



**Proposed amendments to SportAccord Statutes
(2017 General Assembly)**

1) Change of Name of the Association

The name of SportAccord does not necessarily reflect what the Association is. First and foremost, it is an Association composed of autonomous and independent sports federations (Art. 1.1) and organisations at a worldwide level.

It is the opinion of the Council that a name that reflects this, like “Global Association of International Sports Federations” (GAISF) would better represent the nature of the organisation. It would also make a clear distinction with the commercial activities held under the patronage of the Association, such as the SportAccord Convention/IF Forum or the Multiple Sport Games which shall also in the future retain the name and brand “SportAccord”, which is a protected mark of the Association.

Current Version	Proposed Amendments¹
<p>Article 1. Name and headquarters</p> <p>1.1 SportAccord (previously known as GAISF, the General Association of International Sports Federations) is a not-for-profit association, composed of autonomous and independent international sports federations and other international organisations contributing to sport in various fields.</p> <p>1.2 SportAccord is constituted according to article 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code, is governed by Swiss law and is formed for an unlimited period of time.</p> <p>1.3 The registered office of SportAccord is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.</p>	<p>Article 1. Name and headquarters</p> <p>1.1 <u>The Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF)</u> is a not-for-profit association, composed of autonomous and independent international sports federations and other international organisations contributing to sport in various fields.</p> <p>1.2 <u>The GAISF</u> is constituted according to article 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code, is governed by Swiss law and is formed for an unlimited period of time.</p> <p>1.3 The registered office of <u>GAISF</u> is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.</p>

¹ The name of the Association will be updated throughout the Statutes if the General Assembly approves the proposed amendment to Article 1.



2) Addition of Observer status for applicants to membership

There are currently around 29 applications for membership pending with SportAccord. Many do not fulfil yet the strict criteria enumerated under 7.A and 7.B.

As an example, applicants have a practical difficulty to achieve the required number of Member National Federations with the appropriate recognition certificates by the National Olympic Committees and/or National Sports Authorities.

Including such applicants – subject to there being no rivalry issues whatsoever – into a newly created category with Observer status, which only grants the right to attend as observers the General Assembly and confirms formally their candidature status, would help accelerate their efforts to become a member of SportAccord and allow the administration to assist them in the process. This status would have a limit in time.

Proposed New Article
<p><u>7.C Observer status of applicants</u></p> <p><u>7.C.1 Upon request, the Council may in its sole discretion grant (and revoke at any time) Observer status to an organisation which</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) <u>Has filed an application for membership under Article 7.A or 7.B; and</u>b) <u>Has no reasonable rivalry issues with an existing Member.</u> <p><u>7.C.2 The Observer status does not confer any right other than the right to attend the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. The Council is competent to define guidelines governing the status of Observers.</u></p> <p><u>7.C.3 The Observer status is valid for two (2) years, renewable once.</u></p>



3) Change of rules on Presidency

Currently, any candidate, from a fully paid-up member, can become President of SportAccord. Experience has indicated that this process may lead to intense debates dividing the membership, creating instability for the organisation in terms of mission, vision and objectives and alienating the support of other key stakeholders. The Council considers therefore that it would be more pragmatic and democratic to install a rotation system amongst the respective stakeholders/Umbrella Organisations (ARISF; AIOWF; AIMS; ASOIF).

Should this proposal be accepted, in 2020, at the end of this cycle, ARISF would present to the assembly a candidate for Presidency, followed in the next two cycles by AIOWF and by AIMS. In 2026, it would again be ASOIF's turn to present a candidate for the following two years, etc...

Current Version	Proposed Amendments ²
<p>29.4 The Council elects 2 (two) Vice-Presidents and 1 (one) Treasurer from among the members of the Council.</p> <p>29.5 The Senior Vice-President shall be determined by seniority (member with the longest service on the Council) and, in case of equal seniority, by age.</p>	<p>29.4 The Council elects 1 (one) First Vice-President and 1 (one) Treasurer from among the members of the Council.</p> <p>29.5 The First Vice-President shall be <u>appointed by the organization that will take over the Presidency at the next cycle</u></p>
<p>30.2 Council members are appointed for a term of 4 (four) years corresponding to the term of the President. They may be reappointed.</p>	<p>30.2 Council members are appointed for a term of 2 (two) years corresponding to the term of the President. They may be reappointed.</p>
<p>Article 31. Presidential election</p>	<p>Article 31. Presidential election <u>31.1 The President of SportAccord is elected by the General Assembly for one (1) single two (2) year term of office. He/she shall come from a Member within the respective organisations in the following order:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>ARISF (2020-2022)</u> - <u>AIOWF (2022-2024)</u> - <u>AIMS (2024-2026)</u> - <u>ASOIF (2026-2028)</u>

² The name of the Association will be updated throughout the Statutes if the General Assembly approves the proposed amendment to Article 1.

31.1 Nominations for the Presidency must be notified in writing to the Administration at the latest 30 (thirty) days before the beginning of the General assembly meeting at which the elections will take place. The Director will issue a note indicating the deadline to be observed at least sixty (60) days before the meeting at which the elections will take place.

31.2 Candidates must be nominated by a fully paid-up Member. Candidates must, on the date of the election be, or must have been for at least one full term, a member of the Council or similar executive organ of a Member. They must be nominated by the Member concerned.

31.3 Candidates must have reached the age of 18 (eighteen) at the date of the election and be in full possession of their civil rights.

31.4 Nominations that arrive after the deadline shall not be taken into consideration. If no candidate has been nominated within the deadline or if a nominee is no longer a candidate on the day of the General Assembly, candidates may be nominated at the General Assembly. If there is no candidate, the senior Vice-President elected by the Council shall act as Chair until the next General Assembly.

