



FIR - STATUTES

FIR-President Marcel Weigl

updated 12-09-2006

1. NAME, LOCATION and DEFINITION

1.1 This body shall be called the "FIR - Federation Internationale de Racketlon or International Racketlon Federation ", hereinafter referred to in Short as the "FIR".

1.2 The FIR shall be located and registered in Austria for the time being and shall organise the game of Racketlon in the whole world. The address of the FIR is Leopoldstr. 21/5/12, 3400 Klosterneuburg, Austria.

1.3 The following three principles need to be fulfilled in order for a game to qualify for the term Racketlon:

- The game must include the following four sports: table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis
- The game must be built on the concept of a Racketlon match involving the same two individuals (pairs in doubles) playing each other in all four sports with equally formatted sets in each sport.
- Each rally must count, which means running score. The player (pair) who wins most rallies shall be the winner of the Racketlon match.

This Definition shall not be changed except at a General Meeting and by a proposal carried by a majority of four-fifths of the votes cast.

2. PURPOSES and PRINCIPLES

2.1 The purposes and principles of the FIR are non-profit and based on the idea of stimulating and organising the growth of Racketlon by creating an international federation to support and unite all national Racketlon federations in all countries and continents. This includes:

2.1.1 controlling the game, from an international aspect, in all countries and continents;

2.1.2 enabling mutual recognition of Member Associations in their dealings with each other;

2.1.3 upholding the "Statutes of the FIR" as at present adopted and making and maintaining such changes to them as and when may appear necessary or desirable;

2.1.4 printing and publishing from time to time as occasion may require the official and decisive text of the Statutes of FIR and Racketlon Sports Regulations;

2.1.5 making regulations for all international play and publishing these as the Racketlon Sports Regulations;

2.1.6 ensuring the observance of the Racketlon Sports Regulations in all officially sanctioned FIR World Tour and Challenger international competitions;

2.1.7 employing the funds and administering the finances of the FIR in such manner as shall be deemed expedient;

2.1.8 strengthening the bonds of friendship between the existing Member Associations and encouraging the formation of new Member Associations;

2.1.9 enabling mutual recognition of penalties inflicted on its own members by any Member Association;

2.1.10 settling disputes between Member Associations and adjudicating on any complaint of a Member Association as to the conduct of a member of another Member Association;

2.1.11 upholding the principles on which the FIR is founded, taking such measures as may appear expedient for advancing the interests of Racketlon from an international point of view, and generally doing such things incidentally that are conducive to any of the above objects; and

2.1.12 the co-ordination of a Racketlon World Tour of a Racketlon Challenger Tour, the maintenance of Racketlon World Rankings as well as of an official Website that promotes the sport and has all the information about the game of Racketlon.

2.2 The general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter are applicable, and no provision of the Rules and other Regulations shall be deemed to conflict with or derogate from these principles.

3. POSSIBILITIES OF ACHIEVING THE FIR PURPOSE

3.1 The FIR purpose shall be achieved by the following in point 2 and 3 listed as non-materialistic and materialistic ways

3.2 In non-materialistic ways:

3.2.1 Organisation of all kinds of Racket sports for all age groups, and more specifically youngsters of school age.

3.2.2 Arrangement of sports festivals, competitions and tournaments

3.2.3 Organisation of social events, lessons, courses, camps and educational material

3.2.4 Buying, building and running sports halls, sports facilities and a meeting place for the Federation

3.2.5 Supporting school sport

3.3 In materialistic ways:

3.3.1 Accession and Membership fees

3.3.2 Income from sports and social events

3.3.3 Subsidies and grants from public institutions

3.3.4 Income through marketing, advertising and sponsors

3.3.5 Donations, legacies and any other income

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 There are two kinds of memberships in the FIR: Regular Member Associations and Associate Members.

4.1.1 Regular Member Associations

Membership of the FIR shall be open to legally registered national Racketlon associations and federations (or corresponding organisations) which recognise the FIR as the sole governing body of the game of Racketlon throughout the world and which adhere to the statutes of the FIR. Such national Racketlon associations, federations or corresponding organisations, which become members, shall be known as "Regular Member Associations".

