



**UNION  
AFRICAIN  
DE JUDO**

# AJU STATUTES

(Translated from the French original)

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## STATUTES

### Preamble:

Judo was created in 1882 by Professor Jigoro KANO. As an educational method derived from the martial arts, judo became an official Olympic sport in 1964. Judo is a highly codified sport in which the mind controls the expression of the body and is a sport which contributes to educating individuals.

Beyond competitions and combat, judo involves technical research, practice of katas, self-defence work, physical preparation and sharpening of spirit.

As a discipline derived from ancestral traditions, judo was designed by its Master Founder as an eminently modern and progressive activity.

The AJU statutes shall comply with Statutes proposed and approved by the IJF, while remaining consistent with the laws of the country of incorporation.

## Article 1 – Definitions

### 1.1. Statutes

The “Statutes” shall mean all provisions contained in this document, which have been duly approved, with any addendums and /or appendices which may complete, amend or substitute for this document. The preamble constitutes an integral part hereof. These statutes replace the previous statutes.

### 1.2. AJU

The African Judo Union (hereinafter referred to as the “AJU”) is made up of National Federations of the African continent. The African Judo Union is a non-profit organization. The liability of the African Judo Union as a member is limited. The AJU is one of the five Continental Unions forming the IJF. This Union is a member of IJF and shall respect the IJF statutes, regulations and guidelines.

The African Judo Union is composed of the National Federations of the African continent, except when a special derogation has been granted by the IJF EC.

The AJU being a member of the IJF, who is a member of the Olympic Movement, considers adherence to fundamental, universal ethical principles to be the foundation of sport, of judo, and of Olympism.

These principles include:

1.2.1 Respect for the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

1.2.2 Respect for the principle of universality and political neutrality of the AJU and of the Olympic Movement;

1.2.3 Maintenance of harmonious relations with government authorities while respecting the principle of autonomy as defined in the Olympic Charter;

1.2.4 Respect for international agreements for the protection of human rights as they apply to the activities of the AJU and its members and which ensure, in particular:

- protecting the dignity of people;
- rejection of all forms of discrimination, no matter the reason, in particular related to race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, wealth, birth, or any other situation;
- rejection of all forms of physical, professional, or sexual harassment and abuse, and of all practices that are detrimental to the physical or mental integrity of a person.

1.2.5 Maintaining conditions for the safety and well-being of participants and for medical care to maintain their physical and mental well-being.

### **1.3 National Federation**

The term “National Federation” shall refer to a member of the AJU

The liability of National Federations as members of the AJU is limited.

All National Federations are committed to contributing to the assets of the AJU

In the event of the liquidation of the AJU, all National Federations which are members at that time agree to pay the debts and liabilities of the AJU contracted before they cease to be members, as well as the costs, charges and expenses of winding up. Such amounts as may be required must not exceed ten Euros (10 €).

## **1.4 Country**

A “Country” shall mean an independent State recognized by the international community and which has a flag and a national anthem.

## **1.5 President**

The term “President” shall mean the President of the AJU

## **1.6 Chairman**

The term “Chairman” shall mean the Chairman of the AJU

## **1.7 General Secretary**

The term “General Secretary” shall mean the General Secretary of the AJU

## **1.8 General Treasurer**

The term “General Treasurer” shall mean the General Treasurer of the AJU

## **1.9 Vice-presidents**

The term “Vice-presidents” shall mean the 1st and 2nd Vice-president of the AJU

## **1.10. Director**

The term “Director” shall mean one of the Directors of the AJU

## **1.11 Directing Committee**

The term “DC.” shall mean the Directing Committee of the AJU.

## **1.12. Executive**

The term “EC.” shall mean the Executive Committee of the AJU

## **1.13 Congress**

“Congress” shall mean the Congress of the AJU. It can be held on an ordinary or an extraordinary basis.

## **1.14 General Headquarters**

The “General Headquarters” shall refer to the administrative headquarters of the AJU where the administrative tasks of the AJU are performed, the locations of which shall be decided by the President to the Executive.

## **1.15 Head Office**

The “Head Office” shall refer to the registered head office of the AJU, the location of which shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

## **Article 2 – Aims**

The AJU has the following aims, without this constituting an exhaustive list:

- To implement the IJF and relevant IOC policy in Africa.



# African Judo Union

*Original text in French*

- To promote cordial and friendly relations between its members and to lead and organise judo activities throughout Africa.
- To protect the interests of judo throughout the African continent.
- Organise Continental events, to supervise where necessary events organised by its members and to participate in the organization of qualifying continental events for the Olympic Games.
- To develop the practice of judo throughout the African Continent for all the categories of the population.
- To improve the quality of judo training and the safety of its practice.
- To supervise the awarding of grades, including “dan” ranks, and their compliance with IJF rules.
- To promote the ideals and objectives behind the Olympic movement.
- To represent the African Judo Union before third parties and to arbitrate in any possible disagreements between Member National Federations.

## Article 3 - Structure

### 3.1 Composition of the African Judo Union

The African Judo Union is composed of Member National Federations that are in its territory or are validated by way of derogation on its territory by the IJF.

The AJU has the possibility to create geographical zones with specific regulations approved by the DC of the AJU. These zones must respect both the AJU and the IJF statutes, regulations and guidelines.

### 3.2 Statutes of Member Federations

The statutes and Regulations of Member National Federations must be in compliance with the IJF and AJU statutes and all other regulations and decisions of the IJF and the African Judo Union as well as with the principles of the Olympic Charter. The election of the members of the Executive and Directing Committees must comply with the same principles.

The dates and places of AJU congresses shall be communicated to IJF EC. one hundred and eighty (180) days before these congresses are held.

The AJU must provide any information concerning its operations and activities in Africa that has been requested by IJF. The AJU has the right to request any information connected with the activities of any AJU Member National Federation, this information must be provided on request.

### 3.3 Auditing of the use of funds

AJU may audit National Federations' use of funds originated from the AJU. For this purpose the accounts shall be sent every year to the General Treasurer and shall be made available permanently to the auditors appointed by the AJU.

### 3.4 Awards

Any National Federation that hosts a competition for which awards will be presented in the form of prize money or any other reward must, on the first hand inform the AJU on the origin of the funding allowing the award of this prize or reward, and on the other hand accept that the AJU assesses and controls the good faith of this declaration.

