



**T H E S T A T U T E S**

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# THE STATUTES OF AIPS

## CHAPTER I

### NAME, OBJECTIVES, LEGAL SEAT, HEADQUARTERS, APPLICABLE LAW AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

#### **Article 1**     NAME

The Association of Sports Journalists world-wide called "The International Sports Press Association" was established in Paris, in 1924, as L'Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive. The officially approved abbreviation of the name of the Association is AIPS.

#### **Article 2**     DESCRIPTION

AIPS is an association of National Sports Journalists' Associations, which meets regularly and within which, each member association retains its autonomy and independence.

#### **Article 3**     OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of AIPS are:

- a/** - to bring together, under its auspices, the National Associations of professional sports journalists;
- b/** - to encourage and assist with the foundation of National Associations for sports journalists in countries where they do not now exist;
- c/** - to recognize and maintain the authority and autonomy of its member associations;
- d/** - to promote closer links between its member associations and the sports organizations;
- e/** - to coordinate and protect the ethical and professional interests of its members and its member associations;
- f/** - to develop the sporting spirit and solidarity among sports journalists throughout the world and to spread the ideals of fair-play in sports journalism and sports reporting;
- g/** - to collaborate with organizations having as their objective the promotion of sport on a world-wide basis and to encourage them to facilitate the work of professional sport media;
- h/** - to collect, collate and circulate information to and among its members and to convey to other organizations its views and decisions;

- i/ - to establish, to maintain, publish and distribute its official publications;
- j/ - to assist sports organizations which form mixed media Commissions and to help all sports organizing bodies by providing its experts to consult and advise in creating the best possible media service.

- 3.1** AIPS makes no distinction between its members with respect to nationality, race, religion, gender or political and philosophical beliefs. It is actively opposed to any sort of discrimination that could hinder their professional activity or their right to work and their right to travel, even in the case of member associations in countries which do not maintain appropriate diplomatic relations.

**Article 4 LEGAL SEAT, SECRETARIAT AND APPLICABLE LAW**

- 4.1** The legal seat of AIPS is located in Lausanne, Switzerland unless the Congress shall decide otherwise. The administrative headquarters of AIPS shall be located where decided by the Executive Committee.

The names of the continental sections shall be AIPS Europe, AIPS Africa, AIPS America and AIPS Asia.

- 4.2** AIPS is subject to Swiss law, and more specifically to articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.
- 4.3** AIPS is fully responsible for the association's obligations by means of its patrimony, with the exclusion of any personal liability of any of its members, organs or employees.

**Article 5 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

- 5.1** The official languages of AIPS are English, French and Spanish. Other languages may be used as working languages if so decided by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2** Unless otherwise specified, English will be considered as the working language of AIPS and shall be considered as the prevailing reference if there is any difference of any interpretation of any document, including in particular the Statutes.

## CHAPTER II

### MEMBERS

#### Article 6 AIPS MEMBERSHIP

##### 6.1 Member associations

The only member associations of AIPS are the National Associations.

Only the Ordinary Congress may grant membership to the National Sports Journalists' Associations whose Statutes correspond to those of AIPS. Only one member association will be recognized in each country.

A National Association is an independent, duly constituted group of professional sports journalists working in print or electronic media and professional sports photographers.

The Executive Committee has the right to grant a temporary membership for an applicant National Association until a final membership decision is made during the following Congress.

The member associations are grouped into continental sections which shall conform to the AIPS Statutes and Bye-laws.

The continental sections are responsible to promote and implement AIPS interests within their geographic sphere of influence.

##### 6.2 Individual members

The Executive Committee has the right to grant an individual membership Statutes to sports journalists and photographers in countries where a National Association does not exist.

##### 6.3 Honorary members

AIPS can bestow the special distinction of Honorary Members to those who have performed meritorious service to AIPS and sports journalism around the world. Honorary membership is proposed by the Executive Committee, to be approved by the Congress. Honorary membership categories are:

- Honorary Member;
- Honorary Life President;
- Honorary Life General Secretary.

The Honorary Life Presidents, the Honorary Life General Secretaries and the Honorary Members can be invited to the Congress or to the Executive Committee meetings at the discretion of the Executive Committee on an advisory capacity. Should such a member desire to become a candidate in

future elections he/she must step down from their respective honorary positions.