4.1.2 Associate Members

New clubs or organisations within countries not yet nationally organised may be admitted as Associate Members of the FIR upon such terms and conditions as the Council may determine, but shall have no voting power. An Associate Member shall give all practical support to the formation of a national association (or corresponding organisation) for the country in which it is situated. An associate Membership shall lapse when a properly constituted national associated association is admitted to FIR membership. Failing that, the term of an Associate Membership shall not extend more than two years beyond original affiliation. All countries which became Associate Members of the FIR before the 5th of September 2005 are in a special position and keep their voting power. These countries have until the 1st January of 2008 to register their national association or federation and apply as a Regular Member Association in the FIR otherwise they will lose all their voting power.

4.2 Applications for membership from a national Racketlon association, federation (or corresponding organisation) or club must be sent (by e-mail) to the President and the Council of the FIR. Such application shall include details of the territories over which jurisdiction is claimed and the number of the applicant's own affiliated clubs and players. A copy of the applicant's own adopted rules, the names and (e-mail) addresses of its principal officers and the location of the national association shall also be submitted, as well as a paper of proof of national registration of the federation or the club. All such applications, together with the details mentioned above shall be notified promptly by the President of the FIR to the country representatives.

4.3 The Council decides upon the acceptance of new members. Membership can be denied without statement. In the absence of the receipt of an objection from any Member Association or Associate Member within a period of one month after dispatch of such notification, the Council shall have the power to elect the applicant as a Member Association or Associate Member without being put on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. Such elections shall be reported to all other country representatives as soon as possible.

4.4 Should a protest be received by one Member Associations or Associate Members and seconded by at least one other member, the application shall not be dealt with by the Council until the next General Meeting, where the reasons for the objection and their sources shall be placed on the agenda for consideration. A simple majority shall suffice to elect the applicant, such election to be effective from the close of the meeting.

4.5 A General Meeting shall have the power by a single majority to recognise different frontiers from those politically recognised as defining the territory governed by a Member Association or Associate Member, and also to allow the combination of neighbouring non-independent territories with each other or with a neighbouring country possessing an independent constitution.

4.6 Application for membership from an international organisation or a prospective Associate Member can be approved by the Council and follows the same procedures as application of National Racketlon Associations.

4.7 Every affiliated organisation, regular member association and associate member shall supply the President of the FIR and the Council not later than one month before the Annual General Meeting in each year such information as shall be required for purposes of administration and publication. This information shall include the names and (e-mail) addresses of its principal officers and the number of clubs and/or the total players affiliated to the organisation.

4.8 Until registration of the FIR the acceptance of regular member associations and associate members is decided upon by the already elected Council. The membership is valid from the day the FIR is registered.

4.9 Membership lapses if a member association or associate member chooses to leave the FIR or is suspended by the FIR.

4.10 Any Member Association or Associate Member wishing to terminate its membership from the FIR can only do this by the 31st December every year. The member must give notice in writing to the President and Council of the FIR at the latest on the 30th November in any year and, in default, will be held liable for the subscription for the ensuing year and a termination will only be possible in the next year.

4.11 The Council can suspend a member if he is more than 6 months late with membership or other payments after being notified at least two times. Even if suspended the member still has to pay these overdue payments. In all other cases members can only be suspended by the General Meeting.

4.12 If a General Meeting decides by three-fourths of the votes cast that a Member Association or Associate Member shall be suspended from the FIR, because the member acts directly against the FIR or its principles or purposes, such a member shall cease forthwith to be a member of the FIR. The President shall subsequently notify the member concerned to that effect. If, and so long as a member is suspended, that member shall be deprived of all rights of membership.

4.13 If confirmation of a suspension is given at the following General Meeting the suspended member can be expelled from the FIR if the General Meeting decides by three-fourths of the votes cast. In the light of later developments the suspension can also be removed by the General Meeting with three-fourth of the votes or extended for one year to give the suspended member the chance for further developments.

4.14 Members of the FIR shall not be permitted to bring any disputes with the FIR, or with each other, before a Court of Justice. Membership of the FIR shall involve members in renouncing the right to take a dispute before the Courts. Any such dispute shall be referred first by the FIR internally to the Board of Arbitration and in the last instance to the International Court of Arbitration of Sport <http://www.tas-cas.org> , unless agreed otherwise by the parties in the dispute.

5. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS

5.1 The regular member associations and their members, the associate members and their members have the right to take part in all events held by the FIR and use all Services offered by the FIR. Only regular member associations have voting power at General Meetings, exception see 4.1.2.

5.2 All members have the right to ask for a copy of the statutes.

5.3 A minimum of 1/10 of the members can ask the Council to call for a General Meeting.

5.4 At every General Meeting the members shall be informed about the tasks and the financial situation of the FIR by the Council. If at least 1/10 of the members ask for such information during any other time of the year, the Council shall give such information latest four weeks after the request.

5.5 The members shall be informed over the final annual financial status of the FIR at the Annual General Meeting, where the FIR auditor shall be present.

5.6 The members must support the interests of the FIR in the best possible way and take no actions through which the reputation and purpose of the FIR could be damaged. The members must comply with the statutes and the decisions of all FIR bodies. All members must pay in due course the membership fees and all other fees decided by the General Meeting.

5.7 In any given year, in order that a Member Association or an Associate Member has voting power the Member Association or Associate Member shall pay a subscription as determined in the previous Annual General Meeting. The subscription must be paid by the 31st December for the following year of membership to the account of the FIR via bank transfer. Any Member Association or Associate Member whose subscription has not been received by the FIR will not be allowed to send its representatives to the General Meetings or to nominate or second candidates for election as officers.

5.8 An international organisation being member of the FIR such as the Olympic Committee or the Anti-Doping Committee shall not pay an annual subscription.

6. LANGUAGE

The official languages of the FIR shall be German, French and English. All communication inside the FIR and from the FIR outwards must be done in either one of these three languages.

7. GOVERNMENT

7.1. The FIR Government consists of the General Meeting, the FIR Council, the Auditors and the Board of Arbitration.

8. GENERAL MEETING

8.1. The highest body of the FIR is the General Meeting (GM), where the country representatives are invited to represent their Regular Member Association or Associate Member. All General Meetings referred to in this document can be Extraordinary or Annual General Meetings.

8.1.1 The country representatives are elected by the National Member Associations and Associate Members and shall represent their countries at the FIR General Meetings. The period of their office is decided entirely by the National Member Association or Associate Member. In case of retirement any vacancy of representatives shall be filled by the appointment of a new representative by the National Member Association or Associate Member. The name of the country representative of any General Meeting must be mailed to the FIR three weeks before the General Meeting.

8.1.2 Each Regular Member Association or Associate Member shall be entitled to appoint not more than one representative to represent it at General Meetings. This representative shall cast all the votes to which the Association is entitled. If the country representative can not take part at a General Meeting he can be replaced by another representative appointed by the Regular National Association or Associate Member or the country's votes can be passed on to another member. No country representative shall be permitted to cast a vote on behalf of more than one other Member Association or Associate Member. Notice of such procedures must be sent in writing (e-mail) to the President and the Council. All such replacements must be received by the president no later than 24 hours before the time of the General Meeting.

8.1.3 Only representatives or replacements of Regular Member Associations are entitled to vote at General Meetings. An exception goes for Associate Members, who became FIR members before the 5th of September 2005, they have time to turn into a Member Association until 1st January 2008 (see 4.1.2) and can meanwhile keep their voting power. All other Associate Members have no voting power. To be able to cast a vote the Member Associations and Associate Members with voting power must have paid the subscription for that year (see 5.7).

8.2 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a meeting of all members and shall take place at least once a year not later than the last tournament on the World Tour in any year in such a city as may be selected following notice given at the last preceding AGM.

8.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting at any time on a date within 30 days after receipt by the FIR in writing or E-mail if

- a. the Council or the General Meeting decides so
- b. 1/10 of the members request this per writing or e-mail
- c. if the auditors make such a request (see 11.1)
- d. if one of the auditors takes such a decision (see 11.3)
- e. if the general court of the district and country where the FIR is registered requests this.

Every such requisition and the convening notice, shall specify the business for which the meeting is to be convened, and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.

