



Statutes of the Fédération mondiale des Grands Concours Internationaux de Vins et Spiritueux (VINO FED)

CHAPTER 1

THE FEDERATION

Article 1 NAME / SEAT / DURATION

- 1.1 Under the name of the “World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions” (hereafter: the Federation), also known under the name VINO FED, an association is formed in the sense of articles 60cc of the Swiss Civil Code
- 1.2 The seat of the Federation is located in Sierre (Valais, Switzerland).
- 1.3 Its duration is unlimited.

Article 2 PURPOSE OF THE FEDERATION

- To bring together in a federation organizations that manage international wine and spirits competitions according to the rules of the International Organization of Vines and Wine;
- To encourage the exchange of information linked to the financial and technical management of wine and spirits competitions, by members;
- To promote the values of wine and spirit competitions on an international scale;
- To oversee the interests, the advancement and the promotion of its members;
- To coordinate dates and locations of competitions;
- To make shared services available to its members;
- To ensure that consumers have its guarantee for all award-winning products;

- And all other activity that is compatible with the goals expressed under this article.

CHAPTER 2

THE MEMBERS

Article 3 CONDITIONS FOR ADMITTANCE

3.1 May become a member: any organization that oversees an international wine and spirits competition and that fulfils the criteria mentioned in article 4.

3.2 Any competition that wishes to become a member of the Federation must address its request to the Secretary General. Its candidature must be accompanied by a detailed presentation of the competition in order for its conformity to the Federation's statutes to be verified for approval, if need be, by the General Assembly.

3.3 The General Assembly of the Federation decides by a majority plus one any requests for admittance.

3.4 Admission becomes effective only after payment of membership dues and, where applicable, payment of an entry fee.

3.5 Each member of the Federation must designate two representatives to the General Assembly and the Executive Board, one the official representative and the other an alternate representative.

3.6 Each member has only one vote.

3.7 Approval of membership may be subject to the payment of membership dues.

Article 4 CRITERIA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRITS COMPETITION

An international wine and spirits competition is a competition that fulfils the following criteria:

Criteria no. 1

The international wine and spirits competition must aim to have the broadest possible international representation of producer countries. A minimum of 8 producer countries must be represented, or 5 for category competitions, at a competition in order for it to be considered international. It must aim to have more than 20% of the entries in the competition coming from countries other than the one where the competition is taking place, or 15% for category competitions.

Criteria no. 2

An international wine and spirits competition is a competition that takes place respecting the rules of the Federation in order to ensure:

- the objectivity of the competition
- the integrity of the selection process and of the evaluation of the samples
- the level of qualifications required for the members of the jury
- a credible decision-making process in terms of the quality of the notation for the products
- an external audit of the organization to ensure that the competition functions correctly.

The above must be approved by the Federation's General Assembly.

Criteria no. 3

The international competition acknowledges that the total number of products awarded cannot be more than 30% of the number entered in the competition, all awards included.

Criteria no. 4

The wine and spirits tasting jury must be composed of at least 5 members; the majority must be citizens from countries other than the country where the competition is organized.

Article 5 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Each member must pay its annual dues following the request from the Secretary General;

5.2 Except in cases of a major problem, a member must take part in the annual general meeting, either through its official representative or its alternate representative, in writing or through a mandate given in writing to another member;

5.3 Each member must communicate to the Secretary General the dates and locations of its competitions.

Article 6 MEMBERS' RIGHTS

6.1 The acceptance of an international competition as a member of the Federation gives it the right to list itself publicly as a member, to use the distinctive marks of the Federation and to benefit from all the advantages that occur from agreements the Federation may conclude with other organizations;

6.2 In general, the members of the Federation benefit from all the rights belonging to the Federation as an organization.

Article 7 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND EXPULSION

7.1 When a member no longer fulfills the conditions necessary to be a member of the Federation, or the quality of respectability that the Federation requires, the Executive Committee, after hearing explanations given by the member in question, may propose to the General Assembly to exclude the member, a motion that must be accepted by two-thirds of the members. The member will be notified in writing of the proposal to exclude him or her, with the reasons indicated.

7.2 A member that does not pay its annual dues for two years in a row may be excluded from the Federation, following a decision by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 3

GOVERNING BODIES

Article 8 GOVERNING BODIES

The Federation comprises the following bodies:

- the General Assembly;
- the Executive Board;
- the Accounts Auditor.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 9 MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9.1 The General Assembly of the Federation is the top level of government of the Federation and meets at least once a year, normally during a competition held by one of the Federation members; extraordinary assemblies may be called when the needs of the Federation require this.