#### **6.4 Associate Members**

AIPS may grant Associate Member status to media relations officers of sports organizations and to those others whom it deems deserving of such status. They can attend the Congress and speak by invitation, but have no voting power.

#### **6.5 Expatriate Members**

In the case of journalists living and working in a country other than their country of nationality, and who apply to become an AIPS member through the National Association of the country in which they are legally authorized to be employed and to be resident, the host National Association must seek the approval of the National Association which appears on the passport of the individual seeking AIPS membership.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **CONGRESSES**

#### **Article 7 CONGRESSES: THE ORDINARY CONGRESS**

- 7.1 The supreme governing organ of AIPS is the Congress.
- 7.2 The Congress shall consist of a meeting which shall ordinarily be held annually but must be held at least once in every two years. All paid-up members shall have the right to attend and vote. Membership and all other payments must be in order before the Opening of the Congress.  
The Congress shall be convened three (3) months in advance.
- 7.3 The Congress shall have the right, subject to these Statutes and the By-laws appertaining thereto, to conduct all businesses relevant to the objectives of and approved by and on behalf of AIPS.
- 7.4 The Congress shall confirm the place of the next Congress, and if possible, shall decide on the venue of the Congress following the next one.

#### **Article 8 CONGRESSES: THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS**

At the request of the Executive Committee or upon receipt by the General Secretary of a written request from at least one fifth (1/5) of the members, an Extraordinary Congress may be convened. A minimum of thirty (30) days notification shall be given to the members. Such notification shall

include the details of the reason for convening the Extraordinary Congress. No business other than that specified in the notification shall be mandatory at such an Extraordinary Congress.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **FINANCES**

#### **Article 9 MEMBERSHIP FEE AND AIPS CARD FEE**

- 9.1** Each AIPS member or associate member shall pay an annual membership fee, the amount of which will be determined by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Committee.
- 9.2** The membership fee as approved by the Congress shall be due and payable on the next succeeding January 1st. Membership and all other payments must be in order before the Opening of the Congress.
- 9.3** AIPS shall issue personal membership press identification cards (the AIPS card) to all journalists belonging to AIPS member associations, to individual members in countries without any AIPS member and to Honorary AIPS Members. The AIPS card shall be valid for a 2 years term, renewable.
- 9.4** AIPS cardholders can only hold one single AIPS card even if they are members in more than one member association. The amount of the AIPS card shall be determined for two years by the Congress. However the Executive Committee is entitled to reduce at its discretion the amount of such fee in special circumstances.

#### **Article 10 FINANCES, AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 10.1** Under the authority of the Executive Committee and subject to the attributions of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Treasurer is responsible for the management and supervision of the AIPS finances and for the maintenance of accurate and up to date financial records. The Treasurer shall regularly visit the Headquarters to perform his responsibilities and he shall require a monthly financial report be prepared by the Secretariat for his analysis and for distribution to the members of the Bureau, as well as a quarterly financial report to the members of the Executive Committee.
- 10.2** The Audit and Finance Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer, acting as Chairman, and two other persons chosen among the AIPS members and appointed by the Executive Committee.

- 10.3** Subject to the attributions of the auditors as set forth under article 11 below, the Audit and Finance Commission shall be responsible for the supervision of the finances of AIPS.
- 10.4** The President and General Secretary shall have joint signing authority to enter into any financial obligation of AIPS. The Executive Committee may appoint two other persons to whom joint authority may be delegated. In all cases, the joint signature of two of the above mentioned persons shall be required in order for AIPS to enter into any financial obligation.
- 10.5** The fiscal year of the AIPS shall be the calendar year January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Article 11** **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The annual accounts of AIPS shall be audited by an external independent professional auditor. The auditor may be an auditing firm. The auditor is appointed annually by the Executive Committee. The mission of the auditor shall be to audit the AIPS' annual accounts. The auditors shall submit their report to the Congress based on the financial documents of AIPS which shall be put at their disposal at least one month prior to the Congress.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Article 12** **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE BUREAU**

The administrative bodies of AIPS are:

- a) the Executive Committee;
- b) the Bureau;
- c) the Commissions;
- d) the General Secretary.