8.4 Printed notice (e-mail) of every General Meeting stating the date, time and place thereof and the business to be transacted shall be sent to each Regular Member Association, all members of the Council, each representative appointed by the Member Association, each Associate Member, each representative appointed by the Associate Member. Printed notice of General Meetings and shall be sent (e-mail) at least three weeks before the date fixed for such meetings, but accidental omission to give notice to any of the above shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given at the previous Annual General Meeting. The agenda for all General Meetings must be submitted together with the invitation. The invitation to a General Meeting can be done by the Council (see 8.3. a-b), the auditors (see 8.3. c-d) or the general court (see 8.3. e) of the district and country where the FIR is registered.

8.5 Requests, Proposals and nominations to the General Meeting can be made by any member association or any member of the Council and must be submitted to the Council at the latest two weeks before the General Meeting by letter, Fax or E-mail. Any request or proposal received by the appropriate date must appear on the agenda of the meeting.

8.6 No amendment, other than one of wording which does not alter the meaning or intent of the original proposal, shall be accepted by the Chair at a General Meeting unless it shall have been directly sent to the Council no later than two weeks in advance of the meeting. Notice of any amendment received shall be sent by the Council to all members of the FIR 10 days before the date of the meeting at which the proposal shall be considered, together with the agenda.

8.7 Final decisions can only be taken to any points on the agenda. An exception is the request to call for an Extraordinary General Meeting.

8.8 A proposal by a member of the Council of which due notice has not been given, and which does not in any way affect these Statutes or the Racketlon Sports Regulations may be discussed at a General Meeting, but no vote shall be taken thereon unless the Council shall deem the matter to be of sufficient urgency. Subject thereto, a vote may be taken and, if the proposal is carried by the appropriate majority, the proposal shall be adopted temporarily until the next General Meeting.

8.9 A Member Association or Associate Member with voting power shall be entitled to a number of votes specified by its status and "racketlon size" in accordance with the following principles:

8.9.1 Each member with voting power receives one basic vote according to the principle "one country, one vote.

8.9.2 Each member with a legally registered national Racketlon Federation receives an extra vote.

8.9.3 Half of the voting power is the total number of basic and extra votes for all countries added up to the sum x . The other half of the voting power is the same sum $x+1$ (to make it an odd total number of votes) which is allocated to the members in direct proportion to the "racketlon size" of the country. At present, the "racketlon size" of a country is defined as the number of players from that country on the world ranking.

8.9.4 If a General Meeting is held in connection with a tour event the world ranking that is valid on the Monday immediately previous to the event shall be used as the basis for the calculation of the "racketlon size". At all other occasions the presently valid world ranking shall be used.

8.10. The voting strength of a Member Association as described in 8.9 shall apply to any proposal under the Rules of the FIR with the exception of Rules 4, and 18. For a proposal under these Rules 4: Membership and 18 Dissolution, each Member Association shall be entitled to one vote only.

8.11 At all General Meetings country representatives or their replacements holding at least half of the total number of votes must be present to form a quorum for final decisions. Otherwise only draft decisions can be taken.

8.12 Before draft decisions can turn into final decisions, they must be communicated by a council member to all country representatives by e-mail. Such draft decisions can be challenged by any country representative and must be seconded by another representative latest one week after being communicated by the FIR council.

8.13 If the challenge of a draft decision is seconded the appointed council member starts an e-mail vote whereby each representative not having cast his vote on the decision yet, is given one week to place his missing vote. In addition every representative already having cast his vote can in this week replace his vote under the light of new arguments. The President summarises the votes and announces the result, whether the draft decision is turned into a final decision or rejected. An active consent by more than half of the votes must be given for a decision to turn final.

8.14 The President shall act as Chair to all General Meetings. In the president's absence the Vice-President shall act as Chair, in the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the meeting shall elect a chair. The chair has the authority to admit observers to General Meetings. Such observers are not permitted to speak at the meeting unless two-thirds of the General Meeting asks for it. The chair has no vote at a General Meeting in his capacity of the chair unless any vote ends in a draw. Then the chair has the decisive vote.