9.2 The General Assembly is called by the Secretary General or by the President, at least two weeks in advance.

Article 10 POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10.1 The decisions of the General Assembly are binding only if two-thirds of the Federation members take part, either through their official representatives or their alternate representatives. A member that cannot be present may provide his view and his vote on a subject on the agenda, in writing.

10.2 A member may be represented by another member, by sending a signed agreement, in writing, to the secretariat before the General Assembly. However, any one member may not represent more than one other member;

10.3 The General Assembly makes decisions on the following:

- a) the continuation or termination of the Federation;
- b) changes in the statutes and internal regulations ;
- c) approval of new members;
- d) exclusion of members;
- e) designating the President;
- f) designating one or more Vice-Presidents, depending on need, rotating members;
- g) nominating the Secretary General and, if needed, an Executive Secretary;
- h) setting the annual budget;
- i) setting the annual dues;
- j) approving the accounts;
- k) determining the direction of the Federation;
- l) and all decisions on matters referred to it by the Executive Board.

Article 11 VOTING DURING A MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11.1 Decisions will be taken after consultation with all members who may express their opinion, either through their official representatives or the alternate representative or in writing, or by the mandate given in writing to another member.

11.2 Voting, during a meeting, will be done by raising a hand, unless a member requests a secret ballot;

11.3 Vote-counting, including during a secret ballot, will be done by the Secretary General;

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Article 12 EXECUTIVE BOARD

12.1 The Executive Board comprises the President, one or several Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General;

12.2 This is the executive body of the General Assembly. It has responsibility, under the authority of the President, for carrying out decisions and directions set by the General Assembly;

12.3 The Executive Committee meets as necessary to expedite the business of the Federation, at the initiative of the President or Secretary General.

12.4 In the case of a vacant post, either through resignation or the impossibility of carrying out the work, the member's post will be held by a member of the Federation until the next General Assembly.

Article 13 INTERNAL REGULATIONS

The Executive Board may issue directives that are compatible with the present statutes. These regulations must be ratified by the following General Assembly. All members are bound to respect them.

OVERSIGHT BODIES

Article 14 VERIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

14.1 The members name an accounts auditor at each annual meeting of the General Assembly. This auditor may not be chosen from among the members of the Executive Board;

14.2 The auditor must make a report to the members of the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 4

THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARY GENERAL AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

Article 15 THE PRESIDENT

15.1 The President is the Federation's representative; he or she is named to the post for two years and is eligible again, at the end of the term;

15.2 The President is responsible for applying decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Executive Board;

15.3 Under the control of the General Assembly, the President oversees the good functioning of the Federation;

15.4 He or she presides, if present, over all General Assembly meetings as well as those of the Executive Board.

Article 16 THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

16.1 The Vice-Presidents are named to their posts for two years, and are eligible again, at the end of the term. Any Vice-President exercises the powers and functions that the President or the General Assembly of the Federation assign to him or her;

17.2 In case of the President's incapacity to act, the Vice-President may exercise the powers of the President. The Executive Board will designate which one will temporarily exercise the powers of the presidency.

Article 17 THE SECRETARY GENERAL

17.1 The Secretary General is responsible for the permanent functioning of the Federation and is named, to this end, by the General Assembly. He or she may be assisted by an Executive Secretary who does not have the right to vote in assemblies and who can be remunerated by a decision of the Executive Board. This Executive Secretary ensures the permanent administration of the Federation;

17.2 He or she acts as secretary during the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board;

17.3 The Secretary General with the help of the Executive Secretary, must, among other duties, support the members and in particular:

- a) oversee the observation of the rules by the members;
- b) ensure that members are informed quickly and well;
- c) prepare the calendar of members' competitions and transmit a copy;
- d) bill and register payment of dues;
- e) manage the annual operating budget of the Federation;
- f) solicit new members and handle the creation of their files;
- g) establish, after consulting with all the members, the agenda for General Assembly meetings and any other meetings;
- h) present an annual report to the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 5

RESOURCES

Article 18 RESOURCES

The association's resources come from:

- annual dues paid by the members,
- donations and legacies
- sponsorship
- public and private subsidies
- all other legally allowed sources of revenue.

Article 19 MEMBER'S DUES

The members' dues are set and approved by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 6

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 20 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Association's financial year ends 31 December of each calendar year.

Article 21 ETHICS

The association's members commit themselves to applying, in good faith, the spirit and the philosophy that guides the present Federation.

Article 22 ENTERS INTO EFFECT

The present statutes have been adopted by the General Assembly that was constituted 23 May 2015. They replace all other previous rules and regulations governing the Federation.

Approved by the General Assembly 23rd May 2015 in Bordeaux, France:

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