

## **EBF Constitution**

This Constitution consists of a set of statutes, regulations and rules, which govern the mode in which the European Bowling Federation (EBF) is organised and operates. It is divided into the following 2 chapters:

- 1 Statutes,
- 2 Regulations.

### Note

*In the EBF Constitution, the masculine gender used in relation to any physical person (for example, names such as member, official, participant, competitor, athlete, referee, member of a jury, or pronouns such as he, they, them) shall, unless there is a specific provision to the contrary, be understood as including the feminine gender.*

## 1. Statutes

The first World organization for the sport of bowling was founded in Hamburg, Germany on 27 January 1952. The present name of the organization, International Bowling Federation was decided at an Extra Ordinary Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland on 2 November 2020.

*The International Bowling Federation (IBF) is divided into the following five geographical zones:*

- The American Zone, named the Pan-American Bowling (PANAM),
- The Asian Zone, named the Asian Bowling Federation (ABF),
- The European Zone, named the European Bowling Federation (EBF),
- The African Zone (BFA),
- The Oceania Zone (OBF).

The geographical area of EBF includes the continent of Europe, the British Isles, Israel and the islands of the North Atlantic.

Upon recognition from IBF, EBF shall enjoy the rights and benefits conferred on zones under the IBF Articles of Association, including (without limitation) recognition as the sole continental authority for Bowling in Europe, the British Isles, Israel and the islands of the North Atlantic and the right for its President to represent it on the Committee of IBF.

To be recognized as a Zone Organisation (ZO), a body (legal entity other than an person) must satisfy all the requirements defined in the IBF Constitution.

EBF declares:

- i) opposition to any discrimination of any kind, such as age, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, disability, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,
- ii) to be bound by and to comply with IBF Statutes and Regulations and the IBF Code of Ethics,
- iii) to incorporate Anti-Doping regulations that are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and the IBF Anti-Doping Rules,
- iv) to incorporate any other regulation IBF adopts regarding approved events, anti-corruption, integrity, fair play etc.,
- v) to uphold fair and transparent election processes.

EBF agrees not to amend its articles, or to adopt any by-laws or rules and regulations for the conduct of its affairs, without the approval of the IBF Committee. It also agrees to admit into membership NBFs (National Bowling Federation) that are

Members of the IBF for countries or territories that are located within the continent for which the EBF is responsible, and only those NBFs; and it must continue to recognize an NBF as a Member of the EBF for so long as that NBF is and remains a Member of the IBF. If the Member withdraws from or is suspended or expelled from membership of the IBF, it shall automatically be deemed to have withdrawn from, or to be suspended or expelled from membership of the EBF.

The Articles of Association of IBF shall not create a partnership or agency between IBF and EBF. EBF is not liable for the debts or obligations of the IBF, and the IBF is not liable for the debts or obligations of EBF.

Upon recognition from IBF, EBF shall enjoy the rights and benefits conferred on zones under the IBF Articles of Association, including (without limitation) recognition as the sole continental authority for Bowling in EBF and the right for its President to represent it on the Committee of IBF.

EBF's member federations are IBF's member federations from the geographical area defined above.

EBF was established in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 July 1965 and the first edition of EBF's Statutes was decided by a Congress, held in s'Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands on 31 March 1979.

## **1.1 Name and Office**

### **1.1.1**

This organisation shall be known as the European Bowling Federation, hereinafter referred to as EBF.

### **1.1.2**

Its main office shall be established in country and city where the President resides unless provided otherwise by its Presidium.

### **1.1.3**

The use of the logo of EBF is allowed by all EBF member federations, providing they are using the logo according to the instructions mentioned in the EBF Corporate Manual, which must be publicly available on EBF website.

## **1.2 Purposes**

### **1.2.1**

To encourage the administration, promotion and development of bowling throughout the EBF geographical area, pursuant to a strategic plan that is developed and maintained in consultation with the Committee of IBF and is consistent with the strategic plan of IBF.

### **1.2.2**

To establish rules and by-laws for the EBF activities and make sure they are not contradictory to *IBF's* regulations.

### **1.2.3**

To maintain an efficient communication system within the EBF organisation.

### **1.2.4**

To support and encourage national organisations in their efforts to develop and promote bowling within the respective countries.

### **1.2.5**

To conduct European bowling championships for adult and youth members of the EBF member federations as are delegated to it by the IBF Committee, on such terms and conditions as the IBF Committee may specify.