8.15 Except if otherwise provided in Rules 4, 17 and 18 all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.

8.16 Before a proposal on the agenda (of which notice has been given in due notice according to rule 8.1) submitted by a Member Association may be discussed and voted upon, the Chair will invite the representative of the Member Association to explain its purpose. Thereafter the Chair will ask whether a representative of at least one other Member Association is prepared to second this proposal. If no representative is prepared to second the proposal it will not be discussed or voted upon. Seconding by a representative does not mean that the representative must vote in favour of the proposal once the discussion has taken place.

8.17 General Meetings shall be conducted in conformity with these Rules; the Chair shall have the final decision upon all points of order and matters of procedure, but shall not have the power to rule on matters of substance without the consent of the meeting.

8.18 Each affiliated international organisation shall be entitled to the same representation at General Meetings as is enjoyed by Member Associations and Associate Members, except that they shall have no vote.

8.19 All Members of the Council shall have the right to attend General Meetings, but shall have no vote. They shall be permitted to speak on any proposal or any other business under consideration.

8.20 The Racketlon Players Federation shall be entitled to appoint one representative to each General Meeting. This representative shall have the right to speak, but shall have no vote.

9. BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL MEETING

The business of the General Meeting shall be:

9.1 Resolution of the agenda and confirmation of the minutes of the last General Meeting

9.2 To receive the annual report by the Council and the annual financial report examined by the auditors

9.3 Election and relieve the officers of the Council and the auditors

9.4 Permit legal transactions between the FIR and the auditors

9.5 Discharge the officers of the Council of liability

- 9.6 Determination of the annual Membership Fee for Regular Member Associations and Associate Members and introduction and determination of any other fees
- 9.7 Resolution concerning changes of these statutes and voluntary dissolution of the FIR
- 9.8 to consider any application for membership of a new National Association or Member Associate preliminary accepted by the Council;
- 9.9 To consider, deal with and resolve all other matters on the agenda of which due notice have been given;
- 9.10 To decide the date and place of the next General Meeting.

10. COUNCIL

10.1 The Council is elected by the General Meeting and consists of nine members: The president, the vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer, and five other officers.

10.1.1. Nominations for the elections of the Council members including President and Vice-President may be made by all country representatives. Such nominations must be sent (e-mail) directly to the President of the FIR and the Council so as to reach the FIR not later than 4 weeks before an Annual General Meeting when elections will take place. The names of the nominees and their proposers shall appear on the agenda thereof.

10.1.2 Any person can run for a Council member position if proposed by at least two country representatives. A candidate can run for more than one Council member position, in case he does not get elected to his favourable position, as long as this is defined in his nomination and he is proposed for each position running by at least two country representatives. A country representative can also run for the position of a council member, but again he needs to be proposed by at least two other country representatives.

10.1.3 If there are more than two candidates for one Council member position there is a first round election with all candidates. If one of the candidates gets more than 50% of the voting power he has won the election. If all the candidates have 50% or less, the best two go into the second round election. The winner of more than 50% of the voting power becomes Council member in the position he ran for. In case the elected candidate does not accept his election, a re-election takes place with all other candidates.

10.1.4 A vote about individual persons or positions in the FIR shall always be anonymous.

10.1.5 There shall be a maximum of two people from the same country allowed in the Council.

10.1.6 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the candidate's qualifications.

10.1.7 To be entitled to nominate or second candidates for election as Council members a Member Association or Associate Member must have paid the subscription for that year, prior to submitting nominations or seconds.

10.1.8 When the results of any election are announced, the number of votes polled by each candidate shall be published.

10.2 In case of retirement of a Council member, the Council may suggest a replacement to act as the respective Council member immediately, which shall be confirmed at the next General Meeting. If the President is unable to complete the term of office or the term has been terminated the existing Vice-President becomes President until a new president is elected at the next General Meeting. The Council meanwhile suggests a replacement for the vice-president to act in office until confirmed at the next General Meeting. In case the whole Council retires without suggesting replacements, one of the auditors must call for an Extraordinary General Meeting in order to elect a new Council. In case the auditor has also retired, it is any member's duty in such an emergency situation to ask the legal court of the country and district where the FIR is registered to call for an Extraordinary General Meeting.

10.3 The Council members shall assume office on the day following election at the Annual General Meeting unless decided otherwise by the members. The term of office shall be three years. The president is elected in the year x , the Vice-president is elected in the year $x+1$. At the first election the elected Vice-President will only serve for one year. The other Council members are elected in the years to be defined by the General Meeting. All Council members shall be eligible for re-election. Every position in the Council must be executed personally.