### 3.5 Communication of Information

The National Federations shall communicate to the AJU: the agenda and the minutes of their ordinary and extraordinary congresses.

The National Federations shall submit an annual report on all activities and the development of Judo in their countries to the AJU. This report must indicate the number of judokas and clubs per federation, the number of black belts.

## Article 4 – Membership

### 4.1 Application for membership

Only one federation per country may become a member of the IJF and the AJU.

If two or more Federations within a same country claim representation, membership in the AJU will be given to the Federation which is recognized by its National Olympic Committee or by the highest sporting organisation of that country.

### 4.2 Procedure

Any National Federation that wishes to join the AJU and the IJF must apply for membership in writing to the IJF General Secretary with a copy to the AJU General Secretary.

The statutes of the National Federation must mandatorily be attached to the membership application and must absolutely state that this National Federation agrees to comply with the Statutes and all the regulations and decisions of the IJF and the AJU.



# African Judo Union

*Original text in French*

A reasoned opinion from the AJU must also be sent to IJF General Secretary with the membership application. The AJU Executive Committee will examine the application and together with the IJF EC approve the candidacy.

## **Associated Member:**

Associated Membership in the AJU may be granted in the case of a territory which is a department of a country whose National Judo Federation is already a member of the IJF, through the offices of another Continental Union. This Associated Membership, subject to the payment of the annual fees prescribed by the AJU, shall entitle the Associated Member Federation to engage in all AJU activities but shall not include the right to vote as a member Federation at the IJF Congress.

The points scored on the ranking list on this occasion will be attributed to the member federation and to the National Olympic Committee they depend on for the Olympic selections.

## **4.3 Defence of federations**

The AJU is dedicated to defending Member Federations from all attacks on democracy against the federations in the area of federal elections and the participation in competitions.

AJU Member Federations that are not members of their NOC shall apply for affiliation to the NOC of their country or to the highest sporting authority of that country.

## **Article 5 – Participation in competitions and medical Codes**

### **5.1 Athletes' right to participate**

To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games, World Championships, Continental Championships International Championships and competitions held under the supervision of or recognized by the IJF, a judoka must comply with the rules of the IJF and the IOC. In particular, they must adhere to the IJF code of ethics and anti-doping regulations, regulations to prevent the manipulation of competitions, and regulations regarding sports betting.

### **5.2 Anti-doping**

The AJU shall comply with Olympic Movement Medical Code and the World Anti-doping Code.

### **5.3 Prevention of manipulation of competitions**

Participants in international competitions and organised competitions under the control of or recognized by the IJF and AJU must not, in any way whatsoever, manipulate the proceedings or results of all or part of a competition in a way that runs contrary to sports ethics, infringe on the principle of fair play, or act in a non-sporting manner.

## Article 6 - Official languages

### 6.1 Official languages

The official languages of the African Judo Union are French, English and Arabic.

All Official documents of the African Judo Union must be published in French and English. Congresses, meetings and sessions must be held in these three languages.

In the event of a discrepancy in interpretation between the official languages, the original language in which the document was written shall prevail.

### 6.2 Simultaneous Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation must be made available at least in French, English and Arabic at all Congresses.

## Article 7 - Bodies of the AJU.

### 7.1 Bodies of the AJU

The bodies of the African Judo Union are the following:

- The Congress is the supreme body of the AJU. The ordinary Congress is held every two years and is governed by articles 8 and 10 hereafter. The powers of the Congress are listed in the article 8.3. The Extraordinary Congress is governed by Articles 9 and 10 of the Statutes.
- The Directing Committee ("DC."), governed by Article 11 of the Statutes and whose powers are listed in the article 11.1.
- The Executive Committee ("EC"), governed by Article 12 of the Statutes and whose powers are listed in the article 12.2.
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### 7.2 Signing Authority of the AJU

The joint dual signature of the President and the General Treasurer is required for the AJU to be bound.

The AJU DC may designate other persons empowered with a collective dual signature.



## Article 8 - The Ordinary Congress

### 8.1 Meetings

The Congress shall be held every two (2) years, the year before the Olympic Games and the year after the Olympic Games, at a place designated by the DC.

The Congress must be held at the same time as another AJU event in the same city. When choosing the place where the Congress will be held, an equitable rotation amongst the different National Federations shall be taken into account.

### 8.2 Powers

The Congress shall have the power to:

- a) Define, orient and control the general policies of the AJU;
- b) approve on the Minutes of the preceding Congress;
- c) approve on the reports of the President which shall be valid as the DC. as well as the reports of the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and the Technical Directors;
- d) approve, amend or reject the accounts of the previous accounting period and the budget for the accounting period to come;
- e) elect every (4) years the members of the DC for a four (4) year term of office
- f) ratify the designation by the President of one (1) to four (4) additional members of the DC.
- g) Ratify expulsions decided by the DC of one of the DC members.
- h) decide on the expulsion of a member of the DC. if requested by at least one-third (1/3) of the National Federations;
- i) Approve the Statutes and the regulations, and make all necessary amendments thereto;
- j) decide on sporting and technical issues related to judo training and techniques, refereeing, judo Education, development and promotion;
- k) decide on the validity of the authority of a representative of a National Federation;
- l) decide in the last resort on all issues concerning the aims of the AJU;
- m) decide on all proposals submitted by Member National Federations and the DC;
- n) decide on any other issues set down on the agenda.

### 8.3 Proposals of AJU Member Federations

At least one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days prior to the Congress, the General Secretary must invite the member National Federations to submit points they would like to include on the agenda. These proposals must be sent in at least ninety (90) days before the date scheduled for the Congress.

## 8.4 Agenda and convening of the Congress

The Congress may consider only the points which are included in the agenda. The agenda shall be decided on by the DC between sixty (60) and seventy-five (75) calendar days before the date scheduled for the Congress. This agenda must naturally include all issues within the Congress' powers. At least sixty (60) calendar days before the date scheduled for the Congress, the General Secretary will send to the Member National Federations, the DC members and the IJF General Secretary, notice to attend the Congress, signed by the President or the General Secretary, with the Agenda drawn up by the DC; and the reports of the President, the Chairman, the Secretary General, the General Treasurer and the Directors.