### **1.2.6**

To organize and/or approve other tournaments, events and matches within the zone in accordance with the Statutes, Regulations and by-laws provided that the proposed dates and rules for such tournaments, events and matches are approved in advance by the IBF Committee.

### **1.2.7**

To promote international competition in bowling within the EBF geographical area, especially those events anticipating entries from different countries

### **1.2.8**

To establish prerequisite conditions for conducting championships and international tournaments.

#### 1.2.9

To contribute to the development of bowling worldwide through the EBF representatives of the IBF Committee.

#### 1.2.10

To support the efforts of the IBF to get bowling accepted as a fully recognized competition in the Olympic Games.

#### 1.2.11

To maintain a financial structure, guaranteeing the continued existence of the organisation.

### 1.3 Official Language

The official language of the EBF shall be English. A member federation shall have the right to bring an interpreter to Congresses and meetings at its own costs.

### 1.4 Membership

#### 1.4.1 Eligibility

- a) EBF membership shall include all of IBF's member federations, within EBF's geographical area, as defined by the IBF.
- b) To be eligible to participate in EBF activities all fees required by the IBF and EBF must have been paid in due time.

#### 1.4.2 Rights of the members

- a) To take part in EBF Congresses in accordance with the stipulations, propose motions and make election proposals. Each member federation has one vote at the EBF Congresses.
- b) To take part in all EBF activities with equal rights.
- c) To appeal to the EBF Presidium in cases of disputes between member federations. If a second appeal is desired, it must be submitted in writing within 30 days to the IBF Committee for a final action.

- d) To receive current information about important proceedings within the EBF.

#### 1.4.3 Obligations of the members

- a) To adhere to the EBF Statutes, the decisions taken by the EBF Congress and any rules and regulations resulting there from.
- b) To formulate their own statutes in such a way that they are not in contradiction with the EBF Statutes and to adopt a regulation which subjects each of their individual members to the jurisdiction of EBF.
- c) To adhere to recognized sport principles and good sportsmanship at international events.
- d) To submit immediately the fees, which have been stipulated by the EBF, in order to be eligible to vote at EBF Congresses and to participate in EBF Championships.
- e) To supply immediately such information as may be required by the EBF Presidium.
- f) To have at least one valid e-mail address.

### 1.5 Organisational structure

#### 1.5.1 The decision-making agencies of the EBF are in the following order:

- a) The Ordinary Congress,
- b) The Extraordinary Congress,
- c) The Presidium.

#### 1.5.2 Email ballots

- a) In urgent matters, on which a decision cannot wait until the next Congress, the Presidium may circulate the motion to the member federations and ask for an email ballot.
- b) The quorum for an e-mail ballot shall be the same as for a Congress. If any federation fails to vote within the prescribed time limit, they shall be deemed as not being present.
- c) Unless otherwise specified when a motion is presented, simple majority shall determine the decision. An abstention does not count as a vote delivered.
- d) Soonest possible after the deadline has passed, the Secretary General shall advise all members of the outcome of the ballot. The result of e-mail ballots shall be binding to all member federations.

### 1.5.3

All correspondence within the Presidium, to and from the member federations and with other external sources, will be circulated solely via e-mail.

## 1.6 Congress

### 1.6.1 Legislative Authority

- a) The Congress shall be composed of delegates from each of the EBF member federations and comprise the legislative and policy making body of EBF.
- b) Its decisions shall be binding on all member federations and can be altered only by the Congress.
- c) The authority of the Congress (and thus that of the EBF) does not extend to the internal affairs of any member federation.

### 1.6.2 Member representation, Voting Rights, Delegates

- a) A member federation may be represented at an EBF Congress by a maximum of three delegates, only one of whom shall have voting rights. The names of the delegates must be submitted in writing, stating the name of the federation they represent and signed by an authorised officer of the federation. The voting delegate shall retain the voting status until the next Congress, or until a successor is duly appointed by the respective federation.
- b) A member federation, which cannot be represented at the Congress, may give its proxy to another federation. Each federation shall be eligible to vote only one proxy. In all cases, the written proxy authority must be submitted to the President in the presence of the Congress for validation, before the proxy can be exercised. Such proxy must be submitted in writing stating the name of the federation to whom the vote is to be transferred and signed by an authorised officer of the federation.
- c) A member of the Presidium may vote only if he represents a member federation.
- d) Member federations must be current in their IBF and EBF fees and must not be under suspension to be eligible for voice or vote.
- e) A quorum shall be at least one third of member federations eligible to vote, including proxy votes.
- f) Voting at each Congress shall be on the basis of one vote per member federation by open voting unless the delegates by simple majority vote request a secret ballot. Where a tie exists the motion shall be rejected. If, however, a tie exists in the case of elections, the chairman shall call

for a second vote and if a tie still exists the Congress shall decide the procedure.