10.4 A Council Meeting is called for personally or via e-mail by the president, if he is unable to then by the vice-president. If both are unable to for a longer period of time, any Council member can call for a Council Meeting. These Council Meetings shall generally be held in connection with FIR World Tour events.

10.5 The Council can take final decisions on all matters on the agenda if all members were invited and the present Council members hold a minimum of half of the voting power. Every Council member has one vote and can – for all matters on the agenda at least one week before the Council meeting – allocate his vote to any other council member. The council member not present at the meeting has to inform the rest of the council of such a vote allocation via e-mail no later than one day before the council meeting.

10.6 If the present Council members hold a minimum of half of the voting power, they can take draft decisions on all other matters not on the agenda draft, but if all Council members are present and agree on the urgency of the matter, in which case final decisions can be taken.

10.7 If the present council members hold less than half of the voting power, draft decisions (see definition in chapter 12) can be taken on all matters on the agenda. These draft decisions can then be confirmed by the council members not present by e-mail

10.8 The Council takes all its decisions with a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the chair decides.

10.9 The Council meeting is chaired by the president, in his absence by the vice-president. If he too is absent the chair is elected by the present Council members.

10.10 Apart from the expiry of the period of office (see 10.2) or death, Council members can resign (see 10.12) or be relieved (see 10.11) from office by the General Meeting.

10.11 The General Meeting can at anytime relieve from office the whole Council or single members of the Council. The relief is valid from the day of election of a new Council or a new Council member.

10.12 The members of the Council can resign at anytime. The resignation must be written (E-mail) and addressed to the Council or in case of resignation of the whole Council to the General Meeting. The resignation is valid from the day of election or suggestion and accepting office of a new Council or Council member (see 10.2).

11. BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The FIR shall be governed by the Council. The Council shall have all administrative powers to carry out the work of the FIR between General Meetings. This excludes all matters which are allocated to other bodies of the FIR, but includes any matters under dispute and not provided for in the FIR statutes. The business of the Council is especially:

- 11.1 Establishment of a financial account with income, outcome, debts, credits
- 11.2 Drawing out the annual financial prediction and making out the report on the last financial fiscal year
- 11.3 To prepare and call for a General Meeting in certain cases as stated in § 8 of these statutes.
- 11.4 To inform the members of all FIR actions and the confirmed (by the auditors) financial status of the FIR
- 11.5 Administration of the FIR fortune
- 11.6 Admission and suspension of new Regular Member Associations and Associate Members.
- 11.7 Admission and dismissal of employees of the FIR.
- 11.8 Possible appointment of committees at General Meetings as deemed necessary for specific purposes.

12. DUTIES OF CERTAIN COUNCIL MEMBERS

12.1 The president takes care of the business of the FIR. The secretary supports the president.

12.2 The president represents the FIR outside the FIR. Any documents of the FIR need to be signed by the president and the secretary to be valid. Any documents with financial business need to be signed by the president and the treasurer to be valid. Contracts between Council Members and the FIR need to be signed by at least one other Council Member.

12.3 Any authorization to other persons to represent the FIR outside the FIR can only be given with the signatures of the persons as stated in 12.2.

12.4 In emergency and exceptional cases the President has the right to act, under his own responsibility, even in business which is normally done by the General Meeting or the Council. Any such actions must later be authorized by the General Meeting or Council. This does naturally not include § 17 Alteration of the statutes and rules of the FIR

12.5 The president chairs the General and Council Meetings.

12.6 The secretary writes the minutes of the General and Council Meetings.

12.7 The treasurer is in charge of the proper financial business of the FIR. The financial year of the FIR shall close on the 31st December and the treasurer shall ensure that the annual Financial Statements shall be prepared and audited at the next General Meeting. The finances of the FIR shall be recorded by the Treasurer in Euro (€).

12.8. In case of permanent absence of the president, the vice-president takes over his role. In case of permanent absence of the secretary or the treasurer the Council will nominate replacements.