Notices of the Congress shall be sent to members via electronic mail, and a return receipt requested. In the event that the acknowledgment of receipt is not received by the AJU General Secretary, a registered letter will be sent after a 10-day period, with a return receipt requested. The date the email with return receipt request is sent shall be the sole date used as proof that notice was validly given within the required time limit.

## 8.5 Urgent matters

The EC shall decide on the order in which the points on the Agenda will be discussed.

Matters that the DC considers urgent, and which have arisen too late for inclusion on the agenda may be added before the date of the Congress.

When a decision falling within the purview of the Congress must be made while the Congress cannot be gathered, it is possible to consult the delegates to the Congress via mail or electronic means. Decisions made via written consultation (postal or electronic) have the same value as those made during a meeting of the AJU Congress.

## 8.6 Representation of Member National Federations

Each Member National Federation may be represented at the Congress by two (2) delegates of the same nationality as that Federation, selected among the members of its Executive Committee on the condition they have been elected democratically by their clubs.

Delegates must be registered on the attendance sheet. Only one of the two Delegates have the right to vote, as each Member National Federation shall have a single vote.



## **8.7 Credentials**

Each delegate of a Member National Federation must be in possession of credentials signed by the President of his National Federation unless the delegate is the President himself.

The delegate of the Member National Federation must be citizen and permanent resident of the country he represents.

## **8.8-Interpreting assistance**

Any member National Federation of the AJU whose language is not one of the official languages being used, may also have their own interpreter in attendance.

## **8.9 Observers**

Observers may be invited to the Congress by the DC in a consultancy role.

## **8.10 Voting Right Credentials Commission**

The verification of valid membership of National Federations and of the credentials held by the representatives of National Federations with valid membership in the AJU shall be carried out the day prior to the Congress by the Voting Right Credentials Commission. This Commission shall be composed from three (3) to five (5) members appointed for this purpose by the DC of the AJU, assisted by the legal expert or the lawyer of the AJU. In the event of a dispute, the Voting Right Credentials Commission shall hear the claims of the parties, draw up a summary of these claims and submit the dispute to the Congress so that the Congress may settle such dispute by way of a vote before any other business is dealt with.

## **8.11 Chairmanship of the Congress**

The Congress shall be chaired by the President of the AJU or if absent, by a Vice-president appointed by the President. However, if a member of the DC is also a member of the IOC, that member shall replace the President.

## **8.12 Chairmanship Pro-term**

During the election of the President or a no-confidence vote against the President, the President will surrender his seat to a Vice-president appointed by the DC as a Chairperson Pro-term to conduct the said election or no-confidence vote.

In the case of elections for President, the newly elected President will take over the chair immediately after the election.

If a no-confidence vote against the President is ratified, the Chairperson Pro-Term will chair the Congress until it is closed. However, if the no-confidence vote is defeated, the President will resume the chair and will chair the Congress until it is closed.

## **8.13 Quorum**

The Chairperson of the Congress may only declare the official opening of the Congress when at least one-third (1/3) of the Member National Federations are present.

If the quorum to open the Congress is not met, another Congress must be convened and must be held within a maximum period of one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days. The Congress shall only be effective if 25% of the Member National Federations are present.

The agenda will be identical, as well as the conditions for giving notice of the meeting.

## **8.14 Proxies**

Voting by proxy is not allowed.

## **8.15 Voting rights**

The members of the DC do not have voting rights at Congress. Any person who is elected or appointed as a Member of the EC shall automatically surrender their right to vote at Congress forthwith.

If any member of the Directing Committee is President or delegate of its own country he may enjoy the right to vote of his country if he is registered on the attendance sheet at the beginning of the Congress.

## **8.16 Decisions**

The Congress shall decide by a simple majority of the valid votes cast unless otherwise defined in the Statutes. Abstentions and invalid ballots shall not be counted. For questions of particular importance or sensitive issues or whenever one-third (1/3) of the Member National Federations present at the Congress so demand, voting shall be conducted by secret ballot.

## **8.17 Voting procedures**

Voting for elections must be conducted by secret ballot unless there is one (1) candidate. If there is only one (1) candidate that person may be elected by show of hands, unless one third (1/3) of the Member National Federations present at the Congress request that a vote by way of secret ballot takes place.



Voting in elections for the offices shall be carried out by successive elimination of candidates receiving the least number of votes until one (1) candidate remains or until one (1) candidate obtains more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast.

Voting by secret ballot may be done via electronic voting. In any case, the necessary materials for voting on paper (e.g. ballots, voting booths) must be provided for, in particular in case of a technical failure.

## **8.18 Voting Board and Presentation of Candidates**

### **8.18.1 Scrutineers and Voting Board Chairperson**

The Congress shall organise a voting board by electing Scrutineers and a Chairperson of the voting board, chosen from among those delegates of Member Federations who are not presenting any candidates for office.

They shall be in charge of all matters in connection with voting.

The DC shall suggest the number of scrutineers to be elected.

### **8.18.2 Presentation of candidates**

If an election is being held, each candidate for the office of President will be allowed a maximum of seven (7) minutes to present their candidacy, their manifest, and their list.

Any candidate for the office of chairman will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to give a presentation.

Any candidate for the office of General Secretary and General Treasurer will be allowed three (3) minutes to give a presentation.

If there is more than one candidate per office, the speaking order shall be determined by alphabetical order of the candidates' surnames.

## **8.19 Practical voting procedures**

The voting procedure will be determined by the DC that will be communicated with the agenda of the Congress.

## **8.20 Counting of votes**

Once the voting has been completed, the Chairman of the Congress shall announce that the vote is closed and shall ask the scrutineers to start counting the votes cast.

The Chairperson of the Voting Board will be assisted by the scrutineers to count the votes. The President of the Voting Board will announce the results of the votes cast to Congress.

## **8.21 Challenge of elections**

In the event the validity of an election is challenged, the President shall be immediately notified thereof and shall submit the case to the DC. If the DC takes the challenge into consideration, it must be reported to the Congress where re-examination, re-election, re-vote or any other action as deemed necessary by the DC shall occur. Only AJU Member Federations present at the Congress may challenge the election and any such challenge must be submitted before the end of the Congress.