- g) A simple majority shall determine decisions of the Congress except that a two-third (2/3) majority of the votes delivered shall be required for adoption of amendments to the Statutes, debate and voting of proposals not received in due time.

Note: An abstention does not count as a vote delivered.

- h) Guests may participate in the proceedings only at the invitation of the President or upon the majority approval by the Congress.

### 1.6.3 Meetings

- a) The Ordinary Congress shall be held every two years.
- b) An Extraordinary Congress shall be convened when called for by
- The Ordinary Congress,
  - The President,
  - The Presidium,
  - The President on a written request from at least one-third (1/3) of the member federations.
- c) The invitation to the Congress shall be sent to the e-mail address of each member federation at least three months prior to the date of the meeting.
- d) Proposals from the federations to be debated and voted upon at the Congress shall be received by the President at least two months prior to the date of the meeting.
- e) The agenda and proposals from the Presidium and federations shall be sent to the member federations at least four clear weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- f) The agenda for the Ordinary Congress shall include the following:
- Opening of the Congress,
  - Roll call, validation of proxies and determination of voting rights,
  - Appointment of chairman and secretary of the Congress,
  - Adoption of minutes of the previous Congress and dealing with matters arising there from,
  - Presidium's report covering the foregoing two business years,
  - Financial report covering the foregoing two business years,
  - Auditors' report,
  - Dealing with matters arising from the presented reports,
  - Release of the Presidium,
  - New business,
  - Legislative session,

- Elections (where applicable):
    - President,
    - Vice President,
    - Presidium members,
    - Two auditors and one substitute.
  - Establishment of fees and budget,
  - Plans and dates of coming EBF championships and meetings,
  - Closing the meeting.
- g) Only proposals submitted in due time shall be considered unless the Congress decides by a two-third (2/3) majority that others warrant consideration for emergency reasons. At an Extraordinary Congress, however, only matters set out on the agenda shall be considered and voted upon.
- h) Summary minutes of each EBF Congress shall be prepared by the secretary for review and signed approval for distribution by the President within one month after which they are to be distributed to the member federations and Presidium members.
- i) EBF shall organise an Extraordinary Congress online if so decided by the Presidium, but only if a topic to decide upon is allowed without a secret ballot. Voting is therefore only possible with the show of hands.
- j) EBF could allow online streaming for the Ordinary Congress. The delegates watching the stream have no possibility to vote.
- k) All amendments adopted and new rules shall become effective as of 1 January of the next business year unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

## **1.7 Presidium**

### **1.7.1**

The Presidium shall be the executive and management body of the EBF. It shall consist of six (6) persons as follows:

- a) The EBF President,
- b) The EBF Vice President,
- c) Four (4) Presidium Members.

Both genders should be represented. If not and there is a non-elected candidate of the not represented gender, that candidate will be admitted as a fifth member of the presidium if there are 2 candidates or more of the not represented gender, then the one with the most votes will be the admitted fifth member.

#### 1.7.2

The President and CEO of IBF may attend meetings of the Presidium in ex-officio capacity with voice but no vote.

#### 1.7.3

Guests may participate in the meeting only at the invitation by the EBF President and upon majority approval by the Presidium.

#### 1.7.4

Decisions of the Presidium shall be by simple majority. If a tie exists the motion shall be rejected.

#### 1.7.5

The Presidium should meet at least once every year and more frequently when deemed necessary by the President or at least by three members of the Presidium.

#### 1.7.6

A quorum consists of four members of the Presidium provided that either the President or Vice President is present.

#### 1.7.7 Email ballots

- a) In urgent matters, an e-mail ballot may replace a formal meeting of the Presidium to decide on a specific matter.
- b) A quorum, in the case of an e-mail ballot, consists of four members of the Presidium, provided that either the President or Vice President has delivered a vote.
- c) Decisions shall be by simple majority, and if a tie exists the motion shall be rejected.
- d) An e-mail ballot may be initiated by any of the Presidium members.
- e) The result of an e-mail ballot will be confirmed and included in the minutes at the next Presidium meeting.