**12.1 The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall comprise:

- a) the President;
- b) the First Vice-President;
- c) four (4) other Vice-Presidents;



d) **four (4) Vice-presidents ex officio, the presidents of the Continental Sections**

e) the Treasurer;

f) thirteen (13) members;

**12.2** The Congress elects the members of the Executive Committee for a period of four (4) years except the 4 vice presidents ex officio.

**12.3** Only members from fully paid-up associations can be elected to the Executive Committee. Member associations can present the candidature of only one member for not more that two (2) positions of the Executive Committee.

The following persons are eligible:

a) Professional sports journalists who are members of a National Association and holders of valid AIPS cards. Candidacy is personal and individual, but only National Associations have the right to present the candidature of their members. Only full time professional journalists can be candidate for any position;

b) Elected members of the Executive Committee are eligible for re-election with the approval of their National Association and continental section.

**12.4** The elected members of the Executive Committee are individual and independent representing AIPS. They fulfill their duties without remuneration. The Executive Committee shall have the right to determine any salary, fee or other compensation for any official or employee of the Association, should the necessity arise. The National Associations are responsible for the travel costs of their members in the Executive Committee. In exceptional circumstances AIPS may reimburse the meeting travel expense for an elected member of the Executive Committee who applies to the Committee in advance for subsidization.

**12.5** The mandate of the **President** is for one term of four (4) years renewable. If the President for any reason is not able to continue his mandate, the First Vice President automatically takes over the Presidency and acts as "ad interim President" during the interim period. An election for the President will be held during the following Congress.

If the first **Vice-President** for any reason is not able to continue his / her position, he / she is to be replaced during the interim period by the other Vice-President having received the highest number of votes during the Congress Election of that particular term. An election for the First Vice-President will be held during the following Congress.

If the **Treasurer**, for any reason cannot continue his / her position, the President will take over the duties of the Treasurer during the interim

period. An election for the Treasurer will be held during the following Congress.

Should a **Member** of the Executive Committee not attend three (3) consecutive official meetings (Congress, Executive meeting, Bureau meeting) without valid reason, the matter will be discussed by the Executive Committee and if necessary, the member shall stand down and a new candidate will be invited to seek election.

## **12.6 The Bureau**

The Bureau of AIPS is formed up of the President, the First Vice-President, the Vice-President having received the highest number of votes during the Congress Election of that particular term, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and a Vice-president ex officio rotating every year. The Bureau meets at least once in every four (4) months to assess the administrative set-up and progress of the Association and to settle all matters of current interest.

## **12.7 Commissions**

The sports journalists specialized in a particular sport can be constituted in Commissions. Within their branch of sport, these Commissions are responsible for the assertion of AIPS aims and interests and to cooperate with the Sports Associations and organizing bodies to carry out the AIPS principles. They are obliged to observe the AIPS Statutes and Bye-Laws.

## **Article 13 GENERAL SECRETARY**

- 13.1** The General Secretary shall be responsible for the work of the AIPS Secretariat, regardless of his place of residence.
- 13.2** The General Secretary shall be considered as an employee of AIPS and shall therefore receive compensation for his / her services.
- 13.3** The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from AIPS members.
- 13.4** The General Secretary shall be invited to take part to the meetings of the Executive Committee; however, he / she shall not be entitled to vote.
- 13.5** If the General Secretary for any reason is not able to continue his / her position, the new General Secretary shall be appointed during the following meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Article 14 DELEGATION OF COMPETENCE**

- 14.1** The Executive Committee shall, between meetings of the Congress and subject to the authority of the Congress and subject to these Statutes and Bye-laws appertaining hereto, be empowered to carry out all current affairs on behalf of the Association.
- 14.2** The Executive Committee shall meet at least once between the Congresses during each year of its period of office.
- 14.3** Between Executive Committee meetings, the Bureau shall deal with the Association's current business and be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Association, subject to the authority of the Executive Committee and the Congress.
- 14.4** The Executive Committee may appoint an Executive Director, who shall be responsible to the Executive Committee, through the Bureau, for the supervision and operation of the Secretariat and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned.
- 14.5** The Executive Committee may also appoint a Marketing Director, who would be responsible to them for conducting the marketing activities of AIPS.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **QUORUMS, VOTING, ELECTIONS**