## **8.22 Voting rounds**

In the event of an equal vote during an election by way of secret ballot, a second and final round of votes shall be conducted.

In the event that the second and final vote also results in a tie, the election result shall be determined by the drawing of lots conducted by the Chairperson.

For all other elections, when an equal number of votes is cast, the status quo shall be maintained.

## **8.23 Minutes**

Each member of the DC shall receive a copy of the draft Minutes of the Congress within ninety (90) days after the Congress is held.

The DC shall approve the draft Minutes at the first DC meeting held after the said ninety (90) days.

The approved draft Minutes shall be sent to the Member National Federations by the AJU General Secretariat.

## **8.24 Surveillance of Conduct**

The Chairperson of the Congress is the AJU President who shall have the right to take all measures to stop any disruptive conduct obstructing the efficient administration of the Congress.

## **Article 9 - Extraordinary Congress**

### **9.1 Convening of an Extraordinary Congress**

An Extraordinary Congress must be convened by the President or the Secretary General at a location chosen by the DC if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Member National Federations so request, or if 1/3 of the DC considers it necessary.

## 9.2 Procedure

In this case, the Extraordinary Congress must be held within ninety (90) calendar days on which:

- Either the request containing the reasons for the meeting has been sent via registered mail, email or facsimile by two-thirds (2/3) of the AJU Member National Federations,
- Or the DC has decided (1/3 of the members of the DC) to convene the Extraordinary Congress.

## 9.3 Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting must indicate the reasons for the Extraordinary Congress and shall constitute the sole items on the agenda. Only those items on the agenda shall be discussed.

## 9.4 Decisions

The discussions and decisions passed at an Extraordinary Congress shall have equal validity with those passed at an Ordinary Congress.

The discussions and decisions passed at an Extraordinary Congress must meet the same conditions as those requires for an Ordinary Congress.

## Article 10 – Provisions Common to discussions and decisions at Ordinary and Extraordinary Congresses.

### 10.1 Challenge

Decisions passed at an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress may not be annulled if, in spite of the existence of one or several voting irregularities, the vote held on such Decisions would have passed in any event.

### 10.2 Internal appeal procedure

The National Federations, as well as all legal entities or private individuals directly or indirectly connected to them shall have no right to take legal action against the AJU on the basis of discussions or decisions passed by the Congress of the AJU without having first submitted their complaint to the AJU Executive Committee.

## Article 11 – The Directing Committee (DC.)

### 11.1 Powers

The DC. shall determine the orientation for AJU activities and shall ensure implementation thereof within the limits of the aims of the AJU subject to the powers expressly attributed to the Congress under these Statutes.

- The DC shall handle all issues related to the proper operation of the AJU and shall settle business it is involved in by way of decisions.
- The DC shall carry out all audits and verifications it deems necessary.
- The DC shall validate urgent decisions under its authority made by the President.
- The DC has the power to decide on all issues that have not been placed under the authority of another AJU governing body pursuant to these Statutes.

### 11.2 Composition

The DC is composed as follows:

- A President who forms a list of seven to eleven (7 to 11) members, having the authorization of their national federation to be included in the list, who will be elected at the same time as the President by the Congress and through a list ballot every four (4) years for a term of office of four (4) years;
- Two Vice-presidents are designated by the DC on the proposal of the President, among the members, appearing on the President's list of seven to eleven (7-11), who have been elected by the Congress with the President.
- They are responsible to the DC and the Congress.
- A Chairman elected by the Congress every four (4) years
- A General Secretary elected by the Congress every four (4) years;
- A General Treasurer elected by the Congress every four (4) years;
- The head of the Athletes' Commission elected by his peers in accordance with the rules of this commission.
- If the President deems necessary one or more ex officio members, namely: Presidents, officers, honorary members in accordance with articles **29.1**, **29.1.2** and **29.2** of these statutes.

If the President deems necessary that the tasks to be performed by the DC requires to have four (4) additional members maximum, he could appoint, after the election one (1) to four (4) additional





members who will hold voting rights within the DC their appointment must be ratified by the next Congress.

## **11.3 Presidency**

The DC shall be chaired by the President. In the event the President cannot be present at a meeting of the DC, the President shall appoint a Vice-president to replace him. If a member of the DC is also a member of the IOC, that member shall take on this duty.

## **11.4 Filing of candidacies**

- a) Names of candidates for the elections of the positions of President, Chairman, General Secretary, and General Treasurer must be received at least one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days before the date scheduled for the Congress.
- b) The lists of members for the DC suggested by the candidates for the position of President must be received by the General Secretary at least ninety (90) calendar days before the date of Congress.
- c) The General Secretary shall send the candidacies and the lists of persons proposed as members for the DC by the candidates to the position of President with the notice and documents for the Congress at least sixty (60) calendar days before the date scheduled for the Congress.
- d) Nomination of candidates from the floor will not be accepted at a Congress.
- e) Individual candidacies and the candidacies presented by the president on his list must be duly signed by the president of the National Federation the candidate is a member of. All candidates must be citizens and permanent residents of the countries of the Federation presenting their candidates, except for political exiles.
- f) Eligibility to be nominated as an Executive Member of the AJU or any other Zonal Judo Organisation, the nominee must have been a President of an AJU member Federation for a minimum period of one Olympic Cycle or 4 years.
- g) Eligibility to be nominated on the list of the President for a position on the AJU DC, the nominee must have held a position in either the executive or directing committee of his/her Federation for a minimum period of one Olympic Cycle or 4 years.
- h) Directing Committee members running for re-election do not need the confirmation of their National Federations and are not subject to the above conditions.

## **11.5 Term of Office**

The Members elected to the DC shall remain in office until the Ordinary Congress convened in the fourth year of their term.

Elections for President and the members of his list composed of seven to eleven (7 to 11) members shall take place during the Congress held the year following the Olympic Games.

The elections for the positions of Chairman, General Secretary and General Treasurer must be held at the time of the same Congress.