31.5 After the deadline for receiving nominations has been reached, the list of nominees for President will be distributed to the Members at least 15 (fifteen) days before the meeting at which the elections will take place.

31.6 The General Assembly elects the President for one four (4) year term. He/she is not eligible for re-election.

31.2 Nominations for the Presidency must be notified in writing to the Administration at the latest 30 (thirty) days before the beginning of the General assembly meeting at which the elections will take place. The Director will issue a note indicating the deadline to be observed at least sixty (60) days before the meeting at which the elections will take place.

31.3 Candidates must be nominated by a fully paid-up Member from the respective organisation (cf. 31.1. above). Candidates must, on the date of the election be, or must have been for at least one full term, a member of the Council or similar executive organ of the Member that nominated them. They must be nominated by the Member concerned. While it is recommended to present the candidature of the President of the organization that will take over the Presidency, candidates must in any case be a member of that organisation's executive organ and have the formal endorsement thereof.

31.4 Candidates must have reached the age of 18 (eighteen) at the date of the election and be in full possession of their civil rights.

31.5 Nominations that arrive after the deadline shall not be taken into consideration. If no candidate has been nominated within the deadline or if a nominee is no longer a candidate on the day of the General Assembly, the First Vice-President elected by the Council shall act as President ad interim until the next General Assembly.

31.6 After the deadline for receiving nominations has been reached, the list of nominees for President will be distributed to the Members at least 15 (fifteen) days before the meeting at which the elections will take place.

31.7 The General Assembly elects the President for one (1) single two (2) year term. He/she is not eligible for re-election.

[...]

[...]

40. The authority for settling any dispute arising out of the interpretation of these Statutes shall reside with the President, or Chair pro tempore, who shall seek the advice of the Council or General Assembly before making a final decision.

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4) Other Proposed Amendments to the SportAccord Statutes

a) Codification of the membership groups

Considering that the exercise of essential membership rights (right to be elected on the Council and the Presidency) is connected to the members' affiliation in one of the groups/divisions³ (ASOIF, AIOWF, ARISF, Associate Members), it is important to reflect this relationship in the Statutes:

Current Version	Proposed Amendments ⁴
<p>Article 5. Categories of Members</p> <p>5. The Members of SportAccord are:</p> <p>a) the Full Members;</p> <p>b) the Associate Members,</p> <p>whose admission has been approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Unless the context otherwise indicates, the term Member(s) comprises both Full Members and Associate Members.</p>	<p>Article 5. Categories of Members</p> <p><u>5.1</u> The Members of SportAccord are:</p> <p>a) the Full Members;</p> <p>b) the Associate Members,</p> <p>whose admission has been approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Unless the context otherwise indicates, the term Member(s) comprises both Full Members and Associate Members.</p> <p><u>5.2 SportAccord Members are also categorised according to the following divisions:</u></p> <p><u>a) ASOIF members;</u></p> <p><u>b) AIOWF members;</u></p> <p><u>c) ARISF members;</u></p> <p><u>d) AIMS members</u></p> <p><u>e) Associate Members.</u></p>

³ The term "division" will replace the term "groups" or "organisations" for reasons of consistency in the Statutes, depending on the General Assembly's decision regarding the amendment to Article 5.

⁴ The name of the Association will be updated depending on the General Assembly's decision regarding the amendment to Article 1.



b) Clarification in the CAS clause:

Current Version	Proposed Amendments ⁵
<p>Article 39. Dispute resolution</p> <p>39.1 Any dispute arising from, or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of SportAccord, other than a dispute arising out of the interpretation of the Statutes that is to be resolved in the manner described in Article 40 or a dispute that can be resolved by a competent internal body of SportAccord, will be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in Lausanne, Switzerland, applying its own procedural rules. Where a dispute is so submitted to the CAS, the decision of the CAS in that dispute will be final.</p> <p>39.2 Any appeal against a final and binding decision from any SportAccord organ shall exclusively be submitted to the CAS, to the exclusion of any ordinary court of any country.</p>	<p>Article 39. Dispute resolution</p> <p>39.1 Any dispute arising from, or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of SportAccord, <u>(including without limitation</u> a dispute arising out of the interpretation of the Statutes that is to be resolved in the manner described in Article 40 or a dispute that can be resolved by a competent internal body of SportAccord), <u>shall</u> be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in Lausanne, Switzerland, <u>to the exclusion of any ordinary court or other tribunal</u>. Where a dispute is so submitted to the CAS, <u>the Code of Sport-Related Arbitration shall be applicable, the language of the procedure will be English or French</u> and the decision of the CAS in that dispute <u>shall</u> be final.</p> <p>39.2 <u>deleted (merged in 39.1)</u></p>

⁵ The name of the Association will be updated depending on the General Assembly's decision regarding the amendment to Article 1.



c) Clarification of the implementation of absolute majority

Current Version	Proposed Amendments
<p>Article 20. Quorums</p> <p>20.1 In order for the General Assembly to be validly convened, a majority (at least 50 % + 1) of the Members having voting rights must be present.</p> <p>Article 21. Voting</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>21.4 Save any indication to the contrary in these Statutes, all decisions shall be made by the majority (50% + 1) of votes validly cast.</p>	<p>Article 20. Quorums</p> <p>20.1 In order for the General Assembly to be validly convened, <u>more than</u> 50 % of the Members having voting rights must be present.</p> <p>Article 21. Voting</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>21.4 Save any indication to the contrary in these Statutes, all decisions shall be made by <u>more than</u> 50% of votes validly cast.</p>