13. AUDITORS

13.1 Two auditors are elected by the General Meeting for a period of three years. Re-election is possible. The auditors may not be members of any other FIR body - with the exception of the General Meeting - whose task it is to audit.

13.2 The auditors' tasks are to permanently check and audit the FIR's finances, the accounts and the use of FIR money according to the statutes. The Council shall hand over to the auditors all necessary papers and give the auditors all necessary information. The auditors shall inform the Council of the result of their examination.

13.3 Contracts between the auditors and the FIR need the permission of the General Meeting. Otherwise § 10.10-12 count for the auditors as well.

14. BOARD OF ARBITRATION

14.1 To sort out all conflicts and disputes inside and among members of the FIR the General Meeting shall install a Board of Arbitration.

14.2 The Board of Arbitration consists of three persons of the FIR members, which are elected every three years at the General Meeting. The members of the Board of Arbitration may not be member of any other body of the FIR - except the General Meeting - which has a task in connection with the dispute.

14.3 The Board of Arbitration holds a hearing on the dispute and can only decide in full attendance of its members with a majority of votes. It decides with best knowledge and consciousness, its decisions are final within the FIR

14.4 If any of the parties are not willing to accept the decision of the Board of Arbitration, they can as a last resort take the dispute to the International Court of Arbitration of Sport <http://www.tas-cas.org>. Members of the FIR shall not be permitted to bring any disputes with the FIR, or with each other, before a Court of Justice.

15. DOPING

15.1 It is a condition of membership of the FIR that the Regular Member Associations and Associate Members support the FIR's policy of abhorrence of doping.

15.2 In particular, Regular Member Associations and Associate Members must adhere to the IOC/WADA (International Olympic Committee) requirements on doping, and must co-operate fully with the FIR in measures taken to detect or penalise infringements of those requirements.

15.3 Council is empowered to develop and publish dope-testing regulations and procedures, and to take other educational actions to guide players, officials, tournament organisers and those responsible for dope-testing at tournaments.

16. DISCIPLINE

16.1 The Council shall have the power on behalf of the FIR to penalise a Member Association, Associate Member, player, tournaments, or other person for infringement of the Anti-Doping Statutes, Rules of Conduct or for actions that bring the game of Racketlon into disrepute.

16.1.1 Penalties can be in form of suspensions, fines, other measures, or a combination of these, according to the Rules of Conduct

16.1.2 Any suspension of players is from all international FIR competitive events for such time as is seen fit, including possibly for life.

16.1.3 Any fine imposed on a player, competition official, or other person shall be notified to the persons Member Association or Associate Member, which shall have the responsibility for submitting payment to the FIR, within 30 days from the date of notification. If the fine is not paid the player or person is suspended for further international FIR events. Following further penalties and not payment of the fines the Member Association or Associate Member can also be suspended.

16.1.4 Suspension against a player or other person may be imposed after an appropriate hearing of the case in front of the Council or where there is strong evidence of serious misconduct, until such hearing takes place.

17. ALTERATION OF THE STATUTES AND RULES OF THE FIR

17.1 No alteration shall be made to these Statutes of the FIR except at a General Meeting. Any proposal embodying such alteration, or one having a like effect, must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. This §17 shall not be altered without the unanimous consent of the Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting.

17.2 No alteration shall be made to the Rules of Racketlon except at a General Meeting. Any proposal embodying such alteration, or one having a likewise effect, must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. Such alterations will take effect on the 1st January of the year following the General Meeting unless decided otherwise by the General Meeting.

17.3 In case any rule changes in either of the four International Sports Federations table tennis, squash, badminton or tennis also affect the game of Racketlon, notice of these new rules will be given to all Racketlon players and international tournaments and apply automatically for all international Racketlon tournaments from the date the change is applied in the individual sports, according to the Rules of Racketlon saying that in principle the rules of the individual sports apply. Examples could be only one serve in Tennis, change in size of any of the courts or balls in any of the four sports.

18. DISSOLUTION

18.1 The FIR shall not be dissolved except at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially convened for the purpose and by a proposal carried by a majority of four-fifths of the votes cast.

18.2 In the event of such dissolution, any assets in hand shall be divided between the Member Associations in proportion to the subscriptions paid by each or shall be donated to an organisation with the same or similar purposes as the FIR.