## 11.6 Plurality of offices

A person may not be a candidate for the presidency of the AJU or of a member federation affiliated with the AJU:

- If they exercise or have exercised in the past two (2) Olympiads on the day of their candidacy the managing role of a sports federation, of a decentralized body or of a club of a discipline other than judo that might be considered a competing sport, in terms of political or technical representation.
- Regarding Member National Federations, the African Judo Union, via its Executive Committee, may examine particular cases and grant exemptions if the conflict of interest is not demonstrated.
- Vice Presidents - cannot hold more than one office on the AJU DC at the same time.
- No Member National Federation shall have more than two (2) member on the AJU DC.
- The candidates cannot be first degree relatives and spouses.
- No candidate may be over eighty (80) years old on the date of the election.

## 11.7 Vacant seats

If because of death, resignation, a long-term impediment, impeachment or any other reason, a seat other than that of the President becomes vacant on the Directing Committee, the DC may appoint an interim Member to serve until the next Congress.

## 11.8 DC.'s meetings

As a general rule, the DC shall meet at least once (1) per year and particularly during the days preceding the Congress. A meeting of the Directing Committee may, however, be convened by the President each time the President deems it necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the DC.



If an elected member of the DC cannot attend a meeting of the DC for a valid reason, he can give a proxy to another member of the AJU DC. but cannot send someone to replace him if this latter is not a member of the DC.

## **11.9 Agenda**

An agenda must be established for each meeting. The members shall submit to the General Secretary the items they wish to have included on the agenda thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date scheduled for the meeting. The General Secretary shall prepare the agenda, inform the President and then send the notice of the meeting, along with the agenda and the necessary working documents fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the meeting. If an urgent matter arises, it may be added to the agenda and discussed in the DC meeting pursuant to a decision of the DC.

## **11.10 Written Consultation**

At least three (3) times per year and when, for any reason whatsoever, an ordinary DC meeting cannot take place, the required decisions may be passed by way of a vote in writing by electronic means. Decisions passed by way of written consultation shall have the same validity as decisions passed at ordinary DC meetings.

## **11.11 Decisions**

The decisions of the DC shall be passed by way of simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President or the Vice-president who substitutes for the President shall have a casting vote.

The Vice-president appointed by the President as a substitute shall have the right to cast his own vote in addition to the vote of the President.

The DC members cannot take part in a vote in case if they have a direct or indirect interest in the treated subject.

## **11.12 Quorum**

In order for decisions to be validly passed, the meeting of the Directing Committee must have been properly convened and at least half of its members must be present or represented and the meeting must be chaired by the President or a Vice-president.

## **11.13 Commissions**

The DC may be assisted by Standing Commissions or Commissioners to work on the following topics, on an indicative basis, but not limited to:

- |                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| -Sports        | -Judo for Women | -Social         |
| -Refereeing    | -Athletes       | -Veterans       |
| -Education     | -Protocol       | -Judo and Peace |
| -Communication | -Marketing      | -Discipline     |
| -Medias        | -Administration | -Development    |
| -Ethics        | -Finances       | -Grades         |
| -Kata          | -Electoral      |                 |

#### **11.14 Organization of Commission Work**

The composition and the responsibilities of the Standing Commissions as well as the responsibilities of the Commissioners and Directors shall be determined by the Directing Committee.

Each time an election will be held, an Electoral Commission shall be established.

#### **11.15 Accountability**

All the Members of the DC are accountable to the DC and the Congress.

#### **11.16 Key Point Information**

The General Secretary shall provide a statement of the key points regarding decisions made at DC meetings before the Members leave the Meeting.

#### **11.17 Impeachment**

If a DC member commits gross negligence or is repeatedly absent at DC Meetings without justification, the DC may impeach that Member with a majority of two-thirds (2/3), of its members. Impeachment will be applicable immediately.

The DC shall appoint an interim Member to replace the impeachment member by way of a simple majority vote. The DC shall ask for the ratification of the decision to impeach the DC member at the next Congress. The DC shall also put the impeachment of a DC Member on the agenda of the next Congress at the request of one (1/3) of the National Federations.

If the no-confidence vote is passed by the Congress, the said DC member will immediately be impeached from his seat on the DC and the DC shall appoint an interim Member to replace the impeached member.

## **Article 12- The Executive Committee**

### **12.1 Composition**

The Executive Committee is composed of the President, the Chairman, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and two Vice-presidents. The EC may invite or consult any competent person of their choice according to the matter at hand.

### **12.2 Powers**

The Executive Committee shall administer the AJU and shall apply or have applied by others the decisions of the DC. The EC shall thus ensure management of the AJU; they shall give a report to the Directing Committee once a year.

The held meeting on an exclusive notice of the President at any time and any place decided by himself; The EC represents the immediate working body of the President.

The decisions of the EC are submitted to the DC to be ratified or not.

## **Article 13 – The President**

### **13.1 Powers**

The President directs the AJU and represents the AJU towards third parties.

The President must comply with the AJU Statutes and the IJF Statutes and the Rules and Decisions of the AJU.

The President shall chair Congresses, and the Meetings of the DC. and EC

Unless decided otherwise by the EC, the EC shall entrust the President each year with the power to make all decisions regarding human resources management. The President's power, unless withdrawn by the EC, shall be tacitly renewed each year.

The President has the power to decide on all urgent questions under the authority of the DC.

The DC must be notified of any decisions made in this context at the latest at its next meeting and validate them.

The President shall be free to organise the secretariat of the AJU Head office as he/she sees fit.

## **13.2 Vacant seat**

In the event the President is prevented from holding office during his term of office due to resignation or for any other reason, Presidency shall be assumed by a Vice-president.

The interim President shall serve until the next Congress in which a new President will be elected.

## **Article 14- The Chairman**

### **14.1 Powers of the Chairman**

The Chairman is elected by the congress for a term of office of four (4) years.

The Chairman is responsible for the application of the decisions taken by the President and the DC of the Union.

He manages the headquarters of the Union and is in charge of the administration management of the Continental Union.

### **14.2 Vacant seat**

In the event the Chairman is prevented from holding office during his term of office due to resignation or for any other reason, the position shall be assumed by a member of the DC to be nominated by the DC until the next Congress.

## **Article 15 – The General Secretary**

### **15.1 Powers**

The General Secretary shall be responsible for the administration of the Secretariat and relations with the Member National Federations. The General Secretary shall benefit from the services of a personal secretariat in his/her city of residence.