**Article 15 QUORUMS**

- 15.1** The quorum for general business of the Congress shall be half of all paid-up member associations having voting rights and present in the Congress.
- 15.2** No proxy votes are accepted in meetings of the Congress or in meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 15.3** The voting majority required to effect changes to these Statutes or to the Bye-laws of the Association, or for the suspension or expulsion of members, or for the dissolution of the Association shall be three quarters (3/4) of all paid-up members having voting rights and present in the Congress.
- 15.4** The voting majority required for other matters which may come before the Congress shall be a majority of those present at the time of the vote.

- 15.5** The voting majority in meetings of the Executive Committee shall be the majority of all present members of the Executive Committee at the time of the vote. In case of equal votes the President shall have the casting vote.

**Article 16 VOTING**

- 16.1** All members whose membership fees are paid up-to-date by the day before the respective meeting shall each have one vote.
- 16.2** Individual and Honorary Members shall have no vote, but shall have the right to speak.
- 16.3** Each member of the Executive Committee shall refrain from voting during the Congress unless he/she is the sole delegate present from his / her duly-accredited National Association.
- 16.4** Except in the case of elections, voting shall always be by show of hands, unless two (2) or more members request a secret ballot.

**Article 17 ELECTIONS**

- 17.1** Voting for elections shall always be by secret ballot.
- 17.2** Elections of members of the Executive Committee require an absolute majority on the first ballot. Failing this a further ballot is held excluding the name of the candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first ballot. Candidate(s) who receive(s) a simple majority in the second ballot, is/are elected. In case of equal votes, a further ballot among those candidates shall be held. If additional ballot(s) (are necessary), the name of the candidate having received the fewest votes at the preceding ballot shall be eliminated from the list of candidates and sure not taken into account.
- 17.3** If there is only one nominee for any office when nominations close, the nominated candidate shall be elected by acclamation.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION**

**Article 18 RESIGNATION**

- 18.1** A member association may resign at any time, provided that at the time of the resignation the member association has no outstanding liabilities to the Association and is a fully paid-up Member.

- 18.2** Such resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt by the General Secretary of a notice of resignation signed by the President or Chairman and the General Secretary or Treasurer of the member association. Such resignation shall be reported to the next Congress by the General Secretary of AIPS.

**Article 19 SUSPENSION**

- 19.1** A member association may be suspended from membership by proposal of the Executive Committee and by a three quarter (3/4) majority of all of votes cast at the Congress, for the following reasons:
- a) non-payment of any liabilities to AIPS;
  - b) becoming two (2) years or more in arrears with membership fee due to AIPS;
  - c) failure to comply with the provisions of these Statutes or the By-laws appertaining thereto.
- 19.2** Suspended member associations may apply to the Executive Committee to have the suspension lifted upon rectifying the transgressions on which the suspension was based. If the Executive Committee deems the matter has been normalized in a satisfactory fashion, it shall recommend the lifting of the suspension to the next Congress.

**Article 20 EXPULSION**

A member association may be expelled from membership by a resolution passed by a three quarter (3/4) majority of all votes cast at the Congress, for the following reasons:

- a) refusal to pay any liabilities due to AIPS;
- b) non-payment of membership fees due to AIPS for four (4) or more years;
- c) refusal to comply with the provisions of these Statutes and the By-laws.

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 21 BYE-LAWS**

The Bye-laws appertaining to these Statutes shall come into force when approved by the Congress, and shall not be altered or rescinded unless a subsequent Congress shall so decide.

**Article 22 INTERPRETATION**

The authority for interpreting any dispute arising from these Statutes, or the Bye-laws appertaining thereto, shall belong to the President, who shall seek the advice of the Executive Committee or the Congress before taking the final decision.

**Article 23 MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

These Statutes may only be modified by the Congress.