#### 1.7.8 Members of the Presidium

- a) Should a member of the Presidium become involved in a business related bowling organization, he should declare that immediately to the EBF Presidium, who will discuss the possibilities of conflict of interest and inform the member federations.
- b) Should a candidate for a position in the EBF Presidium be involved in a business related bowling organization, he should declare that to the EBF Congress before the election.

#### 1.7.9

If the President, Vice President, or a Member of the Presidium ceases to be a member of any EBF member federation, or in the case of death, disabilities, resignation, incapacity etc., the following procedures shall apply:

- a) Vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President until the next Ordinary Congress.
- b) Vacancy in the office of the Vice President shall be filled by a Presidium Member as elected by the Presidium until the next Ordinary Congress.
- c) If the total number of Presidium members is less than four, including the President and the Vice President, then an Extraordinary Congress shall be convened for the purpose of election.

### 1.8 Presidium Meetings

#### 1.8.1

The President shall give at least one month's notice for a regular meeting of the Presidium to all members of the Presidium and all member federations. In emergency cases shorter notice may be acceptable. The meeting can be conducted on-line. The decision should be adopted by the majority of the Presidium members at least 15 days before the meeting.

The minutes of the Presidium should be published on EBF's website the latest 14 days after they are approved by the Presidium.

#### 1.8.2

Such notice shall specify the date, time and place of the proposed Presidium meeting and in addition it shall invite member federations to submit proposals, which they wish to be considered by the Presidium.

#### 1.8.3

A secretary for the meeting shall be appointed by the President. The secretary shall prepare summary minutes for review and signed approval by the President or Chairman of the Day within two weeks after which they are distributed to the Presidium members.

## **1.9 Officers**

### **1.9.1 Elections**

- a) A person may be elected to the Presidium only if he is a member of an EBF member federation.
- b) The President, the Vice President and the four Presidium Members must each belong to different EBF member federations.
- c) The election of officers shall be conducted by the Ordinary Congress in open voting. However, if there is more than one nomination for the President or Vice President a secret ballot shall be called for. In this case each member federation may nominate one person in the ballot. Likewise, if there are more nominations for members of the Presidium than the number to be elected a secret ballot shall be called for. In this case each member federation may nominate the number of persons to be elected in the ballot. A relative simple majority shall determine who is elected.
- d) Elections shall take place at the Ordinary Congress. The President and two of the Presidium Members shall be elected for their term of office at the Congress every fourth year. The Vice President and two of the Presidium Members shall be elected for their term of office at the Congress, which is held in-between the Congresses where election of the President takes place.

### **1.9.2 Nominations**

- a) All incumbent officers who intend to run for re-election shall so advise the President of their interest at least two months before an elective Congress.
- b) All other nominations shall be submitted to the President at least two months before an elective Congress.
- c) All incumbent and other nominations shall be reported to the member federations at least four weeks prior to the Congress.
- d) If nominations are received pursuant to the above process, no additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Congress.
- e) If less than enough nominations are received pursuant to the above process, then nominations from the floor will be accepted.

- f) All candidates must be members of and authorised by their respective federations to be eligible for election.

#### 1.9.3 Term of Office

The Term of Office of the President, Vice President and Presidium Members shall commence immediately after their election and shall continue until the second biennial Congress following their election (i.e. a term of about four years).

#### 1.9.4 Secretary General

A Secretary General shall, if deemed necessary, be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Presidium for a term of four years following the confirmation.

#### 1.9.5 Duties of Officers

- a) The President shall be the chief executive officer and treasurer. He shall preside at all meetings of the EBF Congress and Presidium unless he appoints a Chairman of the Day to preside for any part of such meetings.
- He shall, if deemed necessary, appoint a Secretary General subject to confirmation by the Presidium.
  - He shall appoint any committees he deems necessary. Such appointments shall be subject to approval by the Presidium.
  - He shall, if deemed necessary, appoint any other assistants required for the Presidium to fulfil its duties. Such appointments shall be subject to approval by the Presidium.
  - The President shall also represent the EBF in all legal matters, but should he be unable to do so, the Vice President takes over his duties. The General Secretary or another Presidium Member may represent the EBF but only upon the approval of the Presidium.
- b) The Vice President shall be the President of the EBF in case of absence, death, disabilities, resignation, and incapacity or for any other reason, which would prevent the President permanently from lawfully discharging his duties under the Statutes.
- c) The Secretary General shall be the chief administrative officer who handles the membership correspondence and other administrative tasks in co-operation with the President.
- d) The President and one Member of the Presidium, chosen by the President shall represent the interests of the EBF at meetings in the IBF Committee.