The General Secretary has the right to represent the AJU towards third parties by way of an express power of attorney given by the President.

### **15.2 Responsibilities**

The General Secretary shall be responsible for the administration work of the AJU in accordance with the Statutes and regulations and for the application of the Decisions of the DC and of the Congress. The General Secretary shall keep close contact with Directing Committee Members, the Chairpersons of Commissions, and with the Member National Federations.

The General Secretary shall be responsible for the information and the correspondence within the AJU in cooperation with the relevant departments at the AJU Headquarters.

The General Secretary shall be responsible for the organization of Congresses and the DC meetings. The General Secretary shall establish the agendas for those meetings after consulting the DC. The General Secretary is responsible for administrative coordination of the Head office, for sending invitations and regulations for the AJU Championships and other important events of the AJU.

### **15.3 Vacant seat**

In the event the General Secretary is prevented from holding office during his term of office due to resignation or for any other reason, the position shall be assumed by a member of the DC to be nominated by the DC until the next Congress when a new General Secretary will be elected for the remaining duration of the initial term of office.

## **Article 16 - General Treasurer**

### **16.1 Powers**

The General Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the Treasury of the AJU and shall keep regular accounts, prepare financial statements and draw up the annual finance plan which will be presented for approval at each Congress.

The General Treasurer administers the capital of the AJU and settles its financial obligations. The General Treasurer must be consulted on all financial matters.

The General Treasurer shall explore possibilities of increasing the Treasury of the AJU and shall submit proposals to the DC.

The General Treasurer shall participate in negotiations with the AJU official suppliers and shall coordinate with the President the TV rights to the AJU Judo Championships.

The General Treasurer is also in charge of managing the copyright protecting the AJU emblem.

The General Treasurer may represent AJU towards third parties by way of an express power of attorney given by the President.

### **16.2 Budget**

All income and expenses must be included in the annual provisional budget as approved by the DC. Any expenses not included in the budget or which have not been approved by the DC shall require prior authorization by the President and the General Treasurer before they are incurred.

### **16.3 Financial position**

For each EC meeting, the General Treasurer shall provide an up-to-date report of the AJU financial position.

## **16.4 Vacant seat**

In the event of a vacant seat of the General Treasurer is prevented from holding office during his term of office due to resignation or any other reason, the position shall be assumed by a member of the DC appointed by the DC until the next Congress when a new General Treasurer will be elected for the remaining duration of the initial term of office.

## **Article 17- The Vice-presidents**

### **17.1 Composition**

The AJU comprises 2 Vice-presidents, the 1st and 2nd Vice-president designated by the D.C., on the proposal of the President, chosen among the members, appearing on the President's list, who have been elected by the Congress with the President.

### **17.2 Powers of the Vice-presidents**

The Vice-presidents assist the President according to the attributions given by him.

## **Article 18 - The Technical Directors**

### **18.1 Appointment**

The Technical Directors are proposed by the President and appointed by the DC, among the members, who, appear on the list of the President, and have been elected with the President by the Congress.

They are accountable before the DC and the Congress.

In the event that a Technical Director is prevented from holding office during his/her term of office due to resignation or any other reason, the position shall be assumed by a member of the DC appointed by the DC until the next Congress when a new Member will be elected for the remaining duration of the initial term of office. The duties entrusted to the DC Member replacing him shall be defined by the DC based on the proposal made by the President.

### **18.2 - Sports Director**

The Sports Director shall guide and manage the sporting activities of the AJU.

The Sports Director is in charge of implementing the technical rules, sports rules in accordance with the IJF Rules and checking their implementation and the competition organization.



He is responsible for the Sports activity and its development. He shall check the Sports activity.

He shall manage the preparations and the course of the competitions with the assistance of other members of the DC and Commission Members. The Sports Director shall assume the role of Technical Delegate for the various international judo events organised by other Associations, Federations and organizations connected to the AJU.

The Sports Director shall act as the chairperson of the AJU Sports Commission. The Members of the Sports Commission are proposed by the Sports Director to the DC.

### **18.3 - Refereeing Director**

The Refereeing Director shall guide and manage the refereeing activities.

The Refereeing Director He is in charge of implementing the refereeing rules in accordance with the IJF rules and checking their implementation during all AJU events.

The Refereeing Director shall act as the chairperson of the Refereeing Commission. The Members of the Refereeing Commission are proposed by the Refereeing Director to the DC.

### **18.4 – Education and Coaching Director**

The Education and Coaching Director shall guide and manage the educational and Coaching activities of the AJU and shall be responsible for proposing new developments and changes in the field of judo education.

He implements the instructions of the IJF Education and Coaching Commission and shall compile statistics. The Education Director shall be in charge of studies to further the development of judo.

The Education and Coaching Director shall act as chairperson of the Education Commission. The Members of the Education Commission are proposed by the Education and Coaching Director and validated by the DC.

### **18.5 Communication Director**

The Communication Director is in charge under the authority of the President, the Chairman and the General Secretary.

The Communication Director is responsible to keep the AJU website and social media platforms

up to date. In charge of communication with Member National Federations on AJU Judo life. To create information and communication tools for members of National Federations.

## **18.6 Other Directors**

Other Directors may be appointed for specific missions upon proposal made by the President and approval of the DC. Their activities will terminate by the end of their mission.

## **Article 19 – Place of Performance of AJU Tasks**

Administrative tasks shall be performed at the place where the administrative premises are located, known as general Headquarters. The President shall make a proposal to the DC regarding the location of General Headquarters.

All the original AJU documents shall be finalized and archived at General Headquarters.

The Executive Committee and the DC shall meet at the place stated on the notice for the relevant Meeting as chosen by the President. The operating budget for the various departments at the Headquarters shall be set by the DC.

## **Article 20 – Events organised and recognized by the AJU**

### **20.1 Right to organise**

The right to organise African Championships and international events will only be granted to those Member National Federations which are able to guarantee compliance with free entry on their territory to all participants of the Members National Federations who want to participate, particularly by obtaining necessary visas, as well as presenting their emblem and flag and playing their national anthem, particularly during awards ceremonies, and which have proved that they are competent to organise such competitions.

The Member National Federation must agree to comply with the specifications and all the rules applicable to the competition they host.