**Article 24 DISSOLUTION**

- 24.1** The dissolution of AIPS may be decided by the Congress, by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of all paid up member associations present in the Congress.
- 24.2** AIPS shall be dissolved by operation of law, when it has ceased to be solvent or when it has become impossible to appoint the Executive Committee in accordance with its Statutes and Bye-laws.
- 24.3** If, upon the dissolution of AIPS, there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to, or distributed among the member association of AIPS, but shall be applied to the furtherance of any objective or objectives of the AIPS, as may be determined by the Congress at, or before, the time of dissolution. In case the foregoing requirements could not be achieved, the remaining assets of AIPS shall be transferred to a charity.

**Article 25 MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERS' RIGHTS**

Any dispute arising from or related to the interpretation or implementation of the present Statutes and their Bye-laws will be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, and resolved definitively in accordance with the Code of Sport's related arbitration. The provision of the Swiss Civil Code, in particular Article 75 of the Swiss Civil Code, shall be applicable.

**Article 26 TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**

The following articles of these statutes shall enter into force with the beginning of the Ordinary Congress held in 2009:

Article 12.1  
Article 13.2  
Article 13.3  
Article 13.4  
Article 13.5

## **Article 27 FINAL DECLARATION**

No discussion or votes by AIPS shall affect in any way, the freedom and independence of any member association, who shall, in all cases, retain complete independence and control over all matters falling within the field of activity of the member association.

These modified Statutes were approved by the Congress held in Antalya, Turkey, on May 1, 2010. They come into force immediately.

\* \* \*

## **THE BYE-LAWS TO THE STATUTES OF AIPS**

### **BYE-LAW 1 - MEMBERSHIP**

Membership falls into one of the following categories:

#### **1.1 Members**

- a) National Sports Journalists Associations (NSJA) which group together the professional sports writers, including those writing for the electronic media, TV and radio sports reporters and commentators, sports photographers and sports freelancers and which meet regularly.

A National Sports Journalists Association can be admitted only if its Statutes correspond to those of AIPS. Only one association in each country is eligible for admission to the AIPS.

- b) Individual members in the countries or areas where a National Sports Journalists Association does not exist.
- c) All professional members of a National Sports Journalist Association, all individual members as well as Honorary Members may have an AIPS press card valid for a two (2) years' period.

#### **1.2 Associate members**

AIPS may grant Associate Member Statutes to media relations officers of sports organizations and to those others whom it deems deserving of such Statutes.

### **1.3 Honorary Members**

All regulations for Honorary Members are in the Statutes, Chapter II, Article 6.3.

### **1.4 New Members**

**1.4.1** Investigations as to the bona fides of any applicant association shall be conducted by the Secretariat. No commitment as to the outcome of any application may be given by any person on behalf of AIPS.

**1.4.2** Applications for membership shall be submitted to the AIPS Secretariat at least three (3) months prior to the first day of the Congress during which the application is to be considered, together with:

- a) a copy of the applicant Association's Statutes;
- b) the names and addresses of the applicant Association's Executive Committee;
- c) a written guarantee that they are ready to pay their membership fees.

**1.4.3** A new member association which has paid up its dues in full will have voting rights at the Congress.

## **BYE-LAW 2 - THE CONGRESS AND DELEGATES**

**2.1** The Congress is held at least every two (2) years in a place accessible to the representatives of all member associations. The Congress elects the Executive Committee of AIPS every four (4) years.

**2.2** During the official period of the Congress, the Organizing Committee undertakes to provide accommodation and hospitality to the Executive Committee members and the Secretariat, the AIPS Honorary Members, one (1) delegate from each member association and one (1) representative of each Commission who are invited by the Executive Committee.

Each member association is entitled to send a second delegate at their own cost. Individual candidates for election to the Executive Committee may be invited, at their own cost, upon approval of the Secretariat.

Each member association shall confirm in the accreditation form by official signature and stamp the right of their Delegate to represent and vote for the Association in the Congress.



- 2.3** The Congress shall generally be held in the month of April or May, its place having been determined by the previous Congress, whereas the Organizing Committee shall be responsible for setting its dates and venue. The program of the Congress shall not take more than three (3) full working days except in unusual circumstances. Only the member associations and Executive Committee Members have the right to make proposals and motions for the Congress.

