meeting of the general assembly with at least two weeks' notice. The meeting shall have the same agenda and shall have a quorum regardless of the number of voting members who are present. The invitation to this second meeting shall point out this special quorum status.
- 6.10. The following, in particular, are the responsibilities of the general assembly:
- a) electing the committee, including the treasurer
 - b1) electing two cash auditors and one alternate
 - b2) in case the elected auditor or alternate do not appear at a General Assembly any person who is not member of an association present in the Steering Committee may be chosen to act as substitute.
 - c) approving the actions of the committee and the cash auditors
 - d) adopting resolutions on the election rules and the rules of procedure
 - e) adopting resolutions on bylaw amendments or the dissolution of the federation
 - f) approving the budget and annual account including fixing the amount of the membership dues
 - g) deciding on the dissolution of the federation
 - h) resolving on measures in the interest of the federation's purpose.
- 6.11. One of the chairpersons shall preside over the general assembly.
- 6.12. The general assembly shall adopt its resolutions with a simple majority of votes cast unless a different majority of votes is proscribed by law or the bylaws.
- 6.13. Elections and voting shall take place anonymously if a member so moves, otherwise the voting shall be open.
- 6.14. An absolute majority is required to elect the members of the committee and the cash auditors. If no absolute majority is achieved on the first or second ballot, voting shall continue until a simple majority of votes results.
- 6.15. Written minutes shall be kept on the meetings of the general assembly, in which the resolutions adopted and the results of elections and voting shall be recorded in full, and the subject matter of the remainder of the meeting shall be stated. The minutes shall be signed by the 1st chairperson and the secretary who thereby guarantee the accuracy of the minutes.
- 6.16. The general assembly may form work groups whose tasks, rights and obligations can be fixed on a case-by-case basis. The committees shall report to the general assembly.

7. **Dues**

- 7.1. Membership dues shall be paid in advance at the beginning of each year.
- 7.2. They are supposed to cover current costs.

8. **Business year, statement year, cash audit**

- 8.1. The calendar year is the business year.
- 8.2. The treasurer shall keep the account books along commercial lines.
- 8.3. The cash auditors shall be elected for one year. They may be reelected only twice.

9. **Bylaw amendments and dissolution of the federation**

- 9.1. A majority of three fourths of all present voting members of the general assembly shall be required to adopt a resolution changing the bylaws.
- 9.2. If the federation is dissolved or its purpose is eliminated, the assets of the federation shall go to WFIS-worldwide.