#### 1.9.6 Removal from office

An officer elected by the Congress may be removed from office for nonfeasance or other just cause by the Congress, upon due process (notice about the pending action and given an opportunity to be heard) being provided.

### 1.10 Business year

#### 1.10.1

The business year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.

### 1.11 Financial Procedures

#### 1.11.1 Fees

- a) The Congress will be empowered to determine the fees to be paid by the member federations. Each federation shall be required to pay the fee as stipulated in the EBF Regulations. Newly admitted member federations are not obliged to pay membership fees in the calendar year they are admitted.
- b) Each member federation shall be required to pay, latest 31 March each year, the EBF fees as specified in the annual invoice sent out by the EBF Presidium.
- c) If a member federation is in arrears with membership fees payments over 30 days as of the 31 March due date, the EBF Presidium has the right to suspend the federation. The suspension will be revoked immediately when the fees including an annual fine of 20% of the arrears have been paid.
- d) If a member federation is in arrears past the due date of other prescribed fees, the EBF Presidium has the right to suspend the federation until full payment has been made including eventual fines.
- e) The suspension would be for a maximum of one year, and if the arrears are still not fully paid, the EBF Presidium will recommend IBF to terminate the federation's membership.

#### 1.11.2 Auditors

The Ordinary Congress shall elect two auditors and one substitute for the period up to and including the next Ordinary Congress. The auditors must come from different member federations and must have the necessary qualifications to undertake their duties. In their report they must clearly state the financial situation of EBF and the

conduct of the Presidium up to a date, which shall cover the foregoing two business years.

### **1.12 Rules against doping**

When EBF decides there will be doping control at its championships, all provisions of the IBF's Doping Control Manual will apply.

### **1.13 Amendments**

#### **1.13.1**

These Statutes may be altered at any EBF Congress as follows:

- a) Upon written proposals of amendments prepared by the EBF Presidium.
- b) Upon written proposals of amendments submitted to the President at least two months in advance to the Congress where it is to be considered.
- c) Notice of such proposals is distributed to all member federations at least four clear weeks prior to the Congress.
- d) The proposal is adopted by two-third (2/3) majority vote at the Congress.
- e) When a written notice of a proposal is not given, it may be considered provided the Congress agrees by a two-third (2/3) majority vote to do so. As with other proposals a two-third (2/3) majority vote shall be required for adoption.
- f) No amendment shall be adopted or policy established which would be in conflict with the Statutes of IBF.

### **1.14 Revisions**

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2001 and amended by Congresses in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2017 and 2021.

## **2 Regulations**

### **2.1 Fees**

#### **2.1.1 Membership fees for federations affiliated to EBF**

- a) The annual membership fee for federations having less than 4.000 members is € 880.
- b) The annual membership fee for federations having 4.000 or more members is € 2.640.
- c) The membership fees are included in the invoice sent out by EBF.
- d) The fees have to be paid to EBF in total latest 31 March.
- e) If the membership fees have not been paid by 31 March the Secretary General of EBF will inform the federations concerned that if the fees are not received by 30 April they will be suspended and that they can be re-instated as a member after having paid the fees plus a 20% fine.
- f) New members do not have to pay fees in the year they are admitted.

#### 2.1.2 Tournament approval fees

- a) The fee for EBF approval of an international tournament is € 200.
- b) The additional fee for an IBF approval is specified in IBF's Rules.
- c) Invoices will be sent at regular intervals by the EBF President to the federations.
- d) Once a tournament has been approved there will be no refund in case the tournament is cancelled.

#### 2.1.3 Application fee for championships

- a) For filing an application to host an EBF championship the potential host has to pay an application fee as follows:
  - € 2.000 for hosting the European Championships of Champions,
  - € 4.000 for hosting the European Women Championships,
  - € 6.000 for hosting the European Youth Championships,
  - € 6.000 for hosting the European Senior Championships,
  - € 8.000 for hosting the European Men Championships.
- b) Costs related to inspections done by the three EBF officials will be paid by EBF.
- c) Travel and accommodation costs for the attendance of the Championship Director, the Technical Delegate and the IT Delegate at championships will be paid by EBF.
- d) In case the application will not be accepted the application fee will be reimbursed.
- e) If the host withdraws from organising the championship less than 6 months prior to the start the fee will be forfeited.