All motions, proposals and nominations of candidacies must be received by the Secretariat written in one (1) of the official languages, three months prior to the first day of the Congress. If the documents are not received by the Secretariat before the due date, they shall be considered to be late and void.

- 2.4** The Congress Agenda, reports from the President, General Secretary and the Treasurer, motions and proposals from the Executive Committee and motions and proposals from the member associations as well as the nominations for candidacies to the Executive Committee must be submitted to the member associations at least five (5) weeks before the Congress.

- 2.5** The duties of the Congress include, but are not limited to:

- a) revision of the AIPS Statutes and Bye-laws for approval during an Extraordinary Congress;
- b) approval of the Minutes of the preceding Congress;
- c) approval of the annual reports of the President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer;
- d) approval of the accounts as well as of the auditor's report;
- e) approval of the budget and setting of annual fees and price of the AIPS card;
- f) decisions concerning directives and recommendations;
- g) elections;
- h) approval of new member associations;
- i) decisions on motions and proposals presented by the Executive Committee and member associations;
- j) selection of the place of the next Congress.

No resolution or motion presented from the floor without having first met the requirements of Article 2.3 of these Bye-laws shall be voted on for decision during the Congress.

- 2.6** A delegate of a member association may never vote in the name of another member association.

- 2.7** A member of the Executive Committee may only vote if he/she is the sole delegate from his / her National Association.
- 2.8** Continental sections or any other group meeting among themselves during the Congress shall be responsible for the production of the agenda for their meeting. Business which they conduct shall be their own concern and any conclusion or decision shall not be binding upon the Congress but may be advanced as a recommendation for study and future disposition. Any proposal of such a meeting during the course of the AIPS Congress, and which does not concern an amendment of the Statutes, can be taken up as a topic of discussion, with the approval of the Congress.

### **BYE-LAW 3 - CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

#### **3.1 Presidency**

- 3.1.1** The President shall preside over the Congress, the Extraordinary Congress and every meeting of the Executive Committee. If the President is absent, unable or unwilling to preside, then the First Vice-President shall preside over the meeting as Chairman.
- 3.1.2** No papers/documents for information, discussion or decision except for the resolution prepared by the Congress shall be read to the Congress. They shall be circulated or distributed among the delegates in advance or during the Congress. The delegate of the member association presenting the proposal or the motion, may then elaborate on any points needing explanation, by permission of the Chairman.

#### **3.2 Minutes of the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee**

The Minutes of the meetings shall be prepared in the three (3) official languages of AIPS and circulated by the Secretariat. No correction or alteration to the Minutes will be accepted unless written notification has been received and acknowledged by the Secretariat within two (2) months of the date of circulation of the Minutes to the members.

### **BYE-LAW 4 - REGULATIONS FOR CONTINENTAL SECTIONS**

**PREAMBLE** In accordance with Chapter 2, Article 6.1 paragraphs 5 et 6 of the AIPS Statutes, the National Associations of sports journalists can be regrouped in continental sections. The continental sections may be independent associations founded by the AIPS member associations in that particular continent but their Statutes must conform with the AIPS Statutes. These Sections would represent AIPS as parts of AIPS in every continent.

A National Sports Journalist Association cannot be a member of an AIPS continental section only. They must apply for the AIPS

membership and after the AIPS Congress has confirmed their membership, they can join the continental section.

- 4.1** The continental sections should develop the principles, the influence and the world-wide representation of AIPS. They must then indicate in their documents:
- a)** that they are continental sections of AIPS;
  - b)** that they popularize the emblem of AIPS in order to improve the effectiveness of the AIPS card which is the sole universally recognized card of sports journalists.
- 4.2** Every continental section, in its continental limits, benefits by the functional autonomy concerning:
- a)** the close liaison with the continent's National Associations of the sports journalists members of AIPS;
  - b)** the liaisons needed for the continental work with the AIPS Commissions;
  - c)** the application of AIPS directives for the organization of press services at continental competitions;
  - d)** the liaison with the continental sports organizations.
- 4.3** As this autonomy represents the delegated power of the Executive Committee, each Section shall inform the Executive Committee of its activities or initiatives. The official documents of the Congress, Executive Committee and Bureau meetings of the continental sections must be sent to the AIPS Headquarters within one (1) month of being held.
- 4.4** The representation vis-à-vis the world sports bodies and the press organization of world or intercontinental events, remains always under the exclusive responsibility of the AIPS Bureau. In some cases the Executive Committee may delegate the responsibility to a continental section.
- 4.5** Continental sections may hold their Congress the day preceding the Congress of AIPS.