AJU events are composed of the AJU tournaments and events appearing in the AJU official calendar which is published annually and approved by IJF.

### **20.2 Candidacies**



All Member National Federations shall have the right to apply as a candidate to organise an official AJU event on the continent, other than the African Games.

National Federations, which are candidates, must apply to the General Secretariat as defined in the relevant Regulations.

The EC shall designate the organiser, except for the African Games.

### **20.3 Application Procedure to organise all AJU events other than the African Games**

Member National Federations must submit an application to organise an AJU event within the time limit set by the EC to organise an AJU event other than the African Games.

The EC shall provide applicant Federations with an answer within the time limits it has set in the Regulations organizing the application procedure.

For each event, the EC shall inform all Member Federations via the AJU website of the specifications for the event, as well as the regulations organizing the application procedure containing the time limit to file applications and to receive an answer from the EC on the application.

## **Article 21 – Spirit of Judo**

Delegations participating in AJU events or in events recognized by the AJU, as well as the organisers of such events must respect the spirit of Judo and the IJF code of Ethics and behave accordingly.

## **Article 22 - Accounting Period**

The financial, tax and accounting period of the AJU shall start on 1st January and end on 31st December of each year.

## **Article 23 - Income and expenditures**

### **23.1 Resources**

The resources of the AJU shall be derived from the annual membership fees paid by the Member National Federations, TV broadcasting Rights of its continental events, sponsorship agreements, marketing of the AJU activities, visuals, merchandising and AJU licence fees, investments in moveable and immovable property, as well as donations and all remittances from other sources.

The AJU may also benefit from contributions in kind, such as equipment and the services of personnel made available by other organisations.

In addition, the AJU shall collect participation and organization fees of the continental events.

## **23.2 Membership fees**

The members of the AJU are liable for the payment of membership fees directly to the AJU. The amount of the membership fees shall be proposed by the AJU DC and submitted to the Congress for approval.

## **23.3 Non-payment of membership fees, all other fees, royalties or debts**

A Member Federation whose membership fees or any other fees, royalties or debts to the AJU or to the IJF, have not been paid by the 31st of March of each year, will not be authorized to take part in events held under the auspices of the AJU.

## **23.4 Out-of-pocket expenses**

Authorized representatives of the AJU shall offer their services without pay. Their travel and accommodation expenses, as well as per diem for personal expenses, will be borne by the AJU during all official meetings and missions, with the exception of meetings or missions for which expenses are borne by another organization.

## **23.5 Rights to events**

AJU events are the exclusive property of the AJU, which holds all rights related to such events, including without limitation, all rights related to the organization, exploitation, broadcasting and reproduction of such events by any means whatsoever.

## **23.6 Media Rights**

All television, radio, photographic, film, Internet, telephone and other media rights to IJF events known of or unknown of today are the exclusive property of the AJU. These rights may not be sold or negotiated without the written agreement of the EC, which may delegate its powers to negotiate the sale or use of these rights, but which shall retain the sole responsibility for the final decision to sell and for the use of the income from the sale of these rights.

## **23.7 Emblem**



All author's rights (copyright) of the AJU are owned by the AJU. Member National Federations are authorized to use the emblem only for the purpose of developing judo in their own Federations only. Any person standing as a candidate for an AJU election may not use the AJU logo as part of their campaign.

## **Article 24 - Auditing of Accounts**

The General Treasurer shall recommend an auditing firm to the DC for approval for the purpose of auditing and verifying the AJU accounts.

The General Treasurer shall participate in the auditing process of the AJU accounts organised by the firm appointed. Auditing shall take place for each accounting period before the Congress. The firm appointed may also be instructed by the DC to audit AJU Members using AJU funds.

At the request of the DC, a representative from the auditing firm appointed may attend DC and Congress Meetings.

## **Article 25 – Grades and “dan” Ranks**

### **25.1 Official recognition of grades**

The AJU officially recognizes only grades and “dan” ranks which are awarded by the Member National Federations to their own members, to the exclusion of others. A National Federation may not award a grade and/or a “dan” to a member of another Member National Federation without the written agreement of that Federation. Any grade or “dan” rank awarded without this agreement be considered non-valid

Each Member National Federation is in charge of representing the AJU for the purpose of ensuring compliance with International regulations on grades and “dan” ranks throughout its territory.

### **25.2 Grade diplomas**

IJF grades and “dan” ranks shall be awarded by the President of the AJU, where the candidate originates from.

### **25.3 Amount of Fees**

The amount of fees paid for awarding of grade and “dan” diplomas and for ID Cards shall be set by the DC.

## 25.4 Application procedure

The awarding of the IJF grades and “dan” ranks shall be performed according to the procedure validated by the DC.

From the 1st to the 6th “dan”, ranks shall be awarded under the responsibility of Member National Federations.

The 7th “Dan” shall be awarded upon the proposal of Member National Federations by the Directing Committee of the AJU, after the opinion of the AJU Grade and “Dan” rank Director is given.

As for the 8th “Dan”, Ranks shall be awarded by the IJF Executive Committee upon proposal of Member National Federations and after the opinion of the AJU, as well as the opinion of the Grades and “dan” Rank Commission of the IJF.

## Article 26 – Disciplinary Commission

### 26.1 Scope of authority

The Disciplinary Commission of the first instance may take the disciplinary actions enumerated in the IJF disciplinary Code against its members, legal ad natural persons directly or indirectly linked to its members, athletes, referees and officials.

However, given that the AJU members are members of the IJF as well, a consultation of the IJF is necessary before undertaking any disciplinary procedure concerning a federation.

### 26.2 Composition and operations

The composition and operations of the Disciplinary commission of the first instance are described in the Disciplinary Code as per the requirements of the IJF.

## Article 27 Disciplinary Appeal Commission

### 27.1 Scope of authority

The Disciplinary Appeal Commission has the authority to decide on appeals delegated by the IJF or upon the request of National Federations. The appeal for cases proceeded in first instance by the AJU shall be heard at the IJF level or at the level of the CAS in Lausanne.

### 27.2 Composition and Operating procedures

The composition and operations of the Disciplinary Appeal Commission of the AJU will be as described in the Disciplinary Code of the IJF.