#### 2.1.4 Entry fees for championships

- a) The Championship Director shall agree with the host on the entry fee to be paid by each member of the delegation from each federation participating in a championship.
- b) The agreed upon fee shall be 100 € per member of the delegation. The amount shall be forwarded by the host to EBF the latest 15 days after the championship has ended.
- c) The host has the right to ask for a separate fee for the extra persons (supporters and guests) to an amount agreed with the Championship Director.
- d) If a federation withdraws its team completely from a championship after the entry deadline a cancellation fee of € 500 must be paid to the host.
- e) The host shall collect all entry fees.

#### 2.1.5 Congress fees

The fee for each Congress delegate is 70 €.

## 2.2 Expenses

For members of the EBF Presidium and other persons travelling to carry out their duties on behalf of EBF, the EBF will meet their expenses for travel, board and lodging, as well as other justified costs up to a reasonable amount.

## 2.3 Disciplinary actions

#### 2.3.1 Purpose and scope

- a) The purpose of this regulation is to specify the rights of the EBF Presidium to impose disciplinary actions.
- b) This sub-chapter describes the disciplinary actions that may be taken by the EBF Presidium. It also gives recommendations about procedures that could be included in the constitution of the national federations, which are members of the EBF.
- c) With person in this sub-chapter is meant one national federation, suborganisation of a national federation, athlete, coach, or official that is recognized as a member of EBF and subject to the rights and duties of the EBF Constitution.

#### 2.3.2 Disciplinary authorities

- a) The EBF Presidium may deal with disciplinary actions against a national federation.
- b) The EBF Presidium may deal with disciplinary actions against an individual member only if it is an offence related to an EBF championship or an EBF approved international tournament. In such a case the offence shall first be reported for action to the national federation to which the individual member belongs.
- c) The EBF Presidium may deal with disciplinary actions against an individual member if it is a case of an appeal against a decision made by a national federation, and the constitution of the national federation allows an appeal to the EBF Presidium.
- d) All other cases shall be dealt with in accordance with the constitution of the national federation to which the individual member belongs.
- e) Disciplinary actions against a sub-organisation of a national federation shall be dealt with in accordance with the constitution of the national federation to which the sub-organisation belongs.
- f) A member of the disciplinary authority must not take part in the investigation or trial of a case of which:
  - he himself or his organisation is a part, or
  - the result may have an influence on his organisation, or
  - he has previously dealt with in any other disciplinary authority, or
  - he in any other way can be challenged.

#### 2.3.2.1 Register of athletes, suspended by national federations and consequences for athletes

- a) National federation that suspends the athlete and the decision is final, is obliged to inform EBF about the sanction if the suspension is longer than 3 months.
- b) The notice shall contain the name of the federation, name of the athlete, date of birth of the athlete and duration of suspension.
- c) The athlete who is suspended for more than 3 months by the national federation and this decision is final is not allowed to be registered and play in any other national federation, member of EBF for the same period of time as suspension period.
- d) EBF keeps the register of suspended athletes and must in three days after receiving the information from paragraph a) of this section send notice about the suspended athlete to all members of EBF with all the data defined in paragraph b) of this section.

- e) The same rules as set out in Section 2.4.10 g) and h) shall apply for the deletion of data from the register.
- f) The suspended athlete is not allowed to participate in any EBF championship or an EBF approved international tournament.
- g) The list of suspended athletes should be publicly available on EBF website (name and family name of the athlete and name of the national federation which imposed the suspension). EBF shall delete the data from the website in 24 hours after the expiration of suspension.

### 2.3.3 Offences for athletes and/or national federations (hereinafter: person)

- a) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has neglected to pay a prescribed fee within the stipulated time or submit requested reports or information.
- b) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has accepted to participate in a competition or exhibition but without valid reason has refused to fulfil the agreement or without valid reason has failed to appear.
- c) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has officially announced that in a competition or exhibition certain athlete(s) should participate but has failed to appear, despite the fact that it was known at the time for the announcement that no agreement of participation existed, or that the athlete(s) could not participate.
- d) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has participated in competition or exhibition or has practiced sports activities during the time he was suspended.
- e) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has allowed a suspended person to participate in competition or exhibition or to practice sports activities despite the fact that it was known that the person was suspended.
- f) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has during or in connection with competition or exhibition demonstrated, behaved insulting or in other ways improperly against a participant, official or audience, or has neglected directions or instructions given by officials.
- g) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has in connection with sports activities caused damage, or violence against any person, or threats against persons.
- h) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has by untruth or in other ways misled, or tried to mislead, official(s), other individual or organization(s) in their sports activities.