## **BYE-LAW 5 - REGULATIONS FOR COMMISSIONS**

**PREAMBLE** A Commission is a working group of professional journalists (AIPS Statutes, Chapter V, Article 12.7) - holders of AIPS Card who are experts in a particular sport.

The Commissions - together with the Executive Committee -, according to the AIPS Statutes, are responsible for the contacts with the International Sports Federations in various sports and with the organizers of their main competitions, including all principal matters,

supports, nominations of the AIPS delegates and possible Joint Commissions.

The task of a Commission in its particular sport is to cater for all practical work in order to obtain for the media the best facilities and working conditions as well as the best understanding in their professional activities. The Commission shall make proposals to the Executive Committee to nominate delegates for important competitions.

- 5.1** The Commissions are organs of AIPS and may only be established after application to the Executive Committee. The members of the Commissions are appointed by the Executive Committee, which is entitled to revoke such appointment at any time. Only member associations may submit candidates for appointment to Commissions.
- 5.2** Every Commission should be formed of a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members holders of valid AIPS Cards including a Chairman, Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an other member.

Notwithstanding the above, when it turns out to be impossible to appoint a full Commission, the Executive Committee shall nevertheless nominate one (1), or more, delegates experts.

The Chairman of a Commission shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years renewable. Only the national member association has the right to nominate its candidate for application and appointment by the Executive Committee. A member association can have only one member in the Commission. If any member of the Commission is not an AIPS cardholder, the whole Commission is void.

It is of an utmost importance that there is photographers' representative and a representative of the electronic media in the Commission, and when possible a representative or a contact person from every continent.

AIPS Cardholders may be members in maximum two (2) Commissions and Chairman in only one (1) Commission.

The Executive Committee has the right to nominate a liaison Executive Committee member to any Commission.

The Executive Committee must have a complete, detailed financial report supported by receipts for deciding at its sole discretion upon the annual financial support to be given to the full operative Commissions.

The Executive Committee decides at its sole discretion upon the annual financial support to be provided to any Commission, based on a complete, detailed financial report supported by receipt and submitted by the concerned Commission.

- 5.3** The Commissions shall meet at least once a year, preferably on the occasion of major international events.

The AIPS Secretariat has to be informed in due time of any formal meetings of the Commission and the Executive Committee retains the right to nominate its liaison for such meetings.

- 5.4** Administrative tasks: Minutes of the meetings of the Commissions are to be kept in good order, copies shall be sent to the AIPS Secretariat.

Every Commission must include the AIPS official Logo on all letter-heads, communications, official press releases and on any other form of publication related to the said Commissions as well as the names and addresses of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary and names of the members of the said Commission.

The Executive Committee must be informed of and eventually approve or reject any financial sponsorship entered into by the Commissions to prevent any conflict of interest prior to the said agreement.

- 5.5** Officials within the Commissions can be authorized by the Executive Committee to get directly in touch with the Organizing Committees of international sports events and with the International Sports Federations and with the Sports Journalists' National Association of the organizing country. However, they must keep in touch with the AIPS Delegate for that particular international event.

- 5.6** Commissions with the consent of the Executive Committee can form part of a Mixed Commission within an International Sport Federation for the benefit of both the Commission itself and AIPS. The Executive Committee is to be notified and be kept informed upon all the developments within such Mixed Commissions.

- 5.7** Activities of the Commissions must be included in the Agenda of the AIPS Congress. A written report from each Commission shall be presented annually to the Congress.

- 5.8** The AIPS Secretariat directs all its efforts to assure the material functioning of each Commission. Periodically, the Secretariat is to be notified of the activities held within the Commission. These activities will be circulated accordingly to AIPS member associations'.

- 5.9** The Executive Committee retains the right to take any action to assure that all Commissions observe these rules.

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Antalya, Turkey, May 1, 2010