## Article 28 – Ethics

### 28.1 Ethics

The Ethics Code defines the behaviour of the different members of the AJU and the IJF Code of Ethics will be implemented.

### 28.2 Ethics Committee

The AJU shall constitute an Ethics Committee charged with ensuring application of the IJF Ethics Code and adherence to rules for ethics, morals, and prevention and management of conflicts of interest, as per its regulations annexed hereto).

## Article 29– AJU Honours and Awards

### 29.1 Outstanding service to the AJU

The DC. may submit a motion to Congress to bestow the title of Honorary President, Honorary Member or Honorary Officer to key persons who have been of outstanding service to the AJU.

#### 29.1.1 Procedure

Nominations for such positions shall be presented by the DC, at the request of the AJU DC.

Proposals for AJU Honours and Awards shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary, to the attention of the EC. The nomination must include all supporting details of the candidate's background and services the candidate has rendered to the field of Judo.

#### 29.1.2 Criteria

Honorary President of the AJU: the candidate must have served as President of the AJU for a term of office of over eight (8) years.

Honorary Officer of the AJU: the candidate must have served as a Member of the DC. for a term of office of over eight (8) years.

Honorary Member of the AJU: the candidate must have served as a Member of the DC. for a term of office of over four (4) years or as a Member of an AJU Commission or as the President of a National Federation for a term of office of over eight (8) years.

## 29.2 Honorary Attendance

Honorary Presidents, Honorary Officers are ex officio members of the DC with a consultative voice as such they have the right to attend AJU congresses and other AJU events.

## 29.3 Key figures outside of the AJU who have been of outstanding service or have made significant contributions to the AJU

The EC may bestow awards to key figures or dignitaries who have been of outstanding service or who have made significant contributions to the AJU. Nominations for such awards shall be presented by the EC, and the National Federations.

The EC shall examine the compliance of such nominations based on the rules for such awards.

## Article 30 - Amendments to the Statutes

### 30.1 Procedure

Amendments to the Statutes must be presented by the Directing Committee to the Congress and must be approved by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Member National Federations present or represented at the Congress.

### 30.2 Date of application

Amendments to the Statutes become effective when validated by the Congress, unless the Congress votes otherwise.

## Article 31– Specific Regulations

The DC shall establish specific regulations in special fields that are not covered under these Statutes.

## Article 32 - Expulsion, Resignation, Suspension

### 32.1 Grounds

A National Federation may be suspended or expelled from the AJU on the following grounds:

- Non-payment of membership fees
- serious breach or gross negligence, pursuant to a final decision made by one of the AJU Discipline Commissions.

### 3.2 Suspension or exclusion: Submission of the case to the Discipline Commission



32.2.1 If a National Federation violates the Statutes of the AJU or acts against the legitimate interest, the principles or the objectives of the AJU or of the IJF, the Directing Committee may submit the case to the Disciplinary Commission of the first instance of the AJU and propose to the Commission all measures it deems fit to put an end to the prejudice being caused, including by way of restricting or suspending the activities of the relevant National Federation or expelling the latter.

The decision to suspend the National Federation applies to all sports, administrative and social activities.

**32.2.2** If an individual member of a Member National Federation of the AJU violates the Statutes of the AJU or acts against the legitimate interests of the AJU or in contravention of the IJF Statutes, or the principles or objectives of the AJU, the DC. may, after hearing the opinion of the National Federation, or the AJU, submit the case to the Disciplinary Commission of the first instance and propose to the Commission all measures it deems fit to put an end to the prejudice being caused to the AJU, including by way of suspending or expelling the relevant individual member.

Cases that lead to disciplinary measures and occur during a continental event are submitted to the AJU Disciplinary Commission.

**32.2.3** Sanctions may only be laid down after a hearing of a representative of the National Federation or the individual member of the National Federation whose case has been submitted to the Disciplinary Commission of the first instance and/or Appeal under the conditions provided for in Articles 26 and 27.

**32.2.4** The Disciplinary Commission of the first instance and/or Appeal may, however, order suspension as a temporary protective measure prior to the hearing, if the Commission has a strong reason to believe that the National Federation or the individual member of the National Federation concerned will continue or repeatedly engage in misconduct or commit any other offence against the legitimate interests, principles or objectives of the AJU.

The Disciplinary Commissions may also decide that the sanction to suspend or expel is to be immediately enforceable even if the sanction is not yet final.

### **32.3 Expulsion of a Member Federation or an individual member of the African Judo Union**

The AJU has the right to recommend expulsion of a Member Federation or an individual member of AJU through the IJF.

The “Disciplinary Commission” of the AJU must comply with the rights of the defence.

Such case may be appealed before the IJF “Disciplinary Appeal Commission”.

### **32.4 Relations with IJF dissident organizations or Member National Federations which have been suspended.**

Member National Federations are prohibited from having sporting relations with judo organizations, non-affiliated to the IJF, unless permission is given by the IJF.

Sporting relations with Member National Federations which have been suspended likewise.

Any Member National Federation violating this provision will immediately be suspended and reported to the Disciplinary Commission, which will take necessary disciplinary action.

### **32.5 Relations with countries which are not IJF Members.**

In the interest of developing Judo and raising its technical level in all countries, friendly sporting relations with countries which are not members of the IJF are authorized.

However, AJU Members are under the obligation to act cautiously and must verify that the third parties they have relations with and which are not IJF Members have not violated the rules or decisions of the NOC in their country.

## **Article 33- Dissolution**

The AJU may not be dissolved except by way of a Congress especially convened for this purpose and at a motion carried by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

Upon dissolution, the assets of the African Judo Union shall be distributed equally to the Member National Federations with the same aims and objects of the AJU.

## **Article 34 – Validation of the Statutes by the IJF**

The present statutes of the African Judo Union incorporated shall be validated by the Executive Committee of the IJF and become effective once approved by the IJF President and the regulatory authority of the country of incorporation.



# African Judo Union

Original text in French

*Modified by the AJU Congress in Brazzaville, Congo on September 11, 2015*

*Modified by the AJU Congress in Cape Town, South Africa on April 23, 2019 (Article 11.4)*

*Modified by the AJU Congress in Dakar, Senegal on 18 May 2021*