- i) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has contrary to one's knowledge or without plausible reason reported another person for an offence, which would result in a disciplinary action in accordance with these regulations.
- j) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has in connection with sports activities provided him-self or another person with undue advantages.
- k) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has behaved in a way that the image of the sport has been damaged, or obviously could have been damaged.
- l) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has violated the playing rules of the IBF, EBF, the national federation, or other tournament organizer.
- m) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has violated the established doping control rules.
- n) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who has in any other way neglected to follow the obligations of the statutes, rules and regulations, which govern the sport of bowling.
- o) A disciplinary action can be inflicted upon a person who violates the suspension rules and during the suspension time registers the athlete who is suspended for more than 3 months by any national federation, member of EBF.

#### 2.3.4 Disciplinary actions

- a) The disciplinary actions of offences according to these regulations are reprimand, fines, restriction of rights or suspension.
- b) If the offence will be regarded as insignificant considering the circumstances, then only a reprimand may be imposed. If the offence will be regarded as gross, then suspension shall be imposed of minimum one and maximum two years.
- c) Disciplinary actions related to doping control violations will be dealt with in accordance with special doping control regulations.
- d) Reprimand, which is the lightest disciplinary action that can be imposed on a person, involves a written call of attention of the offence that has been committed and a demand of the offender in the future to obey to the actual statutes, rules and regulations.
- e) Fines involve that the offender is demanded to pay a certain amount of money to the EBF. The amount to be paid shall be used to cover the costs incurred for investigation of the case and for the further development of the sport within the EBF. The imposed fine shall be paid within four weeks after the decision has been announced.

- f) Restriction of rights involves that a national federation or its individual members may not, during a limited period of time, participate in certain EBF activities.
- g) Suspension involves that a national federation or its individual members may not participate in competition, exhibition and/or other activities related to the sport. A suspended national federation does not have the right to vote at the EBF Congress.
- h) Suspension has to be time limited and can be maximum two years.
- i) A suspension announcement must specify the first and last date of the suspension period of time. The start of the period shall be within one week of the date of the decision. However, if the offender has been suspended during the investigation period of time, then the start of the suspension shall be counted from that date of suspension.

#### 2.3.5 Reporting of offences

- a) A matter of disciplinary action for an offence against these regulations may be dealt with only if the relevant disciplinary authority has received a written report.
- b) The report shall be signed by the informer. It shall include the name of the offender, clear information about the offence together with the immediate circumstances and the evidences related thereto.
- c) If the report is incomplete, then the disciplinary authority may ask the informer to make the report complete within a specified time.
- d) If the report has been addressed to an instance, which does not have the authority to deal with the matter, then the instance must immediately forward the report to the correct instance.
- e) If the report has been received by an unauthorized instance, but within the specified time frame, then it must be considered as being received within the correct time, even if the correct authority did not receive it until after the specified time limit.

#### 2.3.6 Prescription period

- a) A disciplinary action for an offence can be imposed on someone, only if the offence has been reported for disciplinary action latest within two months from the time when the offence was committed or became known.
- b) A disciplinary action must not be imposed when two years have passed since the day of the offence.

#### 2.3.7 Investigation

- a) The disciplinary authority must give the reported person an opportunity to express his views on the report. The parties shall be provided with all documents and other quoted material belonging to the case.
- b) A solicitor, who in such a case must provide evidence of power given, may represent a party.
- c) The disciplinary authority may take the initiative by itself to start a complete investigation.
- d) The disciplinary authority may decide on an oral interrogation. The parties concerned shall be called to such an interrogation.
- e) Oral interrogation shall be held on request of a party. However, if it is obvious that such an interrogation does not benefit the investigation, then the disciplinary authority may deny the request.
- f) Each party is responsible for covering its own expenses for dealing with the case. It is the responsibility of the disciplinary authority to cover expenses that are related to substantiation of evidence or other investigation initiated by the disciplinary authority.
- g) All dealing with a case must be documented in minutes.
- h) A disciplinary action must be promptly dealt with and the decision announced immediately.

#### 2.3.8 Suspension during investigation

- a) If it is an obvious fact that the reported offence will lead to suspension, then the disciplinary authority, without hearing the offender, may decide that he until further notice and until the case has been finally decided upon may not participate in competition or exhibition.
- b) The offender must be informed immediately and latest within one week of a decision about suspension during the investigation.
- c) If the final decision will be a suspension, then the time of suspension during investigation shall be included in the total time of suspension.

#### 2.3.9 Deliberation

- a) Decision about disciplinary action may not concern other offence than the explicitly reported. Furthermore a decision may not be based on a statement or proof of which the offender has not been given the opportunity to comment on.
- b) In doubtful cases the offender shall be given the benefit of the doubt.
- c) The decision about disciplinary action shall be taken by majority vote. If a tie exists, then the opinion that means a verdict of not guilty or the least severe disciplinary action, shall apply.

#### 2.3.10 Announcement of decision

- a) The announcement of a decision shall be made immediately and latest within one week to the persons concerned.
- b) The announcement of a decision must be in the written form, irrespective of it being a verdict of not guilty or guilty. The announcement shall include the names of the persons participating in the decision.
- c) If the verdict is guilty, then the announcement shall include information about the kind of offence, the regulation applied, and the disciplinary action.
- d) If the disciplinary action consists of fines, then the announcement shall specify to which organisation the fines shall be paid.
- e) The announcement shall also include a statement about to which higher authority an appeal of the decision may be submitted, as well as the last day when an appeal must be received, and also what the party has to observe in other respects. In case the decision cannot be appealed, this must be clearly stated in the announcement.
- f) The disciplinary authority must keep a register of all disciplinary actions that have been decided upon. Also eventual amendments or remission must be registered.
- g) Disciplinary actions should be permanently deleted from the register in the following time frames:
  - Reprimand 6 months after the finality of the decision,
  - Fines 9 months after paid in full to EBF,
  - Restriction of rights 1 year after the imposed duration of disciplinary action is concluded,
  - Suspension 2 years after the imposed duration of disciplinary action is concluded.
- h) The purpose of storage of the data in the register of disciplinary actions is to allow the disciplinary authority to impose higher penalty if the athlete repeats the same offence in the defined period of storage. The disciplinary authority has the right to demand the data from the register any time during the decision-making process in order to decide what disciplinary action in its entirely own discretion may impose.
- i) The decision about disciplinary action shall be in effect even if it has been appealed to a higher authority. However, the higher authority may decide that the original decision shall not be in effect pending the final dealing of the appeal.

Such a decision may not be appealed.

#### 2.3.11 First appeal

- a) Unless otherwise specified, the reporting as well as the sentenced party may appeal to a higher discipline authority.
- b) The relevant authority must receive such an appeal no later than 30 days after the announcement of the original decision.
- c) If the appeal has been lodged with an instance, which does not have the authority to deal with the matter, then the instance must immediately forward the appeal to the correct instance.
- d) If the appeal has been lodged with an unauthorized instance, but within the specified time frame, then it must be considered as being received within the correct time, even if the correct authority did not receive it until after the specified time limit.
- e) If the complaining party can provide proof that the stipulated time frame could not be maintained, then the appeal shall be dealt with despite the fact that it was not received until after the specified date.
- f) An appealed decision may not be changed unless the opponent has been given the opportunity to comment on the appeal. However, if a major procedural error has been made when the case was dealt with by the original instance, then the higher discipline authority may set aside the original decision without hearing the opponent.
- g) In principle the same procedure and announcement of decision apply to the dealing with an appeal as with a reported offence.

#### 2.3.12 Further appeals

- a) After a decision on an appeal has been announced, a further appeal may be granted if:
  - Circumstances or evidence, not previously presented, can be referred to and its presentation likely should have led to a lesser degree of disciplinary action or a not guilty verdict.
  - A major procedural error has been made in dealing with the appeal.
  - The decision has been made on juridical principles, which obviously are in conflict with the established constitution.
- b) A request of further appeal, which may be made by the person on which a disciplinary action has been imposed, shall be submitted in writing to a higher authority not less than 30 days after the announcement of the decision on the appeal.

#### 2.3.13

The EBF national member federations are recommended to include in their constitution a suitable clause, which governs the handling of disciplinary actions including the procedure of appeals against a decision.

## **2.4 Revisions**

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2001 and amended by congresses in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2021 and 2023.